

2 schoolboys assaulted over 'theft', accused detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Two schoolboys were allegedly assaulted by a landlord in Subarnachar upazila yesterday over suspicion of stealing pigeons.

Police picked up Jashim Uddin, 48, owner of Bilash Tower in Khasherhat area of the upazila, from the building for interrogation.

Victims Srabon Das and Pranta Das, eighth graders at Khasherhat High School, were undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Hafez Ahmed, assistant head teacher of the school, said the duo along with two other students went to a commercial bank at Bilash Tower around 10:00am to pay an electricity bill.

After paying the bill, the students went to the roof of the building to visit a pigeon farm owned by Jashim. At one stage, Jashim caught Srabon and Pranta. However, two others managed to flee, said the teacher.

Hafez alleged that Jashim tied the two to a pillar and beat them up brutally. The other two students went to their school and informed teachers about the matter.

Hearing the news, students of the school brought out a protest procession and laid siege to the building.

On information, police rushed to the scene, picked up Jashim and brought the situation under control, said Md Shahed Uddin, officer-in-charge of Char Jabbar Police Station.

The OC said they would record a case in this connection if anyone filed a written complaint.

Top two

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security personnel to beef up security at vital installations and vulnerable areas," he said.

An advisory issued by Adani, which operates the Mundra Port, told all ships there "take utmost security measures and maintain a vigilant watch".

"We've informed our stakeholders at the port," an Adani spokesman said, without giving further details.

Raveesh Kumar, the Indian foreign ministry's spokesman, declined to comment on the reports but said the security forces were prepared to deal with any such infiltration.

A spokesman for Pakistan's military declined to comment on the advisory notices. A Pakistani military source said the reports were untrue.

"India is trying to divert the attention of the world from Kashmir," the source said. "There has been no such movement."

Located on the Gulf of Kutch, the Mundra Port is India's largest private port accounting for nearly one-fourth of the cargo movement in the country.

The Kandla port, built in the 1950s, is a major hub for cargoes such as crude oil and agricultural commodities of cargo handled.

India has in the past been attacked by Pakistani militants infiltrating by sea.

In 2008, 10 militants arrived on a rubber boat on the Mumbai waterfront after crossing the Arabian sea from Karachi in a fishing trawler.

They unleashed three days of carnage in which 166 people were killed.

TIB report

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The information minister said such reports create confusions among people and TIB should have sought apology to the nation.

He urged the TIB members not to make such provocative and ill-motivated reports.

The minister said, "We want constructive criticism as it helps a democratic country to move forward. But blind criticisms make people confused."

About a seminar of BNP on Rohingya issue, Hasan said it seemed that Rohingya repatriation is not their objective. Their main objective is to muddle the water, he added.

Urging BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir not to do ill politics, the minister said, "The government is moving on the right way on Rohingya repatriation issue."

But, he said, the repatriation process did not begin because of a few NGOs and activists of some political parties who want to play with this issue. "I hope that the repatriation would begin soon," he added.

Termining the assassination of Bangabandhu a dreadful incident, the minister said the law minister had already declared that a commission would be formed to expose the masterminds behind the carnage.

Nazmul Huda urged all political and socio-cultural organisations to observe the National Mourning Day and the martyrdom anniversary of Bangabandhu unanimously.

Long seen as a leader on climate,



Southern separatist fighters patrol a road during clashes with government forces in Aden, Yemen, yesterday. Yemen's internationally recognised government has accused the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of launching air raids that killed dozens of its troops heading to Aden, amid intense clashes for the control of the key port city.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ukraine filmmaker in Moscow for possible prisoner swap: reports

AFP, Moscow

Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov, serving a 20-year jail term in Russia, was moved to Moscow ahead of a possible prisoner swap, Russian news agencies and Ukrainian MPs said yesterday.

Sentsov, who lived in Crimea and opposed its annexation by Moscow, was convicted in 2015 for plotting and carrying out attacks there in a controversial case.

He is Ukraine's most famous political prisoner in Russia and was sent to an Arctic penal colony despite a global campaign for his freedom, including by Hollywood stars.

Russian news agencies TASS and Interfax cited sources saying that Sentsov, 43, had been transferred to the capital.

"He was brought to Moscow in the framework of an exchange process," a source told Interfax.

TASS quoted a source as saying that

Sentsov was shipped from his prison to the capital, without further details.

Ukrainian MP Akhtem Chiygoz, who is from Crimea, told local media that the swap could happen today but everything was still "speculation".

"Oleg Sentsov is in Lefortovo," he said, referring to a secretive prison in Moscow run by the security services.

Sentsov's lawyer Dmitry Dinze wrote on Facebook that he had no information about the move, and

Russia's prisons service (FSIN) could not be reached for comment.

Asked to confirm the swap, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said merely that "contacts are being made" regarding a general exchange between Russian and Ukrainian prisoners.

"We'll tell you when we are ready," he told journalists.

A high-profile swap between Russia and Ukraine has been discussed for days.

Three killed in 'gunfights'

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police in Cumilla.

