

Man arrested by DB dies at DMCH

50 yaba pills found inside his belly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died at a city hospital on Wednesday evening, a day after detectives arrested him from Dhaka's Ramna area with 1,000 yaba pills.

The deceased was identified as Siddique Ahmed (62), a resident of Teknaf upazila in Cox's Bazar.

According to law enforcers, Siddique used to be a drug trader.

Forensic doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday conducted autopsy on the body.

There were two packets containing 50 yaba pills inside his abdomen.

A packet of 15 pills were already melted, which may have caused his death, morgue sources said.

Ershad Hossain, a sub-inspector (DB) of Motijheel division, claimed that they arrested Siddique from Ramna area with 1,000 pieces of yaba on August 16.

"He fell sick and complained of abdominal pain on Wednesday afternoon," said the official.

"We took him to the Central Police Hospital, where doctors inspected him and said it was nothing serious," he added.

The SI claimed that Siddique was feeling well afterwards and they took him to a Dhaka court.

But he again complained of acute pain in his abdomen.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead in the evening, he further said.

The DB official said they informed his family members in Teknaf.

The body will be kept at the morgue until his family receives it, said the official.



Hailing from Rangpur, a group of day labourers, with all their belongings stuffed in a pickup truck, travel to Munshiganj in search of work in the agricultural fields. After coming to the capital, they hired the vehicle from Gabtoli bus terminal to reach their destination. This photo was taken from Mirpur Road yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Dhaka's air remains 'unhealthy'

UNB, Dhaka

After a marked improvement in the past week, Dhaka's air quality slipped back to the 'unhealthy' zone yesterday morning.

With an air quality index (AQI) score of 137 at 8.44am, the metropolis ranked fourth in the list of world cities with the worst air quality.

Saudi Arabia's Riyadh, the United Arab Emirates' Dubai and India's Kolkata occupied the first three spots, with AQI scores of 164, 158 and 139, respectively.

An AQI between 101 and 200 is considered "unhealthy". Similarly, an AQI between 201 and 300 is said to be "poor", while a reading of 301 to 400 is considered "hazardous".

AQI, an index for reporting daily air quality, is used to inform people how clean or polluted the air of a certain city is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for them.

Making property vested after 1974 illegal

Says SC in full text of verdict



Maintain communal harmony

President urges all

BSS, Dhaka

President M Abdul Hamid yesterday urged everyone to maintain communal harmony, a long tradition of the country, forgetting religious or ethnic differences.

The president came up with the call as a delegation of the Hindu Religious Welfare Trust paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban in the capital marking the Janmashtami or Gokulashtami, an annual Hindu festival that falls on the birthday of Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu.

The president said, "Religious harmony is an integral part of the history and tradition of Bangladesh." President's Press Secretary Md Jainal Abedin told the news agency.

Noting that the main message of all religions is welfare of the people, he said every religious festival in this country has been celebrated in a festive mood with the participation of people.

Hamid also said the government is providing various incentives to ease the life of people.

The properties of people from minority communities, who left the country in 1965 and later, were considered enemy property until independence, and the same properties are now treated as vested property.

- Any attempt to enlist property as vested in future illegal
- Govt may utilise unclaimed vested property for development
- SC expunged all earlier HC directions, observations
- Any claimant can seek redress from tribunals about vested properties, with exceptions

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in the full text of a verdict has declared all actions and decisions in making any property vested after March 23, 1974, to be illegal.

Any attempt to enlist any property as vested in the future will be illegal, it observed.

The government may utilise unclaimed vested property for development purposes, that is for the betterment of people, it said.

In the verdict, the apex court also expunged all directions and observations delivered earlier by the High Court in this regard, citing that since a law is already there, those directions and observations were not needed.

The properties of people from minority communities, who left the country in 1965 and later, were considered enemy property until independence, and the same properties are now treated as vested property, said lawyer Manzill Murshid, principal counsel for the land ministry.

"... the government enacted a law, Act of 2001 [The Vested Property Return Act-2001] (amended in 2013), to deal with

the vested properties fairly and reasonably in accordance with the law. As such there is no necessity to issue directions upon the government regarding the vested properties," a four-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, observed in the 34-page verdict released on Wednesday.

On June 2, the SC bench delivered the short verdict in an appeal filed by the land ministry challenging an HC judgement delivered on November 23, 2017.

The HC had issued several directives for properly and quickly settling "enemy property" cases and ordered public officials not to make any attempt to include any property in the official gazette as vested.

The SC judges observed that sections of the 2001 act deal with establishment of necessary tribunals at every district, compensation, time-frame for delivering judgement, and return of properties.

Interpreting the court's observations, lawyer Manzill told The Daily Star that the Vested Property Return Act-2001, which was amended in 2013, has been

upheld by the Appellate Division judgement, as this law has protected the interest of people as well as the government.

