

# Raw materials

FROM PAGE 16

plant remained broken for the last one and half years, he said.

However, The Daily Star could not know the nature of the “glitches”.

“The chemical recovery plant is used to the recover the chemical we use to produce paper. The plant is very important as it reduces our cost of production,” he said.

“We are now producing paper by using imported pulp or used paper for our production.”

He added that in 2017 an Indian company had been assigned for the repair works and the authorities were hopeful that normal production would resume within months.

He, however, denied that the bamboo and soft woods were left to rot, arguing that the raw materials seemed rotten from the outside but they would be able to use it.

However, preferring anonymity, employees who work at the chipping section (where bamboo and soft woods are crushed to make pulp) said that the machine which crushed the bamboo and soft wood to make pulp was left deserted after it stopped functioning.

The bamboo and wood which were supplied by the contractors were left to rot for the last three years, they claimed.

Meanwhile, the suppliers who won the tender to supply the bamboo and soft wood are yet to receive their full payment. The authority owes TK 10 crore to the association of contractors, said Farid Ahmed, an advisor of the association.

Farid, also one of the owners of Chowdhury Enterprise, which used to supply the bamboo and soft wood, told The Daily Star that KPM stopped collecting raw materials three years ago.

“Last time, we supplied at least 10 thousands metric tonnes of bamboo and soft woods. Against the consignment we received half of the money and yet to receive the full due,” he said.

When asked, the mill authorities said they would clear the payments soon.

Ten years ago, KPM used to produce 100 tonnes of paper per day, using at least 1.5 lakhs metric tonnes of bamboo and soft wood.

It gradually came down to 24 thousand metric tonnes per year later. Finally, the authority stopped collecting bamboo and soft wood.

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# President

FROM PAGE 16

were in for a shock when, 16 years after his last international appearance, the striker led the national team onto the pitch wearing it instead.

Media reports said Weah, who led the attack and showed glimpses of the class that made him a household name around the world, received a standing ovation from fans when he was substituted on 79 minutes.

Goals from Henry Onyekuru and Simeon Nwankwo helped Nigeria to a 2-0 lead before the hosts pulled one back through a Kpah Sherman penalty late in the game.

Weah enjoyed a career in Europe spanning nearly a decade and a half that saw him play for Monaco, Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille in France, AC Milan in Italy and English sides Manchester City and Chelsea.

As well as being named the 1995 World Footballer of the Year, he also won the Ballon d'Or in the same year and remains the only African to win either award.

Weah's popularity from his playing career saw him secure a landslide run-off win last December in Liberia's presidential elections.

# 5 state-run

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The top 20 defaulters are Mohammad Elias Brothers Pvt Limited, Quantum Power Systems Ltd, Remiex Footwear Ltd, Max Spinning Mills Ltd, Rubya Vegetable Oil Industries Ltd, Rising Steel Ltd, Dhaka Trading House, Benetex Industries Ltd, Anowara Spinning Mills, Crescent Leather Products Ltd, Yasir Enterprise, Chowdhury Knitwear Ltd, Siddique Traders, Rupali Composite Leather Wear Ltd, Alpka Composite Towel Ltd, Hall Mark Fashion Ltd, Monno Fabrics Ltd, Fair Yarn Processing Ltd, Fair Trade Fabrics Limited and Saharish Composite Towel Limited.

According to BB data released on Monday, banks' nonperforming loans (NPL), excluding write-offs, rose to Tk 89,340 crore, a 20.23 percent increase, during the first six months of this year.

Nearly 50 percent of the loans were at six of the 88 state-owned banks and financial institutions, according to the central bank data.

This chunk now accounts for 10.41 percent of the total loans given by the banks. It was 9.31 percent in December last year.

Khondker Ibrahim Khaled, a former deputy governor of the BB, feared that the NPL would increase further in the coming quarters as several banks had earlier lent large amounts violating banking norms.

“The asset quality of the banks has been deteriorating for the last one decade and many defaulters have frequently rescheduled their classified loans,” he told The Daily Star on Monday.

This frequent rescheduling of loans is showing on papers the nonperforming loans amount much lower than the actual figure, Khaled said.

# Irregularities for lack

FROM PAGE 1

Also, the DU authorities appointed teachers deviating from the advertisements, he alleged, adding that the unified guidelines would have to check these irregularities.

Prof Md Harun-Ur-Rashid Askari, VC of Islamic University, Kushtia, said there was a serious contradiction in the current recruitment and promotion guidelines of all the 42 public universities.

