DB arrests 61 in one day on various charges

DHAKA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives of police yesterday claimed to have arrested 61 people from several areas of the capital in 24 hours, for their alleged involvement in different crimes including currency forgery, mugging and robbery.

Several teams of four crime zones (East, West, North and South) of Detective Branch (DB) of police took part in the drives, said Abdul Baten, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) at a briefing in the city's Minto Road.

A team of DB North arrested a fraud from the capital's Paltan area on Tuesday night, who used to extort money from government and private organisations impersonating as the inspector general of police (IGP) or top officials of police headquarters.

The arrestee is Md Tipu Mia alias Mominul Huq. "Tipu used to demand

money from different organisations by sending letters using logo of Bangladesh police, saying that he needs to publish SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



A man inspecting a mosquito net from a vendor in Paltan area yesterday. With dengue taking an alarming turn in the city, demand for such nets, sprays and coils have been on the rise. This vendor is selling the net for Tk 250 a piece, a Tk 50 hike.

EID RUSH

Ministries gear up to ensure smooth journey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With Eid-ul-Azha just around the corner, three ministries involved with public transportation have taken several steps to ensure hassle-free journey of the holidaymakers.

Every year, thousands of people leave the capital to celebrate Eid with their loved ones in their village homes. But their journey often turns difficult, largely due to traffic jams, overcharging of tickets and delays in bus, launch and train schedules.

The shipping ministry yesterday cancelled leave of all officials and staff of its three agencies to ensure smooth operation on the waterways.

The ministry yesterday issued a circular in this regard, also taking the country's flood situation under consideration.

The three agencies concerned are: Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) and Shipping Department.

Meanwhile, Road Transport and Highway Division (RTHD) yesterday set up a central control room in Dhaka to ensure smooth traffic for holidaymakers during the Eid rush. Officials from Bangladesh Road Transport Authority

(BRTA), Roads and Highways Department (RHD), and Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) will work jointly from the room. The control room at BRTA headquarters will remain

open for 24 hours from August 6 to 17, according to a circular of the division. Nur Mohammad Mazumder, joint secretary of the

division, will work as focal person while Humayun Kabir Khandaker, additional secretary of the same division, will supervise the activities of the control room.

The control room can be contacted at 55040737 and 01550051606.

Meanwhile, several sections of the railways ministry will remain open this weekend (Friday and Saturday) "for discharging important work", according to a circular of the ministry.

The work concerned mainly involves rail operation during Eid rush, an official of the ministry said wishing anonymity.

Dengue Fever

Treat underprivileged children for free: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government, public and private medical college and hospitals to provide treatment to underprivileged, insolvent and street children infected with dengue fever free of cost. The court asked the

director general of the Directorate General of Health Services to take necessary steps to this effect, and to submit a report before it after complying with the directive by August 20.

The bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil came up with the order following a writ petition filed by Jyotirmoy Barua, a Supreme Court lawyer, seeking necessary order to this end.

While hearing the petition, the bench

observed that authorities concerned should take steps so that no street child or insolvent person infected with dengue is deprived of treatment due to financial crisis. submitted Barua

interest litigation to the HC yesterday, following **Nahid Hasan** newspaper published on July 31 saying Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital authorities recently refused to admit a street

child with dengue fever, and the child was left unconscious in front of the hospital. Dr Kazi Zahed Iqbal, Aneek R Haque and few other lawyers appeared for the

Nahid Hasan, 7, who used to live at SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

reports

the petition as a public

petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General Bipul Bagmar represented the state.

Dhaka seeks LNG deals with Jakarta

THE JAKARTA POST/ANN

Bangladesh is seeking more cooperation with Indonesia in the energy sector, especially for the supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to support its growing industrial sector, Bangladesh's State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid said in Jakarta on Wednesday.

"We have a number of gas fields, but [the gas] has begun to deplete, so we need huge gas supply for our growing industry, as we're now the second-largest garment exporter," Hamid said at the Gas Indonesia Summit and Exhibition 2019.

In his opening speech, he said the country had invested US\$25 billion in the energy sector over the last six years, and plans to invest more in future.

Bangladesh had two floating storage regasification units (FSRU) to receive LNG imports, Hamid added.

"We want to learn more about your technology and your resources, especially on coal and LNG supply," he said, without disclosing the potential import volume.

Bangladesh may import 17.5 million tons of LNG a year by 2025, as its domestic gas reserves are dwindling and demand grows.

Speaking at the event, Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Ignasius Jonan concurred that gas SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Don't harass,

arrest 4 Feni

to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

directed police not to

journalists of Feni in

connection with nine

criminal cases filed on

charge of vandalism and

subversive acts last year.

asked the accused

Feni in four weeks.

in the cases.

