



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Just plain right insane! With whatever space they could find to sit on, a family of five travels on a motorbike on Mirpur Road. Except for the rider, no one is wearing a helmet. To make the matter worse, the woman is holding an umbrella in one hand while the children are grabbing onto whatever's available. There is a police check post right beside them. The photo was taken at Science Laboratory yesterday.

BCL yet to take action against 'controversial' leaders

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League, the pro-Awami League student body, is yet to take any action against its "controversial" leaders, though 24 hours have passed since their announcement to drop them from its new committee.

BCL president Rezwanaul Haque Chowdhury Shovon and general secretary Golam Rabbani in a press conference on Wednesday night said they would take action against the 17 controversial leaders by 24 hours.

Golam Rabbani said that they were taking time to make sure that any "innocent" leader does not become victim of injustice.

Earlier on Wednesday during a meeting with BCL leadership at Gono Bhaban, Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina directed Shovon to drop the "controversial" leaders from its committee, if allegations against them are found true.

Hours later, the BCL general secretary disclosed names of 15 (out of 17) "controversial" leaders at a press conference at the Awami League chief's political office.

At the press conference, Rabbani said, "Initially we got 17 names which surfaced in media reports and social media, as there were allegations of them being married, accused in criminal cases and believing in

anti-liberation spirit. We will vacate the 17 posts if the allegations are found to be true, and replace those with leaders who were not named in the committee at first."

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Rabbani said eight out of those 17 leaders already submitted proof that allegations raised against them were untrue.

Rest of the leaders also told them they would submit documents to prove that they are innocent, he added.

He said they had spoken with the AL top brass, who instructed them to ensure that no "innocent" leader is dropped.

"As per organisational rules, if someone has a complaint against a leader, they have to file it in writing, but no one has filed any complaint to us. Still, we scrutinised the allegations that surfaced on social media," Rabbani said.

Meanwhile, Saif Babu, former publication affairs secretary of central committee who did not get a post in the new committee, demanded that the accused leaders produce proof.

"We would meet Awami League leaders and ask why they were not taking any action though 48 hours have passed," he added.

BCL on Monday announced its 301-member full-fledged central committee, igniting controversy and demonstration by some of those who could not make it to the new committee.

E-passports with 10yr validity from July 1 Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will start distribution of electronic passports (e-passport) with 10 years' validity from July 1 to ease the immigration process, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday.

"We are working with a German firm to make the passports. Preparations to start e-passport distribution are almost complete. We hope we will be able to start handing those over from July 1," he said, adding that while the entire passport producing process will take place in Bangladesh, although some passports would be printed in Germany initially.

He was talking to reporters after an iftar party of the Department of Immigration & Passports at Bangabandhu International Conference Center.

Replying to a query whether there is any scope to gain information from

Counterfeiters active ahead of Eid

CMP arrests four with fake notes

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Around two years ago, Md Joyal Rasel, 27, used to work at an apparel store in port city's Zahur Hawkers Market.

One day while working, he became suspicious of a customer and eventually caught him red-handed with fake notes.

Instead of handing the customer, Masud, over to police, Joyal became rather intrigued in the trade and let him go. Soon afterwards, Joyal quit his job and joined hands with Masud and became a "partner in his business".

The duo formed a currency counterfeiting gang comprising of eight persons and started circulating fake notes ahead of festivals when people spend a lot in shopping, and counterfeit currency often change hands undetected.

Within two years, Joyal became owner of a cosmetics shop in his home town in Banshkhal.

But Joyal's luck eventually ran out. On Friday, he and three of his associates were arrested with 31 fake notes of Tk 1,000 in the city's Madari area, near Shubhopur Bus Stand.

The other arrestees are Md Sujon, 19; Md Sohel, 22; and a 16-year-old boy.

Joyal's associate Masud is on the run,

said Shah Md Abdur Rauf, additional deputy commissioner (south) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police. "The duo used to run the business together and train others."

ADC Rauf said around seven to eight currency counterfeiting gangs are becoming active ahead of Eid.

Inspector (Investigation) Ruhul Amin of Sadarghat Police Station said the duo recruited Sujon, one of the arrestees, around two years back.

"During Ramadan, Sujon and other members used to circulate over 15-20 fake notes of Tk 1,000 in markets every day. They used to earn Tk 2,500 as daily salary from Joyal," he said.

Joyal recruited the 16-year-old boy while circulating fake notes at a religious gathering in city's Hamzarbag last year. The boy used to circulate fake currencies at religious events, said the police official. "We are interrogating the arrestees to find out about their sources."

Contacted, Ashikur Rahman, CMP assistant commissioner (Double Mooring zone), told The Daily Star, "We are taking steps in this regard and have asked businesses to install fake note detection devices at their establishments."

E-commerce fair ends in city

UNB, Dhaka

A two-day e-commerce fair, organised to promote online shopping in the country, ended in the capital yesterday.

Bangladesh Post Office and e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB) jointly arranged the exposition on the GPO premises, as part of a series of divisional-level e-commerce fairs.