A team of DB police conducted a raid in Sreepur area on information that a group of drug peddlers gathered there. As soon as the law enforcers reached the spot, the criminals opened fire, forcing them to retaliate, OC Mainuddin added.

During the "gunfight", Rasel sustained bullets injuries. Later, policemen rushed him to Cumilla Medical College Hospital where

doctors declared him dead, he further said, adding that the body was sent to Cumilla Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Police also claimed to have recovered 5,500 yaba pills, one pipe gun with one cartridge, three cartridge shells and a machete from the spot.

In Gazipur, another suspected drug peddler was killed in a "gunfight" with Rab-1 in the wee hours yesterday.

The dead is Sujon Mia, 28, of the

district's Tongi, said Quamruzzaman, assistant director of Rab-1.

A Rab team conducted a raid in Salna area of Gazipur City Corporation on information that some youths were selling firearms and illegal drugs there, he said.

As soon as the law enforcers reached the area, criminals opened fire on them, forcing them to retaliate. At one point of the "gunfight", Sujon sustained bullet injuries, he added.

Rab members then rushed him to

Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, he further said, adding the body was sent to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Rab claimed to have recovered two short guns, two one shooter guns, nine cartridges and 1,200 yaba pills from the spot.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the law enforcers' claims.

Arctic shipwreck

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walk to safety across the Arctic.

Photos and video footage were gathered using a remotely operated vehicle (ROV), in what the agency describes as "one of the largest, most complex underwater archaeological undertakings in Canadian history."

Researchers used the ROV to explore 20 cabins and compartments on the ship, the first time the interior of HMS Terror had been systematically explored, according to a Parks Canada statement.

"The impression we witnessed when exploring the HMS Terror is of a ship only recently deserted by its crew, seemingly forgotten by the passage of

time," said ROV pilot Ryan Harris.

The team got images from over 90% of the ship's lower deck, including living quarters.

The captain's cabin is the biggest treasure trove - and also the best preserved part of the lower deck - with closed map cabinets, a tripod and a pair of thermometers already identified.

Behind a closed door lies the captain's sleeping quarters, the only part of the lower deck that archaeologists could not explore.

The team believes that written documents will have been preserved because the water temperature is zero degrees Celsius or lower, there is no natural light, and sedimentation helps

to preserve organic material such as paper by making for an environment where less oxygen is present.

Marc-André Bernier, manager of underwater archaeology at Parks Canada, said the condition of the captain's cabin greatly surpasses expectations.

"Not only are the furniture and cabinets in place, drawers are closed and many are buried in silt, encapsulating objects and documents in the best possible conditions for their survival," said Bernier in a statement.

"Each drawer and other enclosed space will be a treasure trove of unprecedented information on the fate of the Franklin Expedition."

Oceans turning from friend to foe

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of peer-reviewed studies -- cannot be modified, diplomats with scientists at their elbow will tussle over how to frame the findings, and what to leave in or out.

The final advice to policymakers will be released on September 25, too late to be considered by world leaders gathering two days earlier for a summit convened by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to extract stronger national commitments in confronting the climate crisis.

Guterres may be disappointed by what the world's major greenhouse gas emitters put on the table, according to experts tracking climate politics in China, the United States, the European Union and India.

The Big Four -- accounting for nearly 60 percent of global fossil fuel-based emissions -- all face devastating ocean- and ice-related impacts, but none seem prepared just announce more ambitious goals for purging carbon from their economies.

Donald Trump -- a no-show at the G7 climate segment this week -- wants the US to exit the Paris Agreement and has taken a chainsaw to predecessor Barack Obama's climate policies.

India is rapidly developing solar power, but continues to build up coal-fired capacity at the same time.

The European Union is inching toward a mid-century "net zero" emissions goal, but several member states are dragging their feet.

China -- which emits nearly as much CO2 as the US, EU and India combined -- is also sending mixed signals.

"The eyes of Beijing are gradually moving away from environmental issues, and climate change in particular," noted Greenpeace International analyst Li Shuo, a longtime observer of China's climate policy.

A resurgence of domestic coal-fired power and a relaxing of air pollution regulations, he said, point to a preoccupation with China's slowing economy and its trade war with the US.

And yet, all of these nations face many of the threats outlined in the IPCC report.

Shanghai, Ningbo, Taizhou and another half-dozen major coastal cities in China, for example, are highly vulnerable to future sea level rise, which is projected to add a metre by 2100 compared to the late 20th century global watermark, if CO2 emissions continue unabated. Mumbai and other coastal Indian cities are in harm's way as well.

Even in the United States, where billions are being spent to protect New York, Miami and other exposed cities, such efforts could easily be overwhelmed, say experts.

"There is a pervasive threat in the US right now promoted by techno-optimists who think we can engineer our way out of this problem," said Michael Mann, director of the Earth

System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University.

"But the US is not ready for a metre of sea level rise by 2100," he told AFP.

"Just look at what happened in the wake of superstorm Sandy, Katrina, in Houston, or Puerto Rico."

By 2050, many low-lying megacities and small island nations will experience "extreme sea level events" every year, even under the most optimistic emissions reduction scenarios, the report concludes.

By 2100, "annual flood damages are expected to increase by two to three orders of magnitude," or 100 to 1,000 fold, the draft summary for policymakers says.

