

Bangladeshi origin US student donates 108 iPads for orphan girls

BSS, Dhaka

Chowdhury Muhtasim Ahsan Orney, a 17-year-old Bangladeshi origin and a high school student from Las Vegas, Nevada in the US donated 108 iPads to Distressed Children and Infants International (DCI) to support orphan girls in Bangladesh.

Muhtasim, president of DCI and Rights and Sight for Children (RSC) Las Vegas Chapter, recently came to Dhaka and distributed the iPads among the children at the organisation's office in Mohammadpur area.

These iPads will be used for developing the communication between DCI supported children in Bangladesh with their sponsors in America.

These iPads will also be used in the continued education efforts of the orphanage, which is currently responsible for teaching over 48 orphaned girls ranging from kindergarten to the 8th grade.

The iPads will allow the orphanage to guarantee an iPad for every student as they continue their studies in traditional classes such as mathematics and English.

The integration of individualised technology allows teachers to better express information and understand every student's particular needs.

Muhtasim has been involved with DCI for the last several years, founding a DCI club at the Meadows School and establishing the Las Vegas Youth Chapter.

He has been diligently creating more and more community awareness for child rights and promoting the organisation among various schools and companies in the valley.

His father is Prof Chowdhury H Ahsan and mother Dr Selina Parveen. They live in Las Vegas, Nevada.



A worker installs a loudspeaker as part of last-minute preparations for Eid congregations at the National Eidgah in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Vegetable prices in Ctg rise by Tk 30 in a week

Lower and middle income groups feel the crunch amid soaring price of rice

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Prices of vegetables in city kitchen markets have jumped on an average Tk 30 a kg in a span of one week.

The hike in vegetable prices comes as a dual blow to the people from the lower and middle income group who have been grappling to cope with the recent price hike of rice.

Vegetable traders said many vegetables fields in different upazilas of the district went under water last week due to heavy rainfall and onrush of water from hills.

The prices of vegetables went up as the supply dwindled following the flooding, they added.

A vegetable trader at Karnaphuli kitchen market, Mohammad Ibrahim, also said, "Prices of vegetables have shot up due to shortage in supply."

Visiting several kitchen markets including

Chawkbazar, Kazir Dewri, Bahaddarhat and Karnaphuli on Friday, this correspondent found that vegetables prices have gone up by Tk 30 to Tk 35 per kg, compared to that during the week before.

Teasel gourd (Kankrol), for example, was available at Tk 30 per kg last week at Chawkbazar kitchen market. But on Friday, it was selling at Tk 65 at the same market. Bitter melon (Korolla), priced Tk 25 per kg last week, was selling for Tk 50.

At Kazir Dewri, a kg of eggplant or brinjal (Begun) last week was Tk 30 a kg. But it was selling for Tk 60 the same day. Okra, sold at Tk 35 last week, was priced Tk 60 a kg.

At Bahaddarhat, a kg of string or green beans (Barboti) was selling at Tk 55 per kg as opposed to Tk 30 last week.

At Karnaphuli kitchen market, snake gourd was selling for Tk 65 per kg while the price was Tk 40 per kg last week.

The steep prices of essentials are creating an increasing pressure on households with limited income.

Chhagu Miah, a cobbler from Chawkbazar area, said, "I make around Tk 250 a day, but I need to buy two kgs of rice, two kgs of vegetables and half kg of daal [lentil] for my family every day."

Despite excluding fish or meat, "after spending Tk 96 on rice and Tk 100 to 120 on vegetables, I cannot afford to buy the daal with the money left in my pocket," he lamented.

Bahaddarhat resident Ratna Bhowmik, a schoolteacher, has been the only breadwinner of her household of four members since her husband passed away ten years ago.

"The soaring vegetable prices have dealt a second blow to me as I have already been struggling to provide for my family after the rice prices shot up," Ratna said.

NEWS IN brief

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Hafizur Rahman Khan, private job holder, is suffering from cancer.

Hafizur is undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. Now, he needs to undergo a surgery.

As he cannot afford the surgery cost, he to help him.

Financial assistance can be sent to Hafizur's bank account no: 0280430000703, Mutual Trust Bank Dholaikhal branch, bKash A/C No: 01992567687.



Jubo League leader detained with Yaba at Cox's Bazar Airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Jubo League leader was detained with 107 Yaba tablets at Cox's Bazar Airport yesterday.

Nazir Ahmed Shimanto, information and research secretary of Cox's Bazar district unit, was going to Dhaka but immigration officials detained him after recovering the contraband pills from his bag, according to airport sources.

Nazir was handed over to Cox's Bazar Model police and a case was filed against him.

Two killed in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Two persons were killed in Rugganupuzila of Narayanganj in last two days.

One of the dead, Ujjal Miah, 20, son of Kafil Uddin of Brahmankhali, went out of his house after getting a phone call and later locals found him with stab injuries near his house. He was declared dead at the upazila health complex.

Police yesterday arrested Ujjal's neighbour Hazrat Ali in connection with a case filed by Kafil and according to which Hazrat killed Ujjal over a land dispute.

Yesterday, police recovered the body of Milon Hawlader, 32, of Paschim Amirabad in Faridpur district, from his house at Shantingar village in Baropara area. Milon, a contractor of Antim Knitting Dyeing and Finishing Garments, was strangled, police suspected.

Getting no response from Milon's house for two days, locals informed Milon's cousin.

Road crashes kill two

CITY DESK

Two persons were killed and five others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday.

