

DB arrests two with 8,000 yaba pills in port city

UNB, Ctg

Detective Branch (DB) of police have claimed to foil a bid to smuggle contraband yaba pills in ambulance in the port city.

DB members detained two suspected drug dealers -- Md Dulal, 40, and Md Farooq Hossain, 38 -- with 8,000 yaba pills on Friday night.

DB Deputy Commissioner SM Mostain Hossain said they conducted a drive in front of "Bismillah Bhatghor" near Bridgeghat BIWTA office under Kotwali Police Station, acting on a tip-off about the smuggling bid.

During primary interrogation, the detainees told DB that they had bought the pills from Cox's Bazar and were taking them to Dhaka, Mostain Hossain said.

A case was filed in this connection with Kotwali Police Station.

Barishal River Port sees passenger rush

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

As people began returning to the capital from the southern region of the country after their Eid holidays -- many of them on launches and steamers -- swelling number of passengers brought along sufferings for all.

Huge crowds were seen at Barishal River Port yesterday, with people coming from different districts of the southern region.

"The crowd is increasing every hour, and there is no space for anyone more to enter," said a passenger heading back to Dhaka.

"At least 50,000 passengers will leave Barishal to go to Dhaka through this river port every day," said Ajoml Huda Mithu, deputy director of River Safety and Transportation of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

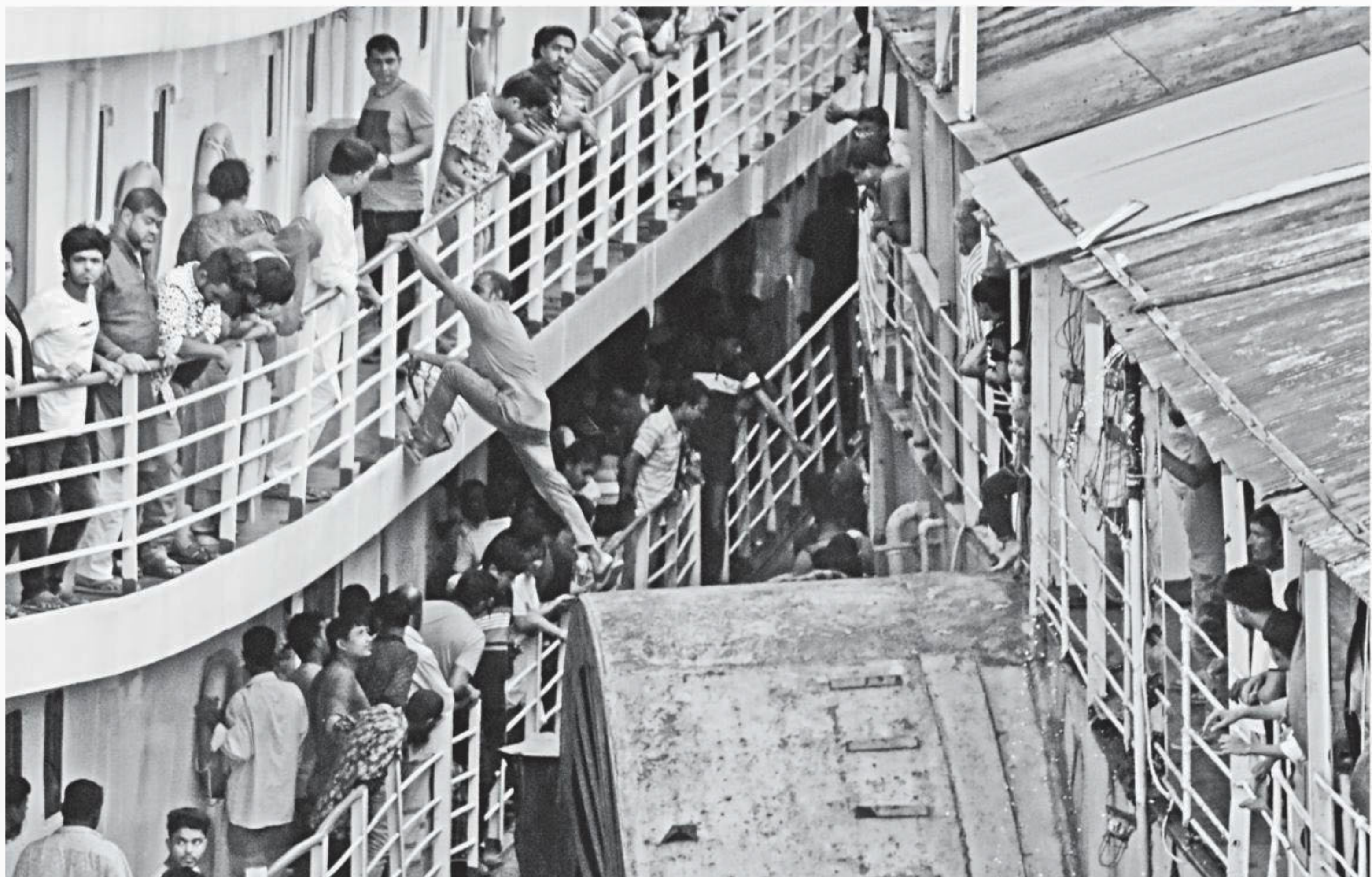
"We have asked launch owners not to carry additional passengers during Eid journey. If anyone is found flouting the directive, we will take action against them," he added.

