

UK talk show axed after guest's reported suicide

AFP, London

A popular British talk show known for pitting guests against each other was cancelled yesterday after the reported suicide of a man one week after appearing on the programme.

Broadcaster ITV pulled "The Jeremy Kyle Show" following the death of 63-year-old Steve Dymond, which sparked widespread criticism including from Prime Minister Theresa May.

"Given the gravity of recent events we have decided to end production of The Jeremy Kyle Show," ITV chief executive Carolyn McCall said.

"The Jeremy Kyle Show has had a loyal audience and has been made by a dedicated production team for 14 years, but now is the right time for the show to end.

"Everyone at ITV's thoughts and sympathies are with the family and friends of Steve Dymond."

Dymond failed a lie-detector test taken on the show to convince his fiancée he had not cheated on her, leading to the couple splitting up, The Sun newspaper reported.

May's spokesman had previously described the case as "deeply concerning".

The programme was ITV's most popular daytime show, attracting around one million viewers per episode.

Feni teen

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the girl was alone and raped her. Hearing her screams, her mother and neighbours rushed there and rescued her.

Police later arrested him, said Rashedul Alam, OC of Moheshpur Police Station.

In Moulvibazar's Kulaura, police on Tuesday arrested a man for allegedly attempting to rape his niece on April 28.

The family had been trying to keep the incident a secret against the will of the girl, who on Tuesday went to police and filed a case, said Nur Hossain, sub-inspector of Kulaura Police Station.

In Munshiganj's Louhajong, police yesterday arrested Billal Hossain, 38, for allegedly raping a seven-year-old girl on Tuesday.

Sherpa climbs

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peak by yesterday, when the weather window is expected to remain open.

Kami says he will try and climb the peak two more times.

"I am still strong and want to climb Sagarmatha 25 times," Kami had told Reuters before leaving for the mountain in March referring to the Nepali name for Everest.

The route taken by him was pioneered by New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay when they became the first climbers to reach the summit in 1953.

Nearly 5,000 climbers have scaled the peak since the pioneering ascent, many multiple times.

The climbing season ends in May and hundreds of climbers are currently on Everest, trying to reach the top from both the Nepali and Tibetan sides of the mountain.

Tourism, which includes mountain climbing, is a main source of income for cash strapped Nepal, home to eight of the world's 14 highest mountains.

Soldiers patrol

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Authorities said soldiers were deployed in the city to ensure there was no further violence, reported Reuters.

The two parties have also been at loggerheads over a BJP activist arrested for posting a doctored image on Facebook with Banerjee's head on the body of Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra.

Priyanka Sharma was arrested last week for posting the viral meme that sparked national headlines.

She was released yesterday after the Supreme Court intervened, saying she should be freed if she apologised, reported AFP.

But Sharma told journalists after her release: "All I did was post a meme and I was jailed for 5 days. I am not sorry."

The seven-phase election started on April 11 and ends on May 19. The results will be announced on May 23.

West Bengal has a history of election-related violence, initially between the communists who ran the state for nearly three decades and the main opposition Congress party.

But now the BJP and the regional TMC have emerged as the frontrunners and clashes are erupting frequently between their supporters.

"Elections matter in Bengal much more than most other states because party is the only form through which people tend to organise themselves," said Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya, a political science professor at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University.



School students help a farmer harvest paddy in Horirampur of Mymensingh's Phulpur yesterday. Farmers of the area are in difficulty as paddy prices dropped making many unable to hire help for harvest.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Students help farmers harvest Boro

Rescue growers who can't afford paid help as paddy prices plummet

STAR REPORT

Students are voluntarily harvesting paddy in Tangail and Mymensingh to help farmers who are hit hard by low price.

Lately, the farmers' plight came to limelight as media reports of a farmer in Tangail's Kalihati spraying kerosene on a part of his field and setting fire to ripe paddy had surfaced. The farmer, Abdul Malek Shikder, said the burden of low price had led him to do it.

Triggered by a video of the incident, a dozen students of Government Saadat College, Government MM Ali College, and Lion Nazrul Islam College yesterday voluntarily worked on Abdul Malek's field.

"I had set my paddy field on fire out of frustration. But I did not expect that this would move so many hearts. I am quite surprised

and happy to see the students," Malek told this paper.

"There is little scope for farmers to profit this year. We are harvesting paddy for him in solidarity with his protest," said Al Amin, a student of Government MM Ali College.

Members of Herald Open Scout Group are lending their hands to farmers at Mymensingh's Phulpur upazila.

Yesterday, they worked on a 60-decimal cropland owned by Shahida Akter at Horirampur village. A widow, Shahida said, "I was in a lot of trouble. Assistance from the scouts brought relief."

On Monday, similar activities were done on 80 decimal land of farmer Abu Bakar Siddique, who is suffering from cancer.

Herald Open Scout Group were aiming to help at least 25 farmers, the group's co-chairman Atiqur Rahman

Atik told this paper.

