

Railway to seek expert opinion

Authorities fear traffic movement on Padma Bridge may cause problem for installing rail tracks

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Railway authorities have decided to seek opinion from independent experts about whether traffic movement on Padma Bridge would cause problems for installing rail tracks on the lower part of the double-decker bridge.

The panel of experts, which will be led by a professor from the civil engineering department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and have members from abroad, is likely to be formed next week, two railway officials said.

The decision came from a meeting on Monday, when Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon visited the site of Padma Bridge Rail Link Project (PBRLP), along with members of the standing committee on railways ministry, they said.

As per the government's announcement, Padma Bridge will be open to the public in June next year.

But work of PBRLP is unlikely to be completed within the deadline, as railway officials are yet to get permission to start installing the rail track from Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), which is constructing Padma Bridge. After getting permission, it would take at least six months to install the track.

One possible reason for not providing permission is that BBA is currently installing gas lines beside where the rail track would be.

PBRLP officials fear if the road section of the bridge is opened in June, operation of vehicles would create vibrations, which may hamper the work.

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Students are returning to the Dhaka University campus after the long, lockdown-induced closure. For the university's cleaning staff, this means it's time to get to work. As part of their cleaning drive, they were found busy shining up the Aparajeyo Bangla sculpture yesterday.

WALL COLLAPSE Govt served legal notice over death of Zihad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two rights organisations have served separate legal notices on authorities concerned of the government and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), requesting them to give Tk 1 crore compensation to the family of seven-year-old schoolboy Zihad Hossain, who was killed after a wall collapsed on him in the capital's Azimpur area on Tuesday.

Children's Charity Bangladesh Foundation (CCB Foundation) and Ain-Odhikar (BD) Foundation sent the legal notices to the authorities on Wednesday and yesterday, following a report published on The Daily Star on Wednesday, headlined "Boy killed as road-side wall collapses".

In the legal notices, they said the authorities' negligence in strengthening the wall has caused Zihad's death.

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KALABAGAN RAPE, MURDER Charges pressed against accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday pressed charges against Fardin Iftekhar Dihan, the lone accused, in a case filed over the rape and murder of a school student at Dhaka's Kalabagan in January.

Investigation Officer Khalid Saifullah, an inspector of Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, a court official told The Daily Star.

In the charge sheet, the IO said they conducted DNA test, analysed evidence and recorded statements of witnesses and found that none but Fardin should be responsible for the death.

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Warrants fake, sufferings real

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg


Md Saiful Islam from Kishoreganj's Katiadi upazila was arrested on October 11 by police, following a conviction warrant issued by Chattogram Chief Metropolitan Court (CMM).

He was subsequently produced before the Kishoreganj judicial magistrate court and sent to jail.

The following day, a court clerk at the metropolitan court, who was registering Saiful's files sent from Kishoreganj, discovered something odd. The warrant itself was fake. The name of the magistrate on the warrant, Rezaul Karim, was false too.

Subsequently, the court officials sent a note to the authorities concerned to free Saiful from jail, but by then, an innocent man had already spent a few days in jail.

Saiful isn't the only victim of what appears to be a syndicate at the Chattogram court. It issues fake warrants -- forging the sign and seal



- Syndicates at courts issuing fake warrants to frame innocent people
- Signs, seals of magistrates being forged
- Unscrupulous lawyers, court staff, police and advocates' clerks part of syndicate
- Most fake warrants sent over personal or property feud, business rivalry
- Fake ones almost identical to originals
- On Oct 14, 2020, HC issued several directives to stop the illicit activity

of the magistrates of the courts -- targeting people, and then sends them to different police stations.

So far, court officials have identified 14 other fake warrants, which were sent at different times from courts.

After the incident came to light, CMM court's Najir Abul Kalam Azad filed a case, with permission of chief

metropolitan magistrate Robiul Alam, with Kotwali Police Station, accusing unknown persons on October 15.

Investigators and lawyers said a section of unscrupulous lawyers, court staff, police and advocates' clerks have formed the syndicate, which fabricates these fake warrants in exchange for huge sums of money.

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'New account fraud'

Syndicate embezzled hefty sums through identity fraud, says CTTC after arresting 2 fraudsters

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

CTTC officials have discovered a transnational syndicate that embezzles hefty amounts of foreign currencies through an international brokerage house.

Under the guise of working for outsourcing firms, members of the syndicate create fake accounts in the brokerage house and embezzle US dollars in what officials are calling the "New Account Fraud".

Cyber Crime Investigation Division of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit stumbled upon the syndicate after analysing their activities on social media, officials said.

From there, they arrested two fraudsters -- Md Sajid Hossain Setu and Md Ziaul Hoque, owner of outsourcing firm Digital IT Solution -- from Sirajganj in a special drive on Tuesday. AFM Al Kibria, deputy commissioner of CTTC unit, told The Daily Star.

"We have come to know the syndicate

has opened around one lakh accounts in the international broker house and embezzled over USD 15,000," he said.

"We're now collecting account statements of the arrestees and scrutinising them. We'll be able to say how much money they have embezzled after this."

The syndicate first collects personal information of foreign nationals, including social security numbers and account details of foreign bank accounts.

Against one bank account, it is possible to open 300 to 400 brokerage accounts, officials said.

Once an account is opened at the brokerage house, the equivalent of one dollar is sent to the foreign national's bank account to taste its transaction system.

The brokerage house then takes back the money within the next two days.

For a day, syndicate members open hundreds of such accounts. Before taking

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Faced with the slightest traffic, VIP cars spend no time taking the wrong lane. In front of Ramna's Engineering Institute yesterday, these two vehicles narrowly avoided an accident on the wrong way, while trying to go around a BRTA mobile court sign. However, both walked away without being fined by on-duty traffic personnel.

Don't you know of my power?

JL leader ruins 10 years of research, runs tractor down farmer's paddy field destroying 62 varieties; police yet to record case

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

A President's Gold Medal winning farmer's paddies were ruined by a Jubo League leader on Monday.

The JL leader, Abdul Wahab, general secretary of the ruling party associate organisation's Tanore Municipality unit, ran a tractor down the paddy field of Nur Mohammad, destroying 10 years of agricultural research work.

"What can you do if I ran a tractor down your field? Don't you know of my power?" farmer Nur Mohammad quoted JL leader Abdul Wahab as saying, as he and his aides surrounded him and beat him up.

They also restrained him until their rampage -- that affected some 62 paddy varieties -- ended.

The field is located in at Gollapara village under Rajshahi's Tanore upazila.

On the same day, Nur Mohammad tried to file a complaint with the local



PHOTO: STAR

It usually takes 14 years to complete research into a paddy variety, which means Nur Muhammad's 62 varieties only had 4 years of research left.

police, citing a Tk 15 lakh loss.

However, police refused to record the case as of yesterday, while the JL

leader has kept on pressuring the farmer to agree on a settlement.

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Shaheen Kabir passes away

CITY DESK

Shaheen Mahbuba Kabir, former professor of English at Jahangirnagar University, passed away at her Dhaka residence yesterday morning. She was 73, said a press release.

She had been suffering from pancreatic cancer for more than two years.

Shaheen Kabir left behind a son, a daughter, a younger sister and numerous students, friends and well-wishers.

While teaching at the

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'Green together'

Denmark offers tech to help Bangladesh with green transition

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Having decades of experience in green technology, Denmark is offering green technologies -- in water, agriculture, infrastructures or industries -- to help Bangladesh to its efforts of successful green transition.

"In Denmark, we have managed to reduce carbon emission significantly by using our innovative technologies, and we do that while creating more jobs in the green sector," Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh, Winnie Estrup Petersen, said at a closing ceremony of the five-day exhibition titled "Green Together" on Wednesday night.

At the event at Bay's Edge Gallery in the capital, she said Denmark produces more than 43 percent of electricity from wind, and its ambitious goals to reduce carbon footprint and achieve sustainable growth is globally relevant, especially fast growing economy like Bangladesh.

From that perspective the Denmark embassy hosted the exhibition, in the backdrop of COP26 in Glasgow, to highlight commercially viable green solutions.

The exhibition themes included "Sustainable Green Buildings and Future of Urbanization", "Future of Sustainable Apparel Production", "Sustainable Future of Food" and "Transition to Sustainable Infrastructure".

At the last day of the exhibition, State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak said Bangladesh is eager to embrace the green technologies and cut carbon emission.

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Killings, clashes in name of 'farical' polls

Says GM Quader on UP elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Killings and violent clashes are taking place in the name of union parishad elections, as farical polls are going on in the country, said Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman GM Quader yesterday.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Jatiya Medical Technologists Council at the party chairman's Banani office in the capital, Quader said the Election Commission (EC) has completely failed to maintain a conducive environment for holding local body polls in a free, fair and neutral manner.

The JP boss said the constitution has given a lot of power to the EC for

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Anwara Begum migrated from Dinajpur to Dhaka to make a living at the age of 65. Denied financial support from her children, she now lives off buying plastic toys from Old Dhaka and selling them near the Shaheed Minar. A portion of her income goes to the shop owner, while she supports herself with the rest. This photo was taken recently.