There are some universities where a teacher has become a professor with only 10 years of teaching experience, he said.

According to the proposed guidelines, a person must have teaching experience of 22 years to become a professor.

With many of the teachers getting “undue promotion” competing in the 21st century would be challenging, the VC said, demanding a strict implementation of the draft unified guidelines.

Presenting a context of formulating the draft guidelines, Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed, VC of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, said, “Anarchy is going on in the public universities over the recruitment and promotion [of teachers], as certain universities follow certain guidelines.

“Public universities are run by public money and therefore we have to be accountable,” he said.

Prof Farid demanded the government start implementing the new guidelines from January 1 next year without any further delay.

National University VC Prof Harun-or-Rashid opined that a mandatory written test should be held for recruiting teachers, saying that if needed a similar test might be taken for promoting a lecturer to an assistant professor post.

He laid emphasis on giving incentives to the best teachers to encourage others.

Referring to some irregularities in DU, he said nine teachers were recruited against the advertised posts for three.

New departments were created from existing ones, he said, adding that the university syndicate and the UGC “did not take” any step in this regard.

Talking about irregularities, Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, president of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association, gave some examples and said they saw how a lecturer at a university got promoted in just two years despite having no publication.

On the new draft guidelines, he said similar guidelines were formulated in the 90s but these remained unimplemented because it was not done in consultation with the teachers.

“We, the teachers, have prepared a

# 6 more lives

FROM PAGE 16

around 10:00am in front of Harbang Inani Resort, leaving one passenger dead on the spot.

He added that three others succumbed to their injuries after being taken to Chakaria Upazila Health Complex.

The dead, all passengers of the easy bike, were identified as local ward Awami League President Abu Taher, 50, Taj Uddin, 24, from Chakraria, Yusuf Mia, 37, from Cox's Bazar and Hasina Begum, 30, from Chittagong, police said, adding that the four others injured were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCHG).

On Tuesday, seven people were killed and 10 others were injured in a head-on collision between a passenger bus and a slow four-wheeler, locally known as “leguna”, on the same highway.

In both accidents, all those who died were passengers of the slow vehicles.

Md Farhad, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Highway Police in Comilla, said they withdrew Sergeant Nur-e-Alam, in-charge of Chiringa Highway Police Outpost, after Tuesday's incident.

“A three-member probe body, headed by Rahmatullah, additional superintendent of police, was formed after today's incident. The probe was instructed to submit their report within three working days,” said Farhad.

Earlier, about the plying of slow vehicles on the highway, Md Nazrul Islam, superintendent of police of Highway Police in Comilla, told The Daily Star that they had been trying to stop such vehicles on highways but one or two escaped the notice of on-duty police officials.

“Some of the vehicles were also given route permits before the High Court order to ban their plying on highways,” said the SP.

The SP also said they were investigating how the easy-bike entered the highway and whether it had route permit and registration papers.

However, following yesterday accident, police conducted drives on Chittagong- Cox's Bazar highway the rest of the day and seized several slow vehicles on the road, said ASP Farhad.

“The seized vehicles were sent for dumping,” he added.

Meanwhile, on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway, an accident occurred at around 4:00am, when a running lorry hit a stationary lorry at Sonar Para area, killing a driver and a helper.

Sergeant Soheli Sardar of Zoragonj Highway Police Outpost said the dead were identified as Ruman Hossen Rubel, 22, from Laxmipur, and Ahmed Kabir, 38, from Cox's Bazar.

major portion of the draft guidelines, yet the UGC brought some changes without any consultation,” he said, adding that the draft guidelines could be implemented after some fine-tuning.

He further said the objective of the guidelines would be to improve the standard of all universities.

Rajshahi University VC Prof Abdus Sobhan suggested considering the results of a candidate's graduation and post-graduation, not that of SSC and HSC, for appointing him or her as a teacher.

University of Barisal VC Prof SM Imamul Huq suggested incorporating teachers training in the draft guidelines.

“All the professions have training, but there is no facilities of training for university teachers. It should be mandatory,” he said.

Echoing similar views, Jahangirnagar University VC Prof Farzana Islam suggested considering recruiting teachers with English-medium background.

UGC Member Prof Md Akhtar Hossain gave a presentation on the guidelines at the workshop. He said the committee that formulated the guidelines would finalise them with some necessary changes suggested by the VCs.

UGC Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan said the guidelines were being prepared to improve the country's tertiary-level education.

