



PHOTO OF THE DAY

TITU DAS



Caged ducks get to take a dip in the Kirtonkhola river for some relief from the heat. The photo was taken recently from Barishal's DC Ghat area.

'INSTIGATING ANARCHY'

Charge-sheet against four Ctg road safety activists under Section 57

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Chattogram police has submitted a charge-sheet implicating four youths in a case filed with Kotwali Police Station under Section 57 of ICT Act, for instigating students through social media during road safety demonstrations in August last year.

Sub-Inspector Rasibe Khan of Counter Terrorism (CT) unit of Chattogram Metropolitan Police, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge-sheet to the prosecution on Saturday, said court sources.

The four youths are Maruf Hossain, 23, and Aziur Rahman Ashaf, 20 -- joint secretary and political affairs secretary respectively of Chattogram metropolitan unit of Chhatra Federation; Imdadul Haque Asik, 24, a final year student of Chittagong University's Applied Physics department, and Abdullah Al Shahed, 20, said police.

Kotwali police foiled a protest rally organised by a group of youths via social media during the countrywide demonstrations demanding safe roads on August 6 last year, and arrested the four in front of Chattogram Press Club, on charges of instigating students to create anarchy.

Later, Sub-Inspector Ruhul Amin of Kotwali Police Station filed a case accusing the four youths under Section 57 of ICT

Act, for provoking students via spreading false information on social media and tarnishing government image by sharing anti-government updates and quotes.

SI Bikash Chandra of Kotwali police station was given charge to investigate the case. The case was handed over to CT unit on August 27 last year.

SI Rasibe Khan told The Daily Star, "Examining the seized cell phones from the four at the forensic lab of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and according to expert reports, it was proven that the four accused posted different anti-government status updates from their social media platforms and instigated students to create disorder using the student demonstrations."

"As the allegations were found to be true and their involvement were proved during investigation, police submitted charge-sheet against them in the case," the IO said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Ashaf -- who got out of prison on bail 45 days after his arrest last year -- said, "The anti-government status updates which were posted from our Facebook IDs were given after our arrest; the allegations against us are all baseless."

The country saw a wave of protests from students demanding safe roads last year, after two college students were run over by a bus in Dhaka on July 29.

Two lighter vessels capsize at bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two lighter vessels, carrying cement clinker, capsized at bay near Bhasan Char yesterday due to rough tides.

Two crew members of one of the lighter vessels remained missing while rescuers of Bangladesh Navy with the help of two helicopters of Bangladesh Air Force managed to rescue 21 following the incidents.

Three Navy vessels -- BNS Suravi, BNS Samudra Joy and BNS Saibal -- continued search operation till filing of this report as 8:30pm.

MV Titu-18 and MV Titu-19, after loading around 3,000 tonnes of cement clinker from a mother vessel anchored at Kutubdia, arrived at the outer anchorage of Chattogram Port on Tuesday night, said Belayet Hossain, executive officer of the mother vessel's local agent Litmond Shipping.

The vessels left the outer anchorage yesterday morning and were on their way to Narayanganj when they were caught up in stormy wind near Bhasan Char around 11:30am, he added.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Deputy Director Mohammad Selim said the vessels started sinking after water entered into one of the vessels through crack developed on its bottom while the other tilted on one side.

Cautionary signal no-3 has been hoisted for Chattogram

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Aedes breeding at RMCH!

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The regional health directorate in Rajshahi has found breeding grounds of Aedes mosquitoes, which are carriers of the virus responsible for dengue fever, at several areas in the city.

In an entomological survey report submitted yesterday, the directorate said it found Aedes mosquitoes breeding at the residence of the medical college principal, a hostel of female medical students and on RMCH campus.

They also found existence of the mosquitoes on rainwater collected in abandoned containers at different houses, shops and even on the city corporation's town beautification equipment.

The report's findings came after the five-day survey was conducted in five areas of the city, Dr Gopendra Nath Acharya, regional health director, told The Daily Star.

The areas are -- RMCH, Sepoypara near RMCH, Seroil bus terminal, Rajshahi Police Lines at Keshabpur, and Uposohor area.

On August 1, the health directorate formed a three-member team, headed by the district entomologist Tayazul Islam, for conducting the survey. Other team members were entomology technicians

Abdul Bari and Umme Habiba.

"Our aim was to gather information on the spread, density and breeding of Aedes mosquitoes in the city, and take necessary actions in this regard," Dr Gopendra said.

The team conducted the survey between August 2 and 6, Tayazul said.

"Our survey is based on visual examinations of the sites and laboratory tests of the collected samples," he added.

The team collected and examined samples of mosquito larvae from numerous spots of the five selected areas. They found existence of Aedes mosquitoes and larvae in many of the total 100 examined spots.

At RMC and RMCH areas, the team found Aedes larvae at seven spots, including RMC principal's residence.

Besides, the tests came out positive at five spots inside RMCH, including one at a broken basin of a ward and at an abandoned ice-cream cup at Falguni Hostel, a dormitory for female medical students.

Most of the beautification pipes that were used to decorate road islands between Seroil bus stand and Bhadra intersection were also found to have carried the mosquito larvae.

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TORTURING DOMESTIC HELP

Woman sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sent a woman to jail, after police produced her before the court on charge of torturing an underage domestic help.

Earlier on Tuesday night, police arrested the woman, Alfa Akter, 25, from her house at Lalkhan Bazar in the port city, upon tip-off from her neighbours that a house help was being tortured in the house, said Sub-Inspector Nur Uddin of Khulshi Police Station. Her husband is a banker.

Police also rescued the victim -- Yasmin Akter, 11, he said.

Yasmin, an orphan, had been working in the house for three years, he said, adding that Alfa used to torture her physically every now and then over trivial matters.

