

At least 5 killed

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He said the injured were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment.

Moulvibazar Superintendent of Police Shahjalal said, "We do not know why the train derailed but we are investigating the matter."

Rail communication between Sylhet and other districts was suspended after the accident.

HC blasts BSTI

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to disturb Prof Shahnila Ferdousi, head of National Food Safety Laboratory (NFSL), over its study report.

The NFSL, in its study report, said it found the presence of excessive levels of lead and pesticides in raw cow milk, regular consumption of which may pose threats to human health.

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

Shahnila's lawyer Barrister Shahin Ahmed told the court that a number of government agencies had been pressing her client for the names of the companies producing adulterated raw cow milk and curd.

Contacted, Prof Shahnila told The Daily Star that the study was originally conducted for research purpose and she was not supposed to reveal all the details of the study to any agency or individual.

Besides, taking any punitive action against any company based on this study would be a mistake, she added.

Earlier in the day, the BSTI submitted a report to the HC saying that it had tested 305 samples of curds from across the country and found 303 of them to be standard.

Meanwhile yesterday, Bangladesh Food Safety Authority's (BFSA) lawyer Barrister Mohammed Faridul Islam sought four more weeks to submit the report on the companies and the individuals responsible for the adulteration of milk, curd and fodder, saying that his client was yet to collect the reports from the laboratories.

The court directed BFSA to submit the report before it by July 15.

On May 15, the bench had issued a warning saying that the companies and individuals responsible for adulterating milk and curd, whoever they were, would not be spared and they must be punished.

None will be allowed to play ducks and drakes with people's lives and health, as safe food is a fundamental right of people, the court said, asking, "How will the nation be built if health of its future generation is not sound?"

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.

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 the individuals and businesses involved in adulteration of dairy products and fodder in three months.

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 the market and bring people responsible to book.

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

Pak FM says trust must be rebuilt with Afghanistan

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Saturday called for trust to be rebuilt between Islamabad and Kabul as Pakistan began a new initiative to bolster a faltering peace process aiming to end Afghanistan's lengthy civil war.

Pakistan on Saturday hosted a conference to bring together more than 50 Afghan leaders, including politicians and tribal elders, but there were no representatives of the Afghan Taliban militants, who have been fighting for years to expel foreign forces and defeat the U.S.-backed government in Kabul.

Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan have been strained in recent years amid long-standing allegations by Kabul and Washington that Pakistan has been sheltering the Taliban militants since U.S.-led forces removed them from power in 2001, something Islamabad denies. Pakistan says its influence over the Taliban has waned over the years.

Two killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two men were killed in a "gunfight" with police at Teknaf upazila in Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The dead are Omar Faruk, 19, an inhabitant of Kutupalang Rohingya camp, and Mohammed Rubel, 23, resident of Teknaf.

Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Model Police Station, claimed Faruk and Rubel were accused in a case filed over trafficking of 49 Rohingyas.

According to the OC, a police team conducted a raid in Katabunia Ghat area of Sabrang union in Teknaf to arrest the duo around 1:00am.

Sensing their presence, the criminals and their cohorts opened fire on policemen, forcing them to retaliate, the OC claimed.

The duo was injured during the "gunfight". They were rushed to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared them dead, he added.

Three policemen were also injured during the "gunfight", the OC claimed, adding that they recovered two firearms, 11 bullets and 18 cartridges from the spot.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the police claims.

3 more

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and June 4.

The identified Russian is Vladislav Gritsenko, 34, according to his passport. On May 31, he came to Dhaka by a flight of Thai Airways and checked in at Hotel Salimar in the capital's Gulistan area, the DB official said.

He left the hotel at 9:10pm on June 4 and departed the country by another Thai Airways flight at 1:55am.

Investigation Officers said the unidentified duo met the Russian man at his hotel on June 2.

On the very day, six Ukrainian nationals were arrested over the ATM forgery.

