

So much for the schedule

Sylhet residents facing more than specified load shedding; BPDB claims it doesn't get enough power allotment

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Sunday night was quite shocking for Sylhet residents, as Division 2 of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) published a load-shedding schedule stating that many areas of the city would face blackouts for 12 to 13 hours.

However, a BPDB official claimed to have made a mistake and revised the schedule. But this did not resolve the residents' woes.

Even though the government had instructed to enforce load shedding for one to two hours daily, BPDB in Sylhet published a schedule for three to five hours of load shedding.

But it is not even following the schedule, as residents are witnessing blackouts for more than the stated hours.

BPDB officials claimed that they are only getting allotments of around 50 percent of the demanded electricity, and so are failing to provide power as per the schedule.

Moreover, they have at least 10 percent lower power allotment when compared with that of all other divisional towns of the country, they said.

The failure to maintain the schedule and excessive load shedding have made residents disgruntled. This dissatisfaction may even lead to protests, said residents.

Anwar Choudhury, a resident of Sylhet city's Baluchar

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Carrying a boatload of Kewra branches, two women steer through the Shyala river's currents in Bagerhat. These branches will be cut up, dried and used for preparing different dishes. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

DSHE official held over question leak

Six arrested so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday arrested Chandra Shekhar Haldar Milton, an officer of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), in connection with DSHE question leak in May.

He was arrested from Dhaka's Segunbagicha, Mohammad Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner of DB, told a press conference.

Chandra Shikhar is an officer of education cadre from the 31st BCS. With him, six persons have been arrested so far in the case, filed with Lalbagh Police Station.

The recruitment exam for the post of "office assistant/computer operator" of DSHE was held at 61 centres in Dhaka on May 13 aiming to fill 513 vacancies. The DB started the investigation after an examinee was arrested during the test from Eden College centre.

45 phones recovered from 'mudir dokan'

Detectives arrest 3 involved in stealing, selling those

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested three members of a gang that allegedly stole 55 mobile phones from a shop at Jamuna Future Park mall and was selling those at Bashundhara City Shopping complex.

The arrestees are: Aunik Hasan (22), Nahid Hasan (19), and Nadim Mohammad Sagar (18). They were arrested from Dhaka and Cumilla, Mohammad Harun Or Rashid, chief of DMP's detective branch, told a press briefing yesterday.

A team of detectives (Gulshan Division) later recovered 45 mobile phones, including 27 iPhones and 13 Samsung phones, from a "mudir dokan" (grocery shop) owned by Nahid's mother in Dhaka's Khilkhet area.

The DB official said they started investigating after owner of a shop in Jamuna Future Park mall filed a case with Bhatara Police Station, stating that 55 phones, including 37 iPhones, were stolen from the shop on July 5.

Nahid, who had worked as an employee at the shop eight months back, was behind the theft. He made a copy of the shop's key and gave it to Aunik to steal the phone sets. The duo, with the help of Nadim, used to sell the phones at cheap prices to customers at Bashundhara City mall.

'Even a village school lab has better equipment'

Says river commission chairman after visiting labs in Savar Tannery Industrial Estate



River commission Chairman Dr Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury visiting the Central Effluent Treatment Plant and similar labs in the Savar industrial area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) Chairman Dr Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday expressed disappointment over the efficiency of the Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) and similar labs in the Savar industrial area.

"Even a village school lab has more equipment," the NRCC chairman said while visiting the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate.

Manjur said the reason for his field visit was to crosscheck media reports regarding pollution caused by the Savar tanneries.

"There are 140 tanneries in this area. I'm baffled to see such poor arrangements in treating waste. I'm disappointed," he added.

But Sanjay Thakur, senior process engineer of Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Waste

discharged into nearby rivers.

However, Zahirul Islam Talukder, deputy director of Department of Environment (Dhaka district), who was present at the meeting, told the river commission that the operation of CETP is far from standard.

"We have found the presence of several contaminated elements including chromium in samples collected from nearby rivers," he added.

The NRCC chief said he will soon arrange a meeting with all the stakeholders over the matter.

Besides, the Savar city authorities have been ordered to stop dumping waste into the rivers, he added.

During this time, Manjur also revealed that the river commission is working with a goal to make all the rivers of Dhaka pollution free within 2023.



