

DB arrest three with crystal meth, yaba in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Detective Branch of Chattogram Metropolitan Police claimed to have arrested three persons with 80 grammes of crystal meth and 5,000 yaba pills from port city's Bridge Ghata area yesterday.

The arrestees are Md Jalal Ahmed (43), Md Faruk (30) and Md Talal (35).

CMP Deputy Commissioner (north) Salam Kabir said the three were held following secret information. "This new kind of drug [meth] has been smuggled from Myanmar and later brought to the port city."

The official said one Forkan, a Rohingya residing in Cox's Bazar, supplied the drug to the arrestees a few days ago. "We believe the drug is being smuggled via waterway from Teknaf."

A case was lodged in this connection.

On July 12 and February 24, law enforcers arrested three persons with 975 grammes of meth and two persons with 140 grammes of meth from Patharghata and Khulshi areas respectively.



Demanding halting the construction of a hospital and medical college at Chattogram city's CRB area to protect the environment, people under different platforms gathered at the area to protest the initiative yesterday. They formed a human chain, held a procession and planted saplings to get the message across.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Empty beds

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is yet to start operation due to lack of an electric generator.

At private hospitals, although there are some 50 ICU beds. Around 90 percent of the beds have already been occupied, said sources.

"I rushed to all government hospitals for an ICU bed for my mother, who has Covid-19, but in vain. Then I went to five private hospitals, but all ICU beds were occupied. At last, I got one at Parkview Hospital," said Imtiaz Uddin, a resident of port city's Pahartoli.

"Although we are from middle-income group, I had no choice but to go for a private hospital," he said.

The district witnessed the highest number of infections in a day on Tuesday, as 1,003 cases were detected from 2,869 samples, putting the positivity rate at 35 percent. Ten patients died that day.

On Monday, 955 cases were detected from 2,649 samples and 10 people died that day. On Sunday, 2,174 samples were tested, and 821 were positive. Nine patients died that day.

Contacted, CMCH Director Brig Gen SM Humayun Kabir said 284 patients were admitted to the hospital's 300-bed Covid-19 ward yesterday. All 10 ICU beds were occupied.

"We have already stopped regular admission in general wards and general surgery due to the surge of Covid-19 patients," he said.

Dr Abdur Rob, senior consultant of medicine and head of Covid-19 ward at CGH, said 140 patients were admitted to the hospital's 150-bed Covid-19 ward yesterday. All the 18 ICU beds were filled up.

Sources at BITID said only five beds at the 35-bed Covid-19 ward were vacant yesterday.

In private hospitals, patients also outnumbered beds.

A total of 130 patients remained admitted at the 120-bed Covid ward of Chattogram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital till yesterday; 70 at the 60-bed ward of Parkview Hospital; 52 at the 50-bed ward of Metropolitan Hospital, and 46 at the 45-bed ward of Max Hospital.

Public health expert and head of BITID laboratory Prof Dr Shakeel Ahmed said the infection rate is likely going to peak in the coming days, before going down.

People have to follow health rules and get vaccinated, he added.

Prof Dr Sujat Paul, head of medicine and Covid ward at CMCH, said prominence of the Delta variant and infections in rural areas are mainly responsible for rising Covid-19 cases.

"If number of patients keeps increasing at the present rate, the district's health system will collapse," Dr Paul said. "Where will you get ICU? ICUs cannot be installed overnight. We have to be cautious and conscious; there is no other alternative."

Khulna residents

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leaving Sonadanga bus stand, and long-distance buses, including those going to Dhaka, started their journey from Royal Junction.

Jahangir Alam Khandaker Dara, manager of Eagle Paribahan at Royal Junction, said passengers are very much available as expected.

Meanwhile, a cattle market was inaugurated at Joragata yesterday. Khulna City Corporation is operating it.

Sacrificial animals have started coming from different places, and buyers are also gathering. But health rules were not being followed.

Shamsuzzaman Mia Swapan, convener of the market's management committee, told The Daily Star that mandatory face-mask and disinfectant use, and social distancing will be given top priority.

"We are working towards that goal," he said.