Member Secretary Tashfiq Haque opined that there were not enough initiatives in place to ensure fair prices of crops.

President Md Abdul Khaleque said, "Harvesting paddy is not an easy task and the children [the students] do not know how to handle the job. So, we are supervising them."

"We will continue this activity for the for the next 10 days," said Khaleque, also a member of the district council.

Md Abdul Mazed, deputy director at the Department of Agricultural Extension in Mymensingh, said, "This year, farmers across the country are facing a tough situation as they have to pay a day labourer Tk 800-1000. But the price of paddy is ranging between Tk 400-500 per maund [40 kilograms] which is around Tk 200 less than the production cost."

HC worried over milk

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regular consumption of which may pose threats to human health.

The study also found a high level of chromium in fodder and excessive presence of pesticides, antibiotics and bacteria in raw cow milk.

Yesterday, HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam passed the order when the court was holding a hearing on the suo moto rule issued by it on February 11.

On February 11, the bench asked Prof Shahnila to submit the study report to the court within 15 days. But she did not comply with the order, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star.

During yesterday's hearing, BFSa lawyer Mohammad Faridul Alam told the court that his client could not prepare the report on the companies and the individuals responsible for the adulteration of milk, curd and fodder as it required more time.

On May 8, the HC directed the BFSa to submit the report to it by yesterday.

Anti-Corruption Commission lawyer Syed Mamun Mahub told the

court that the commission could not take actions against those responsible as the BSTI and the BFSa did not hand over any reports to the commission.

The BFSa on May 8 submitted a test report to the HC and said it found harmful elements in most of the 190 samples of raw and packed liquid milk, curd, and fodder.

The samples were tested at the NFSL.

Of the 96 samples of the raw milk tested, 93 had total plate and coliform counts above the permissible limits, the BFSa report said, adding that salmonella was found in one sample.

It said according to a chemical analysis, lead was found above acceptable limits in five samples, aflatoxin in three samples, tetracycline in 10 samples, ciprofloxacin in one sample, and pesticide (endosulfan) in nine samples.

The report added that of the 31 (21 local and 10 imported) samples of the packed liquid milk, 17 had total plate and coliform counts at harmful levels.

Issuing the suo moto rule, the HC bench on February 11 had directed the ACC to enquire about the adulteration of milk, curd, and fodder and take

legal action against those responsible.

The court also asked the BFSa to form a probe committee to identify in three months the individuals and businesses involved in adulteration of dairy products and fodder.

The HC then issued a rule asking the respondents, including the BFSa chairman, members of Central Food Safety Management Coordination Committee and the BSTI chairman, to explain why their inaction and failure in preventing adulteration and taking appropriate legal steps against it should not be declared illegal.

It asked them to show causes as to why the production, carrying, and preservation of adulterated milk, curd, and fodder in shops, departmental stores, and the open market should not be declared illegal.

The rule asked the respondents to explain why they should not be directed to remove those from market and bring people responsible to book.

The HC bench came up with the order and rule following reports on adulteration published in The Daily Star, the Prothom Alo, and the Kaler Kantha on February 11.

Eleven days on, no end in sight

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areas and chanted slogans demanding that authorities pay their arrears immediately.

Workers from Alim and Eastern jute mills blocked the Dhaka-Khulna highway in Khulna's Atra industrial area for hours.

In Jashore, workers gathered in Rajghat area and blocked traffic on the Khulna-Dhaka highway. The protesters were mostly workers from the Jashore Jute Industry and Carpeting Jute Mills Ltd.

The demonstration, which began in Khulna on May 5, caused delays in train schedules.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Manik Chanda Sarker, station manager of Khulna Railway Station, said all the Khulna-bound trains remained stranded in different areas of Jashore and Rajkhat for hours yesterday.

At a demonstration in Khulna city's Natunrasta Mor, Nur Islam, president of a platform of workers at Platinum Jute Mill, alleged that a conspiracy was

underway to hand over the jute mills to the private sector.

"If taken, it will be a vindictive move," he said, adding that workers should not take responsibilities for losses caused by the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation. The state-owned mills are under the BJMC.

"We will wait till Saturday. If our demands are not met by then, we will declare tougher protests," he said.

Sohrab Hossain, secretary of a workers' platform of Crescent Jute Mill, also said they were waiting till Saturday for a commitment that their dues would be paid.

"Otherwise, we won't have any option other than staging tougher protests," he said last night, adding, "No one from the government has contacted us yet to assure that our demands will be realised."

Several other leaders echoed his statements.

Meanwhile, many workers alleged that they were threatened by ruling

party men not to join the protests. The Daily Star talked to at least 10 workers of different mills in Khulna and Jashore.

"Besides, we are being pressurised by some CBA [Collective Bargaining Agent] leaders and ruling party men," said one worker, preferring anonymity.

On September 7, 2015, the cabinet approved the eighth national pay scale which came into effect from July that year. The scale has been implemented in almost all government offices and corporations.

