

HOW LONG THIS WILL GO ON



Unrestrained filling up of low-lying water bodies, farmland and canals, going on in Vaigodia of Khilgaon in the capital yesterday, left, which has been going on for a long time, barring the natural draining of rainwater, leading to waterlogging, right, in the adjoining DND dam area in Matuail on Friday. The entire city faces this problem during the monsoon due to such practices under the patronage of all three major political parties. Environmental activists and the media have been warning the authorities for years, but the greed compounded by the political benefits of tacit permission kept the feast of plunder thriving, with obvious results. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Indian Army Chief Gen Dalbir Singh arrives today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian Army chief General Dalbir Singh arrives in the country today to attend as chief guest the passing out parade of Bangladesh Military Academy to be held tomorrow. He is scheduled to pay a

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Detective Branch issues fake note warning

Two gangs caught last week, law enforcers say another 13 active in capital ahead of Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People are being warned to be vigilant of fake Tk 500 and Tk 1,000 notes ahead of Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr after detectives busted two criminal gangs and seized Tk 1 crore in fake currency last week and identified another 13 active in the capital.

On Saturday, the Detective Branch (DB) of police raided a West Kafrul house and arrested six persons, who had already circulated Tk 60 lakh in fake notes, and seized another Tk 40 lakh.

The arrestees are Hawlader Sohail, Mazharul Islam, Al Amin, Arif Arman Alias Nipu, Shafiqul Islam, and Sohail Mia.

On June 8, another six were arrested with Tk 60 lakh in fake currency. A huge amount of materials, including papers, laptops and printers capable of producing Tk 9 crore in fake currency, were seized during the drives.

Saturday's arrestees circulated the notes though six agents and have others in all districts, DB Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam told a press conference at Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Media Centre.

They mainly prefer rural areas to circulate those, he said, adding, "We are trying to arrest the others."

The 12 had earlier been arrested over

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"DOUBLE MURDER BY MP'S SON" Police deny favouring him

BNP accuses govt of trying to cover it up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dismissing media reports and BNP's allegations, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday said they were not favouring an Awami League lawmaker's son, Bakhtiar Alam Rony, who is accused of shooting dead two people on the night of Pahela Baishakh in the capital.

Meanwhile, alluding to the murder, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday urged the administration not to be lenient towards the sons of ministers or lawmakers if they commit crime.

Addressing the press at DMP's media centre, Joint Commissioner

Monirul Islam said, "Bakhtiar is not being treated based on his social status or the identity of his parents."

Recent media reports say efforts are underway to save Bakhtiar, the son of ALMP Pinu Khan, and that police filed a statement with a Dhaka court without mentioning that Bakhtiar fired the shots and saying that Bakhtiar is influential and if he is freed on bail he may try to change the course of the police probe.

Bakhtiar fired four to five shots from his licensed pistol on April 14 around 1:30am, for what he said "feeling suffocated inside his car" stuck in traffic near Dilu Road, killing CNG-run

auto-rickshaw driver Yakub Shikder and rickshaw-puller Abdul Hakim, detectives said.

Hakim's mother sued unnamed people on April 15, and Bakhtiar was arrested on May 31.

Monirul Islam denied there was pressure on them regarding the matter.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told journalists that the accused would face appropriate action if found guilty, irrespective of his political identity.

Talking to a private television channel, Bakhtiar's mother Pinu Khan, however, claimed her son to be

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Urdu Speaking People's Youth Rehabilitation Movement forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding exemplary punishment for perpetrators responsible for the death of 10 people, including eight of a family, in a camp in Kalshi housing the community, on June 14, 2014 after locals set fire to their houses. The arson took place following a clash over exploding firecrackers. The fire claimed nine lives while another died of gunshot wounds. The human chain also demanded security for the camp dwellers, withdrawal of false cases against members of the community, and compensation for those affected. PHOTO: STAR

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS Administration must shed prejudices first

Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The administration must shake off the prejudices against indigenous women and girls for ensuring their security, speakers told a seminar on "Security of Indigenous Women and Girls: Promises of Government in UPR" yesterday.

Organised jointly by ActionAid Bangladesh, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Forum, and Kapaeng Foundation at The Daily Star Centre in the capital, the participants also discussed the government's position on the recommendations, related to indigenous women, received from the second cycle of the United Nations Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Apparently, the overall condition of women in the country did not improve

following the government's pledge to enforce "zero tolerance against violence against women and children", said Chaitali Tripura, joint convener of Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network.

Chaitali said violence against indigenous women and children increased twofold between 2013 and 2014 and in last five months, while 35 indigenous women and children were subjected to violence, rape, abduction and murder.

"We still have not received any answer about why police delayed recording the case of the Garo woman who was raped on May 21 and had to go from one police station to another to file the complaint," said Kamrun Nahar of Naripokkho, referring to a High Court rule questioning the delay.

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Protection of women's rights requires more budgetary allocation

Says Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political leaders who believe in gender equity lack the power to influence policy decisions while those who have enough clout do not strongly feel about the issue, said women's rights activists at a discussion yesterday.

Even some members of the parliamentary standing committee on women and children affairs ministry sometimes blame women's dress sense for harassments on streets, said Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) President Ayesha Khanam.

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SC upholds suspension of Rajshahi Mayor Bulbul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the suspension of Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul as the mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation till disposal of his writ petition at the High Court.

After hearing an appeal filed by the government, a four-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, extended its chamber judge's order that stayed a High Court order halting the suspension of Bulbul.

Bulbul cannot function as the city mayor following the SC order until disposal of the writ petition at the HC, Deputy Attorney General Khandaker Diliruzzaman told The Daily Star.

The Local Government Division on May 7 suspended Bulbul under section 12(1) of the local government (city corporation) act, 2009 saying that the court accepted charges against him in three cases after police pressed the

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GANG RAPE OF CONSTABLE IN CAPITAL

No arrest yet

Second arrest made in another incident in Rampura

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are claiming that they could neither arrest an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) nor gather information on his three cohorts centring a case accusing the four of gang raping the cop's ex-wife.

Admitted to One-Stop Crisis Centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the victim, a police constable, is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and her speech is incoherent, her brother told The Daily Star. A forensic test has been conducted.

The 25-year-old victim told journalists that she believed she had been sedated when she went to her estranged husband's Khilgaon residence on Wednesday to see their three-year-old daughter. She managed to flee Thursday afternoon.

Her sister filed a case against the four on Saturday, said Khilgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mustafiz Bhuiyan yesterday, adding that the ASI was on the run while the plaintiff could not provide any clue about the remaining three.

The ASI was transferred to Special Security and Protection Battalion from Khilgaon Police Station on Thursday.

After their divorce in November, the victim lodged a dowry case against the ASI with a Gazipur court. The ASI got anticipatory bail that month and custody of their daughter. Meanwhile, a second man has been arrested over another gang rape of a woman in Palashbagh area of Rampura on Friday.

Sharif was arrested at Paschim Rampura. One Rahman had been arrested from the area on Saturday after two cases, one for rape and another for assault, were filed with Rampura Police Station, said Inspector Alamgir Bhuiyan.

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High Court questions ACC commissioners' accountability to chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of a provision of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) law under which the ACC commissioners remain accountable to its chairman.

The court issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why the provision, which is inconsistent with the ACC's basic principles and law, should not be scrapped, Deputy Attorney General Motaheer Hossain Sazu told The Daily Star.

Secretaries to the president, cabinet, law ministry and ACC, its chairman and all commissioners have been made respondents.

The HC bench of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraf Kamal came up with the rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Md Kamal Hossain, a Supreme Court lawyer, challenging the legality of Section 12

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