The government announced to relax the strict countrywide lockdown from July 14 midnight till 8am on July 23.

However, some restrictions are still in place.

However, lockdown had been in place in Khulna since June 14, as the bordering district saw a sharp rise in the number of Covid-19 cases.

Most of the city's big markets and shopping malls -- including Newmarket, Khulna Shopping Complex, Boro Bazar, Akhter Chamber and Nixon market -- were packed with customers, but health rules were not followed.

Habibur Rahman, a resident of the city's Bastuhara area, who came to Nixon Market, told The Daily Star that most people did not pay attention to the guidelines.

In most cases, market authorities did not allow people to enter markets without masks. However, some were seen walking around without masks, and some had masks in their hands or just covering the chin.

Rupsha Bazar, Moylapota Bazar, Gallamari Bazar, Ferryghat Sanitary Market, New Market, Baro Bazar and Dakbanga also witnessed rather large crowds.

Easy-bikes, CNG-run autorickshaws and other three-wheelers were plying the streets, ignoring health guidelines. Inter-district transport vehicles were seen

5th death anniversary of MA Mannan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Dr MA Mannan, a neurologist and former Awami League lawmaker of Katiadi-Pakundia constituency in Kishoreganj.

A language movement veteran and Liberation War organiser, Dr Mannan died of old-age complications at a Dhaka hospital in 2016, said a press release.

Born on December 2, 1932, he joined Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (formerly known as Institute of Postgraduate Medicine and Research) in 1969 and initiated treatment for neurological disorders for the first time.

Founder of Neurology Foundation and Epilepsy Association of Bangladesh, Prof Mannan was awarded Ekushey Padak in 2015 for his contributions to the medical sector and social services.

He founded Dr Abdul Mannan Women's College in Kishoreganj and several educational and social institutions.

He was the member and president of Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council for 12 years.



Dhaka relapses

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A record rise in the number of Covid-19 cases and fatalities in recent days prompted the government to enforce a nationwide strict lockdown from July 1. It was later extended until July 14.

However, ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, the government issued a circular on Monday, relaxing the lockdown from July 15 to July 23. From July 23 to August 5, the "strict lockdown" will be reinstated.

Eid shoppers continued to pour into shopping centres, which struggled to ensure health-safety rules, raising concerns over the spread of Covid-19.

Sanjida Akhter, who went to New Market from Mohammadpur around 12:30pm, said she experienced heavy congestion near Science Lab area, as rickshaws and private vehicles were flocking to the market.

This correspondent found shops full of people from 10am in Dhaka's major shopping malls and markets, including New Market, Chadni Chawk, Gausia, Noor Mansion, Chandrima Super Market and Bashundhara City Shopping Mall.

At most shopping centres, maintaining health and safety rules appeared to be a big challenge, due to the heavy flow of customers.

Crowds at New Market were seen buying crockery, kitchenware and home décor items.

"Qurbani Eid is ahead. I came to buy crockery and kitchenware as the items are cheaper here," said Ayesha Khanom, who came to the market from Dhanmondi.

Clothing stores at Gausia were also packed. Several shopkeepers and buyers were seen without masks.

"It's tough to always keep the mask up and talk to customers. So, sometimes we keep it down," said Iqbal Rana, a seller at a clothing store at the first floor of New Market.

During the visit, no physical distancing was observed at most shops of Noor Mansion, due to the market's limited space.

Sellers at various shopping centres and malls expected that the number of shoppers will rise in the next one or two days, as Eid is right around the corner.

Eid shoppers

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Most shop owners have filled their shops with goods two weeks before the Eid, Yasin Ali said.

"But I doubt if they can sell 25 percent of the goods," he said.

Yasin, also a joint secretary of the market's traders association, said they were trying their best to maintain health rules and help buyers follow safety measures during the shopping.

At Seroil and Bhadra transport hubs, buses were seen leaving for different destinations with passengers.

Trains also reached and left Rajshahi Railway Station yesterday.

Nuruddin, an employee of a shop, said he took leave to travel to Patuakhali, to spend the Eid holidays with his family.

