

20 hurt

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Shipping Ministry's Senior Information Officer Jahangir Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

Other members are BIWTA director M Shahjahan, BIWTC's AGM (Marine) Ahmed Ali and BIWTC's AGM (Engineering) Rubeluzzaman.

Twenty passengers of the ferry were injured in the incident, the senior information officer of shipping ministry said adding that none of them were in serious condition.

The ferry had 38 vehicles and more than one hundred passengers on board.

The master of the ferry Abdur Rahman was suspended following the incident "for failing to operate properly", the official added.

Abdur Rahman, however, claimed that the accident took place due to mechanical error.

He said the electric system of the ferry suddenly failed while passing between the 16th and 17th pillars of the Padma Bridge.

The ferry lost control and hit the 17th pillar of the Padma Bridge, causing some damage to the ferry.

Mawa Naval Police Officer-in-Charge Sirajul Kabir said front side of the ferry was hit and twisted. However, there was no damage to the vehicles on the ferry.

The ferry is now being repaired at Shimulia Ghat.

Bashundhara MD

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Sudip said, "... She wrote [in the diary] about their relationship, the social barriers to recognition of the relationship, her expectation of a happy conjugal life with the accused and the barriers from his family."

She detailed her serious frustration in her diaries and these will be the key to establishing the case, he said at the time.

Sudip didn't answer his phone when The Daily Star repeatedly called him for comments on the latest turn of events.

The victim's elder sister said, "Police said Anvir's name was written on different parts of my sister's body. Photos of Anvir and her were hung on the walls of her bedroom. Their flat was decorated with their photographs. The texts and call records in her two phones showed that she expressed her frustration about the relationship. Also, the social barriers to their relationship indicate strong evidence against Anvir for abetting the death of my sister."

She added that police said they found CCTV footage of Anvir visiting Munia's flat before April 26.

"I was not informed by the investigation officer (IO) about the final report before it was submitted to the court.

"When I came to know about the final report of the case from the media, I called the IO, but he did not answer my calls. I will file a no-confidence petition before the court against the final report after learning the details of the matter."

IO Abul Hasan told this correspondent that he would not comment about the matter.

On April 26, police recovered the body of the 21-year-old woman, hanging from the ceiling fan of her bedroom in Gulshan. Her feet were touching the bed and both knees were a little bent.

Soon after the case was filed, the court issued a ban on Anvir from travelling abroad after the IO filed an application seeking the ban on April 27.

Anvir did not get bail from any court in the case recorded as a "cognisable offence", CMM court officials said.

Under section 4 (f) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), "Cognisable Case" means police can arrest the accused without any warrant, said legal experts.

There are multiple instances in the capital of police arresting individuals involved in abetting victims for dying by suicide, they added.

For example, six people, including a sub-inspector of Khilgaon Police Station, were arrested soon after a case was filed over abetting death by suicide of Simi Banu in the capital's Khilgaon area on December 23, 2001.

Simi, a final-year student of Narayanganj Institute of Fine Arts, killed herself after she was tormented by the six arrestees.

But police or other law enforcers were rather indifferent in the case against Anvir by not arresting him even though he was in public without a bail, said lawyers.

Age bar to be lowered to 18 years

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that the storage capacity is not exhausted."

He said those who have not received the second jab of the AstraZeneca vaccine will get it gradually once it becomes available again soon. A shipment of AstraZeneca vaccine is set to arrive in the country today under the Covax facility.

Urging people to get vaccinated, he said, "We talked to several elderly Covid patients at Mugda hospital. None of them had taken the vaccine."

Once someone gets vaccinated, it is unlikely that he or she would need hospitalisation even if infected with the virus, he said.

He further said patients from other districts are rushing to Dhaka through hospitals outside the capital have

enough capacity.

Regarding the vaccine campaign in rural areas, he said the government is planning to simplify the registration process.

"We have a plan to give the Covid vaccines in the same way we give other vaccines, without NID cards. We are trying to make the vaccination process easier."

Asked whether the government is capable of handling a further surge in Covid cases, the DGHS DG said, "I cannot say whether we will be able to handle the situation properly..."

He urged the journalists to keep reassuring people. "We have to assure people that the government is ready with doctors, nurses, and necessary logistics. Otherwise, they will become frustrated."

No Eid cheer for seasonal rawhide traders

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"I kept the rawhide until Thursday morning at my home but nobody came for it. At last, I requested a cleaner in our area to take it away for disposal," he told The Daily Star.

In Patuakhali, thousands of skins were dumped in the Monu river by seasonal traders, collectors, madrasas and orphanage authorities.

In Bogura, about 10,000 pieces of goat and sheep skins were thrown in the garbage due to lack demands.

Ala Uddin, a seasonal leather

trader in Natore, said that he bought rawhide at a high price after seeing in the news that the price of leather was good this year.

But he had to sell goat hides for Tk 10-15 per piece after purchasing them for Tk 30-40.

Aminul Islam, a seasonal trader in Naldanga, Natore, one of the biggest markets for rawhide, said he bought goatskin at Tk 20 per piece and cowhide at Tk 200 to Tk 300 per piece and had to sell the goatskin at half the price he bought.

CETP incomplete even after 9 yrs

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The STIE finally took over the project from the joint venture company on June 27.

Meanwhile, the joint venture company's delay has pushed the country's several-billion-dollar leather sector into trouble, caused environmental pollution, damage to the nearby Dhaleshwari river and delay in obtaining the Leather Working Group (LWG) certification, which is required for better export prices of tanned leather.

The decision to terminate the contract with the company was taken based on recommendations of two technical committees formed in April to gauge the progress and impacts of the CETP.

From July 1, a newly formed government-owned local company, Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Ltd, has taken charge of the CETP, said Jitendra Nath Paul, project director of the STIE.

Although the CETP has been running for some time now, the online monitoring system has not been installed as per the agreement and its laboratory has inadequate testing facilities, Paul said.

Moreover, only four out of eight kinds of testing facilities were installed in the laboratory and a mini

workshop was not constructed at the CETP site, he said.

Paul said the government may now take another project for Balancing, Modernisation, Rehabilitation and Expansion (BMRE) to make it fully operational.

"We will cut Tk 25 crore from the total payable amount of Tk 492 crore to the construction company as penalty, as per the agreement," Paul told The Daily Star by phone.

Paul also said the current low capacity of the CETP reservoir -- 25,000 cubic metres per day -- is not able to handle the overflow of water during the peak season at Eid-ul-Azha, when 50 percent of the country's annual rawhide is generated.

With little reserves of water, Paul advised tanners not to overuse water in tanning rawhides and not to run all the tanneries at the same time.

The global standard of using water for washing a tonne of rawhide is 30,000 litres but in case of Bangladesh the tanners use more than 65,000 litres of ground water.

Nurul Alam, managing director of DCL, the local partner of the joint venture company, said there was a lack of cooperation from the very beginning between the Chinese partner and the Bangladesh side in the CETP project.

The Chinese company did not want

Khurshid also said the country has necessary oxygen supplies in addition to imports.

"The demand for oxygen at normal times is around 80 to 90 tonnes, but now it has gone up to 200 tonnes. However, the country still has a supply of oxygen and is also importing from India."

About the impact of the "lockdown" during the first two weeks of this month, he said, "The previous two weeks did not have much effect [in reducing transmission]. However, transmission has decreased in the bordering districts."

"The effect of the lockdown will be evident within a few days," he added. **ASTRAZENECA JABS ARRIVE TODAY** A total of 2.45 lakh AstraZeneca vaccine shots will be arriving in

Bangladesh from Japan today.

The doses are part of 2.9 million that Japan is supplying to Bangladesh under the Covax facility, a foreign ministry official said.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen will be receiving the consignment, which will be carried by Cathay Pacific Airways. The consignment is scheduled to arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 3:00pm.

The arrival of the AstraZeneca shots will be a relief for some of the 15 lakh people who got their first dose but have been waiting for the second since April, after India had halted exports of AstraZeneca doses in March.

The Serum Institute of India had supplied only seven million of the initially contracted 30 million vaccines till then.

Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants Association (BHMSA), said they bought salt-aped rawhide at the government-set rate from seasonal traders.