Another suspect Vitalii Klimchuk, 31, who allegedly escaped arrest, is still at large, police said.

According to investigators, the seven suspects landed in Dhaka on May 30 and stole money from an ATM booth in middle Badda the very next day.

Later in investigation, it came out that nine ATMs of DBBL had fallen prey to the international hacker group who stole around 16 lakh.

Producers

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KM Kamrul Kader ordered the authorities to take legal action against those involved in storing, supplying and selling expired drugs within July 2.

The HC bench also directed the health secretary, DGDA, Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection (DNCRP) and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) to form a probe committee separately to identify the pharmacies involved in storing, supplying and selling expired drugs.

The HC passed the order after Mahfuzur Rahman Milon, executive director of Justice Watch Foundation, filed a writ petition with it citing reports published in The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo on June 11. The news reports cited that the DNCRP found expired medicines in 93 percent pharmacies in the capital where it conducted drives over six months.

Besides, the HC bench also directed the editors of the two newspapers to submit separate reports by July 16, confirming the authenticity of the reports.

Contacted, SM Shafiuzzaman, general secretary of BAPI, told The Daily Star that they were willing to take the expired drugs out of the market and destroy if the medicines have invoices.

Earlier on June 15, Nazmul Hasan Papon, president of BAPI, said that the availability of expired medicines in pharmacies across the country was "not unusual" and there was "no reason to be worried".

US conducted

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on May 26 despite being sent several warnings.

Trump called off a planned retaliatory military strike Friday, saying the response wouldn't be "proportionate", with Tehran warning Washington that any attack would see its interests across the Middle East go up in flames.

US National Security Advisor John Bolton yesterday warned Tehran against misinterpreting the last-minute cancellation.

"Neither Iran nor any other hostile actor should mistake US prudence and discretion for weakness," he said ahead of a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

The downing of the US drone came after a series of attacks on tankers in the congested shipping lanes of the Gulf, that Washington has blamed on Iran, exacerbated already-tense relations between the two countries.

Iran has denied responsibility for those attacks.

Trump, who spent Saturday huddling with his advisors at Camp David, initially told reporters that he was keen to be Iran's "best friend" -- if the country agreed to renounce nuclear weapons.

"When they agree to that, they're going to have a wealthy country. They're going to be so happy, and I'm going to be their best friend," he told reporters.

Iran has denied seeking a nuclear weapon, and says its program is for civilian purposes.

A multinational accord reached by Tehran and world powers in 2015 sought to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions in exchange for sanctions relief.

But Trump left that agreement more than a year ago and has imposed a robust slate of punitive economic sanctions designed to choke off Iranian oil sales and cripple its economy -- one he now plans to expand.

"We are putting major additional Sanctions on Iran on Monday," tweeted Trump, who has also deployed additional troops to the Middle East.

"I look forward to the day that Sanctions come off Iran, and they become a productive and prosperous nation again - The sooner the better!" Secretary of State Mike Pompeo added: "When the Iranian regime decides to forgo violence and meet our diplomacy with diplomacy, it knows how to reach us. Until then, our diplomatic isolation and economic pressure campaign against the regime will intensify."

But lest anyone think he was entirely ruling out military action, Trump tweeted Saturday evening that "I never called the strike against Iran 'BACK', as people are incorrectly reporting, I just stopped it from going forward at this time!"

'POWDER KEG' A top Iranian military official warned Washington against any strikes. "Firing one bullet towards Iran will set fire to the interests of America and its allies" in the region, armed forces general staff spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi told the Tasnim news agency.

"If the enemy -- especially America and its allies in the region -- make

the military mistake of shooting the powder keg on which America's interests lie, the region will be set on fire," Shekarchi warned.

Following his comments, Iran said it had executed a contractor for the defense ministry's aerospace organization who had been convicted of spying for the United States.