The court, however,

journalists to surrender to

the trial court concerned in

The HC bench of Justice

Jahangir Hossain Selim and

Justice Md Riaz Uddin Khan

came up with the order after

hearing nine petitions filed

by the accused, seeking bail

-- Mohammad Shahadat

Hossain, SM Yousuf Ali,

They accused petitioners

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

harass or arrest four

The High Court yesterday

journalists: HC



Govt officials' restrictive

mindset hindering people's

right to information: experts

Participants hold copies of a guideline on the Right to Information Act (RTI) 2009 at a national seminar at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While the Right to Information (RTI) Act is a powerful tool for people's empowerment, some inherent flaws and restrictive mindset of a section of public servants stand as barriers to achieving its fundamental goals, said RTI experts at a seminar yesterday.

Silly errors like mistaking the name of an officer designated for providing information may lead to rejection of an application seeking public information, they said.

Bangladesh Research Initiatives, (RIB) jointly with The Hunger Project Bangladesh organised the national seminar on "Right to Information: Demand Enhancing Activities" at The Daily Star Centre. "Knowing the very name of a designated

officer and the appellate authority of a government office sometimes turns out to be an enormous barrier for an applicant," said RIB project Coordinator Ruhi Naz while presenting the key findings of a year-long project on training RTI activists.

It takes a lot of effort for an applicant to know the names, and the updated list of names is not available on the official website of Information Commission either.

The trained RTI activists who took part in the seminar from different parts of the country unanimously demanded for omitting the rule of mentioning the names. They argued that stating the

designation should be adequate.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, country director of The Hunger Project Bangladesh, said in a democracy, holding those in power accountable through the parliament is a must.

"But under current circumstances, with such a system ineffective, it is the people who have to hold the government accountable with a vital tool like the right to information law," he said.

Terming the RTI act an epoch-making law, Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said it [RTI] is the tool for exercising people's rights.

But there is still a long way to go towards motivating people to apply the law more, particularly regarding the country's governance issues and revenue budget expenditure, she said. There is a fear factor among people in regard to applying the RTI law, she added.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said journalists should have been more interested in applying the law but unfortunately that has not happened.

He suggested a countrywide campaign for application of RTI and increasing the number of volunteers on the occasion of celebrating completion of a decade of the

Information Commissioner Nepal Chandra Sarkar also agreed that there is a

fear among people as to applying for SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Uber partners with Brac to train drivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uber, the world's largest ride-sharing company, has partnered with Brac to organise educational workshops on road safety for driver partners in Dhaka.

This initiative is part of the recently launched road safety campaign by Uber in Bangladesh, that reiterates the company's commitment "Safety at Heart," said a press release yesterday.

The objective of the workshops is to create awareness among driver partners that will ultimately improve road safety standards.

Through these workshops, Brac will impart a structured and institutional training aimed at sensitising driver partners. This will include modules on road safety knowledge,

civic responsibility, traffic signs and signals, lane discipline and driving, and do's and don'ts of road safety regulations. "At Uber, we are committed to constantly evolving and solving riders' and driver partners' safety concerns," said

Quazi Zulquarnain, country lead at Uber Bangladesh. "Our partnership with Brac Road Safety Programme is an effective way of sensitising driver partners on the traffic SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Climate change causing food scarcity in CHT region

Clim

Finds MJF-commissioned report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic seems to keep piling up during school hours as Dhanmondi is full of educational institutes. As a result,

Satmasjid Road regularly gets constricted, leaving little space to move. The photo was taken yesterday.

Scarcity of fresh drinking water is a major challenge for people living in the country's hilly region, according to a Manusher Jonno Foundationcommissioned report.

Due to this scarcity, women from the hill tracts have to travel a long way to collect water, says the report. As this journey takes up a lot of time, women have to sacrifice other activities.

Findings of the report "Climate Trends, Situation and Impacts in Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh" were disclosed at a programme in Mohakhali's Brac Centre Inn yesterday.

Presenting the report, Asst Prof Md Nadiruzzaman of IUB said it tried to see changes in everyday life of hill people miles to get food from market. from climate change perspective. Recent change in the environment has caused scarcity of food from natural sources; women have to walk extra

ng of Study

hittagong H

said Nadiruzzaman

ngs on

through satellite data, they found the number of dry spells during

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5 s Impact in

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

HUMAN CHAIN

Demanding dengue prevention Organiser: Sammilito Samajik Andolon Venue: Shahbagh Time: 4pm

DHAKA TODAY CHARITY CONCERT

YOUTH CONFERENCE **Ending Gender-based Violence** Concert for Kurigram Organiser: Youth for Human Rights Venue: TSC, University of Dhaka

International Bangladesh Venue: Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh, Panthapath Time: 9am



Venue: Hatirjheel Time: 6am MASTER CLASS

Time: 4pm

CAMPAIGN

Organiser: BYLC

Managing Corporate Crisis Venue: ULAB Campus-B Time: 6:30pm WORKSHOP

Inspiring women to be entrepreneurs Venue: SoftCare IT, Panthapath Time: 4pm

Sudatta Chakma, Dr Ainun Nishat and Md Mahbubur Rahman at the research unveiling event yesterday.