Even if the world manages to cap global warming at two degrees Celsius, the global ocean waterline will rise enough to displace more than a quarter of a billion people.

The report indicated this could happen as soon as 2100, though some experts think it is more likely to happen on a longer timescale.

"Even if the number is 100 or 50 million by 2100, that's still a major disruption and a lot of human misery," said Ben Strauss, CEO and chief scientist of Climate Central, a US based research group.

"When you consider the political instability that has been triggered by relatively small levels of migration today, I shudder to think of the future world when tens of millions of people are moving because the ocean is eating their land."

Earth's average surface temperature has gone up 1C since the late 19th century, and is on track -- at current rates of CO2 emissions -- to warm another two or three degrees by century's end.

The Paris Agreement calls for capping global warming at "well below" 2C.

Sea level rise will accelerate rapidly moving into the 22nd century, and "could exceed rates of several centimetres per year" -- about 100 times more than today, according to the report.

"If we warm the planet by 2C, by 2100 we will only be at the beginning of a runaway train ride of sea level rise," said Strauss, whose research informs the report's conclusions.

Oceans not only absorb a quarter of the CO2 we emit, they have also soaked up more than 90 percent of the additional heat generated by greenhouse gas emissions since 1970.

Without this marine sponge, in other words, global warming would already have made Earth's surface intolerably hot for our species.

But these obliging gestures come at a cost: acidification is disrupting the ocean's basic food chain, and marine heatwaves -- which have become twice as frequent since the 1980s -- are creating vast oxygen-depleted dead zones.

In the Tasman Sea, for example, a 2015-16 heatwave lasted for 251 days, causing disease outbreaks and a die-off of farmed shellfish.

Hurricane Dorian appears to spare Puerto Rico, heads for Florida

AFP, Fajardo

A strengthening Hurricane Dorian appeared to have largely spared Puerto Rico, barreling past the US territory still recovering from a powerful storm two years ago.

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami said the hurricane watch and tropical storm warning for the island had been lifted, and that "Dorian continues to move away from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands."

"The threat has already passed," Puerto Rico's new governor, Wanda Vazquez, told a news conference Wednesday.

Vazquez announced that schools would reopen and people should return to work from today. She said the storm had given the island a chance to evaluate its hurricane response.

"These days have been a real exercise where we have been able to re-evaluate and make adjustments in all our responses to protect the people of Puerto Rico," she said.

But the danger for other areas is far from over: "Dorian is forecast to strengthen into a major hurricane during the next couple of days," the NHC said.

Rainfall from the storm in the Bahamas and the southeastern United States "may cause life-threatening flash floods," it added.

HC orders

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Nazmul's brother Enamul Haque was shot dead in Barnail Bazar area under Kalia Police Station of Narail on February 10, 2015.

The victim's brother had filed the murder case with the police station accusing 68 people, including Mallick Majharul Islam alias Maza.

In the case statement, Nazmul said Mallick ensured the death of his brother by firing three bullets into his body.

On June 10 this year, Judge Abdul Ahad had framed charges in the case dropping the name of Mallick.

Later, Nazmul filed the petition with the HC challenging the district and sessions judge's indictment order. He prayed to the HC to order the judge to include Mallick's name in the case.

The HC on July 7 ordered Judge Abdul Ahad to explain why his judicial power should not be curtailed for exempting Mallick from the murder case.

Three days later, the judge sent a letter to the HC offering an unconditional apology to it over exemption of Mallick.

NGO

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officer of NGO Affairs Bureau, also said, "The ongoing projects of Mukti Cox's Bazar has been suspended as they have distributed 6,000 weeding tools among Rohingya without the consent of the NGO Affairs Bureau."

The bureau also asked the NGO to explain its "controversial activities among the Rohingyas".

UNB adds: Mukti Cox's Bazar Branch Chief Executive Bimal Chandra Dey Sarker said they have already suspended the six projects and welcomed any sort of enquiry of the government.

"Currently we have 30 projects, of which six have been suspended. 135 of the 150 people who were working in those six projects were locals," Sarker said.

Meanwhile Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said action would be taken against NGOs operating in the Rohingya camps if they were found to be violating the terms and conditions of any project.

MPs to get

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Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the chief justice, the Speaker and any person declared by the cabinet division or the foreign ministry.

It said airport security personnel often feel embarrassed due to a lack of specific government instruction on the screening of "VIPs".

Talking to The Daily Star, a top official of CAAB yesterday said the committee's request was denied after getting the directive from government high-ups.

The official said Bangladesh could get into trouble with the ICAO if it deviated from ICAO guidelines regarding security.

Mosharraf Hossain, an AL MP and a member of the committee who was present at the meeting said the committee requested CAAB so that MPs and other VIPs did not need to take off their shoes, belts, and coats during security checks.

He claimed that other countries have such relaxed security checks for MPs and VIPs.

The civil aviation ministry recently notified all airports to ensure foolproof security following the February 24 alleged hijack attempt on flight BG 147 in Chattogram.

Later, at least four passengers went up to the boarding gates at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport with their legal firearms and bullets.