

HC admonishes health secretary

Sarcasically says he should be given a prize for his explanation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rebuked Health Secretary Sirajul Haque Khan for not taking appropriate action against two officials of the drug administration for their negligence in dealing with a case filed for manufacturing toxic paracetamol syrup that killed at least 28 children in 2009.

The court refused to accept the explanation given by Secretary Sirajul Haque before it and told the court through his lawyer that a show cause notice was issued against two officials of the drug administration.

The two officials are Assistant Director of the Directorate General of Drug Administration Shaiful Islam and its Deputy Director Alaf Hossain.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan ordered Secretary Sirajul Haque to appear before it today for offering his explanation over the inaction against Shaiful and Alaf.

The court sarcastically told the health secretary that he should be given a prize for his explanation.

This court has been asking for taking action against Shaiful and Alaf since March this year, but no action was taken, the HC said.

It said many children died by taking the toxic paracetamol.

"Were they [children] born to be killed? The country has not given such a lesson to anybody. Your children don't live here [Bangladesh]," the court told Sirajul.

The HC on August summoned Secretary Sirajul Haque Khan to appear before it yesterday to explain why action was not taken against two officials.

The court passed the summons during hearing a petition moved by Supreme Court lawyer Manzil Mushid on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

From June to August in 2009, at least 28 children across the country died of renal failure allegedly caused by Rid Pharma's paracetamol syrups and suspensions.

In August of 2009, Shaiful Islam, the then superintendent of drug administration, filed the case with the Dhaka High Court.

Shaiful Islam and Alaf Hossain, the drug court acquitted all five of Rid Pharma's officials.

Two officials of the drug administration involved in the case knowingly violated due procedure of law, and exhibited sheer negligence, inefficiency and incompetence in dealing with the case, the verdict said.

Shaiful Islam and Alaf Hossain were given superintendents in 2009. Advocate Kamrul Haque Siddiqui appeared for Sirajul.

N'GANI 7-MURDER Miscreants try to 'poison' public prosecutor's daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nainianganj

Miscreants have allegedly attempted to poison the daughter of the public prosecutor of Narayanangaj seven-murder case yesterday evening.

She was first accused Maisha Wazed Prapti, a school student, on her way home from coaching center on Bangabandhu Road and forced poison over her throat, said Sub-inspector Mofizul Islam of the Detective Branch of police.

She was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors washed out her stomach.

She is out of danger now, AKM Tareque, a DMCH doctor, said.

Narayanangaj Superintendent of Police Moinul Hossain said they were investigating the matter.

Prapti's father Wazed Ali Khokon represented the state in the sensational seven-murder case, in which the High Court on Tuesday upheld death sentences of 15, including her sub officer Tarek Sayeed and former Narayanangaj councillor Nur Hossain.

Govt to ensure safety

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Experts from various international organizations and business suggest that the government frames food standards in line with the Codex Alimentarius, a series of international standards for food and agricultural products.

Amsu said ensuring food safety was vital for increasing exports. He said the country through food exports.

The BfSA began its journey in February 2015 and has been working in coordination with 18 ministries and 480 agencies, he said. It also framed four regulations.

He said, "Whenever I go abroad, I see people having street food with confidence. We want to take our country to that level."

Qamrul warned food businesses of the court for food adulteration. Food court has been established in every district, he said, adding, "Be aware, we have the law and can apply it anytime."

Khalid Hossain, secretary to the food ministry, said inspectors of the BfSA would randomly pick products from shelves to test their quality. Actions would be taken if anything beyond specification was found, he said.

Former chairman Mohammad Mahfuzul Hoque said his office has prepared a five-year strategic plan. One of the goals is to ensure compliance of food industry operators, particularly makers of packaged food, and encourage them to follow best practices.

During a session, Sanjay Dave, former chairman of Codex Alimentarius Commission and former adviser to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), said Bangladesh is a member of the

Codex and suggested that the government took part in Codex meetings.

He also recommended framing regulations in line with international standards. "Harmonized with Codex standards," he said, suggesting regulations related to food recall, food fortification, additives, heavy metals and pesticides.

Carmen Savelli, of Risk Assessment and Management Unit of the Department of Food Inspection and Zoonoses at World Health Organisation, said worldwide, one in 10 people become sick for consuming unsafe food.