A top Iranian diplomat expressed disappointment yesterday after meeting a minister from Britain's Foreign Office amid escalating regional tensions, saying the talks were "repetitive", state news agency IRNA reported.

Minister of State for the Middle East Andrew Murrison had the "usual talking points", said Kamal Kharazi, head of the Strategic Council of Foreign Relations at Iran's Foreign Ministry.

The US special envoy for Iran yesterday urged "all nations to use their diplomatic effort to urge Iran to de-escalate and meet diplomacy with diplomacy" amid soaring tensions in the Gulf.

"We are not interested in... military conflict against Iran, we have enhanced our forces' postures in the region for purely defensive purposes," Brian Hook told journalists in Kuwait City.

New romantics!

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Of the attendees, four couples matched up according to Sora News. All had a DNA compatibility rating of more than 80 percent, with one couple a 32-year-old woman and a 41-year-old man scoring 98 percent.

The matches are based on a survivalist scientific theory that people with more diverse DNA are more attracted to one another, based on their potential offspring being immune to more illnesses.

Those who want to meet their match need to give a saliva sample to the dating company, which will then be analysed by scientists to find out detail of their HLA genes.

The company then find potential couples based on how similar the HLA genes are.

Those with no crossover will be an 100 percent match, which will decrease the more similar their DNA is.

Satoru Fujimura, a public relations manager for Nozze, told the Telegraph: "We believe 50 percent of a person's attraction to another person is due to DNA. And the other 50 percent is environment."

"Our DNA Matching service reverses common perceptions of matchmaking. Traditionally, people choose partners based on conditions such as age, appearance, annual income. But at DNA Matching, we believe that people with the most different types of DNA (HLA) make the best couples."

The service is for all adults, with those in the twenties up to their sixties signing up, but the majority of costumers are in their thirties and forties, with slightly more men signed up than women.

It costs 30,000 yen (£220) to join, plus 50,000 yen (£368) for the DNA test and a further monthly matching fee of 15,000 yen (£110).

While other countries have had similar agencies before, the service particularity successful in Japan due to it's epidemic of young singles looking for love.

The nation's culture of long hours has led to low marriage and birth rates, contributing to the country's ageing society.

AL celebrates

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be elected in the 1970 election and the first sun of independent Bangladesh government rose on April 10 and April 17 at the Amrakanon of Meherpur in 1971," she said.

Since its founding on June 23, 1949, the party played leading role in all democratic movements. It led the nation in the War of Liberation in 1971 under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Mujibur Rahman.

"On this day, we take a pledge to build a hunger and poverty free prosperous golden Bengal as envisioned by the Father of the Nation," she said.

Souvenirs, posters and supplements were published highlighting the activities and achievements of the party.

Along with the central committee's program in the capital, party's district,

upazila and city units organized discussions, seminars and essay competitions and brought out colourful processions marking the day.

Marking the 70th founding anniversary, a meeting and reception to the senior leaders will be arranged at Bangabandhu International conference centre on June 24 while cultural function will be held at the party central office on June 25.

DU question leak

assistant director of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP). Three more government officials and 21 DU students were among the arrestees, according to the CID.

Most of the suspects, including Alip, are now on bail.

Forty-six of them have already given their confessional statements before a magistrate.

The 78 others accused remain absconding. One of them is a teenager who will be prosecuted in juvenile court.

The CID also prayed to the court to allow the lawmen to submit a supplementary charge sheet against 89 more DU students, who passed the university's admission tests by cheating with the help of the other accused.

"A supplementary charge sheet will be submitted after we verify their names and addresses," said Molla Nazrul Islam, special superintendent of the CID.

CID sources said a total of 2,714 pages of documents, including 1,361 pages of judicial docket, was submitted to the court.

Police tracked down the gang members following a series of arrests since October 2017, when investigators raided two DU dormitories hours before the "Gha" unit admission test.

