



Why, despite years of campaigning against it, construction workers still work on multi-storey buildings without any kind of safety gear is a complicated question. The common sense may be to point the finger right at them, but that will be ignoring the negligent role of their employers and authorities concerned. This photo was taken yesterday from Kamrangirchar's Aganagar area.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Tahera Khanam passes away

UNB, Dhaka



Artist Tahera Khanam breathed her last early yesterday at Square Hospital in the capital. She was 86. She had been suffering from various health complications and an injury, said family members.

Born in 1935, Tahera completed her graduation in drawing and painting from the then Government Institute of Arts and Crafts (presently known as the Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University), in 1959.

She was one of the first four female students of the institution in 1954.

In 1960, she married Qayyum Chowdhury. The Ekushey Padak winning artist passed away in 2014.

The mangoes were sour anyway!

Authorities fell 166 trees in Barishal to construct building

SUSHANTA GHOSH

A total of 166 mango trees in front of Barishal's Bakerganj Upazila Parishad office have been cut down by authorities. When asked why this was done, the upazila chairperson said since the trees bear sour mangoes, they chopped them down to construct a new building.

On Friday and Saturday, authorities cut the trees down and removed the branches in a clandestine manner.

According to locals, seven years ago, then Barishal deputy commissioner Md Shahidul Alam planted the local variety of trees and built the mango orchard, locally known as DC's Garden. Apart from Bakerganj, Shahidul had planted trees in every upazila, confirmed Barishal DC office.

Syed Amiruzzaman Ripon, councillor of the upazila parishad's

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Most trees of the mango orchard, which was an initiative of then Barishal DC, have been chopped down for constructing a new building there. This photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Rule violators to be punished

Quader warns AL leaders, activists; says list of those who breached discipline being prepared

BSS, Dhaka



Awami League general Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday warned that if any AL leader or activist violates the party's discipline, stern organisational actions would be taken against them.

He made the remark while speaking at a press conference on contemporary issues at his official residence in the capital.

About the local government elections, Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, instructed the AL activists not to breach organisational discipline and get involved in internal conflicts centring the nominations of the union parishad elections.

As per the directives of the AL chief, a list of those who breached the party

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AL-backed 'looters' hiking prices

Alleges Gayeshwar about daily essentials

UNB, Dhaka



BNP standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy yesterday alleged that the prices of daily essentials are being driven up by the ruling party-backed plunderers despite having adequate supply of goods.

"The prices of goods usually go up when there's a scarcity or low production and low supply to the market. There's now no shortage of goods and all items are there in the market, but their prices

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'It seems pre-planned'

Investigators suspect outsiders may have used health ministry staffers to steal 17 missing files

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some beneficiaries outside the health ministry with interest in the procurement files might have used ministry staffers to steal the 17 files that went missing on Thursday, officials close to the investigation suspect.

Majority of the files were related to procurement by various medical colleges and health institutions, according to the list of the missing files.

"Outsiders might have tried to access the files with the help of the ministry's staffers. We are still investigating all possible links," an official of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, a CID source said the CCTV camera of room No 29 of building No 3 at the secretariat, from where the files were stolen, has been out of order for the last two months, which has made the investigation difficult.

CID is interrogating all 12 staffers who

worked at the room. Officials suspect the files were stolen as part of a pre-made plan.

Meanwhile, six staffers of the ministry's medical education division who were picked up by CID on Sunday are still in its custody.

"We didn't detain or arrest them. We're just interrogating them," CID's Additional Superintendent of Police Azad Rahman confirmed.

The files were stored in a room where operations of the Purchase and Collection-2 Section are conducted, according to a GD filed with Shahbagh Police Station on Thursday.

The room is adjacent to an office at room No 29 of building No 3 at the secretariat.

Stenographer/computer operators work in the room. Before leaving office on Wednesday, two of them had kept the files in their cabinet. But around Thursday noon, they discovered the files missing when they went to bring them out from the cabinet.

Private firm hired to rescue ferry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A team of divers of Genuine Enterprise, a private company, has started preliminary search work to rescue Amanat Shah, the ferry that half-sank in Manikganj's Paturia ghat, yesterday noon.

Eight members of the diving team are working to find out how to rescue the ferry safely, said Abdur Rahman, head of the team.

BIWTA director (shipping and management) Md Shahjahan said, "The Chattogram-based private company, has been tasked with rescuing the ferry on the basis of a public-private partnership."

The entire operation may cost Tk 1.5-2 crore, said BIWTA joint-director (rescue) and chief of rescue team Fazlul Rahman.

The decision to hire the company was finalised on Sunday, said Ajay Debnath, manager of Genuine Enterprise.

On Wednesday, the ferry tipped over in the Padma river with 18 vehicles.

All of the vehicles have been rescued and handed over to their respective owners.

3 die as boat capsizes in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three bodies were recovered and one person is still missing after a boat capsized in the Buriganga river near Kamrangirchar area in Dhaka yesterday.

The deceased are Rekha (29), Sanjida (8) and her brother Shafiqul Islam (7). Shitol Begum, (27), mother of Sanjida and Shafiqul, is still missing.

