



Schoolchildren are forced to walk over a pile of brick chips on this footpath in Chittagong city's Jamalkhan area yesterday, kept there for the construction of a building, violating the rules of the city corporation. Such malpractice is prevailing in different areas due to inaction.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

10 hurt as BU students clash with cops over missing cellphone. Police fire gunshots, teargas canisters; detain five

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least ten people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between police and students of Barisal University at Police Lines Road near its city campus yesterday afternoon following a scuffle over alleged theft of a mobile phone set.

Police fired six rounds of gunshots and eleven teargas canisters, charged batons on students and detained five of them from the spot to bring the situation under control, said Shakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

The detainees include Abid Hossain, Ashish Dhali and Ismail Sardar and Luthfar Rahman.

Three police personnel—Firoz Hosen, Arifat Ahmed and Satya Ranjan Kashkel—were injured when students hurled brick chips at them, he said. Arifat was admitted to Barisal Police Lines

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Death anniversary CITY DESK



Today is the 14th death anniversary of Syed Md Habibur Haque, founding

managing director of Crystal Insurance Company Ltd.

Hailed from Chakher of Barisal, he died in 2002 at Sikder Medical College Hospital in Dhaka.

Board of directors, shareholders, executives, officers and staff of the company are praying for his departed soul.

Restrict all harmful activities in Sundarbans

Experts urge govt from book launch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should immediately impose restriction upon all sorts of activities that may harm the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, said experts yesterday.

The speakers include environmentalists, geographers, biodiversity experts, forests officials, conservationists from home and abroad.

They were addressing the publication ceremony of a book titled "Sundarbans Atlas", authored by Helmut Denzau, Gertrud Neumann and Peter Gerngross and published by the Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD), at the capital's Bon Bhaban.

Gertrud Neumann-Denzau, one of the authors, presented a keynote on the Atlas, Prof Hermann Kudrass, Sk Ghulam Hussain and Hasan Mansur

made brief comments on the book.

They said the Atlas would be helpful for all professionals who go to the mangrove forests.

Prof Nazrul Islam, former faculty of the department of Geography at Dhaka University; and Yunus Ali, chief conservator of forest, the Department of Forests, were present as the chief and special guest with Prof Sakhawat Ali Khan, chairman of SEHD, in the chair.

Prof Nazrul said so many odd things were happening in the Sundarbans; now motorboats were plying through the waterbodies of the forests.

Conservationists need to raise their voices against such practices, he said. Frequent accidents in the river through the Sundarbans are causing harms to the forests, he added.

The book contains a map of the entire Sundarbans, both India and

Bangladesh parts, also a 55 forest compartment maps of Bangladesh part and a detailed index gazetteer of place names (English).

Sundarbans Atlas is intended for users like conservationists, scientists, employees of the forest department, law enforcing and other authorities, tourists, tourist companies, journalists, NGOs and legal resource users.

Phillip Gain, director of SEHD, moderated the programme.

Syed Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmed, country director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature; Prof Monirul H Khan, eminent tiger specialist; Dr Ronald Hader, nature conservationist; Dr Tapan Kumar Dey, former conservationist of forest (CF) Wildlife; Mihir Biswas, joint secretary Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), also spoke on the occasion.



A group of students with Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Chairperson Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at the inauguration of the CPA Youth Road Show on parliamentary democracy yesterday at the North Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, organised by CPA, Bangladesh.

PHOTO: STAR

Legal notice seeks halt to biometric SIM registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served a legal notice seeking a stop to the collection of biometric data and fingerprints for registering for Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards of mobile operators, claiming the registration system violates privacy and has a malign intention.

Lawyer Humayan Kabir Pallab served the notice on behalf of Khairul Hasan Sarker, a resident of Segunbagicha area in the capital.

The lawyer worried that the biometric data supplied to some private companies might be used for criminal activities.

"The collection of biometric data is absolutely illegal, arbitrary, mala fide and insubstantial to the state security," he said in the notice.

Post and telecommunications secretary, law secretary, inspector general of police, Dhaka metropolitan police commissioner, Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC), Grameenphone, Robi Axiata Ltd, Airtel Bangladesh Ltd, Banglalink Ltd, Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd, and Pacific Bangladesh Ltd (Citycell) have been made respondents to the notice.

The notice also said that the collection of such information would be seriously prejudicial to the safety and security of his client and the entire society, adding that the data would easily be accessible by international criminal organisations, posing a risk to the country's citizens.

The lawyer urged the respondents to stop collection of biometric data and fingerprints within two days, saying he would file a writ petition seeking necessary order from the High Court if the collection of such information was not stopped.

Impunity leads to continuation of sexual violence

Publication ceremony of 'Of the Nation Born' told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sexual violence against women is still going on in the country due to impunity since the 1971 Liberation War, said speakers at a programme in the capital yesterday.

There was no trial for sexual violence on women, who were used as sex slaves during the birth of Bangladesh, and that impunity keeps the culture still alive here, they said at the publication ceremony of a book, "Of the Nation Born" organised by Ain o Salish Kendra, at Gyan Taposh Abdul Razzak Bidyapith in Dhammondi.

The book, a part of a series on sexual violence and impunity in South Asia, is a compilation of essays on sexual violence against women and impunity during and after the Liberation War.

Zubaan, a New Delhi-based feminist publishing house, published the book, written by feminist Bangladeshi and Indian writers with the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The speakers told the ceremony that the book brought together both new and established scholars to look at areas as wide-ranging as the law and its histories, nationalism, memory and sexuality, the status of minorities, religion and its directives, and gender contestation and more.

Edited by Dr Hameeda Hossain, founder member and research director of ASK; and Prof Amena Mohsin of the Department of International Relations, Dhaka University, the book offers a comprehensive overview of the situation in Bangladesh from the 1971 war to the present, they added.

Dr Hameeda, who moderated the event, said the book gave readers an excellent understanding of the complex realities of how impunity for the perpetrators of sexual violence had become standard in Bangladesh in particular, and South Asia in general.

Telling about her write-up, Illira Dewan, former secretary of Hill Women's Federation, said the sexual violence against indigenous women and impunity in Bangladesh's hill districts emerged in her writing.

Novsharan Singh, a representative of IDRC; Joanne Charett, vice president of IDRC, Laxmi Murthy of Zubaan, Dr Rounaq Jahan, fellow of CPD; and writer Meghna Guhathakurta, among others, spoke.

The University Press Limited will publish the book also in Bangla.

Sylhet newspaper office attacked

UNB, Sylhet

Miscreants attacked the office of a local newspaper, 'Dainik Pravabela' at Sobhanighat in Sylhet city on Tuesday night that left its staff reporter Masrur Rasel injured.

Witnesses said some 10-15 miscreants entered the office around 8:00pm identifying themselves as students of a local Madrasa, located near the office, and started vandalism.

When Masrur tried to resist them, they beat him up mercilessly. Editor of the daily Kabir Ahmed Shohel filed a case with Kotwali Police Station.

Acute water crisis dogs

FROM PAGE 3

Eskaton Garden," said Reshmi's sister Sanjida Akhtar, also a student of Siddheshwari Girls School.

She said her mother, who had been facing water crisis for the last couple of weeks, purchased water from the vehicles.

Chaina Begum, another resident, said as they failed to purchase water from Wasa on Tuesday, they had to fetch three buckets of water from a nearby mosque.

"My son Arman Mollik, a school student, had to collect water after he finished reading at 8:00pm," she said.

Chaina said they had been facing the problem for the last one month which became acute for the last couple of weeks.

Mohammad Shariful Islam, manager of Eskaton Gardenia apartment on Eskaton Garden Road, said 26 flats of the apartment were facing the problem for the last 10 days and the residents had to purchase five to six vehicles of water on a daily basis.

He said there were around 1,000 families in different apartments and buildings in the area.

Mohammad Shajahan, site manager of Associate Engineer and Drillers whom Wasa hired to repair the pump said the pump would be renovated by Saturday.

Delowar Hossain, the pump operator, said the capacity of the pump was reduced to 50 percent around two months ago for which a part of the residents was not getting sufficient water.

Meanwhile, similar crisis is prevailing on the lane of the newspaper Weekly 2000 as the pipeline will have to be reset, Delowar said.

A high official of Wasa said new pipes would replace the old ones there under a project.

EC's indifference raising doubts

FROM PAGE 3

will not take any allegation into its consideration if none submits complaints, said the statement, alleging that the EC is not taking any action despite it receiving multiple complaints.

The polls will be held in six phases on partisan lines for the first time in the country with the first phase starting on March 22 in 752 UPs.

"We have been telling that the elections to the local government institutions should not be held based on partisan lines. Our argument is that the negative effect of the political corruption will spread out at rural level due to such an electoral system," it mentioned.