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Treatment Plant Company, who is in charge of operating CETP, claimed that his labs are completely fine and follow all the standard practices. He said all wastes are purified before being

Fazle Rabbi Miah laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Deputy speaker of parliament Fazle Rabbi Miah was laid to rest at the family graveyard of his village home -- Gotia in Gaibandha's Saghata upazila yesterday afternoon.

His last namaz-e-janaza was held at Bharatkali school ground of the upazila around 3:00pm.

An Emirates flight carrying his body landed at Dhaka airport after departing from New York, US at 11:00pm on Sunday, said Rabbi's public relations officer Swapan Kumar Biswas.

His first janaza was held at the Muslim Center of Jamaica in New York after Zohr prayers on Sunday, and second one was held yesterday around 10:30am at National Eidgah. At the beginning of the janaza, a guard of honour was given by Dhaka Deputy Commissioner's office.

Floral wreaths were placed at his coffin on behalf of the president and prime minister. The Speaker also placed a wreath. Seven-time lawmaker, Fazle Rabbi passed away at the age of 76 on Saturday at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York while undergoing treatment.

ILLEGALLY IMPORTED LIQUOR

Five containers seized in 3 days

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

Customs officials seized five containers of liquor imported through false declaration in the last three days.

Yesterday, Port Control Unit of Chattogram Custom House identified the two consignments that arrived at Chattogram port at the beginning of the month, but the importers did not submit any documents to release them.

The containers were imported by issuing a false declaration and fake import permissions (IPs) from BEPZA. From three previously seized containers, customs found about 46,809 litres of liquor worth Tk 44.61 crore that was seized on Saturday at Narayanganj and on Sunday from port.

Salauddin Rizvi, joint commissioner of Custom House, said, "We suspected that the same syndicate is involved with the incidents. We will find out the people involved, including those inside the customs."

According to the customs documents, newly seized consignments were imported as polyester yarn from China by the name Dong Jin Industrial (BD) Company, located at Uttara EPZ in Nilphamari and VIP Industries Bangladesh Ltd at Mongla EPZ.

The previous three consignments were imported by name of Dong Jin Industrial (BD) Company, Hashy Tiger Co Limited, located at Cumilla EPZ and BHK Textile Limited at Ishwardi.

"We do not know who used our company's identity. We produce artificial hair and hair-related products for export. However, the customs documents said that seized liquor was imported and declared as yarn although our factory does not need yarn," said Gazi Md Magsud-ur-Rahim, DGM of Dong Jin Industrial (BD) Company.

Customs officials said the importers take the clearance of other products after checking in four to seven steps. But EPZ products are imported through a one-stop service and are cleared through nominal supervision.

We suspected that the same syndicate is involved with the incidents. We will find out the people involved, including those inside the customs.

SALAUDDIN RIZVI
Joint commissioner of
Custom House

One killed, 15 hurt in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A van puller was killed and at least 15 people were injured in a road accident in Phulbari upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

The deceased is Afsar Ali (60).

The accident happened when a speeding bus lost control and hit a van at Bezai intersection of the upazila, said Asaduzzaman, in-charge of Ambari Police Outpost.



Families and well wishers of four scientists of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, who were killed by a speeding bus in Savar last month, formed a human chain in Shahbagh yesterday, demanding justice for their lost loved ones.

PHOTO: STAR

'Bridge collapsed due to low quality materials'

Says ACC, finds irregularities in construction works

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) has found irregularities in the construction works of a bridge in Tangail town that collapsed last month after completion of only 55 percent of the works.

A three-member ACC team led by assistant director (Tangail) Ferdous Rahman, went to the spot on Sunday and found irregularities in the works, said Mostafizur Rahman, deputy director of ACC in Tangail.

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Spend less on defence, more on climate crisis

Foreign minister urges developed countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday urged developed countries to divert five to 10 percent of their defence expenditure to initiatives for stopping climate-induced displacement.

The minister said each year, 6,50,000 people are uprooted from their homes in Bangladesh.

He made the remarks in a policy dialogue organised by International Organization for Migration (IMO) on "Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change: Towards a Common Narrative and Action Pathway", held in the capital.

"I raised the issue at Munich security conference. The world order will break down if we don't act on this now," said Momen.

"In my home-town Sylhet, you will see that five out of 10 people working as rickshaw-pullers came from coastal areas. Around 40 percent of the coastal population took refuge in Sylhet,

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PRAYER
TIMING

JULY 26

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:20	12:45	5:00	6:50	8:15
JAMAAAT 4:55	1:15	5:15	6:55	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION