

Lower court judge apologises for rejecting bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamalpur's Additional District and Sessions Judge Jinnat Jahan Jhunu yesterday offered unconditional apology to the High Court for rejecting the bail petition of an accused, even though the HC had granted him ad-interim bail earlier in a case.

Besides, Jhunu submitted an application to the HC, saying that she has committed an "unintended mistake" by rejecting the bail petition of Md Zakirul out of carelessness and promised that she will remain careful in discharging duties in future.

Earlier in the day, Jhunu appeared before the HC bench of Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain and Justice Ahmed Sohel in compliance with its previous summons order.

The bench exonerated Jhunu from the show-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Govt to set up 5 burn units in 5 divisions

Health minister tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken a plan to set up burn units in five divisional medical colleges and hospitals in the country with Saudi Arabian funding, Health Minister Zahid Maleque told parliament yesterday.

He said this during a question-answer session, chaired by Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury.

In response to a query from ruling Awami League MP M Abdul Latif, the health minister said the units would be set up in Sylhet, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barishal and Faridpur.

The health minister said the project was approved at the Ecneec meeting on December 7 last year and will be implemented from July 2022 to June 2025.

"In addition, a 100-bed burn unit will be set up at Chattogram Medical College Hospital funded by the Chinese government. Another project has been taken to set up a burn unit in Mymensingh and Khulna district under the fourth sector programme," said the minister.

Meanwhile, in reply to a query from ruling AL MP Aminul Islam, the health minister told parliament that mobile courts of Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) has cancelled registration of 136 commercial drugs in 2021

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



With water level of the Teesta rising rapidly, flood victims of Shankardah village in Dinajpur's Gangachara upazila relocate pieces of their dismantled house to a safer place. Inset, in Kurigram's Holokhana union, a family relocates to a safer place after flood waters from the Dharla river submerged their home.

PHOTO: COLLECTED, STAR

The north cries FOR HELP

Govt relief yet to reach victims as flood situation intensifies

STAR REPORT

As the flood situation worsens in the northern districts, thousands of people are passing hard days amid food and drinking water shortage. Many flood-affected people have taken shelters at flood centres, embankments, roads and other places as their homes have perished under water.

The cry for relief is getting louder as the government's relief programmes are not sufficient, claimed flood victims.

In Sirajganj, houses of some 3,430 families in almost 100 villages have been submerged. A total of 181 flood shelters have been opened in the district, said Md Akteruzzaman, district relief and rehabilitation officer (DRRO).

A portion of an embankment was eroded in Rautara village of Shahzadpur upazila and an earthen road was washed away in Malshapara area in Sadar upazila by the flood.

The Jamuna was flowing 37cm above the danger level at Kazipur point yesterday morning, according to the water development board.

"I along with my family are passing days under the open sky as our home has been flooded. We're facing a shortage of food and drinking water," said Maruf Hossain, a resident of Brammangacha village in Shahzadpur upazila.

The district administration has allocated 140 metric tonnes of rice for the flood victims.

In Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, the rivers Brahmaputra and Dharla were flowing above danger level, inundating a vast area.

Farmer Abdul Hamid (60), drowned in flood water at Kisamat Chandrapur village in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila.

"We've taken shelter on the road and have been staying in a polythene-wrapped hut ever since my house went under water. My cattle also perished in the flood," said Ahela Bewa (65), a resident of Char Jatrapur area in Kurigram Sadar upazila.



Another victim, Noor Mohammad (58), of the same area said, "The fence and furniture of my house have washed away. My cattle are facing an acute crisis of fodder."

Rikta Begum (30), of Sardob village in Kurigram Sadar upazila, said, "Our entire village has been flooded, still we haven't received any assistance from the government."

Kurigram's DRRO Abdul Hye Sarker said the district administration has allocated 295 tonnes of rice, Tk 14.50 cash, and 1,000 packets of dry food for flood victims.

In Bogura, around 58,000 people of Sariakandi upazila and Sonatala upazila have been marooned as the Jamuna continues swelling.

Some 31 primary schools have been shut in the two upazilas, as the schools' premises have gone under water, said DRRO Golam Kibria. The river was flowing 53 cm above the danger level at the Mathurapara point Sariakandi yesterday afternoon, said WDB officials.

Rina Begum, a flood victim of

Dakatmara char under Sariakandi upazila said, "We have been stuck on a small piece of land with our cattle, three children and other family members for the last five days."

"We are very worried about our children as they are so little. We are trying hard to shift them to a safe place," she said.

Mazeda Begum of the Kuripara char in the same upazila said, "We have no food and cannot cook since the flood water entered our home on Sunday night."

Anis Mollah of the Chanpochar char of the same upazila said, "We are marooned for the last six days and are yet to receive any flood relief."

However, the DRRO Golam Kibria said they have allocated 40 tonnes of rice for the district's flood victims.

In Rangpur, the flood situation keeps getting worse as the water level of the region's major rivers is rapidly increasing. Several thousand people have been stranded due to the flood.

