



Sewage leaking out of pipes of Dhaka Wasa has submerged this road in Kadamtola of Bashabo in the capital, making it difficult for pedestrians to walk on the road and spreading a bad odour. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

JAMALPUR WAR CRIMES Decision on charge framing against eight October 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday fixed October 26 to decide whether it will frame charges against eight Jamalpur "Al-Badr" members for their alleged involvement in crimes committed in 1971.

The tribunal fixed the date after both the prosecution and the defence counsels placed their submissions.

The accused are Ashraf Hossain, Prof Sharif Ahmed, Abdul Mannan, Abdul Bari, Harun, Abul Hashem, Shamsul Haque and AKM Yusuf Ali. Of them, Ashraf, Sharif, Mannan, Bari, Harun, and Hashem are on the run.

On April 20, the prosecution pressed five charges against them.

AY Masihuzzaman, Abdus Sobhan Tarafdar and Gazi MH Tamim placed submissions for the accused, while Tureen Afroz and Tapos Kanti Baul on behalf of the prosecution.

Meanwhile, the tribunal rebuked the prosecutors for not submitting some reference materials. The same tribunal yesterday sent alleged war criminal Md Abdul Kuddus, 84, to jail.

Kuddus, who hails from Laxminarayanpur in Noakhali's Shudharam upazila but now lives in Dhaka, was arrested on Tuesday, Prosecutor Zahid Imam told The Daily Star.

On Monday, the tribunal issued an arrest warrant against Kuddus and four other alleged war criminals from Shudharam. The same day, the prosecution pressed three charges against the five in connection with killing at least 111 people.

Among the five, Amir Ahmad alias Razakar Amir Ali, 70, Md Joyal Abedin, 73, and Mohammad Yusuf, 60, were arrested Monday while Abul Kalam alias AKM Mansur, 67, is still on run.

NEWS IN brief

ACC sues ex-FDC managing director Pijush for 'embezzling over Tk 3.46cr'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued former managing director of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (FDC) Pijush Bandyopadhyay and three others in connection with embezzlement of over Tk 3.46 crore.

ACC filed the case with Tejgaon Industrial Police Station against the four, including a Malaysian national, Officer-in-Charge Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star. ACC alleged that the money was embezzled while procuring equipment for the FDC.

Factories fined for power pilferage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC) has realised Tk 22 lakh in fine for electricity pilferage during a week-long special taskforce drive in Bshabo, Kamrangirchar and Lalbagh, said a top official source.

The authority detected the power pilferage of over 44,000 units at three factories and commercial establishment in the areas during the drive since October 1. The authorities instructed for filing cases against the offenders.

Unilever cuts down water usage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unilever Bangladesh has almost halved the usage of water in manufacturing products to ease water crisis.

In 2008, Unilever set a goal for bringing down its water consumption from 5,400 liters to 2,750 liters for every tonnes of production by 2020. Unilever claims that they have already achieved the goal in 2015. Reevaluation of existing manufacturing process helped Unilever reduce water consumption by 6.1 percent whereas the Rain Water Harvesting System helped it save over 4.5 million liters of water since. Innovation of new methods to use less water will be continued, said Supply Chain Director of Unilever Bangladesh Aminur Rahman.

Freshers' reception held at GUB

CITY DESK

The orientation programme for the newly enrolled students under Fall Semester-2015 of Green University of Bangladesh (GUB) was held at Green Auditorium on Tuesday, said a press release.

GUB Vice-Chancellor Golam Samdani Fakir presided over the programme.

Admission fair begins at UAP

CITY DESK

A week long admission fair began yesterday on the campus of University of Asia Pacific (UAP) at 74/A, Green Road, in the capital.

UAP Vice Chancellor Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury inaugurated the fair which will remain open from 10:00am to 5:00pm each day till October 14. Special discount on tuition fee is being offered during the fair while top 25 meritorious undergraduate students will get the opportunity to study for free.

Dhaka to ensure workplace health, safety

Amu tells Danish minister
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Minister for Industries Amir Hossain Amu reiterated the government's commitment to ensure occupational safety and health in the factories of Bangladesh.

On the last day of his two-day visit to Denmark on Tuesday, he met Danish Minister of Employment Jørn Neergaard Larsen at Copenhagen.

Both the ministers discussed, among others, Denmark-Bangladesh Strategic Sector Cooperation launched in Dhaka in March 2015, according to a message received from Bangladesh mission in Copenhagen yesterday.

Amu briefed about the action plan of the government in attaining the safety and workers' rights, especially in RMG sector.

The Danish minister expressed interest in continuing their cooperation for better working conditions in the Bangladesh industries, including the RMG sector which has set a goal to export products worth \$50bn in near future.

Seaweed

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He showed that now about 140 species of seaweed were found near St Martin's Island, five species in the Bak Khali-Moheshkhali Channel and 10 species in the mangrove forests.

Associate Prof SM Rafiquzzaman, Faculty of Fisheries, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, said like other countries, especially China, Japan and South Korea, Bangladesh could boost its economic dimension through exploration of seaweed resources.

Prof M Nurul Absar Khan, Faculty of Fisheries, Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, said Bangladesh's 25,000sqkm coastal area; 1,18,813sqkm territorial sea; 710km long flat sea beach, and the large mangrove forest could be used to cultivate and explore seaweed.

Currently, 16,000-20,000kg of seaweed is cultivated and 40,000 to 60,000kg is harvested from nature, he said.

Price of cultured seaweed goes up to Tk 3,000 per mound and that of naturally harvested ones up to Tk 1,500, he added.

Jahanara Green Agro, a private organisation, is trying to culture seaweed at St Martin's Island, he informed.