SHUJAN's Secretary Badiul Alam

Majumdar alleged that the candidates were encountering impediments to submitting their nomination papers, but the EC was not taking any action.

These incidents have raised concerns over the polls' fairness, he said, questioning the EC's ability and neutrality in holding a peaceful election.

SHUJAN's President M Hafiz Uddin Khan, also former caretaker government advisor, claimed that no elections since 2014 have been free and fair under the current EC.

"The government has a crucial role in holding a free and fair election for the sake of effective democracy, but it does not discharge the duties meaningfully," Hafiz observed.

Shakhawat broke my

FROM PAGE 3

the location of the freedom fighters' camp from him. He declined to give information. Shakhawat then twisted his left leg until it broke. Out of pain, Miran fainted again.

He regained sense the following day, and found himself on the bank of Kopotakkho River, said Miran, adding that the locals took him to Taki Hospital in India where a physician cut off the two affected fingers of his left hand. Miran yesterday showed his left hand at the tribunal.

Miran said, after the Liberation War, when he returned to Bangladesh; he found his house destroyed by Razakars.

The case proceeding was adjourned until today after the defence completed his cross-examination.

CRIMES IN MOULVIBAZAR
Meanwhile, the tribunal yesterday sent two war crimes accused from Moulvibazar to jail after police had produced them before it around 10:30am.

It also fixed May 2 for passing the next order in the case. The accused are Abdul Aziz alias Habul, 63, of Pakhiala village under Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar, and Abdul Mannan, 64, of Taradaram village of the same upazila.

Police arrested the two in the district on Tuesday, hours after the tribunal issued arrest warrants for three persons, who were allegedly involved in crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

Another accused was on the run, Prosecutor Sabina Yasmin Munni told The Daily Star.

The accused were involved with Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistan army, according to Shahjahan Kabir, the investigation officer of the case.

Arrest warrant issued against

FROM PAGE 3

A day after the January 23 attack, Jatrabari police filed two cases accusing 68 BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders of torching and explosion during the countrywide blockade sponsored by the alliance last year.

Later, the cases were transferred to the Detective Branch (DB) of police. On July 22, detectives pressed charges against 58

accused.

Among others, the accused include BNP leaders Barkatullah Bulu, Habibunnabi Khan Sohel, Mir Sarafat Ali Sapu, Azizul Bari Helal, former BNP lawmaker Salauddin Ahmed, Selima Rahman, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's advisor Shawkat Mahmud, her special assistant Shimul Biswas, and press secretary Maruf Kamal Khan.



পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)

প্রধান কার্যালয়ঃ নলকা, সিরাজগঞ্জ

জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা পশ্চিমাঞ্চল গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড-এর গৃহস্থালী শ্রেণীর সকল সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিল বই শেষ হওয়ার পর উক্ত বিল বই প্রদর্শনপূর্বক অত্র কোম্পানীর আঞ্চলিক অফিস সিরাজগঞ্জ, বাঘাবাড়ী, পাবনা, ঈশ্বরদী, বগুড়া ও রাজশাহী হতে বিনামূল্যে নুতন গ্যাস বিল বই প্রদান করা হয়।

তবে সর্বশেষ ইস্যুকৃত বিল বইটি হারিয়ে বা নষ্ট হয়ে গেলে পিজিসিএল-এর সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মকর্তার স্বাক্ষর সম্বলিত মানি রিসিপ্ট-এর বিপরীতে নগদে ২০ (বিশ) টাকা পরিশোধের মাধ্যমে ডুপ্লিকেট বিল বই ইস্যু করা হয়।

গ্যাস বিল জমাদান বই সংগ্রহ করতে কোন সমস্যার সম্মুখীন হলে সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণকে নিম্নলিখিত টেলিফোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল অথবা প্রত্যেক আঞ্চলিক অফিসে অভিযোগ বাক্স স্থাপিত আছে, উক্ত অভিযোগ বাক্সে অভিযোগ দাখিলের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল।

টেলিফোন নম্বর:

সিরাজগঞ্জ	০৭৫১-৬৩১৩৮
বাঘাবাড়ী	০৭৫১-৬৩৭৫২
পাবনা	০৭৩১-৬৫৭৯৪
ঈশ্বরদী	০৭৩২৬-৬৩৩০৪
রাজশাহী	০৭২১-৭৬১৫৫০
বগুড়া	০৫১-৬২৯০০

পিজিপিআর-১২/২০১৫-২০১৬

জিডি-৫৫৬

কর্তৃপক্ষ