Local authorities imposed a lockdown from June 3 in Rajshahi when transmission of the coronavirus gripped the communities. The government relaxed the countrywide strict lockdown from yesterday to July 22, mainly surrounding Eid-ul-Azha.

Mamunul denied

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Mamunul from Jamia Rahmania Arabia madrasa in Mohammadpur on April 18.

The following day, he was shown arrested in a case filed on March 7 last year over vandalism by activists of the Qawmi madrasa-based organisation in Mohammadpur. He was placed on a seven-day remand.

He was also shown arrested in 16 other cases filed with Paltan, Motijheel and Narayanganj's Sonargaon police stations.

Later Mamunul was placed on a 30-day remand in 10 of those cases. Of them, 12 days remand were granted in four cases while 18 days remand in six cases including a rape case filed with Sonargaon Police Station of Narayanganj.

After remand, Mamunul was sent to Kashimpur jail in Gazipur on June 5.

Nine killed

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In Dijaipur, a couple was killed after a pickup van hit their motorbike in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur.

The deceased are Md Abdul Salam (32) and Baby Aktar (26) of Debipur. They passed away at Birganj Upazila Health Complex.

In Chapainawabganj, two persons were killed as a locally-improvised vehicle hit their motorcycle at Boro Dadpur of Gomostapur around 11am. The deceased are Mojibur Rahman (39) and his relative Rubina Khatun (18).

CMP introduces vaccine reg booth for general people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

With an aim to encourage city dwellers to take vaccines to prevent Covid-19, Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) set up a vaccine registration booth for people from all walks of life yesterday.

The booth was installed at the Kotwali Police Station premises, and inaugurated by CMP Commissioner Saleh Mohammed Tanvir.

The idea to set up the booth was conceived by Deputy Commissioner (South) of CMP Bijoy Basak.

In the welcome speech, the CMP Commissioner asked city dwellers to register for the coronavirus vaccine and requested to follow health safety guidelines to curb the high rate of infection in the port city.

He said anyone can register for the vaccine using the booth, and police personnel will help them to get registered.

Additional Commissioner (traffic) Shamayal Kumar Nath and Additional Commissioner (Crime) Shamsul Islam were also present on the occasion.

According to the civil surgeon's office, 5,42,274 people completed registration for vaccine in the city till yesterday.

HC refuses

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He said Prothom Alo authorities had negligence that caused the death of Naimul Abrar Rahat.

On November 1, 2019, Naimul Abrar Rahat, a ninth grader of Dhaka Residential Model College was electrocuted during the anniversary programme of Prothom Alo's youth magazine Kishor Alo at the college premises.

Deputy Attorney General Bipul Bagmar represented the state during virtual hearing on the petition.



Unilever Bangladesh has donated a large consignment of oxygen concentrator machines to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). The machines will be distributed in different hospitals of all divisions. Shamima Akhter -- head of corporate affairs, partnerships and communications of Unilever Bangladesh -- handed over the machines to DGHS Director General Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam on Wednesday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



VACANCY NOTICE

World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following positions under following contractual modality:

- Information Management Officer / SSA
- Immunization and Outbreaks Officer / SSA

For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:

<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>
<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>

Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
 BSC Bhaban, 1st Floor, Saltgola Road
 Chittagong

Corrigendum

Invitation for International Re-Tender for Supply of Hot-Rolled Mild Steel Plate

This is to notify for all concerned that due to unavoidable circumstances, above subject tender, published on 17th June, 2021 in The Daily Star, The Daily Financial Express, The Kaler Kantho and The Daily Samakal have been amended as mentioned below:

Tender Ref. No.	Sl	Description	Existing	Amended
28.03.0000.041.01.013.19 (HRS-02) Dated: 17th June, 2021	13	Tender last selling date	15-07-2021	22-08-2021
	14	Tender closing date and time	18-07-2021 Time: 1200 Hours (BST)	23-08-2021 Time: 1200 Hours (BST)
	15	Tender opening date and time	18-07-2021 Time: 1215 Hours (BST)	23-08-2021 Time: 1215 Hours (BST)
	16	Offer validity time	10-08-2021 Time: 1700 Hours (BST)	15-09-2021 Time: 1700 Hours (BST)

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

GD-1354