Terming the draft a “primary document”, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said it would be finalised soon. Later, it would be made mandatory for every public university.

# No plan

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atrocities, saying its military carried out justifiable actions against militants.

It has built transit centres for refugees to return, but UN aid agencies say it is not yet safe for them to do so.

The Rohingyas in Bangladesh are housed in camps in Cox's Bazar. With a delay in the repatriation plan, Bangladesh has been preparing new homes on a remote island called Bhasan Char, which rights groups have said could be subject to flooding.

Haque told Reuters the island could be ready within months for the Rohingya to move in, adding that the plan to house the Rohingya there was only temporary.

Bangladesh's prime minister this month urged the global community to increase pressure on Myanmar to ensure the repatriation of the Rohingya.

He said one of the lorries was stationary on the highway to fix a mechanical glitch.

“Rubel, helper of one lorry, was standing beside his vehicle to fix the glitch while Kabir, driver of the other lorry, sped into the other vehicle from behind. They both died on the spot,” Soheli said, adding that upon information, police and fire service officials rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies and handed them over to the victims' families.

A case was filed in this connection, he said.

# India will expel

FROM PAGE 16

And after singling them out, we will put them on the list so that they can be identified,” said Shah.

Earlier, accusing the Congress of caring only for its vote bank, Shah said: “They speak of human rights... Isn't there a concern about the security of the country? Hundreds of terrorists infiltrate into the country and plan bomb blasts. Many such incidents happened in your regime.”

Shah said the Congress had adapted “a new way to save Bangladeshis”.

“Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought the Citizen Amendment Bill 2016, in which we have decided that all Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain people coming from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh are not infiltrators, they are asylum seekers, our brothers, and we will grant them citizenship,” he said.

Shah also targeted the Opposition while referring to his party's winning run in a number of state elections since coming to power at the Centre in 2014.

The BJP chief, meanwhile, raised the surgical strikes that followed the terrorist attack in Uri in 2016, adding that within 10 days of the attack, the Indian government “avenged the martyred soldiers”.

The surgical strikes also got India included in the elite league of countries such as America and Israel who “have the power to avenge attacks on their army”, he said.

# Election

FROM PAGE 2

ahead of the polls, Quader said that it was ridiculous. “Who will take the charge if Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigns?”

He said the release of the BNP chief Khaleda Zia was a matter for the court and not the government.

“We will make decisions on the country's internal issues and will not bow down to any unconstitutional pressure from outside,” he added.

# PM slams

FROM PAGE 1

She said people have a peculiar mindset and they start crossing roads in front of vehicles at speed just raising a hand. It is not always possible to abruptly stop a bus at speed.

Coming down heavily on jaywalkers, Hasina said parents along with their young children jaywalk in front of vehicles at speed. Even though footbridges or underpasses are near, parents and even young people do not want to use them. They often run across the road, she said.

Pedestrians do not want to wait even a minute before crossing the roads or use footbridges or underpasses. Pedestrians' fault should be taken into consideration in cases of accidents, she said.

After an accident, people become all too eager to beat up the driver. In many cases, drivers leave hurriedly to save themselves from the mob and end up running over the injured, she added.

“If people stop beating up drivers involved in accidents, the number of accidents would come down by 50 percent,” she said, adding that none should take the law in their own hands. The driver should be handed over to the police.

She said the government took various measures to ensure road safety, including marking Zebra-crossings, ensuring presence of traffic police and volunteers in front of schools, and construction of underpasses and footbridges.

Hasina said a team from the Prime Minister's Office monitored traffic management between Abdullahpur and Mayor Hanif Flyover and has identified issues regarding road safety. A monitoring cell has been formed to oversee the execution of directives in this regard, she said.

On traffic jams, Hasina said it was a common problem for all large cities. The situation would improve to a great extent after the Metro Rail project is implemented. The overall traffic management system would be improved in phases, she said.

**CONSPIRATORS OF BANGABANDHU MURDER**

In reply to another query, the PM said the government was considering the formation of a commission to identify other conspirators of the Bangabandhu murder.

She said a lot of information regarding the conspiracy behind the killing of the Father of the Nation were exposed during the two consecutive terms of the Awami League-led government.

“According to the information, some people and organisations from home and abroad were indirectly involved in the conspiracy,” she said.

**CONFIDENCE IN EC**

The PM told the House that the Election Commission could hold the national polls independently.

In a scripted answer to a query, she said necessary funds have been allocated as per the requirements of the EC for holding the 11th parliamentary elections.

# Charge sheet

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were killed in a “shootout” with Rapid Action Battalion in Nandail upazila of Mymensingh in August 2016.

The police sued two suspected militants and some unnamed people for the attack on July 10, 2016 under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

In his reaction, Gouranganath Bhowmik, husband of victim Jharna Rani, said they are happy that the charge sheet was submitted.

“Now we want quick disposal of the case to ensure punishment of the culprits,” he added.

The café and subsequent Sholakia attacks shook the country and law enforcers launched all-out operations against the militants, busting several hideouts and killing a good number of top militants.

# India, Maldives

FROM PAGE 1

but there was no comeback for Jose Antonio Nogueira's men.

Pakistan, who were out of international football for almost three years before being reintroduced two months ago, had their share of opportunities in the first half, but Stephen Constantine's charges kept them at bay before taking the game by the scruff of the neck in the second half.

Meanwhile, Maldives brushed aside Nepal 3-0 in the first semifinal, thanks to an early strike from captain Akram Abdul Ghanee and two late goals from Ibrahim Hassan Waheed. The Islanders, who needed the luck of a coin toss to progress to the last four after collecting a single point from two group games, turned up a much more lethal side.

Nepal, on the other hand, failed to replicate their performances from the group stages where they won back-to-back matches after an opening-game defeat to Pakistan.

The final, to be played on Saturday, will be the fourth time India and Maldives will play in the title-decider, with the former enjoying a 2-1 head-to-head record.

# Cases too puzzling

FROM PAGE 1

Nayeb-e Amir (deputy chief) of Muradnagar upazila Jamaat, and Mohammad Alam, an activist of Samrak Dal, a pro-BNP workers' organisation, from the spot. The rest fled the scene, it added.

The names of the other accused, including Ahad, came up during interrogation, the case statement reads.

“I was leading a happy life in Bangladesh. I had a tailoring shop. Still I had to leave the country to get respite from being implicated in false cases,” Ahad told The Daily Star yesterday by phone from Oman.

Ahad, son of late Kenu Mia of Maddhapara in Muradnagar, said his “only fault” was that he was a neighbour of BNP leader and former MP Shah Mofazzel Hossain Kaikobad.

“I am outside the country, then how can I commit any crime back home and be accused in a case?” asked Ahad, who has three sons aged 12, 6 and 4.

He works at a sports item shop at Barka, 60km off Oman's capital Muscat, he said.

During his visit to the country last year, he secured bail in the three cases filed against him previously.

Ironically, on October 25 last year, the day they buried his father-in-law, police filed another case against him, although he had nothing to do with the incident, he claimed.

Details of this case was not immediately available.

“To my knowledge, I never harmed anyone or committed any crime for which I may be accused in any case. But sadly, I am accused in five cases, including the latest one,” he said.

The travel documents that he sent to The Daily Star show he left the country on February 10.

This newspaper could not verify the authenticity of the documents and cannot confirm if he entered the country again after that.

But Shahid Sawdagor, 60, who has a shop at Muradnagar Bazar, said he last saw Ahad in the area seven-eight months ago.

Ahad's neighbour Haji Almas, 55, confirmed this to The Daily Star.

Taslima Akter Munni, Ahad's wife, said her husband was the lone breadwinner of the family. “I have never seen him getting involved in political activities.”

Asked to explain how Ahad could possibly be present in the alleged secret meeting, Monzur Alam, officer-in-charge of Muradnagar Police Station, said, “Without investigation, I can't confirm that an Oman expatriate has been made accused in the case.”

He said they already arrested three top accused and filed the case based on their statements.

But as election nears, such inexplicable cases against BNP leaders, activists and even supporters are rising.

Some 12,000 BNP men have been arrested this month alone while about 1 lakh more have been made accused in various cases across the country, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told reporters at a human chain before the Jatiya Press Club on Monday.

The case of Khokon Master, 50, is no less quizzical. He is an assistant teacher at Tanki Habib Sharker High School in Comilla.

On September 8, he was at his school from 9:30am to 4:00pm, said headmaster of the school Zainal Abedin.

And yet he was made an accused in a case filed with Bangara Bazar Police Station for “holding a secret meeting” at 10:05am at the yard of the house of Sultan Ahmed, a local BNP leader, the

# UN gets access

FROM PAGE 16

UN's rights arm is expected to heavily censure Myanmar again in the coming days when it publishes in full the findings of its investigation into atrocities against the Rohingya.

On Friday, specialists from the UNHCR and UNDP agencies were finally given permission to enter northern Rakhine before work began yesterday to assess local conditions.

“The team is on the ground and commenced with the first assessments today,” UNHCR spokeswoman Aoife McDonnell told AFP.

This first step of the UN's “confidence-building measures” is expected to take two weeks and will cover 23 villages and three additional clusters of hamlets.

It was not immediately clear which villages they will visit or which communities the UN teams will consult.

The expectation is this “very initial and small step in terms of access will be expanded rapidly to all areas covered” by the agreement, McDonnell said.

**LOCKDOWN**

The stateless Rohingya are widely seen as illegal immigrants by Myanmar's majority-Buddhist population, complicating the repatriation of those who fled to Bangladesh.

Last August's crackdown by Myanmar's army pushed hundreds of thousands of Rohingya across the border.

Refugees have carried accounts of rape, murder, arson and torture perpetrated by the military and buttressed by

same day.

In the case statement, SI Sujon Shyam claimed they raided the house during the meeting and arrested Sultan, Khokon Master and one Shahid Mia from the house.

Four identified and 25-30 unknown BNP-Jamaat and their front organisation leaders and activists ran away, the statement reads.

Last night, the police official hung up the phone when The Daily Star asked him how he was certain about their political identity when he did not even know their names.

The case statement also claims that the arrestees admitted during interrogation that they were planning to vandalise vehicles, create panic among people and carry out subversive activities centring a human chain planned for September 10 and a hunger strike programme on September 12 in protest against Khaleda Zia's trial inside the old Dhaka Central Jail.

“Mosharraf Hossain alias Khokon Master is an assistant teacher at our school and on September 8 he was present at the school from 9:30am to 4:00pm,” Zainal Abedin, the headteacher, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He also wrote a letter for submission before the court, certifying that the teacher was indeed at the school on the day. The Daily Star has a copy of the letter.

Shahinur Akter, wife of Khokon Master, said her husband was arrested from Tonki Bazar, 12km from Pirkashimpur from where the police claimed to have arrested him, after Maghrib prayers (around 6:15pm) on September 8.

Khokon's brother Anwar Hossain Sumon claimed that the case was totally false as no meeting took place at Pirkashimpur that day. He also said his brother was implicated in the case as they were supporters of ex-BNP MP Shah Mofazzel Hossain Kaikobad.

Contacted, OC of the Bangara Bazar Police Station Abdullah Al Mamun said, “We filed the case after being confirmed about their involvement.”

Cases like these raise serious questions about the authenticity of the charges.

Contacted last night, BNP leader Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said the government was filing such cases against BNP men to keep the party out of the election race.

“The government wants to drive the BNP leaders and activists out of the scene even before the election schedule is announced,” he alleged.

Earlier on September 3, 82-year-old Luthful Haque, who cannot even move without the help of others, was made an accused in a case filed by the Wari police in the capital, as reported in this paper on Tuesday under the headline “A case, many questions”.

According to the case statement, police found him among a group of “miscreants from the BNP and its front organisations who gathered in Wari on September 3 as part of a plan to overthrow the government”.

In the same case, BNP's ward-level leader Sabbir Ahmed Arif was made an accused although he was not in the country when the incident allegedly took place.

His visa, immigration and hotel documents, boarding passes of his flights to and from Kolkata show that he was in India from September 1 to 4. The Daily Star obtained copies of these papers.

Ninety-six identified people were made accused in the case although locals claimed that no such incident took place on that day.

Rakhine mobs.

The northern part of Rakhine has been locked down since then, with journalists and observers only allowed to visit on short, chaperoned trips.

The deployment of the two UN agencies comes as Myanmar faces growing demands for accountability over its treatment of the Rohingya.

A UN-led report last week two weeks ago called for the prosecution of army chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and five other top-ranking generals for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

That was swiftly followed by a ruling by the International Criminal Court (ICC) that it has jurisdiction to open a probe into “deportations” of the Rohingya, saying it was a cross-border crime.

Myanmar is not a signatory of the statute underpinning the tribunal and has rejected the remit of the court.

The move could potentially lead to a wider probe and an eventual trial.

Myanmar will once again be under scrutiny at the UN General Assembly in early October, though civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi will be notably absent.

Once considered a pro-democracy and human rights icon, Suu Kyi's reputation globally is in tatters for failing to stand up for the Muslim minority.

Myanmar has vehemently denied nearly all allegations of atrocities, justifying its actions as legitimate means to root out Rohingya militants.