Various businesses -- including Daraz, Aikerdeal, Chaldal, PriyoShop, Rokomari, Dinratri, e-post, Organic online, Boighar, Sindabad, DBBL, Pathao, Paperfly, and Mutual Trust Bank, displayed their products and services through 80 stalls and pavilions at the fair.

A seminar on e-post delivery services and e-shops were held on the closing day, with e-post coordinator Joy Saha presenting the keynote.

Earlier, e-commerce fairs were held in Chattogram, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Rangpur, Barishal and Mymensingh.

Man murdered in M'singh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man was stabbed to death allegedly by another man from a neighbouring village in Mymensingh on Friday night.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Nuruzzaman, 29, son of Abu Bakar Siddique from Kumri village in Gouripur upazila.

The attacker stabbed him indiscriminately while Nuruzzaman was chatting with his friends at Nauhata Bazar in the upazila, Gouripur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdullah Al Mamun quoted locals as saying.

The man promptly fled the scene, the OC said.

The attacker's father was arrested in a drug peddling case in March last year

and since then they have been blaming Nuruzzaman's family for the arrest, said the police officer.

Hearing screams, the victim's friends and locals took him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

Angered by the incident, villagers ransacked and set fire to several houses of the attacker, said the OC.

Later, law enforcers brought the situation under control. Additional police were deployed in the area to avert further violence, he said.

Police sent the body to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

No case was filed and none was arrested till filing of this report.

Award of Ph.D

Ms Vanesa Rodrigues, Deputy Secretary of Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Dhaka has achieved Ph.D Degree under the direct supervision of Professor Dr. Nazmul Hasan Kalimullah, BTFO from the Public Administration Department of Dhaka University. The title of her Ph.D thesis is "Impact of Citizen Charter on District Administration in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Narsingdi District". Before this Ms Vanesa Rodrigues has completed M Phil Degree from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University and Masters in Bank Management (MBM) from Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM). Ms Vanesa Rodrigues has also done Honours and Masters in English Literature from Government City College Chattogram. She is a member of 24th BCS Administration Cadre. She served in Khulna, Meherpur and Narsingdi District Administration as Assistant Commissioner, Senior Assistant Commissioner and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO). Her family members are very delighted to seek blessings of well wishers on this achievement.

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Woman killed in Dhaka road crash

UNB, Dhaka

A woman was killed and five of her family members were injured as a car carrying them collided with another car at Bata Signal intersection on New Elephant Road in Dhaka yesterday morning.

Kazi Shakil, sub-inspector of New Market Police Station, said the car carrying the six people overturned on the road around 7:30am following the collision.

All the victims were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Fulbibi, 55, dead.

Wife of Abul Kalam, Fulbibi was from Barishal.

The family of Abul Kalam came to Dhaka from Barishal for his treatment. The accident occurred while they were going to Dhanmondi from Sadarghat, said police.



A girl lights a candle on the occasion of Buddha Purnima yesterday. The biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community was celebrated countrywide amid festivity and religious fervour. Lord Buddha was born on this day of full moon in 563 BC. He attained enlightenment and passed away on the same day. The photo was taken at Nandan Kanan Buddha Bihar in Chattogram. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

INVITATION FOR TENDER

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- Only retail transactions will be eligible for this campaign and Mastercard reserves the rights to disallow any transaction performed for commercial purposes
- Mastercard reserves the rights to modify, extend or suspend this campaign
- Any permanent or contractual employee of Mastercard, its advertising agency, PR agency or any concerned vendor; and the cards business and operations department of the participating issuer bank will not be eligible for this campaign

BRI will not create

FROM PAGE 3

corridor. We're a member and hosting Bimstec," he said, adding that BRI is really in many ways a purpose-made initiative for advancement.

Recalling Bangladesh's foreign policy goal, Dr Rizvi said Bangladesh not only can take advantage of the BRI but also can promote its national interest, national prosperity, peace and stability.

Chinese Ambassador Zuo said Bangladesh and China need to work together to push the bilateral relations towards a new era and better future, bringing more benefits to both peoples.

The Chinese envoy said Bangladesh is an important partner for China in the BRI and in production capacity cooperation in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region from every angle, including its location, the size of its population, its market potential and the cooperation scope.

"As next year will mark the 45th anniversary of China-Bangladesh diplomatic ties, we need to work together to create a congenial atmosphere for cooperation, and deepen our policy connectivity and people-to-people bond," he said.

The envoy said Bangladeshi people's dream of a strong and wealthy nation, manifested in the dream of "Sonar Bangla", and the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation pursued by the Chinese people is interconnected and share many common merits.

Dilip Barua said the concept of Silk Road is important for Bangladesh's economic development, with enhanced connectivity on all fronts.

He said the 49-member forum is formed under his leadership with The Financial Express Executive Editor Shahiduzzaman Khan as its secretary general.

China remains the largest trading partner to Bangladesh, while Bangladesh became the second largest trading partner to China in South Asia in 2018, and the biggest market for engineering contracts signed, according to Chinese Embassy in Dhaka.

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