He said separate tribunals have been set up for disposal of the applications involving vested properties under the Vested Property Return Act 2001.

Manzill also said the essence of most of the HC directives and observations was in the Vested Property Return Act, 2001, and therefore, there was no need for the directives.

The government has included the vested properties in the "Ka" and "Kha" list in the law, in line with the Appellate Division's previous directives.

Properties in the "Ka" list are with the government, and those in the "Kha" list are under the possession of individuals.

Any claimant can seek redress from tribunals about vested properties, except for the ones where institutions, including schools, colleges, universities, madrasas, mosques, and temples have already been established, he said.

Replying to a question, Manzill said the government issued a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Will overcome energy and power crisis

Hopes Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury

UNB, Dhaka

Adviser to the Prime Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury has expressed optimism to overcome the ongoing power and energy crisis in the country created due to Russia-Ukraine war.

The energy adviser was speaking at a roundtable titled "Energy security and development challenges for developing countries: Bangladesh case" organised by Hudson Institute, a think tank, in Washington DC recently, said the embassy yesterday.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States M Shahidul Islam and other officers of the embassy were present at the event.

Dr Chowdhury said the problem of electricity and energy is not alone for Bangladesh, it is now a global problem.

"The problem could be solved if we all irrespective of parties and opinions including media make efforts together," he observed.

Dr Chowdhury said the blow that has come to the world due to price hike of energy and shortages of its supply, also hit Bangladesh.

In this context, he urged the world community to come forward to find out a solution to this global crisis, saying it should raise voice of concern loudly to end Russia-Ukraine war. Dr Chowdhury mentioned that to reduce

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Pay attention where human rights are grossly violated

Info minister tells UNHRC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) should take a look at Palestine and Myanmar, and it would be better if their high commissioner listened to the families of the victims of arson attacks between 2013 and 2015 in Bangladesh.

The minister said the UN council should pay attention to those countries where human rights are grossly violated.

He said this while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organised by Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University Alumni Association on the occasion of National Mourning Day at Krishibid Institute Auditorium in Dhaka.

Regarding the comments of the UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet on the Digital Security Act,

the minister said the law is to provide digital security to every citizen of the country.

"Those who raise questions about our law, I will tell them to look at this law in Australia and Singapore. The laws there are stricter than ours. Like in our laws, India and Pakistan also have similar sections (in their laws), which are being much talked about," he said.

"Framework laws have been enacted in the European Union to provide digital security. Member states have made their laws in light of that. You [UN Human Rights Commissioner] do not talk about them," the minister added.

He, however, said, "We are careful to ensure that this law is not misused, and we are working to ensure that no one is oppressed."

None can assume power through conspiracy, killing

Quader warns BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday warned BNP leaders that none can assume power through conspiracy and killing.

"You (BNP leaders) can kill someone by hatching plots but will not be able to assume power," he said.

Quader was addressing a discussion titled "Mourning of Father, Strength of Daughter: Indomitable Progress of Bangla" organised by Dhaka University unit of Chhatra League on the campus.

Speaking as chief guest, Quader said over 13-year has gone by but BNP was not able to wage a movement against the government yet.

"Days go by, weeks go by, months go by, water flows in the Padma-Meghna rivers but the golden deer of the BNP's desired movement is not seen. The long-cherished throne of power is still far away," he said.

The AL general secretary said BNP leaders frequently talk about the economic crisis of Sri Lanka but are ashamed of talking about Pakistan's economic setback.

Bangladesh has a foreign exchange reserve of about US\$ 40 billion and it received a record amount of remittance in the last 6 months, he said. However, the country is also struggling amid the global economic crisis, he added.

"But this suffering is temporary," he said.

Biman flight to China's Guangzhou takes off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines started operating flights on Dhaka-Guangzhou-Dhaka route from yesterday morning.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Md Mahub Ali inaugurated the flight at Dhaka airport.

Biman General Manager (Public Relations) Tahera Khondoker said Biman will operate one flight to Guangzhou.

The long-awaited flights on the Dhaka-Guangzhou route are expected to lessen the woes of Bangladeshi students and businessmen traveling to China.

Chairman of Biman Board of Directors Sazzatul Hasan, Secretary

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



In the age of smartphones and digital devices, landline telephones have almost become obsolete. However, some households and offices that still use such lines have kept the device relevant in the present day. This BTCL employee was spotted opposite BAF Shaheen College in Mohakhali fixing a connection in a grid box. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Dengue death toll 17

Total number of patients 4,174

419 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients 3,738

93 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING
AUGUST 19

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:25 12:30 4:45 6:38 8:00
JAMAAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:41 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION