

**MOBILE TOWER RADIATION  
HC orders govt  
to probe**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to examine the level of radiation emitting from mobile-phone towers, assess its effect on health and environment, and submit two separate reports to it.

It also issued a rule upon the government officials concerned to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to stop radiation emission from mobile-phone towers set up across the country.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das came up with the order and rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

The court asked Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) chairman to examine the radiation level after visiting some towers of different mobile phone operators and submit a report to it in four weeks.

It also ordered the health secretary to form a seven-member expert committee in a week to assess the impacts of radiation on human body and environment, and submit a report in three months.

HRPB filed the petition yesterday as public interest litigation following a report broadcast by Ekushey Television on October 18 which said equipment in mobile-phone towers emit radiation that is harmful to the human body.

Deputy Attorney General Khurshidul Alam represented the government during yesterday's hearing.



The Dhaka city corporation authorities dump garbage in the residential neighbourhood of Uttara Sector-3 without caring about the nuisance it causes to the inhabitants. The photo was taken in Jasim Uddin Road area yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

**Return hajj flights  
start today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The return hajj flights will start from today with an aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying 582 pilgrims home from Jeddah.

The flights will continue till November 30 and during the period Biman will carry 54,173 pilgrims who had initially travelled with the airline to Jeddah, said a Biman press release.

Civil Aviation Minister Faruk Khan will receive the first batch of 582 pilgrims, who went for hajj under government management, at Shahjalal International Airport at 3:15pm.

Officials said Biman's two Boeing 777-300ERs, two DC-10s and a rented Boeing 747 aircraft will carry the pilgrims home in 134 hajj and scheduled flights on Dhaka-Jeddah route.

This year a total of 110,550 devotees from Bangladesh performed hajj. Along with Biman, two airlines of Saudi Arabia carried the pilgrims.

Biman officials hoped that they will successfully complete the hajj mission though success has been marred with an unprecedented flight schedule chaos, which threw flight plans of several thousand regular Biman flyers into complete disarray.

The prime reason behind Biman's regular flight schedule disaster, which persisted for three weeks from September 12, was the authorities' ambitious decision to ferry more than twice the hajj pilgrims it did last year, said officials.

**10 killed in road crashes**

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people were killed while 10 others were injured in separate road accidents at Jhenidah, Chapainawabganj, Dhaka, Pabna and Noakhali in the last two days.

A Dhaka University student was killed and two other bike riders were injured in a head-on collision between two motorcycles on Jhenidah-Kushtia road at Bhatoibazar in Shailakupa upazila in Jhenidah yesterday, reports UNB.

The deceased was Ismail Hossain Milon, 22, Islamic History 1st year student of Dhaka University.

In Chapainawabganj, a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader was killed and his friend was injured when a truck rammed their motorcycle on Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid land port highway in Shibganj upazila yesterday.

The deceased was Monirul Islam Manna, 30, of the upazila's Pukuria village. He was a joint secretary of the BCL Shibganj upazila unit.

Meanwhile, three people were killed and seven others injured when a truck ran into a stationary bus after dashing a bike at Natunratar More in Keraniganj upazila of Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

Of the deceased, police could only identify the helper of DN Paribahan bus as Billal Hosen, 40.

Our Pabna correspondent adds, a bus hit a motorcycle in the district's Gogarampur area yesterday, leaving the biker and co-rider spot dead, said police and locals.

Of the deceased, one was identified as Md Shuvo Rahman, 30, of the district's Santhia upazila.

Another man was hit by a speeding motorbike while crossing road at Dashuria point of Pabna-Rajshahi highway on Monday night, said police.

The victim, Abu Sadek, 50, of the district's Ishwardi upazila, was left spot dead.

Meanwhile, a woman was hit by a microbus while she was crossing road at Gabua in Begumgonj upazila in Noakhali yesterday.

The deceased was Fatema Akter Poly, 38, of the upazila's Gonipur village.

In another incident, a man was tragically killed in front of his house at Fatepur under the district's Senbag upazila yesterday.

The victim, Md Nayan, 30, of village Jahanpur in Senbag upazila, was getting down from an auto rickshaw when a pick up van rammed it from behind.

**INNOCENT WOMAN JAILED  
HC asks cops  
to produce her**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the police officials concerned to produce before it Anjuara Begum, who is allegedly suffering in prison for around three months in place of an accused Laily Begum.

In response to a writ petition, the HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das passed the order asking police to produce Anjuara before it by 11:00am today to examine the legality of her detention.

According to media reports, a team of police, led by Bogra Sadar Police Station Sub-Inspector Imran Kabir, arrested Anjuara of Nisindhara Paikpara in Bogra on August 3. They showed her as Laily Begum before a lower court and sent her to jail.

Advocate Manzill Murshid, who filed the writ petition on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, told The Daily Star that it was not known in which district's jail Anjuara is now suffering. Laily Begum was accused in four cases filed under the Narcotics Act - one with Bogra Sadar Police Station in 2003, another with Natore Sadar Police Station in 2005, and two other cases with Panchbibi Police Station in Joypurhat in 2008.

