

Rid Pharma case verdict Nov 28

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judgment in the case filed against five officials of Rid Pharmaceuticals Ltd over manufacturing toxic Paracetamol syrup that claimed at least 28 children's lives will be delivered on November 28. The accused in the case are Rid Pharma Managing Director Mizanur Rahman, directors Sheuli Rahman, who is Mizanur's wife, Abdul Gani and Rid's pharmacists Mahbulul Islam and Enamul Haque. Of the accused, Mizanur Rahman and his wife Sheuli Rahman are now on bail while the rest three are at large. The children died of renal failures, caused by intake of Rid's Paracetamol syrup and suspension, across the country from June to August of 2009. After completion of arguments from both the prosecution and the defense, Judge M Atoar Rahman of the Dhaka Drug Court yesterday set the date for delivery of the case. Earlier the court recorded statements of five prosecution witnesses including complainant of the case. Earlier on August 10, 2009, the then drug superintendent Shafiqul Islam filed the case with the Dhaka Drug Court against them. Four more cases were filed against them in Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Narayanganj and Sylhet. In his complaint, Shafiqul Islam said several children died at Shishu Hospital of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city due to renal failure after intake of the paracetamol drugs of Rid Pharma. He said the government realised the seriousness in the matter and published advertisements in national dailies asking all not to take any drug manufactured by the company. On July 22 of 2009, the Drug Administration sealed off Rid's factory in BSCIC. SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places a wreath at Shikha Anirban at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday morning marking Armed Forces Day 2016. Right, she later presents "Bahini Padak" (forces medals) and "Osamanya Seba Padak" (outstanding service medals) to five armed forces officers, in recognition of their heroic role in war and peacetime, during a reception she accorded to successors of Birshreshthos, the highest gallantry award-recipient freedom fighters, at the Armed Forces Division at Dhaka Cantonment.



PHOTO: PID

Central BCL leader's death sparks protests

Family terms it a murder over tender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The "mysterious" death of a central Bangladesh Chhatra League leader sparked protests in Chittagong yesterday. Diaz Irfan Chowdhury, assistant secretary of the pro-Awami League student organisation, was found hanging in his residence near Gate No-2 of Chittagong University on Sunday night. At that time, his family members were not present. Neighbours first noticed the body through a window and informed police. The family alleged that the body was hanged after he was killed. His cellphone was missing, they said. His legs were touching the bed, arousing suspicion over whether it was a suicide, said Enamul Haque Ovi, vice president of the CU unit of BCL. Diaz's mother Jaheda Amin Chowdhury alleged that a teacher who holds an administrative post at CU and one of the top leaders of the unit of BCL masterminded the incident. She said tender-related rivalry among BCL leaders led to the "murder". Diaz, also a former joint secretary of the BCL unit who completed his master's in finance at the university, was an MPhil student there. In the last two months, at least four fierce clashes took place between the activists of two groups over the tender of Tk 95 crore for the expansion of the arts and humanities faculty and Sheikh Hasina Hall on the campus, injuring at least six BCL men. On October 31, the top leader of the CU BCL unit was hacked by his rivals in front of Abdur Rab Hall over the tender. On the very night, his followers vandalised and



Diaz Irfan Chowdhury

Huge workers die at work for lax compliance with laws

Says report mentioning that 3,400 killed in last 5yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 3,400 workers have died in workplace accidents since 2011 for various reasons, including lack of compliance of laws by owners and proper monitoring by the government agencies at factories, according to a report unveiled yesterday. Of them, 341 workers died between January and October this year, while fire incidents claimed lives of 62 workers, said the report released by two rights NGOs—Safety and Rights Society (SRS) and BLAST. The report, based on news published in 26 newspapers, was launched at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, marking the fourth anniversary of the Tazreen Fashions fire that killed at least 112 workers on November 24. A Dhaka court last year framed charges against 13 people, including the factory's two owners, in a case over the fire. "We are yet to see exemplary punishment for those responsible for the workers' deaths...We cannot term them accidents. These are planned killings," said Wajed-Ul Islam Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Trade Union Centre (BTUC), demanding that those who are responsible for such deaths be tried under a speedy tribunal. The report also said 373 workers died between 2011 and 2015 in fire incidents at garment, plastic, chemical, blanket, tannery, footwear, steel-rolling and rice factories and in other small as well as medium

Why CrPC provision being abused?

HC asks govt authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government authorities concerned to explain in two weeks why they should not be directed to take necessary steps to prevent police from abusing section 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). The rule came following a November 17 writ petition of one Ashish Kumar Sharma, managing director of Cactus Packaging, a garment factory in Gazipur. Ashish challenged the legality of a notice sent to him on November 12 by a sub-inspector (SI) of the detective branch of police in Gazipur, Motafizur Rahman Chowdhury. In it, SI Motafizur stated that, as per the CrPC section, he was asking Ashish to appear at his office on November 19 with relevant papers and evidence concerning a written complaint. The complaint was filed by one Md Oli Ullah, owner of Step International, over Tk 31.90 lakh Ashish owed to him centring supply of garment accessories, says the letter. Ashish stated that SI Motafizur abused power given to police under the CrPC section by summoning him although no case or general diary (GD) had been filed. Talking to The Daily Star, his lawyer Uzzal Hossain explained that police, for the sake of investigations, can call a witness if either a case has been filed under the CrPC section or permission has been taken from a magistrate following filing of a GD. Moreover, Ashish is an accused, not a witness, and so the letter was sent with mala fide intent and is a form of abuse of power and unlawful, he said. The HC also summoned SI Motafizur on December 4 to explain the letter. In the rule, the bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah also asked the authorities to explain why the letter should not be declared illegal. The home secretary, inspector general of police, superintendent of police of Gazipur, officer-in-charge of the detective branch of police in Gazipur and SI Mostafizur have been made respondents.



Students of Dhaka University stage a demonstration at the base of Shontrash Birodhi Raju Sharok Bhaskorjo in Dhaka University yesterday protesting the recent escalation in violence in Rakhine State with Rohingyas trying to escape a military crackdown.

Boy killed 'by uncle' in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man allegedly killed his nephew in Chittagong city's Halishahar early yesterday. The deceased -- Md Yasin, 8, lived with his maternal grandmother Bedenunnesa and the uncle, Md Jewel, 40, in a Rampur slum since his father left him three years ago when his mother died. Quoting locals, police said Jewel took Yasin to a secluded place beside the slum and tried to sexually abuse him. As the boy tried to resist, Jewel hit his head against a wall, killing him instantly, said police. Bedenunnesa found the blood-stained body on the spot.

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