

HC asks Unilever to stop a Lux ad
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a writ petition, the High Court yesterday directed Unilever Bangladesh to stop publishing the advertisement on Lux soap by luring gold lockets to consumers after purchasing them.

The court also issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be ordered to take legal action against Unilever for publishing the advertisement in media, petitioner's counsel Tawhidul Islam told The Daily Star.

Supreme Court lawyer Abdul Matin filed writ petition terming the advertisement, which invites people to win gold lockets (jite nin sonar lockets) using Lux soap, as "alluring and illegal."

Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu told The Daily Star that Unilever has been misleading people and earning crores of taka by publishing this advertisement which is illegal and punishable offence under section 294 (B) of Penal Code.



As the turbulent Kirtankhola keeps advancing and authorities do little to save establishments and settlements, residents take an initiative of their own to protect Lamchhari village in Barisal sadar upazila from being devoured by the river yesterday. They place logs and bamboos to shore up the bank, while the Water Development Board gave up after dumping some sand bags at a few places. WDB Executive Engineer in Barisal Zahiruddin Ahmed said they applied for Tk 46 crore to protect 4.6km of the bank but got only Tk 3 crore. In addition, Tk 30 lakh was sanctioned as emergency fund against the proposed Tk 60 lakh, he said.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

Indira Rd, Rajabazar in pain for digging

Work was started way too late, still long way to go until mid-August

HELEMUL ALAM

The residents of Indira Road and Rajabazar in the capital are facing immense sufferings as road excavations are going on day after day in the middle of the monsoon for laying of utility lines.

Heaps of mud, bricks, brick chips, sand and pipes have narrowed the roads in Indira and Razabazar, resulting in horrendous traffic jams in other parts of the area like Panthapath and Khambari.

Though according to a guideline of the Dhaka city corporation, utility service providers will have to complete their digging work by May, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) to check the excavations by other utility

service providers has started the works in May and they are still going on.

Md Forhad, executive engineer of zone-1 of DNCC, said as it took long to complete all procedures of tenders, they started the work late.

He said they were trying to finish it by mid-August.

Another official said the June-July financial year was a barrier to complete the task in time. "To do the work by June, we have to continue it even in the rainy season. If the corporation and service providers count the financial year from January to December, it would be easier."

Mohammad Sohel Rana, a resident of Boubazar of Indira Road, said due to the road digging, they had to spend around one and a half hours to go to Banglamotor, which usually took half an hour.

Firoz, staff of Be Connection Tailors in Rajabazar, said customers' visits to his tailoring shops had dropped by 20 percent during Ramadan due to the digging.



Pedestrians walk past heaps of earth and a long trench dug by Dhaka North City Corporation for installation of sewerage pipes on Indira Road on Saturday. The sufferings of people multiply during rains.

PHOTO: STAR

Eyebrows raised in both parties

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leaders countrywide into joining the party.

"Look at the sequence... a man was going to join the BNP iftar party and was picked up by police on the way... the next day he was released and appeared at AL's office to join AL... it is a very simple equation to understand," he said, adding, "If police arrest a person, he should be either in jail or be freed in bail... why did he end up at AL's office?"

BCI owner claims innocence

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arguments in the cases.

On December 19, 1992, two cases were filed against six high officials of BCI Bangladesh Ltd, including Shahjahan, after two batches of the company's paracetamol syrup "Paracetamol" was found containing more than 25 percent diethylene glycol.

Five other officials of the company went into hiding after the cases were filed.

Salamat was not available for comments.

Meanwhile, MA Salam, general secretary of Chittagong north district unit AL, said the process of Salamat's entry into the AL was not "fair". "The local leaders did not consult with us before they decided to accept Salamat," he said. "...I don't support it."

He added, "We have a lot of qualified leaders and we don't need to take in leaders from other parties when

people may question the process."

Moslem Uddin Ahmed, president of Chittagong south district unit AL, said, "So far I have known it from newspapers; the whole process seems inconsistent to me."

Veteran leader and Chittagong city AL President Mohiuddin Chowdhury dismissed the incident as a "petty" affair and declined to comment.

On Thursday, a pro-BNP Krishak Dal leader in Rajshahi joined the AL.