She was the wife of Dudu Mia alias Budu Mia alias Azad of Charmatha Nisodhara of the town.

Manzill said any of the superintendents of police of Bogra, Natore and Joypurhat, who is responsible, and the officer-in-charge of Bogra Police Station have to produce Anjuara before the HC today.

**INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD  
Success contrasts with  
education scenario**

SUBIR DAS

While Bangladeshi students' performance in the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) is on the rise, the overall number of the country's students studying math and science unfortunately is declining.

In 2012, the country's youths displayed their talents at the international platform with one of them bagging silver medal in the 53rd IMO for the first time in the history of Bangladesh.

But when it comes to the overall scenario, the percentage of students opting for science education dropped to 22.35 percent in 2010 from 42.18 percent in 1990.

The reason behind Bangladeshi students' success in the IMO is, as pointed out by experts, their enthusiasm for solving very tricky and puzzling math problems fit for the worldwide math contest.

But students' interest in studying math and science is diminishing mainly due to the traditional board exams where they hardly find any scope to manifest creativity as a set of common problems appear in the exam years after years.

M Kaykobad, a professor at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), said, "Our students are doing well in international contests on math and programming because we train them up for solving brain teasing problems. They solve those with interest and ultimately do well when they go abroad."

"But, unfortunately, the students do not find that interest in the traditional school exams where conception is not needed much for answering."

"Our education system is not tuned to creativity," observed former Buet teacher Prof Ali Asgor. "Our school teachers put too much emphasis on sentence construction, spelling and symbols. But they do not inquire about whether any idea clicked the brain of a student. Moreover, the contents of our math and science textbooks are presented in such a way that students cannot correlate them with the natural phenomenon."

He also urged media to play a positive role in this regard.

"Like the BBC, which makes especial programmes on science and nature, our TV channels may allot particular slots for math and science programmes so that students from every corner of the country see those with interest."

Emphasising conception more than

information, he said, "Conception is the most important thing for a student. A machine may be changed after 30 years. If he has the conception on the working principles of machines, he may invent a new machine with his knowledge. If he has simply information, he cannot do that."

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told The Daily Star, "Our students are doing well in the international platform because they are not poor in merit."

"But lack of competent teachers, poor lab facilities, low budget allocation for education and some other problems are responsible for the decline in students' interest in math and science," he added.

"However, in recent years, initiatives have been taken to stir students' interest in science and write science textbooks in more presentable way and training teachers."

"But the problem of students' receding enthusiasm in studying science is a global phenomenon, and Bangladesh is not an exception," the minister said. "In the entire world, students are increasingly leaning towards business administration considering the job market."

Note educationist and writer Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal said, "Before 2010, the school curriculum was updated only once, and that was in 1996. Though about 15,000 students are now participating in the math Olympiad, it is yet to create a substantial impact on the entire student community."

He blamed scanty budgetary allocation for the decline in interest in science education.

A consultant in the science and technology ministry, Munir Hasan, said, "The problem can be located back in 1987 when General Ershad made religion compulsory for all students, turning higher math an optional one."

"Therefore science students had the option to become teachers even without studying higher mathematics. Many of them completed their BSC degree without taking any math course," he added.

Tanvir Arafat Dhruvo, a student of Buet, said, "Instead of solely depending on the government, we can take some initiatives of uploading study materials online that may arouse students' interest in science. We hope internet connection will be available in every corner of the country by 2018."



Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia holds talks with Indian Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid at Hyderabad House in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

**CTG TRIPLE MURDER  
Accused sent on  
4-day remand**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday sent Tareque Chowdhury, who is accused of murdering a mother and her children on October 23, on a four-day remand.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Muntasir Ahmed passed the order after Sub-Inspector Mohammad Soliman produced the accused before the court with a prayer for 10-day remand, said court sources.

On October 23, Doly Akhter, 30, wife of Dubai expatriate Anwar Hossain and their children -- son Albi Ibn Anwar, 10, and daughter Adiba Binte Anwar, 7, -- were hacked to death at their rented flat in Chittagong.

Tareque was their home tutor. Police arrested Tareque, a HSC student of Kulgaon City Corporation Evening College, when he came to the flat on October 25 and asked the landowner about the murders.

Police found two mobile phones belonging to the victims and Tareque's blood-stained clothes at his house.

Tareque confessed that he had killed them for the expensive mobile phones.



Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad visits Dainik Banik Barta photojournalist Kazi Biplob in the ICU of the capital's Metropolitan Hospital yesterday. Biplob was seriously injured in a road accident in Banani on Sunday night.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

**RISING Stars**

Statues take centre stage this week at RS as we have a chat with Mrinal Hoque about his art. We find out what some of the famous statues around the world are actually trying to say, while Osama escapes the friend zone.

SEE THIS WEEK'S RISING STARS.