



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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SRH ELIMINATE KKR

Sunrisers Hyderabad move into second qualifier after knocking out KKR

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Russia frees Ukraine pilot in prisoner swap

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JUSTICE STUMBLES at every step

Juvenile tried under wrong law for rape, 15 years later HC ordered his immediate release, Tk 50 lakh in compensation; He is still in jail even 5 months after the HC delivered the short verdict

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government must pay Tk 50 lakh in compensation to a man for his wrongful conviction in a rape case 12 years ago, the High Court ruled yesterday.

Abdul Jalil of Char Fashion in Bhola was only 15 when the rape incident took place in 2001.

In the years that followed, he was tried in a wrong court and under a wrong law.

In its full verdict, the HC also scrapped the life sentence given by the trial court to Jalil, and ordered his immediate release if he is not accused in any other case.

On December 15 last year, the HC bench of Justice AFM Abdur Rahman had delivered the short verdict, following an appeal by Jalil challenging the lower court judgment that had sentenced him to life.

In its full verdict yesterday, the HC said: "This court feels that it is reasonable for the state side to give financial compensation to Abdul Jalil. Therefore, the court orders the state to pay Tk 50 lakh in compensation to accused Abdul Jalil for [taking away] 14 years from his life."

The HC sought to know how the damage done to his life because of the wrongful conviction would be undone.

Though the District and Sessions Judge of Bhola formed the Juvenile Court for holding the trial, no rules of the Children Act 1974 were followed in the process. Later, the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, not the Juvenile Court, tried the case and sentenced Jalil to life considering him an adult person, it said.

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In the summer heat, vehicles sit idle on both sides of the six-lane Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Farmgate as city traffic management virtually collapsed yesterday. Inset, a woman falls sick due to heat in a bus stuck in a jam on Mirpur Road.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS/PALASH KHAN



Traffic goes haywire

Three reasons behind people's sufferings on roads for hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka dwellers were stuck on city streets for hours on end in the scorching heat yesterday, mainly because of a Dhaka North City Corporation event and a procession of the education ministry.

Standstill traffic were everywhere in the capital.

Vehicles crawled on streets in Gulshan, Banani, Kakoli, Farmgate, Jatiya Press Club and other areas as digging on roads for development work narrowed street width.

City dwellers posted photos of gridlocks on social media and also wanted updates on traffic situation on streets. They were complaining as well.

"Complete collapse of traffic man-

agement today. Almost zero movement. In the last 1 hour I have travelled less than a km from Dhanmondi to Elephant Road ...," read a post of one Khaled Hossain on Traffic Alert, a closed Facebook group of over 37,500 users, around noon.

Many said it took more than double the usual time to reach their destinations.

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DESTROYING GAS IN CHHATAK Bangladesh goes to int'l court for compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has filed a case with an international arbitration court against Niko Resources Bangladesh Ltd, claiming Tk 9,250 crore in compensation for destruction of properties and gas reserves at Chhatak gas field in fire more than a decade ago.

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company (Bapex) approached the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), an arm of the World Bank, in March this year.

This is the first time Bangladesh has moved to an international court to realise compensation from the Canadian oil company since the twin blowouts in 2005.

The Washington-based ICSID is an international arbitration institution that facilitates dispute resolution between

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NO BLANKET POWERS FOR COPS Police positive yet apprehensive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police personnel from different tiers have welcomed the Supreme Court's landmark verdict on police's powers concerning arrest, detention in custody and remand, but said the provision for making arrests on suspicion is necessary for tackling crimes.

They also stressed the need for using the law with greater supervision to stop its misuse.

Some of them said the verdict would help bring transparency in police's activities as they would have to gather evidence before arresting anyone.

At the same time, police have to adopt new strategies for detaining criminals, as the suspects proved to be the actual criminals in many cases in the past, they said.

A number of them said police would face some difficulties once the relevant law is amended.

The police have lost the century-old discretionary powers concerning arrest, detention in custody and remand, as the SC on Tuesday upheld a High Court verdict against the arbitrary use of sweeping authority.

The HC verdict delivered on April 7, 2003 asked the government to

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NEWS ANALYSIS

ARBITRARY ARREST, REMAND Indian example holds out hope

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Supreme Court's latest landmark verdict against police's century-old discretionary powers concerning arrest, detention and remand is a bold judicial pronouncement in favour of people's liberty and fundamental rights.

This verdict, according to legal experts, will give people protection of their fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution.

According to article 33, an arrestee must not be detained without informing him or her the reason for the detention and the arrestee must be given the right to consult lawyers.

Article 35 also provides an arrestee with the protection that he or she shall not be compelled to be a witness against him or herself. It also prohibits torture in police remand to extort information as it clearly states no person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading

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FIZZ the man of mystery

SAKEB SUBHAN

It will be fair to say that Bangladesh cricket has not seen the likes of Mustafizur Rahman in its short history. It will be a little more contentious to say that the world has not seen a bowler like him in recent times. Contentious but by no means unreasonable, because it is not the Bangladesh media alone that has been going Fizz-crazy. The amount of buzz the 20-year-old from a small village in Satkhira has created around the cricketing world belies the fact that he has been playing international cricket for slightly more than a year.

The Mustafizur fever should not make us forget that Bangladesh has been lucky enough in its 16-year history at the highest echelon of cricket to boast a cricketer of the calibre of Shakib Al Hasan, who has been at or near the top of the Test, ODI and T20I all-rounder

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'MASS KILLING' IN BANGLADESH Int'l court in Hague rejects allegations

No basis of 'BNP-Jamaat's claim', says foreign minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague has rejected the allegation against the government of "committing mass killing and crimes against humanity".

"The prosecutor of the ICC has recently informed us through a letter that there is no legal basis of such allegations," Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali told journalists at a press conference at his office yesterday.

The foreign minister added this proved that the BNP-Jamaat and its associates were engaged in spreading falsehood against Bangladesh and its people.

Anti-liberation force Jamaat in particular is carrying out such ill attempts to cover up its mass killings, rapes, arson and crimes against humanity committed in 1971, he said.

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Deadly wheat blast came from Brazil

Show findings of scientists at Swiss university of technology

REAZ AHMAD

Wheat blast disease, which struck the crop fields in southwestern Bangladesh this year in its first outbreak in Asia, came from Brazil, according to two scientists in Switzerland.

The scientists at ETH Zurich, a premier Swiss university of technology and science, came up with the findings recently after analysing genome sequences of the Brazilian and Bangladeshi strains of pathogens responsible for the disease.

Caused by a fungus -- *Magnaporthe oryzae* -- wheat blast is one of the most fearsome and intractable wheat diseases discovered in Brazil in 1985.

The strong similarities between the wheat blast strains from Bangladesh and Brazil suggested that the disease came to Bangladesh from Brazil, said plant pathologists Daniel Croll and Bruce McDonald.



Wheat sheaves infected with wheat blast disease. Inset, an affected leaf of the plant.

"Many fungal diseases can be transmitted via grains and previous research indicated that wheat blast can be seed-transmitted.

"A transmission of the disease from Brazil is plausible because Bangladesh is one of the largest Asian importers of wheat,

and Brazil is one of the major suppliers of wheat to Bangladesh."

The findings of Croll and McDonald are available on -- wheatblast.org -- an website dedicated to the cause of fighting wheat blast.

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