Two accused from another company, Rex Pharma, secured acquittal in 2003 as the prosecution never produced any evidence while the case against Polymech has been stayed since 1994 due to non-availability of evidence.

As many as 2,700 children died from adulterated Paracetamol syrup between 1982 and 1992, according to a study of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

ATTEMPTED MURDER CASE
CCC mayor, Hazari plead not guilty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CG

The incumbent Chittagong City Corporation Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin and Awami League lawmaker Nizam Uddin Hazari yesterday claimed themselves innocent before a Chittagong court in an attempted murder case filed 22 years ago.

On January 24, 1993, the then BCL leader Sufian Siddique was attacked at the rally of the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina. Sufian filed the case against 18 people, including the then BCL leader Nasir and Nizam. Police submitted charge sheet against them on March 7, 1993.

Fifteen of the 18 accused appeared before the court yesterday while three others are absconding.

Public Prosecutor advocate Abul Hasem said statements of 15 witnesses in the case were read out before the accused yesterday. And when asked, the accused refused to give any defence witness, he added.

The complainant of the case on May 28 told the court that he had no allegation against the accused because the incident took place during the tenure of BNP-led government, which "forced him to file the case."

Newborn's body found stuffed in carton in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

STOPPING TORTURE IN JAILS Explain in 4 weeks why order should not be issued HC tells govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks as to why they should not be directed to stop "inhuman torture" on the prisoners in jails across the country.

In response to a writ petition, the court also ordered the home secretary and inspector general of police to investigate the reported incident of torture on Md Jaber Prince, an undertrial prisoner of a case, in high security cell of Gazipur's Qashimpur jail, and to submit a report before it in 30 days.

Bangla daily Jugantor published a report on July 2 saying that the jail authorities tortured Prince inhumanly on June 19 as he drew attention of the authorities on insufficient iftar, given to him, and sought some iftar.

Yesterday, the HC came up with the order and rule after hearing the writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh challenging legality of the jail authorities' action to torture Prince.

Petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told the court that physical torture on detained persons was going on violating the constitution and law.

ICT order on contempt

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During yesterday's hearing, petitioners' lawyer Khan Mohammad Shameem Aziz said after coming out from the court on June 10, Zafrullah made some comments before the media, which "scandalised" the tribunal and its judges, thus he "committed" contempt of court.

Aziz submitted a CD of Zafrullah's comments before the media and read out its content.

"Today's contempt of court verdict is the proof of mental sickness of the three judges. It proves mental illness of three justices. Ensuring justice is not possible if the judges can't tolerate criticism. When they can't tolerate criticism and lack rationality, they hide themselves under cover of law," reads a part of his comments.

Through his comments, Zafrullah "lowered" the dignity and authority of the tribunal and attacked the administration of justice, said Aziz. "We want his exemplary punishment."

Another lawyer Morshed Ahmed Khan said Zafrullah had challenged the authority of the court, which could not be allowed. If allowed, the administration of justice and rule of law will be destroyed, he added.

In the name of freedom of expression, he can not scandalise the court as the freedom of expression is subject to contempt of court, said Morshed.

Freedom fighter Manoranjan Ghoshal, one of the petitioners, said though Zafrullah was a freedom fighter, nobody gave him the licence to tell whatever he wanted and attacked the tribunal. No one is above the law, he added.

Other petitioners are freedom fighters Ajgar Ali and Sheikh Nazrul Islam, and Gonojagoron Mancha organisers Kamal Pasha Chowdhury and FM Shahin.

Zafrullah challenged the tribunal's June 10 order, and the Supreme Court on June 16 stayed the tribunal's verdict following his petition. The matter is still pending at the apex court.

Plainclothes
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ahead of Eid to avoid any untoward incident.

Our Gazipur Correspondent reports: Highway communications will remain hassle free in this Eid season, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday. After visiting Dhaka-Tangail highway, the minister told local reporters that condition of all roads in the country is better than any other time in the past. Work of Joydevpur-Chandra-Tangail-Elenga four-lane development project will start in this September. Upgrade of Nabinagar-Baipal-Uttara road into a four lane is not being possible due to land requisition problem and nearby constructions. So, an elevated express way is going to be constructed with foreign aid in the area, he added.

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