BHMSA estimates that a total of 44 lakh bulls and 22 lakh goats were slaughtered this Eid-ul-Azha.

Md Hafizur Rahman, additional secretary (export) to the commerce ministry, who led a team to monitor the rawhide prices this year, said they found the traders got better prices this year in all divisions.

He, however, sold the cowhide at higher prices: Tk 400 to Tk 500 per piece.

Sabbir Ahmed, a seasonal trader in Uttara, was not as lucky. He bought rawhide at Tk 200 to Tk 300 depending on the size and quality and made a profit of about Tk 50.

In Chattogram, most of the rawhide were sold at lower prices than the government fixed rates for want of demand: Of the 22 tanneries in the port city, 21 are shut.

Md Aftab Uddin, president of the

prices as they cannot do business with compliant companies in absence of LWG certification.

Moreover, tanners have also not improved their compliances, did not reduce the water used in rawhide processing and improve working conditions to obtain the LWG certification, Hossain said.

Currently, most tanneries housed in the STIE have to sell the leather to non-compliant buyers in China and Europe as they do not have LWG certification, which indicates better practices of compliances and protection of environment.

Regarding the CETP, Shaheen Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Tanners Association, said nothing has been done in the CETP regarding the heavy metals.

Since the CETP is not complete it needs BMRE for obtaining the LWG certification, Shaheen Ahmed also said.

Md Saiful Islam, president of Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association of Bangladesh, said the export earning of leather and leather goods is on the way to recovery as western retailers and brands have been reopening their outlets.

In the last fiscal year, earnings from leather and leather goods grew by 18.06 percent to \$941.67 billion, data from the Export Promotion Bureau said.

Death toll from South Africa unrest jumps to 337: govt

AFP, Johannesburg

Rioting in South Africa this month has claimed 337 lives, the government said Thursday, marking a further jump in the death toll from the 276 announced the previous day.

"The South African police has revised the total number of deaths in Gauteng (province) to 79 and KwaZulu-Natal to 258 as related to the unrest," said Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, a minister in the president's office.

She added that some of the latest deaths were of people succumbing to injuries sustained during the riots.

Widespread looting and burning of businesses broke out earlier this month, a day after ex-president Jacob Zuma started serving a 15-month jail term for ignoring a corruption inquiry.

The violence escalated into the worst unrest since the end of apartheid, prompting President Cyril Ramaphosa to label it an attempted "insurrection".

It has so far caused an estimated \$3.4 billion of damage.

Violence spread through Zuma's home province KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, the two most populous provinces which together account for half of South Africa's economic output.

Adieu, true friend of Bangladesh

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Crush Revolt in Pakistan", which appeared in the front page of The Daily Telegraph on March 30, 1971.

In 1997, Dring joined partners in Bangladesh to develop, license, and build Ekushyeh Television, the first private, commercial terrestrial/satellite TV channel in Bangladesh.

President Abdul Hamid condoled the demise of Simon Dring.

"Simon Dring made immense contribution in informing the world about the genocide in Bangladesh and the struggle of the people through his coverage of our Liberation War. With his demise, Bangladesh lost a time-tested friend," President Hamid said in a condolence message.

He prayed for eternal peace of the noted journalist's departed soul and extended his condolences to the bereaved family.

In a condolence message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recalled the courageous role of Dring during the Liberation War.

"He revealed the information and report of the devastating genocide carried out by the Pakistani forces on March 25, 1971 in front of the world," she said.

The PM said he played a role to create public opinion in the global arena in favour of the Liberation War.

She said that he also contributed in developing mass media in independent Bangladesh and in operating the first ever private TV channel of the country, Ekushyeh Television. She prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and extended condolences to the bereaved family.

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Outrage spreads over 'snooping'

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on a list of alleged targets -- ordered "a strengthening of all security protocols" following a specially convened meeting of the nation's Defence Council, his office said.

Macron "has himself changed his phone and number for certain exchanges", it said.

Hungary was the only EU country listed as a potential user of the spyware, with hundreds of targets including journalists, lawyers and other public figures.

Hungarian prosecutors said on Thursday they had opened a probe "to establish the facts and to determine whether and, if so, what crime has taken place", the Budapest Regional Investigation Prosecutor's Office said.

Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto has insisted the government "has no knowledge of such data collection", while some critics decried the move as a time-wasting manoeuvre.

"They have years to investigate if they want... This is merely an administrative step," said Andras Lederer from the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

NSO insists its software is only intended for use in fighting terrorism and other crimes, and that it exports to 45 countries, with approval from the Israeli government.

The Israeli government said it has set up a commission to review the software.

The priority was "to review this whole matter of giving licences," lawmaker Ram Ben Barak, a former deputy head of the Mossad spy agency, told Army Radio.

Algeria's public prosecutor also ordered an investigation into media reports that the north African country may have been a target.

Osmani

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afternoon, to allow time for clearing or detonation of any mines laid during the night, and to drive in the centre of the road to avoid any mines at the sides.

Attacks against bridges and other communications by the guerrillas reportedly increased markedly in the last two weeks.

Major Khaled, commander of the Mukti Fauj's eastern sector, when told of a Times report that the military administration suspected Indian engineering skill behind these acts of sabotage, particularly disruption of power supply, seemed vastly amused.

He said: "There is certainly some specialised skill involved. A qualified and experienced engineer tells us what to do, and my boys go and do it. But this skill has come from Bangladesh itself."

OSMANI'S INTERVIEW WITH TIMES East Bengal freedom fighters claimed to have killed between 15,000 and 20,000 West Pakistani troops and wounded many others so seriously that they "must have succumbed to their injuries in hospital".

In a special interview with Times (London), Colonel MA Osmani, commander-in-chief of the Bangladesh forces, said he was speaking exclusively of losses suffered by the Pakistan army, implying that the enemy casualties did not include informers and collaborators killed by freedom fighters.

Colonel Osmani further said, "The enemy is receiving very considerable quantities of arms and sophisticated military hardware from more than one country, a situation in which my liberation forces find themselves in a serious handicap -- if the liberation forces were adequately equipped the impact of my operation would have been still more spectacular and would have brought to a speedy end the savagery of a nature that the worst of Hitler's brigands would have been ashamed of."

MORE ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN SEEN

American Senator Stuart Symington disclosed today that the US administration still intended to permit approximately \$15 million in arms to be shipped to Pakistan despite repeated official statements implying that a total embargo had been imposed on arms since war broke out in East Pakistan.

Senior officials privately confirmed that about \$15 million worth of arms, now in the hands of Pakistani government officials in the US, might be transported to Pakistan as soon as shipping and other administrative arrangements could be arranged.

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Khaleda

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dose of the Covid vaccine at Sheikh Russel Gastro Liver Institute and Hospital in the city's Mohakhali on Monday.

She is scheduled to get the second dose on August 19.

The BNP chief had tested positive for Covid-19 on April 11. She was admitted to Evercare Hospital on April 27.

She tested negative for Covid-19 on May 8. She returned home from the hospital on June 19.

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, the government temporarily freed Khaleda from jail on March 25 last year after issuing an executive order suspending her sentences in graft cases.

Over half

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speculation about where it first emerged, sparking a fiery response from Beijing.

Chinese Vice Health Minister Zeng Yixin said that he was "extremely surprised" by the WHO plan, which he said showed "disrespect for common sense and arrogance towards science".

More than four million people have died from the virus since December 2019, and though rates of vaccination are picking up globally, Delta is fuelling a rise in infections and prompting governments to reimpose anti-virus measures.

The EU said on Thursday that 200 million Europeans had been fully vaccinated, more than half of the adult population but still short of a 70 percent target set for the summer.

Germany's public health institute yesterday said it was putting Spain and the Netherlands on a list of high-incidence countries for coronavirus, meaning new restrictions for unvaccinated travellers.

European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde warned of growing economic uncertainty caused by Delta, as the bank kept its vast stimulus for the eurozone firmly in place following a meeting of its 25-member governing council.

"The euro area economy is rebounding strongly," Lagarde said, but the Delta variant could damp the post-lockdown recovery "in services, especially in tourism and hospitality", she said.

France this week rolled out new rules requiring a so-called health pass for all events or places with more than 50 people before being extended to restaurants, cafes and shopping centres in August.



World Health Organization
Bangladesh

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