On Southeast Asian region, he said 175,000 people die every year and 150 million suffer from food-borne diseases.

"The public health apprehensions regarding food safety issues in Bangladesh have reached an alarming state," said FICCI President Rupali Chowdhury at the inaugural ceremony.

Board member Prof Iqbal Rouf Mamon said the BfSA plans to have mobile laboratories beside some wet markets of Dhaka city to test food items.

Himanshu Gupta, manager of global regulatory and scientific affairs of Nestle, said ensuring food safety is not just a legal operation, it is needed for winning consumer trust.

MCPI President Nihad Kabir and Director Scientific and Regulatory Affairs of Coca Cola Far East Ltd Ng Kim Keat also spoke among others.

Jamuna erodes

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Underwater sand was first washed away due to strong current in the water, and then the geo-textiles, stone and concrete blocks collapsed, they added.

There was no need to worry about the bridge as the erosion happened far away from the bridge, said Wasim Ali, assistant engineer at the site office of BBA in Tangail.

"After the collapse of 10 metres of the embankment on August 20, an expert team from consulting firm Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) examined the damage on August 21. They later informed us that the damage is not a threat to the bridge," he said.

"We have already informed the higher authorities about the fresh damage, and two teams from the BBA engaged a fresh survey on the bridge," he added.

"The consultants from the IWM will re-examine the damage, and later steps will be taken as per their suggestions," he added.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday morning, locals blamed illegal sand lifting near the embankment as the main reason for the erosion.

Though sand lifting is banned within a 600-metre radius of the bridge, a syndicate of influential sand traders, having political clout, lifts sand very close to the bridge, they alleged.

They also demanded immediate steps of the authorities concerned to check the erosion to protect the nearby villages.

The 5.63-km Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge situated between Tangail and Sirajganj was built on the Jamuna for easing communications of northern and southwestern parts with other parts of the country, and it was opened for vehicular movement in 1998.

Flower vendor

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Practitioner to send him to jail.

At one point, Tutul claimed, he called trade association leader Ariful Enam Bokul from his mobile and told him what happened.

Bokul, along with a group of local businessmen, then rescued Tutul from the magistrate's office and took him to Meherpur general hospital.

A medical officer at the hospital, requesting anonymity, said Tutul had bruises on his face, abdomen and legs.

Trade association leaders alleged that soon after they reached the hospital with Tutul, the magistrate rushed there with a police team and tried to pick up Tutul again but failed due to traders' resistance.

Contacted, Robiul Islam, officer-in-charge of Meherpur Police Station, said police did what the magistrate had ordered and refused to comment about beating up of Tutul at the magistrate's office.

Addressing yesterday's rally, traders association leaders Ariful Enam Bokul, Minurul Islam Khokon, and Moniruzzaman Monir alleged that the magistrate had beaten up a barber, and poured hot water on a waiter at a restaurant earlier this year.

Asked, Sanuallah said the allegations were "exaggerated".

This also happens

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TK/677 crore due to strong negotiations by the project officials.

"We negotiated them to cost and had been able to reduce the items and many items," Road Transport and Bridges Division Secretary MAN Siddique told The Daily Star.

Agreeing that the cost will be reduced, he said the cost would further decrease as the consultancy fee (TK 1,200 crore and Custom Duty VAT (TK 500 crore) were used to reduce.

Four contractors are Ohayshi Corporation, Shimizu Corporation, JFE Engine Corporation, and IHI Infrastructure Systems Company Ltd.

As per the contract, the Japanese firms started working in January 2016 to build the new bridges. Despite a hiccup after last year's Holy Aritsan attack, all foundation work, including piling of the three bridges were almost done.

Being work will be completed by October, said Project Director Saidul Haq, who also the additional chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department.

He said the Japanese companies were reducing steel girders at their factories in Vietnam and Myanmar. "They will start bringing the girders from October."

The length of the second bridge is 1,417 metres while the length of second Megha bridge is 930 metres and second Megha-Gumti bridge 1,410 metres.

This correspondent visited the sites last week and saw Japanese and local workers doing the piling and other work in the road, the number of police and Ansar personnel were seen deployed to ensure round-the-clock security.