Alfa poured boiled water in Yasmin's body as she broke a glass while working 15 days ago, said the police officer. "We found burns on her neck and thigh."

Yasmin informed the matter to the neighbours and they informed police about it.

Sub-Inspector Khaza Enam Elahi filed a case with Khulshi Police Station in this connection.

Police produced Alfa before the court of Additional Metropolitan Magistrate of Chattogram Mohiuddin Murad yesterday, said Kazi Shahabuddin Ahmed, assistant commissioner (prosecution). The court sent her to jail.

The victim was in police custody, said SI Nur.

9TH WAGE BOARD

Journo demand publication of gazette

BSS, Dhaka

Ten journalists' platforms, including Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), yesterday demanded that the government immediately publish the gazette of 9th wage board award for journalists.

In a joint statement, journalist leaders condemned the writ petition filed by Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) challenging legality of the 9th wage board, as the High Court -- following the writ petition -- issued status quo for two months on publication of the gazette.

They said while the journalist community was waiting for the gazette publication, Noab filed a writ petition before the High Court to delay a settled issue.

They also sought Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention in the matter.

The issue was settled at a tripartite meeting with Road Transport and Bridges Minister and head of the Wage Board Cabinet Committee Obaidul Quader in the chair, they said.

That is why filing a writ petition before the High Court was "ill-motivated", they added.

The petition will create a crisis of trust between media owners and newsmen, they said.

BFUJ is set to demonstrate in front of Jatiya Press Club at 11am today, along with its associate bodies doing the same at local press clubs across the country, a statement said.



Traders have turned a rubber plantation on Lakkatura Tea Estate near Sylhet city into a makeshift cattle market. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

Illegal cattle markets sprouting in Sylhet ahead of Eid-ul-Azha

Only three permitted in city but over 20 operating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

With Eid-ul-Azha approaching fast, illegal cattle markets are being set up here and there in Sylhet sadar upazila.

Only 21 markets are permitted in the whole district, but there are more cattle markets inside Sylhet city alone.

Excluding the permanent cattle markets at Kazirbazar in Sylhet city, there are only two permitted temporary cattle markets at Laldighir Par and Tilagarh. Two more markets are permitted by the District Administration near the city at Tukerbazar and Pierbazar.

But this correspondent found at least 20 more markets either set up or being set up ahead of Eid and all these markets are backed by local influential political leaders of different parties.

Illegal cattle markets are already

being set up at Shahi Eidgah, Tilagarh, Rikabibazar, Chowkidekhi, Akhalia, Ghositula, Mendibagh, Uposohor, Teroratan, Dakshin Surma, Kadamtali, Bagbari, Malnichhara, and other areas.

Shahadat Hossain Lulon, manager of the city's traditional and permanent cattle market at Kazirbazar, alleged, "For the last couple of years, we are getting fewer number of cattle as the people behind the illegal markets are forcing traders to sell there. This must be stopped so that buyers and traders are not cheated when buying sacrificial animal."

Kazi Mahua Mamta, upazila nirbahi officer of Sylhet Sadar, said, "Only two markets are permitted in the upazila but as far as we are concerned, a lot of markets are sprouting up. We have already taken

action to remove a market from Daldali section of Lakkatura Tea Garden and asked another market at Baluchar to clear the premises soon. We will not let anyone set up illegal markets anywhere".

Bidhayak Roy Choudhury, chief executive officer of Sylhet City Corporation, said, "So far only two temporary markets and a permanent market are permitted in the city. We have requested the District Administration to take necessary action along with police to remove all illegal markets here."

Zedan Al Musa, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police said, "We haven't got the final permitted list of markets yet. Once we get the list, all other illegal markets will be removed at once."

Road crashes kill eight

STAR REPORT

Eight people were killed and eight injured in road accidents across the country in the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents and news agencies.

In Bogura, a motorcycle rider was killed and the pillion passenger was injured when a truck hit their vehicle in Shilkoir area of Kahalu upazila yesterday, said police.

The deceased is Al Hadi, 20, a student of Dargahat Degree College, hailing from Kallyanpur village of the upazila.

The accident occurred around 10am, leaving Hadi dead on the spot. Injured Shah Jamal was admitted to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

The truck was seized and a case was filed in this connection.

In Dinajpur, two people were killed in two separate accidents yesterday.

The deceased are Dr Abdul Hakim, 50, from Bhoma village in Ghoraghat upazila of the district, and Prosenjit Roy, 23, from Kalikapur village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila.

Dr Hakim was killed on the spot when a truck hit him at Raniganj area on Dinajpur-Gobindaganj road in Ghoraghat upazila, said police.

Prosenjit was killed when a speeding truck hit his rickshaw-van at Doshmole area on Dinajpur-Rangpur highway in Kaharol upazila.

In Joypurhat, two people were killed in two separate accidents on Tuesday.

The deceased are Abdul Gafur, 70, from Joypurhat Sadar upazila, and Abdul Barik, 55, from Panchbibi upazila of the district.

They were killed when speeding buses hit them while they were crossing the road at Shimultali of Joypurhat Sadar and Kashiagari of Panchbibi, respectively, police said.

Drivers of the trucks and buses fled the scene after the accidents.

In Habiganj, two people, including a college student, were killed and seven were injured when a motorcycle collided with an auto-rickshaw.

The accident took place on Habiganj-Baniachong regional highway near Atukura area in Baniachong upazila on Tuesday.

The deceased are Mukhles Miah, 35, and Shakil Miah, 18, a student of Brindaban Government College.

Everyone was critically injured after the

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Workers install glass panels on a high-rise in Chattogram while sitting and leaning precariously on the frames without any form of harness. The photo was taken yesterday at Wasa intersection in Dampara.