



Containers of 45 maunds of fake ghee seized by a mobile court from a factory in Pabna's Sujanagar upazila yesterday. The adulterated ghee was made using vegetable oil, palm oil, chemical colours, baking powder, and some other chemicals.

PHOTO: STAR

Ten dead in eastern China after ship leaks gas

AFP, Beijing

At least ten people died and 19 were injured after carbon dioxide leaked from a cargo ship's fire prevention system in eastern China, local officials said yesterday.

The gas leak occurred at 4:00 pm (0800 GMT) Saturday at Longyan Port in Weihai, eastern Shandong province, the local government said through its official Twitter-like Weibo account.

The injured are receiving medical treatment and their condition is stable, the statement said.

The cargo vessel belonged to Fujian Shipping Company and was being repaired when the gas leak happened.

A preliminary investigation has found that the accident was the result of improper procedures by the ship's crew.

Local police have the "relevant personnel" in custody, and further investigation is underway, said local authorities.

Deadly chemical accidents are not uncommon in China, where safety regulations are often poorly enforced.

Last month, ten people suffocated to death from smoke inhalation at a large Chinese pharmaceutical firm in Shandong province.

In March, a chemical blast in eastern Jiangsu province killed 78 and left hundreds injured in one of the country's worst industrial accidents in recent years.

OC taped Nusrat

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Court, sued Moazzem under the Digital Security Act in connection with recording the footage without Nusrat's consent and spreading it on social media.

After Suman instituted the legal proceeding against Moazzem, Dhaka Cyber Tribunal instructed the inspector general of PBI to investigate the matter and submit a report.

"In the case, the complainant brought many charges, but our investigation found evidence supporting three charges against the accused," the PBI chief said.

In his complaint, Suman mentioned that Moazzem took Nusrat along with another student and the madrasa principal to his office and questioned Nusrat.

During the questioning, Moazzem taped Nusrat without her consent and illegally posted it on social media, the complaint read.

The footage shows that Moazzem was asking Nusrat multiple "insulting and objectionable" questions one after another.

The complainant also appealed to the court to issue an arrest warrant for Moazzem.

On April 10, Moazzem was withdrawn as Nusrat's family alleged that he was not cooperating with them.

On May 8, Moazzem was suspended over negligence of duty and attached to the office of DIG (Rangpur range).

Nusrat, a student of Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa in Feni's Sonagazi upazila, was set ablaze on April 6 allegedly for refusing to withdraw a case filed against madrasa principal Siraj Ud Doula for sexually harassing her on March 27.

Nusrat died on April 10 at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Tigers not fazed

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bother them too much. Their second and final warm-up against India, before they kick off their World Cup campaign against South Africa on June 2, will take place tomorrow at the same venue.

Early morning rain was forecast for yesterday in Cardiff, but a light drizzle persisted through the afternoon, forcing the match officials to abandon the match at 2:00 pm (7:00 pm Bangladesh time), even after the cut-off time for a maximum of a 20-overs-a-side game was extended from 3:02 pm to 4:17 pm.

With Bangladesh beating Pakistan in all of their last four ODIs, It may be seen as a lost opportunity to build even more confidence after the Tigers won their maiden ODI multi-team trophy in Ireland on May 17. However, coach Steve Rhodes said that the washout 'was not a problem' because they have had enough cricket recently, alluding to their unbeaten march to the tri-series trophy.

The warm-up could also have been an opportunity to see how well ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has recovered after missing the tri-series final because of a back spasms. However, even that base seems covered as Shakib has been practising at high intensity during the optional training camp in Leicester as well as the two preceding days of official training in Cardiff, which were not interrupted by rain.

It is fortunate that there is no rain forecast for tomorrow as, despite what the coach said about having a rough idea about the playing eleven heading into the World Cup opener, there are a few spots that may need finalising especially as even fringe players excelled during the Ireland series.

One of those spots is the lower-middle order position being contested between Mosaddek Hossain -- who hit an unbeaten 24-ball 52 in the Ireland final to seal the win -- and Sabbir Rahman, who suffered from a dearth of opportunities in Ireland, playing all of 10 deliveries across four matches. With all 15 players allowed to participate in the warm-ups -- and a maximum of 11 to bat -- tomorrow's match against India takes on special

importance for some of the fringe players as the team management deals with the happy problem of plenty.

Biman awards

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by law enforcement agencies on the tarmac.

The awardees are: Capt Md Golam Shafi, First Officer Muntasir Mahbub, flight stewardess Sharifa Begum Ruma, flight steward Saheduzzaman Sagar, Md Abdus Sakur Mozahid, Purser Shafika Nasim Nimmi, Junior Purser Hosne Ara, Assistant System Administrator Tapu Barua and Senior Data Processing Assistant Zahirul Alam Chowdhury.

Describing his experience, Capt Shafi said after receiving the message from the cabin crew, he realised that the aircraft had been hijacked.

"After landing we talked to him [the alleged hijacker] and asked about his demands. He said he wanted to talk to the prime minister," the captain said, adding that the memories of the ordeal still haunt him.

Flight steward Sagar said, "I saw a bomb-like object in his left hand and a pistol in right hand. He threatened to shoot."

Rare albino

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There were about 548 giant pandas in captivity globally as of November, reported Xinhua.

The number living in the wild has dwindled to fewer than 2,000, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

Famed for its "panda diplomacy", in which China dispatches the rare animals to other countries as a symbol of close relations, Beijing has invested in different programmes to protect its furry ambassadors in recent years.

In 2018, China announced plans to create a bastion for giant pandas three times the size of Yellowstone National Park to link up existing wild populations and encourage breeding of the notoriously slow-reproducing animal.

At least 10 billion yuan (\$1.45 billion) had been budgeted for the Giant Panda National Park in mountainous southwestern China state-run China Daily reported.

collected, which is around three times less than the previous year."

This proves Halda is not in good health, he said.

Mohammad Elias, an egg collector at Hathazari upazila's Ramdas Munsir Hat and whose family has been engaged in egg collection for generations, said, "I collected 70kg of eggs from 10:00pm to 3:00am on Saturday. From the netted amount, I will get 1.5kg fish. Last year, I netted more than 100kg," he said.

"The Halda is dying," he added. Elias said his fellow collectors were able to collect even less eggs than he was.

Bidan Barua, another collector from Onkorighuna area of Raozan upazila, said the haul was frustrating after such a long wait.

"Two consecutive releases of sample eggs made us hopeful that we would have a big collection. But I collected on three boats and still netted less than 100kg," he added.

According to sources, mechanised boats which carried the equipment and construction materials for WDB's embankment work have also had adverse effects on the broodfish and their spawning.

Stay govt

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In yesterday's petition, Khaleda appealed for staying the notification's effectiveness and issuing a rule asking the government to explain as to why the notification should not be declared illegal.

Citing the petition, Khaleda's lawyer Kayser Kamal told The Daily Star that the notification of transferring the court for holding the Niko case trial was contradictory to the relevant provisions of the constitution and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Under the provisions, trial of any case will have to be held in open court.

The trial of Niko case in a Keraniganj jail room cannot be a public one and it was against the constitution and the CrPC, Kayser said, adding that the gazette was "illegal and unconstitutional".

He said the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Md Khairul Alam might hold hearings on the petition today.

The trial court is scheduled to hold hearings on the Niko corruption case against the BNP chief on May 30.

Khaleda has been undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) since April 1.

A day after the gazette was issued, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said she would be taken to the Keraniganj Central Jail after being discharged from the BSMMU.

"The government would convert the old central jail, where Khaleda Zia has been kept since last year, into a museum. All preparations have been completed to move her to Keraniganj Central Jail," he told reporters at his secretariat office.

Khaleda landed in jail on February 8 last year after a Dhaka court sentenced her to five years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

On October 30 that year, the HC enhanced the punishment of Khaleda to 10 years' imprisonment in this case.

A Dhaka court on October 29 last year convicted Khaleda and sentenced her to seven years' imprisonment in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case.

60-yr-old

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in the town, is a coconut vendor.

On Saturday, the girl went to Bacchu's store to buy coconuts when he took her to a nearby bedding factory and raped her, the victim's mother alleged.

As the girl started screaming, Bacchu let her go and tried to cover up the incident, she said, adding, "Bacchu also sent Tk 500 to our home through a man so that we do not share the incident with anyone."

The victim's mother filed a case with Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police Station yesterday.

Selim Uddin, officer-in-charge of the police station, said they first detained the accused on Saturday and then arrested him yesterday after the case was filed.

The girl was sent to Brahmanbaria General Hospital for medical tests, he further said, adding that they would take further action after receiving the medical reports.

BSF kills 1

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died on the spot. Villagers rescued the body and carried it to his home."

Lt Col Nahiduzzaman, commanding officer, Dinaipur 42 BCB Battalion, said a flag meeting was held in the afternoon where BGB strongly protested the killing and urged BSF to show highest tolerance to maintain calm at the border.

Trump dismisses N Korea threat

Expresses confidence in Kim during Japan visit

AFP, Tokyo

US President Donald Trump yesterday downplayed recent North Korean missile launches as he teed off a state visit to Japan with a round of golf and a trip to the sumo with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Before his official schedule began, Trump tweeted that North Korea had tested "some small weapons" that had "disturbed some of my people, and others, but not me".

This appeared to be a reference to US National Security Advisor John Bolton, who said Saturday there was "no doubt" the launches had contravened UN Security Council resolutions.

But Trump said: "I have confidence that Chairman Kim will keep his promise to me."

The American president maintains that North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un has pledged he is serious about denuclearisation, although experts say there is still a wide gulf between the two sides over what that means.

Trump and Abe's talks are expected to touch on tensions with Pyongyang, which have mounted after a summit in February in Hanoi collapsed without an agreement, and trade negotiations as Tokyo and Washington attempt to thrash out a deal.

On trade, Trump tweeted that "great progress" was being made but "much will wait" until after Japanese upper house elections expected in July -- with rumours rife Abe might also call a snap general election at the same time.

The serious diplomacy starts today, when Trump will be the first foreign leader to meet Japan's new emperor, Naruhito, who has been on the Chrysanthemum Throne for less than a month following his father's historic abdication.

Yesterday was about cementing diplomatic bonds between the two countries through the leaders' shared passion for golf and a chance for Trump to see one of Japan's most famous sports -- sumo.

'THE PRESIDENT'S CUP' Trump entered the hallowed Ryogoku Kokugikan sumo stadium to loud cheers -- and a few scattered boos -- with spectators standing to take photos as the US president waved and smiled.

He and his wife Melania, accompanied by Abe and his wife Akie, sat in special seats a few rows from the sumo ring.

Front-row seats at the sumo are usually on the floor, but the two couples were given modified seats

Tough days

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ban on fishing in the sea from May 20 to July 23, to ensure smooth breeding of the sea fishes.

The sanction was imposed in accordance with the Marine Fisheries Ordinance 1883 (amended in 2015).

The decision has left thousands of fishermen in a fix as they will become unemployed.

Besides, many fishermen took loans at high rates of interest from local 'Mohajons' (wealthy persons who usually lend out money) and nongovernment organisations to buy equipment like fishing trawlers and nets.

The fishermen are worried as they will have no income during this period.

"I took a loan of Tk 12 lakh from a local Mohajon and two NGOs. But now I don't know how I will pay my loan instalments. I may have to sell off all my equipment to repay my loans," said Akkas Ali, a fisherman of Boga village of Kachua upazila of Bagerhat.

"I will leave this profession. I'd rather work as a rickshaw-van puller in future," he told The Daily Star.

"Imposing a 65-day ban on fishing means all my family members will remain unemployed for 65 days. We don't know what else to do during this time to earn a living," said Parul Begum,

Imran calls Modi

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ministry said.

In February a suicide bombing in Indian-administered Kashmir -- divided between India and Pakistan since partition in 1947 -- claimed by a militant group based in Pakistan killed 40 Indian troops.

India and Pakistan then carried out tit-for-tat air strikes, but to the great relief of the international community the two countries retreated from the brink of further action.

Earlier this month, in a diplomatic victory for India, the UN added Masood Azhar, the leader of the group that claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing, to its terrorist blacklist, reported AFP.

The group, Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), itself has been on the UN terror list since 2001.