In its very first raid in the two dormitories on October 20, the CID arrested two BCL leaders -- Mohiuddin Rana, an assistant secretary of the BCL central committee, and Abdullah Al Mamun, theatre and debate affairs secretary of the BCL's Amar Ekushey Hall unit.

In January last year, the DU authorities expelled 15 students, including the two BCL leaders, over their involvement in leaking question papers and cheating in the admission tests.

After further investigation, the CID found that the questions were mainly leaked in two ways: from the printing press the night before the exams and through digital devices minutes before the tests started.

Job or admission seekers were given the answers via tiny ear-pieces a few minutes into the exams.

The other ringleaders are suspended Janata Bank senior officer Hafizur Rahman Hafiz, Assistant Administrative Officer of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation Mostafa Kamal, businessman Masudur Rahman Tajul, and job seeker Ibrahim Molla, said the CID.

Police also filed a money laundering case against eight, including Hafizur and Ibrahim, with Uttara West Police

Station this January. Nazrul said the CID would seek a court order to seize the suspects' wealth.

In 2017, this gang leaked question papers of DU's "Gha" unit admission test from a printing press in the capital's Indira Road.

Some of the gang members, led by Natore District Sports Officer Rakibul Hasan, used to leak questions hours before the admission tests, they mentioned.

In the last five to six years, this organised gang struck deals with government job aspirants and public university admission seekers in exchange for hefty sums and helped many cheat their ways into universities and government offices.

Contacted yesterday, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman said, "I heard that the CID have submitted the charge sheet. We are waiting for them to come. If we get it [the list of DU students involved], we will take action."

Asked about the expulsion of 15 students in this connection and whether similar action will be taken against the rest, he said, "Yes... whenever we get proof of any student's involvement in any dishonest activities, action will be taken as per university rules."

Want a bike? Get a licence

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There is a huge number of motorbikes which have not been registered at all, according to transport sector insiders.

At least 1.77 lakh motorbikes were registered in first five months this year, that's 1,173 bikes a day, according to the BRTA.

The increase in bike number could be attributed to traffic jams, poor public transport system in Dhaka city, nationwide economic development, and expanded road network.

Many prefer it as it can weave through and beat traffic.

However, transport experts and police found that motorbikes are more accident prone than three or four-wheeler vehicles and they tend to violate traffic rules more.

According to Accident Research Institute at Buet, of the 280 accidents reported in Dhaka city last year, motorbikes were involved in 24.47 percent of them.

In 2017, 263 accidents happened in the capital, and in 18.25 percent cases

motorcycles were involved, it said.

The ARI prepared the data based on newspaper reports.

Against this backdrop, Road Transport and Highway Division (RTHD) held a views-exchange meeting last month with different motorcycle manufacturing, assembling, and selling companies.

At the meeting, Nazrul Islam, secretary of the division, said the issue of not being allowed to buy a bike without a licence had been discussed in different forums. But companies opposed the proposal saying it would hamper growth.

Currently, a person has to get a learner's licence first from the local BRTA office or online, and then the authority gives the person time to take written, verbal, and practical tests. The person gets a licence if he or she passes the tests.

But the process usually takes six months to a year to complete and is a little complex. This creates room for brokers to step in. The brokers, in connivance with some unscrupulous

BRTA staffers, realise two to three times the actual fees for a licence and give people the document faster.

The companies in the meeting emphasised on taking steps so that people can get licences quickly and without any hassle.

The meeting finally decided to make learner's licence, instead of a proper licence, mandatory for buying motorcycles. The bike manufacturers and sellers were asked to prepare and distribute booklets about the process of getting bikes registered, and getting a licence, and on road safety.

Hafizur Rahman Khan, president of Motorcycle Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said they have taken the decision positively as "we are respectful of the law".

He said it was not possible for them to ensure who actually rides the bikes bought from them.

Hafizur, also chairman of Runner Automobiles Ltd, claimed that they have training facilities in 18 districts and were already training riders.

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