[Our correspondents from Pabna, Lalmonirhat, Bogura and Rangpur contributed to this report]

Brunt of the weekends

JU regular students neglected as teachers busy with weekend courses

SHEIKH TAJUL ISLAM TAJ

Teachers of Jahangirnagar University have allegedly been found neglecting the academic activities of regular students due to their involvement in the weekend programmes running in various departments.

Faculty members of the English department have claimed to be "overburdened" with "regular courses". However, it was found that most of them have been taking at least three courses in the weekend programmes, owing to more remunerations generated in those courses.

According to the students of the department, neither have they held sufficient classes and regular exams nor published the grades on time and properly.

"I could not sit for any tutorials or classes Prof M Moniruzzaman's course. Surprisingly, I discovered my tutorials and attendance marks on a mark sheet issued by him," claimed a student of the department, requesting anonymity.

When asked, Prof M Moniruzzaman said he gave back the assignment copies to the students after grading them so he couldn't verify the claim.

"This 'privatisation of public universities' has become a regular phenomenon. It must be stopped immediately."

PROF ANU MOHAMMAD

"The student might have submitted. A mistake might have occurred."

Meanwhile, an enrollee of the department's weekend programme said they have had regular classes with the very same teachers, and the grading was done on time and properly.

"These problems are nothing new in this department. We are overburdened with courses. We have a shortage of teachers," said Sabera Sultana, head of the department.

However, she could not state the reasons behind conducting weekend programmes by the overburdened faculty members.

Regular students of other departments have been bearing the brunt of the weekend courses as well. "Our department is always late with results. We got our second-year results a year after the final exam," said a student from the economics department.

"This 'privatisation of public universities' has become a regular phenomenon. It must be stopped immediately," said Prof Anu Mohammad of JU Economics department.

Contacted, JU VC Prof Nurul Alam said, "It's unacceptable for teachers to ignore regular students. I will immediately talk to them."

"Weekend programmes are not allowed. Our instructions were to hold classes on weekends for regular students to compensate for the learning loss during the pandemic. I will talk to the vice chancellor in this regard," said Prof Dil Afroza Begum, acting chairman of UGC.

2 to die for AUST student murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday confirmed the death sentence of two people and upheld life imprisonment of two others for killing Subir Chandra Das, a student of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST), in 2013.

Subir Chandra Das (22) was strangled to death by the convicts over previous enmity on January 21, 2013. His body was found near a brick kiln at Kotalia village in Savar the following day.

On October 23, 2016, a Dhaka court sentenced Farhad Hosain Sizu and Mohammad Hasan, two classmates of Subir, and sentenced Md Shafique Ahmed and Shawon alias Kamrul Hasan to life imprisonment for the killing.

Fire guts 6 shops in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A fire broke out at a market adjacent to Ganginarpar Mosque in Mymensingh city, engulfing at least six shops yesterday morning.

Traders said the fire service was informed when shops were being opened around 10:45am.

A fire-service team rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, after an hour long effort, said Niaz Ahmed, deputy assistant director of Mymensingh Fire Service and Civil Defense.

The losses haven't been assessed yet, said the official, adding that the fire may have originated from a short circuit in a cycle store depot on the market's second floor.

WATERLOGGING IN CHATTOGRAM

No respite in sight for residents



The residents of port city are faced with immense sufferings as waste-deep water has clogged many low-lying areas, even claiming life of two persons. People of lower income groups are the worst sufferers as many of them are unable to cook food with their homes being inundated. Power has been cut off and many were unable to go to work. These photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Though the night-long torrential rain paused yesterday morning, many low-lying areas of the port city remain waterlogged.

Bahodderhat, Chandgaon, Chawkbazar, Badurtola, Bakalia, Kapasgola, Katalganj, Shulokbahar, different areas of Halishahar and North Agrabad, Anandabazar, Rahmatganj and other areas are still inundated in knee-to-waist-deep water till the filing of this report.

Many of these areas also experienced power outages for several hours till yesterday afternoon.

This has caused immense suffering to residents of the areas, even resulting in two deaths.

Two persons died from electrocution while trying to disconnect the IPS unit at an inundated ground floor of three-storey "Khan House" at Katalganj under Panchlaish

yesterday morning, informed Nazim Uddin Mazumder, officer-in-charge of Panchlaish Police Station.

The deceased were identified as Abu Taher (65), gatekeeper of the building, and Md Abul Hossain (35), a driver.

Patenga Met Office recorded a 242 mm rainfall in Chattogram in the last 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday. According to the office, there was 94.5 mm of rainfall in the region in the last 12 hours till 6:00am.

People belonging to the lower-income groups in different slums of these areas were the worst sufferers. Many families are also faced with a shortage of food.

Chattogram City Corporation Mayor Md Rejaul Karim Chowdhury could not leave his Bahodderhat residence for official work till yesterday afternoon as the locality remained waterlogged. Afterwards, he visited different

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