Staff correspondent of Chittagong reports, a truck driver's helper, Md Alauddin, 20, of Noakhali, was killed as an oncoming truck hit the vehicle on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Baroiyarthat in Sitakunda upazila.

Meanwhile, five members of a family were injured as a city bus hit a CNG-run auto rickshaw carrying the

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A transport worker holding a prospective passenger's arm badgers him into getting on his bus at Sayedabad Bus Terminal in the capital yesterday. Police patrolling and conducting of mobile courts could not stop the age-old malpractice of overpricing and misbehaviour by transport workers at the terminal. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Eid brings hope to Ctg motif artisans

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Motif artisans of Bihari Colony in Chittagong city's Jhautala area are working round the clock to meet the demand of buyers ahead of Eid.

Although demand for the creative handiwork is increasing, the artisans' fate has not changed much over the years.

There was a time when motif artisan Md Imran used to earn Tk 1 lakh during the Eid season as demand for Zardozi and Karchupi motifs was very high. But their income has dwindled to almost half over the last five years.

With cheaper Indian and Pakistani products flooding the markets, the demand for motifs have slumped, said the artisans.

Also, unavailability of original materials, mostly imported from China and India, and many fashion houses offering a lower rate for motifs have also affected their businesses.

Motif artisans do their handiwork, including Zardozi and Karchupi motifs, on

panjabis, saris and salwars.

"Though the demand for motifs is increasing in local markets, our income is decreasing," said Imran, an artisan for over 13 years. "Before, I used to get orders from many big outlets. Now they prefer Indian and Pakistani products for the low cost."

Imran also alleged that most of the outlets now have decreased the payment.

For example, he said, "If I take an order of a panjabi at Tk 600, I will have to pay Tk 400 to the workers, Tk 50 for the material cost and Tk 50 to rent a factory. Finally, my profit will be Tk 100."

But, "If I take an order from a fashion outlet, they will pay me Tk 500 initially for a panjabi and I don't know when I will get the rest of the money," he alleged.

Imran said pricing of artwork depended on design. "A sari ranges from Tk 5,000 to Tk 50,000. For a Tk 50,000 sari, four workers have to work 10 hours a day for around a month to complete the artwork."

"Usually, I earn around Tk 12,000 to

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Municipality workers getting no salary, bonus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The workers of 226 municipalities across the country have not been getting any salary, allowance or bonus for up to 52 months.

The government workers of various grades at a press conference yesterday demanded the government to pay their salaries and arrears from the state treasury, if needed.

The conference was organised at Jatiya Press Club by Bangladesh Municipality Officials and Employees' Association where its central committee president Abdul Ali Molla placed the demand.

Despite being government

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10,000 more doctors to be recruited: Nasim

BSS, Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim yesterday said some 10,000 more doctors would be recruited to further improve the standard of health services in the country.

"The government would recruit 10,000 more doctors in phases through a special examination of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) to take health services to the doorsteps of the general people," he told the news agency.

He said the government recruited 7,000 doctors in the last three years and posted them to rural areas.

Extortion in disguise

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Contacted, a police official of Dhanmondi Police Station seeking anonymity said, "We cannot take any action against them (hijras) for forcibly taking money from people and traders. If we take action, they create nuisance in front of police stations."

He, however, said they take action if there is any specific allegation against them.

Moreover, centring the Eid, muggers are also desperate for money.

On early Thursday, miscreants riding a microbus waylaid a poultry trader near Matsya Bhaban and snatched his money. As the trader tried to stop the vehicle from fleeing, the microbus ran him over.

On Wednesday, Assistant Superintendent of Police Mizanur Rahman Talukdar of Savar Highway Circle was found dead near Birulia Bridge in Mirpur Beribadh area. Police suspect he might have been killed by muggers.

On June 1, a freedom fighter and managing director of a security company, was stopped by muggers in the early morning in Dholpur area of Jatrabari while he was on a rickshaw. He was stabbed dead by the muggers as he tried to run away after the criminals tried to snatch his briefcase. Later, police arrested five muggers in this connection.

In the capital, some hundred members of sedating gangs, fake detectives, robbers and muggers were reportedly arrested by police and Rab during this Ramadan.

Asked about the overall scenario, Deputy Commissioner (media) Masudur Rahman of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said if they get any specific allegations, they would take actions against the culprits.



A vendor shows imitation metal and bead necklaces while prospective buyers look at bangles and other accessories on display. Many street vendors gather in front of garment factories showcasing accessories, cosmetics and jewellery targeting especially female garment workers. The photo was taken on Friday near a garment factory at Kabirpur of Savar outside Dhaka. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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TO-LET
15000 sqfeet Furnished office accommodation 18 A/C, Fans, false ceiling, curtains glass door, glass partition, CCTV Camera, full coverage generator vacated by European tenant from June-2017 near American club and lake park. **Contact: 01817-126648**

ঔষধ প্রত্যাহার সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি
প্যারেস্ট ইউনানী ল্যাবরেটরীজ এর উৎপাদিত পন্য ম্যাগাসেং ক্যাপসুল, (প্যানান্স জিনসেং) ব্যাচ নং-১২, এবং জিনসিন পি (শরবত জিনসিন) ব্যাচ নং-১১ মান-বহির্ভূত হওয়ায় সকল ফার্মেসী মালিকগণকে উক্ত ব্যাচের পন্য বিক্রি বন্ধ রেখে এদিনের মধ্যে স্থানীয় প্রতিনিধির নিকট ফেরত দেওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে -নির্দেশক্রমে কর্তৃপক্ষ।