But some 60,000 workers of the 22 state-run jute mills are still waiting for the scale to be implemented. However, all officials and employees under the jute ministry, including those of BJMC, are drawing their salaries under the new scale.

On top of this, the agitating workers have not been paid for six to 12 weeks. Officials and employees of the mills have also not been getting their salaries for two to four months.

San Francisco bans facial recognition use by police

AFP, San Francisco

San Francisco on Tuesday became the first US city to ban use of facial recognition technology by police or other government agencies.

Backers of the legislation argued that using software and cameras to positively identify people is, as city councillor Aaron Peskin put it, "not ready for prime time."

All but one of the nine members of San Francisco's board of supervisors endorsed the legislation, which will be voted on again next week in a procedural step not expected to change the outcome.

"The propensity for facial recognition technology to endanger civil rights and civil liberties substantially outweighs its purported benefits, and the technology will exacerbate racial injustice and threaten our ability to live free of continuous government monitoring," read the legislation passed Tuesday.

The ban was part of broader legislation setting use and auditing policy for surveillance systems, creating high hurdles and requiring board approval for any city agencies.

Clinical Tigers ease

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a solid 117-run stand for the opening wicket with Tamim Iqbal.

Tamim, however, was dismissed soon after reaching his 46th ODI fifty as the left-hander was bowled by Boyd Rankin for 57 off 53 balls.

However, the Tigers' team management, who wanted to test bench strength, were surely satisfied seeing Liton in such fine form. The stylish righthander played a brisk knock of 76 off 67 balls, featuring nine fours and a six, before being dismissed.

Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim then added 64 runs for the third wicket before the latter was dismissed for 35. Bangladesh, however, never looked to lose grip on the game despite Shakib retiring hurt with a side strain after reaching his half-century as another experienced batsman, Mahmudullah Riyad, remained unbeaten on 35 to clinch an easy win.

Earlier, Bangladesh paid the price for dropping catches, allowing Ireland opener Paul Stirling to register his eighth ODI century.

Pacer Abu Jayed, who got another chance followed by his dismal ODI

debut against the West Indies, bagged his maiden five-wicket haul in just his second game. The right-arm seamer ended up giving away 58 runs from his nine overs, but was the most successful bowler for the Tigers.

Stirling was dropped twice in consecutive deliveries. Sabbir Rahman dropped him off Mosaddek Hossain off the last ball of the 21st over before Mohammad Saifuddin gave him another reprieve off Shakib in the first ball of the 22nd over.

Having survived two scares, Stirling, along with skipper William Porterfield, registered a record 174-run third wicket stand for Ireland, helping the hosts post a fighting total where they added 99 runs in the last 10 overs.

Porterfield missed out his 12th ODI hundred by just six runs when he was dismissed by Jayed while Stirling departed after scoring 130 off 141 balls, featuring eight fours and four sixes.

Bangladesh team management tinkered with the playing eleven to give opportunity to other players in the squad for this dead rubber, making four changes from the previous game ahead of the final against West Indies tomorrow.

LGRD needs

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receiving the report, he said.

The attorney general's office was handed over the report after the HC on May 13 asked a committee formed by the LGRD ministry to inform the cost for examining the quality of Wasa water to the court.

DAG Motaher said the LGRD ministry has prepared the report based on information from the Dhaka Wasa. He, however, did not give further details.

While hearing a writ petition, the HC bench on May 13 expressed dissatisfaction at the LGRD ministry for not complying with its order to test the quality of water supplied by Wasa through a committee.

"How much money does the committee formed by the LGRD ministry need to test 22 bottles of water?" the court asked that day.

On May 13, writ petitioner Advocate Tanvir submitted a report to the HC saying that water supplied by Wasa is highly contaminated and unsafe in 16 areas of Dhaka.

'Our role model, our president'

Palestinians mock President Abbas booklet

AFP, Ramallah

A booklet promoted by the Palestinian education ministry hailing president Mahmud Abbas has received criticism and mockery online, prompting the government to stress it is not an official text.

The booklet, titled "Our role model, Our president," has a picture of Abbas on its cover and was said to contain quotes and thoughts of the 84-year-old leader.

A number of top Palestinian officials attended an event for its launch last week, and the education ministry had initially said it planned to distribute it to schools.

Critics mocked it and expressed fear it would become part of the Palestinian school curriculum.

Officials have since insisted it was the work of pupils at a school in the occupied West Bank and would not be added to the curriculum.

AFP was not able to obtain a copy of the booklet, despite requests to both the education ministry and the school where it was launched.

The booklet gained prominence when pictures were widely circulated of Saeb Erekat, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and a longtime Abbas ally, presenting it.

Its cover includes a picture of Abbas giving a speech at the United Nations. In response Khaled Al-Hroub, a Palestinian writer based in London, lined up a list of Palestinian literary figures and journalists opposed to the wider dissemination of the book.