During a visit, the total port area was seen crammed with Eid returnee passengers, and BIWTA executive magistrates were seen ensuring that no launch docks too long at the port.

Shishir, a private service holder who returned from Barishal by MV-Sundarban, told The Daily Star that he and his family members decided to make the return journey yesterday, although he had planned to join office on Monday.

"To avoid the mad rush and its associated sufferings, we returned to Dhaka early," he said.

Momena Akther, from Jhalakati, said she came to the Barishal River Port to go to Dhaka, but could not collect any cabin and sofa tickets.



A man lunges dangerously to climb on to a launch at the Barishal River Port yesterday, as thousands thronged the waterways hub to make their return journeys to the capital.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

An effort to reduce train accidents

ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND, Gazipur

Around 10am on a busy weekday, Joydevpur Railway Station was teeming with travellers eagerly waiting for their trains.

Suddenly, several youths started blowing whistles at the station and speaking in loudspeakers that a train was at a 10-minute distance.

"Please, stay at a safe distance! Please don't hurry! Please don't ride on train roofs! Please don't cross the rail line!" said one of them, as this correspondent was visiting the rail station recently.

The group was also helping elderly persons and children keep safe distance when a train arrived.

"Many people die in train accidents. We can reduce casualties, if we become aware about safety measures," said Fantahil Alim, member of the group called Gazipur-Dhaka Train Passengers Forum.

"No one pays us for this. Rather, we

have to spend money to continue the awareness campaign," he said.

The forum has been conducting awareness campaigns for two years both on social media and at the station.

Volunteers have drawn yellow lines from one end of the platform to another, keeping two or three feet distance from where trains stop.

Several notices have been displayed requesting passengers not to cross the rail tracks when trains arrive.

"When trains come, many passengers keep standing at the edge of the platform. Anyone can be hit or crushed by train at the time," said Saidur Rahman Bhuiyan, another activist of the group.

Md Shahjahan, station master at Joydevpur Rail Junction, said, "Around 10,000 passengers travel on Dhaka-Gazipur route daily."

To update passengers of train schedules and raise safety awareness among them, several youths created

the Facebook group on September 7, 2017.

In January this year, a traveller, Momin Uddin, died in a train accident. From then on, the group started the awareness campaign physically at the train station and elsewhere.

"We always keep whistles with us while travelling," said Shamim, another member.