The last time that Modi and Khan spoke is believed to have been when Modi congratulated his counterpart on his election victory in July 2018.

Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) last week sealed a landslide election win, thanks in part to Modi talking tough about Pakistan.

Meanwhile, an Indian official

with backs, and were ringed by security personnel.

Trump looked serious as he listened to explanations from Abe and others around him about the bouts between the sport's top wrestlers.

The US leader then presented tournament winner, Japanese wrestler Asanoyama, with the "President's Cup," a specially made trophy weighing 60-70 pounds (27-32 kilograms) and measuring 54 inches (1.4 metres) that was unveiled to an audible murmur of appreciation from the audience.

A set of wooden steps leading up to the raised "dohyo" sumo ring were installed for Abe and Trump to walk up, with both leaders donning shiny black slippers to enter the space, which is considered sacred.

Trump read in English from a scroll, offering Asanoyama the cup "in honour of your outstanding achievement", before lifting the massive trophy with the help of a sumo official and presenting it to the wrestler with an enormous grin.

WAGYU AND ICE CREAM

The presidential sumo visit prompted high security, with long lines forming at metal detectors in the blazing heat before the tournament kicked off.

"I thought we would see some level of tight security. But I didn't realise that it was going to be this much," 76-year-old Hisato Koizumi from Tokyo told AFP as he waited.

"We got today's tickets by chance. I don't like this," Miyo Hirase, 80, called the measures "overkill."

"It's a pain. There aren't so many bad people in Japan," she said.

Excitable fans were also warned against throwing their seat cushions -- as tradition dictates whenever a yokozuna or grand champion is felled -- lest the president be hit.

After the sumo, self-employed Masamitsu Kurokawa, 56, said Trump had an "aura" and was "in a different class".

Earlier, Trump and Abe kicked off the visit with a round of golf -- the fifth time the leaders have played together.

Trump arrived at the course outside Tokyo by helicopter, sporting a red sweater and black trousers with a red USA cap. He was greeted by a casually-dressed Abe, who later tweeted a selfie of the two leaders grinning into the camera.

Aerial footage on local television showed the pair practising and putting on the manicured greens despite the unseasonably warm weather. They were accompanied by Isao Aoki, one of Japan's most successful golfers.

a fisherwoman of Togra village under Indurkani upazila of Pirojpur.

"Thousands of fishermen will starve. There will be no Eid celebrations this year for us," said Abdul Halim, general secretary of the fisherman's association in Cox's Bazar.

"At a time when I cannot buy food for my family, I am not thinking about how to celebrate Eid," said Nazrul Islam, a fisherman of Borobaishdia village under Rangabali upazila of Patuakhali.

The government should not have imposed a prolonged ban with such "poor incentives," said fishermen.

"If a fisherman has a four or five-member family, what he will do with such little incentive. We demand increasing the allocation of rice and providing cash incentives," said Ansar Uddin Mollah, president of Alipur Motshojibi Somobay Samity under Kolapara upazila of Patuakhali.

"Most fishermen are burdened by loans. What will they eat? How will they pay their loan instalments? We demand that the government reduce the time frame for the ban," said Abul Hossain, president of National Fisheries Association's Sharankhola unit of Bagerhat.

[Our Bagerhat, Cox's Bazar, Barisal, Patuakhali and Pirojpur correspondents contributed to the report]

said, Maldives is expected to be the destination of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first foreign visit after leading the Bharatiya Janata Party to a sweeping victory in the general election, signalling India's support for democratic reforms in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

The trip to Male will be first of a string of diplomatic engagements for Modi during June, with the Indian premier also set to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in the Kyrgyzstan capital of Bishkek during June 13-14 and the G20 Summit at Osaka in Japan during June 28-29, reported Hindustan Times Online.

Modi is expected to make a bilateral visit before the SCO Summit though an official announcement would be made at the appropriate time, the official said.

The Maldives' state broadcaster Public Service Media reported the country would be the destination for his first overseas visit following his re-election. Other media outlets in the Maldives reported Modi is expected to visit during June 7-8. A spokesperson for the Maldives President's Office, Ibrahim Hood, did not deny the visit.