

## 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 Motaheer Hossain Sazul 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

HELEMLU 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 Khamarbari.

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 Sohail 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.

He said the work should have been done in a systematic way but they were doing it haphazardly.

The condition of the road is so bad that anytime a major accident can occur during rains, he said.

Three residents in Rajabazar had fallen into construction ditches during rain around 10 days back, he said.

Mariya Akhtar, a class X student of Naznin School and College, said she had to go to school on foot for the last one month.

She said it became very difficult during rains, and at that time it took her double the usual time.

Firoz, staff of Be Connection Tailors in Rajabazar, said customers' visits to his tailoring shops had dropped by 20 per cent 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

## Qamrul slams media for 'false stories'

Says pictures of infested wheat not of imported Brazilian ones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pictures of wheat infested with insects published in some newspapers are not of wheat imported from Brazil, Food Minister Qamrul Islam told the parliament yesterday.

He criticised a section of the media for publishing fabricated stories on Brazilian wheat, claiming this was done with a political motive to embarrass the government.

Qamrul Islam made the remarks in response to a query of a lawmaker.

The minister also said the Directorate General of Food imported the wheat and he was not involved.

"Some newspapers are saying Brazilian wheat is substandard. But it has been proven in laboratory tests that the wheat is edible. Brazilian wheat usually looks bad and no one likes it. But the wheat is standard," he added.

Regarding infestation, the minister said food grain stored for a long time without medicine naturally become infested.

Referring to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's remark about "the government importing rotten wheat", Qamrul alleged that Khaleda Zia wanted to make the issue a political one.

He informed the House that some 1.75 lakh tonnes of wheat have already been distributed, while 25,000 tonnes remain in stock. Responding to queries over reports of a lawmaker and police and BGB's refusal to accept the wheat, the minister said the reports were false.

## Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

ATM Motiur Rahman, a freedom fighter and civil surgeon of Manikganj, died of cardiac arrest on Monday. He was 57.

## 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 Javed Prince, an under trial 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

FROM PAGE 3

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 Ajar 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.

ATTEMPTED MURDER CASE

## CCC mayor, Hazari plead not guilty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

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

Police found the body of an unidentified newborn baby boy stuffed inside a medicine carton on the Dhaka International Trade Fair premises in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday.

Marks of injuries were found in the head, said Dhaka Medical College morgue sources.

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police said they rushed to the spot on information from pedestrians.

## Plainclothes

FROM PAGE 3

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 Qader 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-Elena 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.

## Eyebrows raised in both parties

FROM PAGE 3

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?"

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.

## BCI owner claims innocence

FROM PAGE 3

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 "Paracem" was found containing more than 25 percent diethylene glycol.

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

On August 8 last year, the court after starting the trial sent the complainant, Abul Khair Chowdhury, an assistant director of the Directorate General of Drug Administration, to jail for defying 18 consecutive court orders to give testimony.

Earlier July 22 last year, the same court gave 10 years' rigorous imprisonment to the owner and two officials of Adflame Pharmaceuticals.

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

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

SHARBARI Z AHMED

THE OCEAN OF MRS NAGAI

STORIES

THE OCEAN OF MRS NAGAI

STORIES

SHARBARI Z AHMED

Daily Star Books

Home Delivery Service

www.rokomari.com

16297

Scan this QR CODE

Our books are available at:

Aziz Super Market, Shahbag: Prothoma (9664825), Pathak Shamabesh (01713034440) Dhanmondi: Gyankosh (8623251), Baily Road: Sagor Publishers (01716544444), Gulshan: Gloria Jean's Coffees (01914426135), Banani: Ananya Crafts (9882542), Old Aripport: Bookworm (9120387), Airport: Omni Books (8901808).

Chittagong: Batighor (01713304344) and Prothoma (01711649422)