Shyamal Kanti Ghosh, secretary, Ministry of Agriculture; Dr Abul Kalam Azad, executive chairman, Barc; and Dr Md Rafiqul Isla Mondal also spoke.

INCREASING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Rights bodies blame impunity, violent political climate

Demand termination of Liton's JS membership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of rule of law, failure to mete out exemplary punishment and current practice of cadre-based politics which requires demonstration of power are some of the main causes for increasing and brutish violence against children.

Making such observations, members of Child Rights Advocacy Coalition, 10 national and international human rights organisations, at a press conference in Dhaka Reporter's Unity yesterday demanded quick and transparent trials of incidents of killings and torture on children.

"Violence against children has increased both in terms of numbers and types," said Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a coalition member.

She noted that people perceive underprivileged children as the most vulnerable and that it was easy to get away after committing any crime against them.

Sultana Kamal referred to the shooting of 10-year-old boy Sourav Mia allegedly by a ruling party lawmaker, Manzurul Islam Liton, at Sundarganj of Gaibandha on October 2.

She questioned how an elected representative could do such a thing in a drunken state.

"The first question that arises is how can such a person become an elected representative," she said, demanding that his membership in parliament be terminated. Sultana Kamal also criticised police's role in not having made any arrest yet. "We are concerned that he might never be found," she said.

Echoing her concern about police's failure in arresting Manzurul even though his licensed guns were surrendered at Sundarganj Police Station, Nasima Akhter Joly, secretary of National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, said, "Are lawmakers superior citizens? Do they fall under a law separate from

the one that applies to us?"

Emranul Huq Chowdhury, chairperson of Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, alleged that Sourav's family was being threatened and offered money to negotiate with Manzurul and withdraw the attempted murder case.

The allegation of national cricketer Shahadat Hossain and his wife torturing a child domestic help also came up. The coalition welcomed Bangladesh Cricket Board's decision to suspend him.

Shamsul Alam, deputy director of Child Rights Governance, Save the Children Bangladesh, read out the coalition's written statement.

Quoting ASK statistics, it said 37 were mentally and physically tortured in schools and workplaces in August and September 2015. The coalition demanded raising awareness at national level and formation of a cell under the law ministry to monitor the time the trials take, ensure transparency and to keep the trials from being



Idols are yet to be painted as preparations go on for the five-day celebration of Durga Puja, the main religious festival for the Bangalee Hindu community, which is scheduled to start on October 19. In Barisal district, the festival will be celebrated at more than 544 puja mandaps (altars). However, the District Puja Udjapan Parishad says the preparations are not going very smoothly due to the rising cost of raw materials and other expenses. According to the parishad, the prices of raw materials have increased by 10 percent compared to last year. The festival will end on October 23 when immersion of idols on "Bijaya Dashami".

PHOTO: STAR

Evidence found against

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Hussain's father Syed Musleh Uddin was the vice-president of the East Pakistan unit of Pakistan Democratic Party (PDP) and chairman of the Peace Committee in Kishoreganj sub-division in 1971, he said.

Both the PDP and the Peace Committee worked against Bangladesh's liberation.

Hussain was the commander of the Razakar Bahini in Nikli and known as "Razakar Daroga" while Hasan that of Tarail upazila in 1971. Moslem was a Razakar member and Hussain's associate, he added.

CHARGES

Killing of 35 people and torture of four others in Nikli between mid-August and September 24; abduction and torture of four people in Nikli between September 2 and October 19; killing of 26 people in Nikli on September 6; abduction and torture of seven people in Nikli from September 21 to 24; abduction and killing of a freedom fighter in Kishoreganj sadar upazila on November 26.

MORE PROBE REPORTS

Hannan said the agency so far completed investigations in 30 cases since its inception in March 2010 and was hoping to complete that in four or five cases within this year.

He said they would hold a press conference today to announce their findings in another case.

On progress in the case against Jatiya Party lawmaker MA Hannan and four others, Sanaul said, "It (investigation) is at the final stage."

TO SAVE SUNDARBANS 5-day march starts Oct 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal will start a five-day march towards Bagerhat for cancellation of Rampal and Orion power plants near the Sundarbans.

The programme "Sundarban Rakkha Obhijatra" will launch before Jatiya Press Club at 3:00pm on October 13 and wrap up in Bagerhat on October 17, organisers told a press conference in the capital yesterday.

The leaders urged the prime minister or her representatives to join an open debate over the power plants. "The prime minister has just won an award for protecting the environment. We hope she would act responsibly to protect the Sundarbans," said CPB leader Mujahidul

Deal signed to introduce

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this by 2016, and ensure the capacity development and implementation of the system in Bangladesh, said a German embassy press release.

This would further strengthen the country's garment sector and improve the industry's safety condition.

Earlier, German Minister Müller arrived in the capital on Tuesday for a two-day visit to Bangladesh.

10 marks to be reduced

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from the next SSC and HSC exams in 2016. The decision was taken for holding the examinations fairly, said the release.

The meeting also discussed how the duration of JSC, SSC and HSC examinations can be reduced to avoid question paper leak. Making the state-owned BG Press fully automated to prevent question paper leak during printing was also stressed.

Govt blaming BNP

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leaders and activists were being arrested and implicated in "false" cases as the government's political motive was to suppress the opposition and differing opinions.

He expressed concern over "such" a case filed against BNP Standing Committee Member Tariqul Islam and over 100 leaders and activists in Jessore. He demanded withdrawal of the cases and release of the arrestees. "The government is closing all the windows of democracy to strengthen the one-party rule as it is not taking any initiative to resolve the country's intolerable political situation," Fakhrul said.