Besides, 60 people work on a weekly basis and during festival holidays at Jaydevpur junction area.

"We are planning to launch awareness programmes among students of schools adjacent to rail lines," said Emdadul Islam, another member of the group.

At present, the number of members of this group is about 24,000. Many of them are active about updating information and the safety campaign.

Station Master Md Shahjahan said, "Their efforts are contributing to reduce train accidents."



A volunteer urges passengers to keep safe distance from train at Joydevpur junction.

PHOTO: STAR

Suspected muggers held after 'gunfight'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a wounded mugger suspect along with two of his cohorts after a supposed gunfight from West Khulshi area in the port city on Friday.

The injured is Md Rubel, 22, and the two others are Md Jahed, 18, and Shanto, 17.

Pronob Chowdhury, OC of Khulshi Police Station said police went to arrest the trio, who mugged a security guard of a real estate company a few days back.

The muggers opened fire, prompting police to retaliate, he said, adding that law enforcers arrested the trio from a nearby hill.

30pc teenage girls

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Although the topic of menstrual hygiene has been included in school textbooks, most institutions do not teach that chapter to teenage girls. Citing the example of Holy Cross Girls' High School, he said there should be the facility of providing pads at schools, and girls should be counselled on physical changes during adolescence.

"It is important to teach girls about menstrual health while they are young, so they can be more aware and active," he added.

Associate professor of gynecology at National Cancer Research Institute and Hospital Dr Afroza Khanom said the stigma around the issue makes mass awareness difficult. "It is unfortunate that we still cannot openly discuss menstruation among family members or in the social sphere," she said.

Some have the misconception that girls should avoid protein-rich foods like fish, meat, and eggs during period, Afroza added. She said women should maintain a

balanced and nutritious diet instead.

She mentioned the government's efforts in this regard, saying awareness is increasing and menstrual hygiene is a priority now.

Presenting a keynote paper at a seminar marking Menstrual Hygiene Day 2019 on May 28 in the capital, executive engineer of Department of Public Health Engineering Sharmistha Debnath said the percentage of girls who were aware of menstruation before their cycle started rose from 36 percent in 2014 to 53 percent in 2018.

Local Government Division senior secretary Ghulam Farooque said there has been progress in the indicators of schoolgirls' menstrual hygiene management, but there is still a long way to go.

He said the practice of keeping separate washrooms for girls and boys is crucial, and the government is working to ensure this facility. Separate wash facilities were constructed at 32,000 primary schools and work is going on at 65,000 other schools.

Shouldering extra responsibility

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this correspondent on Friday. "But nurses were available; they looked after me."

Prof Abdul Gani Mollah, director of NITOR, said, "Mostly non-Muslim physicians and nurses worked during the holidays. Besides, some specialist doctors also visited the hospital. Even I went to the hospital and inquired about patients."

Regarding Mizanur's complaint, he said, "Those who worked during Eid, tried their best to look after patients."

SUHWARDY HOSPITAL

Around 400 patients got admitted to the 850-bed hospital during the vacation.

Radiology department remained closed till Friday as many employees went home during Eid, said a staff member of pathology department.

According to hospital authorities, flow of patients was irregular and unpredictable, but on-duty doctors and nurses, were available to deal with the situation. Still, many patients had to bear the brunt of manpower shortage.

One such patient was Khalilur Rahman. The 67-year-old Daudkandi resident became sick on Eid night. His family members took

him to local hospitals but could not find any senior doctor. A staff member at a clinic told them to take him to Dhaka.

The family brought him to NICVD the same night, where doctors examined him and found that he had suffered a mild stroke.

They transferred him to nearby Suhrawardy hospital, where emergency doctors admitted him to medicine ward right away. This correspondent spoke to him on Friday afternoon.

"A doctor treated me while I was being admitted. He prescribed me some medicines and tests. Since then, I haven't seen any doctor yet. Nurses are taking care of me now," he said.

This newspaper got in touch with Dr Md Aminul Hasan, director (hospital) at Directorate General of Health Services, yesterday. When asked why mostly non-Muslim doctors, nurses and staff members work at the hospitals during Eid holidays, which resulted in the crisis, he said, "During vacations, hospital authorities set up the rosters, not us."

"But we did give them directives to provide quality services to patients as much as possible," he added.

Body of man recovered from roadside field

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the body of a man from a roadside field in Raozan upazila of Chattogram on Friday.

The deceased is Abu Taher, 35, from Dalilabad in Raozan upazila, said police.

On information from locals, police rushed to Dabua village of the upazila and recovered the body at around 11pm, said Kefayat Ullah, officer-in-charge (OC) of Raozan Police Station.

The body bore several stab marks, and it was sent to Chattogram Medical College morgue for autopsy, said the OC.

Police are yet to arrest anybody in this connection and are investigating the incident, added the OC.

DU losing greenery

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make our campus dirty... but we've nothing to do."

"Overcrowding is always a problem. Now the university has over 37,000 students but it is woefully unequipped to handle this influx," Niloy added.

Prof Mihir Lal Shah, a teacher of Botany department and director of the Arboriculture Centre of the university, said the university has lost at least 20 big old trees in last one and half years due to natural or manmade causes.

A 50-year-old mango tree and a 30-year-old Neem tree collapsed in August last year in front of the DU central library. Besides, a 40-year-old banyan tree also fell down in front of the Arts Faculty building last monsoon.

The main reason behind the collapse

of these big trees is weak development of taproot (main root) due to lack of oxygen in soil, said Dr Md Abdul Karim, a professor of botany.

Blaming unplanned construction of heavy structures, Dr Karim said, "Due to the heavy constructions, trees are losing their balance because their main roots can't grow properly and that's why they are falling during disasters."

Prof Mihir Lal Shah added, "We plant new trees every year and trim big ones in the winter to preserve the beauty of the university."

Contacted, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman told the news agency that they have a plan to provide enough trash bins at the main points of the campus and plant trees to keep the university green and clean.

Woman

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The deceased is rickshaw-van puller Abdur Rouf Gazi, 45, of Korpara village.

Quoting locals, Md Golam Kibria, sub-inspector of Sadar Police Station, said, "The accident took place when a truck hit Gazi's rickshaw-van from behind. He died on the spot and a passenger sustained injuries." Police seized the truck but the driver fled, added the SI.

Meanwhile in Dinajpur, a pedestrian was killed after a truck hit him on Dinajpur-Rangpur highway near Chehelgazi village yesterday afternoon, reports our correspondent.

The deceased is Kawsar Ahmed, 38, of Sadar upazila. In protest, locals blocked the highway for an hour, said police.

In Narayanganj, a man was killed as a truck hit him while he was crossing a road in Lalati area yesterday afternoon, reports our correspondent.

The deceased is Masum Mia. Police seized the truck and detained its driver.

In Sirajganj, motorcyclist Ismail Hossain was killed as a bus hit his bike on Hatikumrul-Sirajganj Highway, reports BSS.

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Ref. No.: 57.17.0000.103.07.056.19/256

Date: 03-06-2019

e-Tender Notice (Amendment/ Corrigendum No. 1 & 2)

e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online Notice Publication date	On-line Tender Closing date
322688	BTEB/H-18	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Air Conditioning works	27-05-2019	Old Value: 13-06-2019 New Value: 20-06-2019

Amendment/ Corrigendum No.-1

Amendment/Corrigendum Text: Amendment of TDS,PCC. e-PG3-2, Form e-PG3-4 and Form e-PG3-3A

Amendment/ Corrigendum No.- 2

Amendment/ Corrigendum Text: Amendment of ITT Clause 15.1

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. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd, +8809609112233, +8801762625528).

Md. Mahabubur Rahman

Secretary

Bangladesh Technical Education Board, Dhaka