

UP member found alive in sack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A union parishad member was rescued yesterday after he was found alive inside a sack, which was dumped into a ditch beside Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur. Badrul Alam Bhuiyan, 62, a member of Sorarchar Union Parishad in Kishoreganj, is also the general secretary of a ward unit of Awami League.

A local man, Rabbi, first noticed the sack hearing sounds coming from it around 9:00am. Then he along with some other people pulled the sack out of the shallow water and found Badrul alive inside.

The man was treated at Sreepur Health Complex.

Talking to journalists, Badrul claimed that he gave Tk 35 lakh to one Sagar Miah, owner of Singapore Training Centre, a recruiting agency, in 2014 for sending some men of his area to Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. Failing to send them, Sagar promised to return the money.

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A sight too common in any street in the capital and elsewhere in the country. A man jumps over and another squeezes through a metal road barrier set to manage traffic. A third one waits for his turn. The photo was taken yesterday at Dhanmondi Road 1 and Science Laboratory intersection.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Tommy Miah rewarded in Queen's Birthday Honours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tommy Miah, a Bangladeshi-born British celebrity chef, has been rewarded among others in the Queen's Birthday Honours, says a press release.

Chef and restaurateur Mohammad Ajman (Tommy) Miah received an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to charity and to the hospitality industry.

Miah, who was born in Bangladesh, founded The Raj Restaurant in Edinburgh in 1991.

He also founded the International Indian Chef of the Year competition to promote innovation and quality in Indian cooking.

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Recommendations to save hills fall on deaf ears

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

It has been 10 years since the technical committee of the Divisional Hill Management Committee (HMC) came up with 36 recommendations to protect the hills in the port city and its nearby areas to avert future loss in landslides.

But over the years, most of the proposals have been ignored, resulting in an increasing number of illegal dwelling on the hill slopes and recurrence of landslides, said environmentalists and experts.

Indifference of the administration and a lack of efforts from the government and private organisations that own the hills are the major reasons behind not materialising the proposals, they said. The deadly landslide in 2007 that killed 127 people living on hill slopes in Chittagong had prompted the formation of the HMC.

The HMC had identified 30 hills vulnerable to landslides in the port city and nearby areas.

Government organisations like Public Works Department (PWD), Bangladesh Railway (BR), Chittagong Wasa (CWasa), Chittagong City Corporation and various private organisations are the owners of the hills. Over one-and-a-half lakh people mostly from low-income group reside on those.

HMC RECOMMENDATIONS

One of the key HMC recommendations was that the respective owners of the hills should evacuate the dwellers and take measures to rehabilitate them.

The other suggestions include constructing boundary walls and installing barbed wires surrounding the hills and introducing a proper drainage system to drain out water from the hills.

The committee also recommended

constructing retaining walls, initiating afforestation programmes, imposing ban on establishing brick kilns and housing projects within 10 kilometres of the hill areas.

They also suggested taking punitive measures against people behind hill cutting and turning Matijharna and Batali Hill areas into tourism spots.

But at present, all the rehabilitation activities from the administration are stopped.

Earlier in 2007, a Tk 73 lakh fund was created for taking safety measures and rehabilitation. The money has been lying unused for the last 10 years.

Also, in 2008, around 5.92 acres of land of Bangladesh Railway was selected at Jahan Ali Hat near Kalurghat for rehabilitating the hill dwellers.

The project was also abandoned due to

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Death anniversary of Akikunnessa observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The 35th death anniversary of Akikunnessa Ahmad, a noted writer and pioneer in progressive women movement in the late 40s, was observed yesterday.

She was the wife of renowned litterateur, journalist and politician of the sub-continent late Abul Mansur Ahmad and daughter of eminent Islamic thinker and litterateur Maulana Ahmad Ali Akalavi.

Her significant literary works include "Adhunik Stree" (modern wife) and "Adhunik Swami" (modern husband).

Tailback on highways rings alarm for Eid home-goers



Vehicles stuck in a long tailback on Dhaka-Tangail highway, causing sufferings to homebound people. The photo was taken in Kaliakoir area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

STAR REPORT

Parts of Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Tangail highways -- linking south-eastern and northern parts of the country respectively -- saw huge traffic jam yesterday for hours, causing suffering to the passengers.

Though the Eid rush is yet to start in full swing, the yesterday's gridlock suggests that holidaymakers may suffer in traffic jam if the authorities fail to control vehicular movement at some key points of the highways.

Tens of thousands of holidaymakers would travel to their home from the capital to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr. And the Eid rush is expected to begin on June 22.

DHAKA-CHITTAGONG HIGHWAY

The four-lane highway witnessed an eight kilometre-long traffic congestion from Kanora to Meghna Gomoti Bridge Toll Plaza from around 6:00am to 11:00am, reports our Comilla correspondent.

The work at the toll plaza was going on slowly as the staff were yet to get accustomed to operating a newly-launched online scaling system, which resulted in the tailback, said Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Daudkandi Police Station. Road Transport and Bridges Minister

Obaidul Quader on Friday inaugurated the online system at the toll plaza in Comilla's Daudkandi.

Students, who sat for the first year final exam of Hasanpur Degree College, were the worst sufferers, as many of them had to walk for about five kilometres to reach the exam centre.

Sohel, one of the students, said, "I walked for around four kilometres. Due to the traffic jam, vehicles were moving slowly."

A huge number police were deployed on the highway and the situation started to be normal after 11:00am, said the OC.

DHAKA-TANGAIL HIGHWAY

Dhaka-Tangail highway witnessed a 15-kilometre-long traffic jam from Konabari to Chandra Intersection from the morning, causing sufferings to the commuters, reports our Gazipur correspondent.

Traffic usually slows down in the area due to the ongoing construction work from Joydevpur to Elenga on the highway.

But heavy rain and repair work of Bangsai Bridge on Friday night forced the vehicles to go for one way movement, resulting in the traffic jam, said Mobarak Hossain, inspector

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A Dhaka South City Corporation worker uses a portable thermal fogger to spray mosquito larvicide in Dhanmondi residential area yesterday. The Directorate General of Health Services and Dhaka's both city corporations launched a Chikungunya awareness campaign the same day.

PHOTO: STAR

20 injured in Sylhet clash

UNB, Sylhet

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two groups over a mosque at Jalalabad in Sadar upazila of Sylhet yesterday afternoon.

Local sources said the groups had an altercation over a mosque at Islamganj Bazar. Following the altercation, a clash ensued between two groups with locally made weapons in the afternoon.

Later, they clashed again, leaving at least 20 people injured, who were taken to MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital, Sylhet.

Foyej Ahmed, sub-inspector of Jalalabad Police Station, said no case was filed in this connection.

People suffer as Ctg Wasa supply decreases

Landslides triggered by incessant rain increased turbidity in Karnaphuli water

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Production of Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (CWasa) has decreased as the level of turbidity in the Karnaphuli river water increased due to the recent landslides triggered by incessant rain in Chittagong and Rangamati districts.

Due to the increased level of mud in the river water, production in two of the CWasa water treatment plants got hampered, resulting in people suffering from a scarcity of water for the last three days.

According to CWasa, it can supply 31 crore litres of water per day in the city against a demand of 50 crore. But the supply dropped to 21 crore.

Rainwater and mud came down heavily from hills and fell into the Karnaphuli river and canals during the heavy rain on June 11 and June 12, increasing the turbidity of the river

water, said CWasa officials.

Asif Ahmed, a resident of Bakalia DC Road area, said his landlord used to supply water two times a day. "But we didn't get any water on Tuesday. From Wednesday to Friday, we got water just once a day. I had to buy water at a high rate to meet our daily demand."

Echoing him, Swapna Chakraborty of Katalganj area, yesterday said she could not wash the clothes of her six-month-old baby for the last three days as the water supply decreased in their house.

Contacted, Nurul Afsar, project director of Chittagong Water Supply Improvement and Sanitation project, said the level of mud in the Karnaphuli river water increased due to the landslides caused by torrential rain. It also affected the production of Sheikh Hasina Water Treatment Plant and Mohora Water Treatment Plant.

The plants usually produce 14 crore

litres and nine crore litres of water a day respectively. But the production decreased to five crore litres and eight crore litres a day, said CWasa sources.

Jahurul Haque, chief engineer of Sheikh Hasina Water Treatment Plant, said turbidity in the water of the Karnaphuli went up to 1,530 Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) -- a measurement of concentration of suspended particulates in liquid -- on Monday and Tuesday.

As a result, the production decreased to six crore litres, he said. But the situation is improving as it stopped raining. On Friday, it was 1,000 NTU, and the production went up to nine crores, he added.

Normal range of turbidity in the Karnaphuli is 50 to 100 NTU in the dry season, and 200 to 300 NTU in the rainy season, he said. "We can continue our normal production till 600 NTU."



A shop is packed with customers at Aziz Super Market in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday. With Eid just a week away, Eid shopping has started gaining momentum as customer turnout reaches its peak in the city markets.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON