

DRUG CASE Six cops summoned by court for framing man

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has ordered six police personnel, including the officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station, to appear before it and explain why legal action should not be taken against them for framing an innocent man in a drug case.

It gave them seven working days to comply.

The five others are complainant of the case Sub-Inspector Kamrul Islam, ASI Mahabub Alam, constable Md Kamruzzaman, ansar member Ismail Hossain and investigation officer of the case SI Khalid Hasan Tonmoy.

They were also directed to submit their explanations in writing.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shanto Islam Mallik on September 13 passed the order after scrutinising the case dockets and video footage.

The judge also granted Md Khalil, the accused in the drug case, bail.

Meanwhile, SI Tonmoy appealed to the court to relieve

Khalil from the charges saying, "He was framed in the case due to previous enmity."

On September 6, ASI Mahabub arrested Khalil from the Cantonment Railway Station area in Dhaka after he put yaba pills into Khalil's pocket with the help of two informants -- Md Rubel and Sohel Rana.

The next day, SI Kamrul of Pallabi Police Station filed the case against Khalil, saying that 100 yaba tablets were recovered from his possession.

In the probe report, SI Tonmoy said ASI Mahabub provided false information to complainant SI Kamrul and fabricated the incident of recovering yaba pills from Khalil.

No evidence was found against Khalil during his investigation, mentioned the report.

SI Tonmoy also lodged a narcotics case against his colleague ASI Mahabub and two informants with Cantonment Police Station on September 7.

The three were arrested on September 7 and are currently behind bars.

Following their arrest, all three were placed on a three-day remand each for quizzing.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana after reaching London on a chartered flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday. The premier is scheduled to attend a reception hosted by King Charles III at Buckingham Palace. PHOTO: PTD

Russian forces dig in after retreat from Ukraine's east

UN chief says chance for peace 'minimal' after Putin call;
G7 vows to stop Moscow 'profiting' from war

AGENCIES

Russian forces in eastern Ukraine are fortifying their defences and it will be hard for Kyiv's troops to repeat the rapid success of their recent lightning counter offensive, a senior regional Ukrainian official warned yesterday.

The sobering assessment was issued as Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, was holding talks in Kyiv with President Volodymyr Zelensky about helping Ukraine move closer to joining the European Union.

Kyiv says it recaptured more than 8,000 sq km, nearly equivalent to the size of the island of Cyprus. The speed of the advance has lifted Ukrainian morale, pleased Western backers who have provided arms, intelligence and training, and raised hopes of further significant gains before the winter sets in.

But Serhiy Gaidai, governor of Ukraine's eastern Luhansk region, warned that it would be a tough fight to wrest control of his region back from Russia, which recognises it as an independent state

controlled by separatists.

"Here the Russians are digging in at Svatove and Troitske," Gaidai told Ukrainian TV, referring to two settlements in Luhansk.

"Heavy fighting continues in many directions, including in (the) Luhansk region. The Kharkiv 'instant scenario' will not be repeated. We will have to fight hard for our region. The Russians are preparing for defence."

There was no let-up either in Russia's daily missile strikes on Ukraine, a day after it fired cruise missiles at a reservoir dam near Kryvyi Rih, President Zelensky's hometown, reports Reuters.

Authorities in the city of Kharkiv said Russian shells had hit a high-pressure gas pipeline, while a rescue operation was underway in the city of Bakhmut with four people suspected to be trapped under rubble after a strike, Pavlo Kyrilenko, the Donetsk regional governor, said.

Russian forces had launched attacks on several settlements on the Kharkiv frontline in the past 24 hours, the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces said

yesterday.

But Britain's defence ministry said in an update that Ukraine's forces were continuing to consolidate their control of newly liberated land in the region.

The United States is expected to deliver a new security assistance package soon, White House spokesman John Kirby told MSNBC in an interview yesterday. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova warned Washington to tread carefully.

After a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, the United Nations chief Antonio Guterres lamented that the prospects for peace in Ukraine are "minimal" at present.

In Germany, G7 ministers said they would seek to crank up the pressure on Russia and limit Moscow's means of financing its war in Ukraine, reports AFP.

The G7 would "maintain and expand our coordinated efforts to prevent Russia from profiting from its illegal aggression" and curtail Russia's ability to carry on the war, trade ministers said in a statement.

20 hurt as BNP, AL men clash

FROM PAGE 1

during which they vandalised vehicles on the main road.

As panic spread across Mirpur, traffic movement was halted and shops were shuttered down. Caught up in the clashes, pedestrians scrambled for shelter.

Iqbal Hossain, former joint general secretary of Dhaka North BNP, alleged AL men, who had taken position at the venue from before, attacked the BNP activists with weapons.

On September 10, the opposition party announced it would hold

rallies at 16 places in Dhaka yesterday to protest the hike in prices of essentials and fuel, and the death of its activists during the recent protests in Bhola and Narayanganj.

Aminul Haque, member secretary of Dhaka North BNP, said Mirpur's deputy commissioner had allowed them to hold one of their scheduled rallies on the Mukul Fouz field.

He said BNP activists were resisting the attack until police started throwing teargas shells targeting them.

Dismissing BNP allegations that police helped AL activists, OC Parvej

claimed the clashes began due to provocation by BNP activists.

Anwar Hossain Raja, executive member of Dhaka North Swechchhasebak League, however, claimed they came to know that BNP were giving "provocative speeches at a rally on the field near Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard".

"As we brought out a procession protesting the speeches, they started throwing brick chips at us. They attacked first."

Contacted, Ariful Islam, additional deputy commissioner (Pallabi Zone), said many people,

including activists from both parties and police officials, "We had to fire teargas shells to bring the situation under control."

He added that additional police force was deployed at different points.

Visiting the spot around 3:30pm, this correspondent found that BNP men left the area but BCL and Jubo League activists on around 100 bikes were roaming nearby streets.

Asked, one of them said they were on the streets to prevent BNP men from carrying out any "acts of sabotage in the name of protests".

Federer calls it quits

FROM PAGE 1

London will be my final ATP event. I will play more tennis in the future, of course, but just not in Grand Slams or on the tour."

Federer, who dominated men's tennis after winning his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003, has been troubled by injuries in recent years.

He has undergone three knee operations in the last two years and his last competitive match was a quarter-final defeat against Poland's Hubert Hurkacz at the 2021 Wimbledon.

Federer had announced he planned to return to the tour when he teams up with long time rival and friend Rafa Nadal to play doubles at the Laver Cup in London.

He had also planned to play at the Swiss indoors tournament at home in Basel.

government service even though the process should be done in two months, according to the rules.

Md Ehteshamul Huq Choudhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), blamed the health directorate and the health ministry for failing to take action against the doctors.

"This is a weakness of the authorities... Everything is defined in the job rules. But as the higher authorities have not taken action over the years, this malpractice continues," he said.

Contacted, Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general (administration) at the DGHS, said, "Terminating a physician in public service is not easy. But we are sorting out those absent without leave."

6 held over rape, murder of Indian sisters

AFP, Lucknow

Indian police yesterday arrested six men accused of gang-raping and murdering two teenage sisters whose bodies were found hanging from a tree outside their village, prompting protests.

The sisters aged 15 and 17 were from the Dalit community, the lowest

rung in the Hindu caste system, who suffer disproportionately high levels of sexual violence in a country with high rates of crime against women.

Local police chief Sanjiv Suman told AFP that the men had on Wednesday lured the girls to a field where they sexually assaulted them and then "killed them by strangling them with their scarves".

ADB, Bangladesh in talks over \$500m loan for economic recovery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is in talks with Asian Development Bank over a loan of \$500 million at 0.5 percent interest as budgetary support for the country's economic recovery.

"We are in discussion to give budgetary support of \$500 million and hopefully the other co-financing will also come," said Edimon Ginting, the bank's country director.

This fiscal support will also enhance the government's agendas in hastening the execution of climate change adaptation and economic recovery measures, he said.

He made the statement yesterday following a meeting with Planning Minister MA Mannan at the minister's office in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Bangladesh will have a grace period of three years and the country will get 15 years to repay the loan.

Two to walk gallows for killing truck driver

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A Cumilla court yesterday sentenced two men to death and another to 10 years' imprisonment in the case filed over killing a truck driver in Chaudagram in 2006.

The verdict was served by Justice Selina Akter of fourth Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court of Cumilla yesterday at 11:30am, court inspector Mojibur Rahman told The Daily Star.

The two sentenced to death are Ahsan Ullah of Laxmipur and Abul Hossain of Fatikchhari in Chattogram. Samsul Haque, from Mohonpur of Brahmanbaria, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment.

The three are absconding and the verdict was handed out in the absence of the accused, said Mojibur.

On June 20, 2006, Jainal Abedin, a truck driver from Feni's Parshuram upazila, was strangled after his truck was attacked by the accused, the public prosecutor said.

Mob beats man to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man died after being assaulted by villagers in Tilagaon area of Moulvibazar's Giasnagar union early yesterday.

The body was recovered from the scene and sent to Moulvibazar 250-bed General Hospital for an autopsy, said police.

The deceased was Sayem Mia, 35, son of Riaz Mia of Niteshwar village in Giasnagar.