MAN Siddique said to complete the new bridges by next year the Japanese firms demand two things, ensuring fuel flow and security of the workers. "We assured them both and the firms are working extra hours to complete the project even before the deadline."

About 90 percent of the country's export-imports are done through the Chittagong Port. A majority of the goods are transported using the highway.

The highway had been widened onwards but the three bridges had become bottlenecks, often causing chaos on the country's economic lifeline.

Two underpasses and an overpass are being built on the eastern side of the Kanchpur bridge for smooth flow of traffic from all directions - Dhaka, Chittagong and Narasingdi (Sylhet).

The Japanese firms would start reworking on the project Director Saidul Haq said.

"The old bridges will be ready by the end of 2019, meaning traffic movement on the vital highway will be restored," Project Director Saidul Haq said.

India to confirm Suhma Swaraj's Dhaka visit later

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's External Affairs Ministry today said it can confirm at a later stage whether External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will visit Dhaka in September for attending a meeting of a joint consultative committee.

(ACC) according to reports in Bangladesh media that Swaraj would be visiting for the joint consultative meeting and if any meeting is planned in early September, the new official spokesperson of the ministry Raveesh Kumar told the media here that "I will have to share the same thing that once I have the information, we will share it with you, which we have been doing, my predecessors have been doing."

"In such visits, the programme is always in a state of flux, whether EAM (the External Affairs Minister) is coming or not, I think I can confirm at a later stage," he said.

A confirmation of Indian media also carried reports recently that Swaraj will travel to Dhaka to attend the ICC meeting which will review the progress in implementation of the decisions taken during Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Delhi in April this year.

Some sources here said that a visit by the External Affairs Minister is very much in the realms of possibility because both sides are keen to ascertain the ground report of the forward movement of projects identified for cooperation and decisions taken during Hasina's visit.

During Hasina's latest visit, India and Bangladesh signed 22 pacts and New Delhi announced a five billion dollar soft loan for Dhaka out of which 4.5 billion dollars are earmarked for roping up infrastructure in Bangladesh. The other 500 million is for Bangladesh buying defence equipment from India in the first-ever such MoU between the two countries.

Under a deal on the Teesta river water-sharing issue remained as elusive as ever in the face of sustained opposition from West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee who had insisted on both Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Bangladesh PM's visit to Delhi in April.

If Swaraj's forthcoming visit materialises, it would be her second to Bangladesh as External Affairs Minister since 2014. She had visited Bangladesh from June 25 to June 27, 2014.

13 teachers

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Assistant Teacher Dukul Bania of Bahadurshah Bangabandhu Union, Bidayala was named as the prime accused in the case as he was involved in preparing the question paper.

The rest of the accused were members of the committee which was involved in formulating question papers for four schools, said police and court sources.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Gondama Union Parishad Chairman Liaquat Ali, also a local BNP leader, said he denied the question paper which stated his name but he heard about the matter from a friend of his.

He said comparing him with a leader like Bangabandhu should be regarded as an "audacious act".

The misappropriation case was filed with Narasingdi Police Station against 15 people including former manager of Pubali Bank Sazzadur Rahman Khan in November 2013. He misappropriated the rest of the amount.

"Somewhere he learnt that the ACC was going to submit a charge sheet against him soon. That was why he attempted to flee," an ACC official said. Misappropriation of the amount was later transferred to the ACC.

The BNP leader alleged that the government could not accept the SC verdict as the true picture of the society has been unmasked through the observations of the verdict that scrapped the 16th Amendment to the Constitution.

In the verdict, misrule has been unveiled and that is why their resignation of the chief justice," he observed.

Trump unshackled

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Adopting a glib tone, Trump said many reporters ignored his condemnation of white supremacists, including the Ku Klux Klan.

"I hit 'em with neo-Nazi, I hit 'em with everything... KKK? We have KKK. I got 'em all," he said.

Trump Clapper, a former director of US national intelligence, expressed concern at Trump's performance, calling it "downright scary and disturbing."

"I question his fitness to be in office," Clapper told CNN.

GOVT SHUTDOWN

Funding for the border wall has flagged in the US Congress as many lawmakers question whether Trump's main promise during the 2016 presidential election campaign is really necessary.

But with a budget battle looming, Trump said he would be willing to risk a politically damaging government shutdown in order to secure funding for the wall.

He visited the border region in Yuma, Arizona, earlier on Tuesday.

"If we have to close down our government, we're building that wall," Trump said. "We're going to have our wall. The American people voted for immigration control. We're going to get that wall."

With thousands of supporters cheering him on, Trump also weighed in on another racially charged issue, hinting he would pardon former president Bill Clinton.

ACC arrests

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departure for Canada. He is an accused of a case tied to corruption in Bangladesh in Sunamganj hit hard by flash floods in March.

On instructions of its chairman whenever a case is filed, the ACC sends out information about suspects or accused to all ports so that they can be arrested and returned to the country. Sadi's particulars were also circulated, said ACC sources.

According to the FIR, former manager of Pubali Bank's Madhabhi Branch Sazzadur Rahman Khan violated rules by issuing several letters of credit to 13 businessmen including Sadi between 2010 and 2012.

As per the rules, a bank keeps 10 percent of total LC value as security money from clients.

Against the 69 LCs opened by 11 businessmen, the bank was supposed to keep a total of TK 118.12 crore as security money. Instead, bank officials kept only TK 17.75 crore. The government was alerted but he deposited the full amount.

Sadi deposited four fake documents of Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDRs) worth TK 8.18 crore and withdrew TK 4.94 crore.

When the matter came out, Sadi handed over the papers and the deposited TK 3 crore, sources said. He misappropriated the rest of the amount.

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Matricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. Arpaio, 85, who battled illegal immigration in the Phoenix area, was found guilty last month of criminal contempt for violating the terms of a 2011 court order in a racial profiling case.

NAFTA, NORTH KOREA

Trump covered the gamut of issues, from NAFTA trade talks to the US showdown with North Korea, during a raucous, rambling and defiant political speech lasting an hour and 15 minutes.

He said he might terminate the NAFTA treaty with Mexico and Canada to jumpstart negotiations, and said the standoff with North Korea over weapons programs might have taken positive turns.

He expressed frustration that the Republican-controlled Congress was unable to approve healthcare legislation that failed to pass the Senate by a narrow margin.

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parliament house on July 24, the day a constitutional mandated election for voting on a no-confidence motion against Maseeh expired, reported Maldives Independent.

Opposition MPs continued to protest in parliament, but the session resumed after three-week hiatus on Tuesday.

Shortly before yesterday's sitting was due to begin, opposition lawmakers gathered outside Maseeh's office, which was blocked by military security personnel, prompting senior MPs of the ruling Progressive Party of Maldives to also stand guard outside Maseeh's door with their arms linked.

Live-streamed videos from MPs' Ahmed Mubashir and Rozainah Adam showed verbal sparring and heated exchanges escalate into a scuffle between ruling party and opposition lawmakers.

SC investigators also halted profanity-laden insults and allegations of corruption at each other.

A similar opposition bid to oust the Speaker was defeated in March after several lawmakers were evicted or walked out of the parliament when they saw discrepancies in the vote count.

President Yameen had been accused of reversing democratic progress in a country that became a multi-party democracy in 2008.

BNP out

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It also alleged that BNP leaders are busy hatching conspiracy at home and abroad as they realise that people are not with them.

Pointing to his counterpart, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Quadri commented, "Wait, Fakhrul, Delhi is still far."

In another discussion organised by National Awami Party (NAP) at National Press Club, Rizvi alleged that the government was trying to get the people like Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda and they need people like Huda.

They [AI] are aggrieved as they did not get a chief justice like the chief election commissioner. That is why they are hatching conspiracy to remove him," he said.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Memo No. LGED/PT/RTIP-2/19/2017/1-3/3 Date: 23/08/2017

Corrigendum of E-GP: Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal for following procurement. Interested tenderers are requested to visit <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> website for details.

Sl. No.	ID No.	Name of works	Previously circulated	To be replaced
1.	Tender ID 102554	Supply, installation & commissioning of MIS Server, ICT Equipment, Local Area Network (LAN), Hardware including related services.	06 Sep. 2017 16:00	12 Sep. 2017 16:00
		Document last & sending date & time	07 Sep. 2017 12:00	13 Sep. 2017 12:00
		Last date and time for tender	07 Sep. 2017 15:00	13 Sep. 2017 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

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