"The boat carrying 11 passengers capsized at Huzurghat around 9:15am after being hit by a cargo vessel," said Hafizur Rahman, deputy assistant director of fire service.

"The search operation was suspended around 5:30pm and will begin again tomorrow [today]," said Abul Khair, a diver.

4 die in road accidents

Out-of-control truck runs rampage in Munshiganj

STAR REPORT

Four people have died and at least 27 others were injured in road accidents across Gazipur, Munshiganj, and Rajbari over the last two days, report our correspondents.

In Munshiganj, chaos ensued on the Muktarpur Bridge under Sadar upazila, as a truck carrying government fertiliser lost control and bumped on to at least 15 vehicles on the road.

In the aftermath, Runa Akhter (35), who was riding a CNG auto-rickshaw, died, while at least 20 people were injured.

14 of them were treated at Munshiganj General Hospital, while the rest are being

treated at local hospitals.

The accident took place on the Dhaka-Muktarpur road in Muktarpur area around 1pm on Monday.

Deceased Runa Begum was a resident of the capital's Mirpur-1 area. Along with her husband and three children, she was coming to the upazila's Shakhariabazar area of Munshiganj Sadar from Mirpur to attend a relative's death anniversary programme, said her brother Md Farid Hasan. All three children sustained injuries from the accident.

Mohammad Bazlur Rahman, Traffic Police Inspector of Munshiganj Sadar, said, "The truck lost control on the

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Two people died and five were injured when a bus overturned while trying to overtake another vehicle on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Memberbari yesterday morning.

PHOTO: STAR



5-year-old dies in Dhaka road crash

Parents, sister sustain injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-year-old boy died while three of his family members sustained injuries after a truck hit a rickshaw carrying them in Dhaka's Gulshan area early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mahfuzur Rahman Rihan.

Rihan was on the rickshaw along with his parents, Shahjadi Akter and Abdur Rahim, and sister Rahi (6), all of whom sustained injuries from the collision that took place in Shahjadpur area around 12:15am, police said.

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As winter slowly approaches the country with the occasional chills, blanket makers are passing busy times. Depending on the type of cotton and size, blankets are being sold at a price range of Tk 800 to 1000. The photo was taken yesterday at the Boro Bazar Clay road in Khulna.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

CHATTOGRAM MEDICAL COLLEGE

CHRONICLE OF BCL VIOLENCE

Control over extortion, syndicate, establishing supremacy behind factional clashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The clash at Chattogram Medical College (CMC) on Saturday was not an isolated incident. It is a continuation of rivalry between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) over establishing supremacy at the institute, said sources.

The two factions -- one loyal to former city mayor AJM Nasir Uddin and another to deputy education minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel -- locked into clashes on Friday and Saturday.

Sources at CMC said the rivalry got started to establish full control over illegal activities, like extorting adjacent clinics and diagnostic centres, managing the illegal syndicate that supplies food to CMC and misappropriating the hospital's medicines.

Preferring anonymity, a CMC student said extortion is one of the main sources of illegal income for the student leaders. For example, the leaders can extort money from business establishments, like the 30 private clinics and diagnostic centres adjacent to CMC.

or monthly to extort cash," said a mid-level management official of a private clinic. "On many occasions, the student leaders come to us to sponsor their programmes, and we must accept to do so."

Although both factions of BCL denied all this, they accused one another of doing the aforementioned activities.

Contacted, Abhijit Das, a fourth-year CMC student and leader of the BCL faction loyal to the junior minister, said extortion and syndicates are a reality at CMC.

"A section of students dominate the hostel, campus and hospital in the name BCL. They are behind all sorts of extortion and illegal syndicates," he said.

Asked who they are, he said, "The factions loyal to the former city mayor are behind all this."

"As we resisted the extortionists on campus, they conducted a series of attacks on us, and the last one was on Aqib, who is now fighting for his life in the ICU," he added.

Contacted, Al Amin Islam Shimul, general secretary of BCL's CMC unit,

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Another CMC student echoed the same. "BCL, which fully controls the college's central students' union... has formed an illegal syndicate to supply food to the hospital, misappropriate medicine from CMCH stores and wards, and extort clinics, diagnostic centres, ambulance drivers, and some big pharmacies in front of CMCH."

"They don't necessarily come daily

SUNDARBAN'S SURRENDERED ROBBERS

Still bogged down by cases

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, from Rampal

328 members of 32 gangs surrendered from 2016 to 2018

In 2018, PM declared Sundarbans 'robber-free'

Multiple cases still ongoing against many

Case costs a major obstacle for them

They surrendered and handed over their arms in search of a regular life. But three years after the prime minister declared the Sundarbans "robber-free", the robbers in question are yet to find a viable path in life, with no thanks to the endless web of proceedings of previously filed criminal cases.

There are multiple cases against many of the 328 surrendered robbers. Today, their only demand is that they be exempted from the cases filed for robbery.

They were gathered yesterday at a rehabilitation programme arranged by Rab in Rampal upazila of Bagerhat, marking the third anniversary of "Robber-Free Sundarbans".

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