According to police and locals, people of the village tried to catch Sayem on suspicion of theft. Sayem tried to escape by showing the machete he had with him. Locals caught him and assaulted him, leaving him dead on the spot.

Moulvibazar Model Police Station OC Md Yasinal Haque, quoting locals, said Sayem and his three associates entered a house to steal around 4:00am and locals attacked them.

The OC added that they were investigating the matter.

Absent doctors a headache

FROM PAGE 1

another doctor earlier this month, almost one and a half years after he stopped going to work.

To get a clearer picture of the issue, the DGHS on July 21 asked the chiefs of health facilities across the country to report doctors absent without leave.

As of September 11, the administration wing of the directorate received names of 161 doctors and launched disciplinary action against 78 of them.

Of the 161, at least 116 are medical officers while the rest are senior physicians, including professors.

The monitoring wing has another list of at least 300 absentees.

Experts say the actual number of such doctors can be much larger. They also say such doctors do not get penalised timely.

Currently, at least 250 absentee doctors are yet to be meted out punishments. Some of the cases have been pending since 2007.

MANAGEMENT FAILURE

When a doctor remains absent for 30 consecutive days without permission, the facility chief is obligated to report the matter to higher authorities, health officials said.

"In many cases, however, the

facility authorities do not report timely and we remain in the dark about the absent officer," Samiul said.

A senior official of the DGHS said the absentee doctors get away with the crime by colluding with the hospital authorities and administration officials.

MA Sabur, a health care expert, said, "This is a management failure. We have advanced technology available in the market through which the health directorate can see whether the doctors are present or not."

Besides, there is a monitoring system in place. But the system is not used properly, he added.

Senior DGHS officials told this newspaper that doctors remain absent mainly due to lack of career development opportunities and timely promotions.

Doctors leave like this either to move abroad or work in private or development sectors. They just don't want to go through the lengthy process of quitting.

Government doctors willing to quit before completing the two-year "entry period" have to pay back all their salaries. Those who quit after the entry period do not get gratuity or pension benefits, officials said.

Besides, it takes between six and 12 months to properly quit the

Developed nations

FROM PAGE 1

coastal islands in extremely precarious conditions, while millions of others along the coast are exposed to the impacts of cyclones, storm surges and saline intrusion into agriculture. Over 300 people are killed each year due to lightning strikes. Also, millions of people are displaced for disasters, making them vulnerable and denied of basic rights, he said.

"Women, older persons and persons with disabilities are particularly affected by climate change. Often, they are left alone at home during climate change events. Women in particular, face an undue burden once the disaster has passed."

He said loss and damage are well reflected in decisions made by the Conference of Parties (COP) and the Paris Agreement. Despite institutional progress, no money has been provided by the international community for the loss and damage.

"This is a totally inadequate and contemptuous response to the need for loss and damage finance. Countries like Bangladesh cannot afford the impacts of climate change that major polluters are creating. It is time the polluters paid for the loss and damage inflicted on other countries."

At the regional level, the UN special rapporteur said, upstream countries hold a significant responsibility for the future of Bangladesh. The large hydro dams and poor catchment management practices of upstream countries are inflicting a high cost on Bangladesh.

"Regional river catchment nations need to sit down at the negotiating table and work through a fair and equitable regional river catchment plan," he added.

Citing Bangladesh government officials, Fry said Bangladesh accounts for a mere 0.56 percent of global emissions, yet it is one of the world's 10 countries most affected by climate change.

The Nationally Determined

Contributions prepared by the Bangladesh government expects a significant increase in emissions, which may be understandable, given that Bangladesh is a least developed country. Nevertheless, as Bangladesh has aspirations of becoming a middle-income country, it must do more to reduce its emission, he observed.

"Reliance on coal and natural gas is already creating an economic burden as it must rely on external supplies. Bangladesh should be striving to be self-sufficient in energy through expanding its development of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies."

However, Fry said, Bangladesh should not be responsible for carrying the conversion to a renewable energy economy on its own. The international community needs to transfer appropriate renewable energy on highly favourable terms.

The UN special rapporteur said he received claims that environmental and climate change human rights defenders have been subjected to harassment, and imprisonment due to speaking out on climate change issues. The Bangladesh government claims to be using the Digital Security Act to counter terrorism.

Fry suggested amending the law for free expression of the climate change human rights defenders and the indigenous people. "These people are not terrorists," he said.

He reinforced the view of former UN high commissioner for human rights, Michelle Bachelet, that the Bangladesh government should establish of an independent, specialised mechanism to investigate allegations of human rights violations.

"In the lead up to the next election, I encourage the government of Bangladesh to allow civil society to have a voice. Suppression of such voice will only lead to malcontent."

Fry also recommended the authorities incorporate the voices of the indigenous people, youths, and women in the formulation of policies.