

2,580 Yaba tablets recovered in Cox's Bazar

UNB, Dhaka

Members of Bangladesh Coast Guard recovered 2,580 Yaba tablets worth about Tk 12.90 lakh from the Port area in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar district on Thursday evening.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Coast Guard Teknaf station conducted a drive in the area at about 7:30pm and recovered the contraband sex-stimulating tablets in an abandoned condition, sources at the Coast Guard Headquarters said.

However, no one was arrested as the Yaba traders fled the scene sensing the presence of the law enforcers.

Later, the seized Yaba tablets were handed over to local police station.



Prof Anisuzzaman presents Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman with a badge as Dhaka University confers the "Regulator with Human Face" award on the latter at the DU senate building on Thursday.

Republic Day of Nepal celebrated

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The embassy of Nepal in Bangladesh on Thursday hosted a reception to celebrate the Republic Day of Nepal.

Nepalese Ambassador in Dhaka HK Shrestha welcomed the guests at the embassy in Baridhara diplomatic enclave.

Senior political leaders from ruling and opposition parties, parliament members, former President HM Ershad, former ministers Faruq Khan and GM Qader, Chief of Army Staff, heads of foreign missions and their representatives in Dhaka, high civil and military officials, journalists attended.

Youth killed over land dispute

UNB, Gazipur

A local Swetchhasebak League leader was killed and his father injured in a rival attack at Kandanua village in Kapasia upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Humayun Kabir, 30, organising secretary of Kapasia union unit of the ruling Awami League's volunteer wing and son of Nurul Islam, 55, of the village.

Locals said Humayun had long been at loggerheads with Abdul Malek of the village over the ownership of a piece of land.

As a sequel to the enmity, Malek and his supporters swooped on Humayun and his father around 11am and hacked them with sharp weapons, leaving the Swetchhasebak League leader dead on the spot and Nurul injured.

The injured was first taken to Kapasia Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Land grabbers

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The punjee is situated 15km from Srimangal upazila headquarters. A trip on the bumpy clay road between the two places takes almost one and a half hours, making it a hard-to-reach locality.

Md Abdul Jalil, officer-in-charge of Srimangal Police Station, who was travelling to the punjee when contacted, said they would investigate the incident soon and take legal action against the culprits.

Owners worried

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The streets as their monopoly on the transport sector will come to an end, alleged some three-wheeler drivers.

After repeated attempts, The Daily Star correspondent could not reach Ram Babu, president of Thakurgaon Transport Owners Association, as he did not pick up the phone.

As the authorities have been barring the three-wheelers from plying the streets, the families dependent on income of the vehicles are facing troubles.

One such driver, Abdul Mazid, 52, of Ruhea village, said he had bought a three-wheeler at a cost of Tk 4.6 lakh by monthly instalments.

He had to make a down payment of Tk 2.3 lakh, which he collected by selling his homestead land.

But he is facing difficulties in paying the rest with Tk 20,000 as monthly instalment, as he cannot drive his vehicle due to various obstructions, Mazid said.

"Why did the government import and sell the vehicles, if those are not allowed to ply the streets?" he questioned.

Contacted, Mukesh Chandra Biswas, deputy commissioner of Thakurgaon, said there was no restriction on the three-wheelers plying the roads except the highways.

Asked about the yesterday's seizure, he said the vehicles might have been seized for carrying passengers beyond the capacity.

Minister's remark on Jamaat

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against humanism during the country's Liberation War in 1971, have been tried and punished, and if they are tried again, it might be confrontational.

Yesterday, the Nirmul Committee in a statement said the proceedings of the ongoing trial of the 1971 crimes against humanity would be hampered due to the law minister's "ignorant and misleading" comments.

The remarks will rather fuel Jamaat's ongoing campaign at home and abroad for making the trial procedures questionable, the statement said.

The Nirmul Committee leaders said for the last 22 years they had been demanding the trial of Jamaat as an organisation for their involvement in genocide and war crimes.

The trial will turn into a farce, if Jamaat-e-Islami, Muslim League, Nejame Islami and their collaborators are not tried, they said, adding that the Jamaat leaders, who have been tried by the ICTs, had committed the offences as per the party's decision.

The war criminal organisations had been tried and punished at Nuremberg Trial and in different countries, they said, adding that if the law minister had been aware of those trials, he could not have made the comments.

There is no link between the trial of Jamaat at the ICTs and the appeals pending

with the SC against the cancellation of its registration, they said.

Justice Mohammad Ghulam Rabbani, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Justice Syed Amirul Islam, journalist Kamal Lohani and Prof Ajoy Roy were, among others, signatories of the statement.

Meanwhile, Gonojagoron Mancha activists yesterday staged a rally before the National Museum protesting the law minister's comment.

Its Spokesperson Imran H Sarker said that they would stage a sit-in in front of the ministry on June 2 unless the minister withdrew the comments.

The Chittagong chapter of Gonojagoron Mancha also protested the law minister's comments.

The activists brought out a procession from Cheragi intersection in the city around 4:00 pm.

A total of 35 other organisations including Projonmo '71, Amra Muktiyuddhar Santan (We are children of freedom fighters), Chetona 71, Aparajeyo Bangla, Kobita Parishad, in a joint statement condemned the law minister's comments.

When the whole nation is demanding the ban of Jamaat-e-Islami, such a statement is unwarranted, conspiratorial and ill-motivated, the statement said.

World No Tobacco

FROM PAGE 5

Alternative measures should also been taken alongside raising awareness to keep people away from using tobacco products, he added.

Prime Minister's Media Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said raising awareness among people and increasing tax on tobacco products would discourage people from smoking.

Manas founding President Prof Arupratan Choudhury said tobacco caused death of nearly 60 lakh people each year, of which more than six lakh were exposed to second-hand smoke.

Six among the most deadliest eight diseases are mainly caused by smoking or inhaling tobacco smokes, he added.

Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance held a seminar at the conference room at Work for Better Bangladesh Trust in the capital on the same issue.

Tamak Birodhi Nari Jote will also hold a seminar in the capital today to mark the day.

Use of surface water

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aging, increases cancer risks and hampers cholesterol metabolism, Prof Alam said, advising the use of peroxide instead of chlorine, as many developed countries and mineral water companies do that.

Wasa's treatment method cannot reduce all the chemicals of industrial effluents such as ethanol, DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), diazinone, azodye, toluene and turpentine to the international standard level, he said.

Dr ABM Badruzzaman, professor of the civil engineering department of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), said many chemicals and substances found in river water were impossible to be treated with the technology Wasa uses in Chadnight water treatment plant.

He said the excess use of chlorine, which is used to kill bacteria, may regenerate harmful compounds after reacting with other organic matters. These regenerated compounds such as THM (trihalomethane) cause severe health hazards, he said.

Tales of

FROM PAGE 3

agony of your death? What will happen to your kids," grieved Shah Paran, younger brother of Selim. Paran said his brother had left behind a 14-year-old daughter and a one-year-old son.

"My brother had dreamed of educating his children. He always used to tell his wife to take care of the kids. Now, who will say that?" he cried.

Selim had gone to Saudi Arabia seven years ago but he did not get the expected salary, so he left his first workplace. Last year, he joined a furniture factory, Paran said, adding that his brother had talked to his wife and children six or seven hours before his death.

Jahanara Begum, 50, came to receive the body of her husband Akkas. "I tried to prevent him from going to Saudi Arabia. But he told me that he had to go as we had some debts," said the woman.

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