

Betagi BCL committee dissolved

Yaba consumption video of its president goes viral on social media

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The committee of Betagi upazila Chhatra League of Barguna has been dissolved after a video of its president consuming yaba went viral on Facebook.

The order was confirmed through a press release signed by district Chhatra League president Rezaul Kabir Reza and general secretary Tushikur Rahman Imran yesterday.

The president of the Barguna unit of BCL said the Betagi upazila committee of BCL has been dissolved to speed up the organisation.

According to district BCL sources, a 15 second video of Betagi BCL president BM Adnan Khalid Mithun consuming yaba went viral on social media

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A man carries a basket full of hilsa, neatly arranged and packed with ice. As the ban on netting the national fish comes into effect from October 7, fishers will soon have to wrap up their nets for 22 days after their latest catch. This photo was taken in Chattogram's Fishery Ghat area yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Pay due bills or we'll cut off power lines

Power Division warns city corporations

UNB, Dhaka

Power Division or any distributing entity will not take responsibility if any accident occurs when city corporations or municipalities illegally connect their networks to electricity lines.

Such a warning was issued by the Power Division through a Facebook post yesterday, mentioning an incident in the West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited (WZPDC) area.

The post said WZPDC served a notice on September 7 to city corporations and municipalities under its areas to pay due electricity bills by September 18. If city corporations fail to do so, WZPDC would disconnect power lines as per Article 18 (1) of the Electricity Act 2018.

Following the WZPDC notice, 75 connections of those city corporations and municipalities, which failed to pay due bills within the stipulated time frame, were disconnected.

Tk 3.34 crore was realised as due bills from 16 city corporations and municipalities.

However, it is being observed with great concern that some of the city corporations and municipalities are reconnecting their networks illegally with the power lines without communicating with WZPDC, the distribution

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Dengue death toll rises to 48

Two dead, 437 hospitalised in 24hr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two more dengue patients died and 437 were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

With this, the total number of dengue deaths rose to 48.

Among the deaths, 18 are at Cox's Bazar, four at Barishal, five at Chattogram and 21 are at Dhaka, according to the DGHS.

The total number of dengue cases this year rose to 12,875. Meanwhile, 1,529 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment at hospitals. A total of 11,298 patients have been released from hospitals so far.

Warning the city corporations of a major outbreak of dengue virus this year, experts suggested they take extensive measures to control the Aedes mosquitoes.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
SEPTEMBER 23

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-40	12-30	4-30	6-05	7-30
JAMAAAT 5-15	1-15	4-45	6-10	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

How long will the children suffer?

Students wade through stagnant water to attend classes in Patuakhali school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The challenges rural children in Bangladesh face to continue their education are manifold – poverty, early marriage and a lack of facilities are only to name some.

On top of it, some 165 students of Guliauliapur Government Primary School in Patuakhali's Dasmina upazila have to wade through water to get to the classrooms as the school ground remains submerged for almost three months due to rainfall.

Talking to guardians and students, this correspondent found out that this is an usual sight every monsoon. As a result, these children often suffer from skin and cold diseases.

Besides, teachers and parents worry that the stagnant water can be a breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes, responsible for the recent dengue outbreak throughout the country.

Armin Jahan, a fifth grader of the school, said they have to wade through knee-length water to reach school everyday. "Bad odor emits from the dirty water and we often suffer from skin diseases because of it," she added.

Echoing the same, another student Hafiza Begum, said, "It seems as if there's no one to see our sufferings."

Besides, a flooded school-ground means these children are also being robbed of



PHOTO: STAR

extracurricular activities, a thing which is particularly important for rural Bangladeshi kids.

Raisul Islam, a fourth grader said, "We can't play on the school ground as it remains submerged most of the times."

Anwar Hossain, a guardian, said the authorities are not taking any initiative to resolve the waterlogging issue. "Our children have to wade through dirty water to go to school. They are catching different diseases as a result. On top of it, there is a fear of a dengue outbreak."

Contacted, Abdur Rahman, headteacher of the school, said, "As it is a low-lying area and there is no drainage system, even

a little rain causes waterlogging. Our repeated appeals to resolve the matter have fallen on the deaf ears of the authorities concerned."

Rongopaldi UP member Imam Hossain Matubbar said, "Steps are being taken to improve the drainage system. Hopefully, the problem will be solved in a short time."

Local UP chairman ATM Asadduzaman Nasir Sikdar echoed the same.

Dasmina Upazila Primary Education Officer (in charge) Al Mamun said, "I am aware of the situation. We have sent an application to the higher authorities to solve the problem."

KUNIO MURDER

Govt seeks stay on acquittal of 'militant' Ishaque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed a petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging a part of the High Court verdict that acquitted accused militant Ishaque Ali in a case filed for killing Japanese national Kunio Hoshi in 2005.

Citing the petition, Additional Attorney General Sk Md Morshed told The Daily Star that there is a specific allegation against Ishaque Ali for his involvement in the killing of Hoshi, which has been proved beyond doubt before the trial court.

The government will move a leave to appeal petition before the Appellate Division after receiving the copy of HC verdict, he said.

The additional attorney general said hearing on the petition will be held before the chamber judge of the apex court on Sunday.

On September 21, the HC confirmed the death sentences of four JMB militants and acquitted Ishaque in the murder

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When authorities cause pollution

Nagarkanda municipality dumping waste on roadside



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Garbage management is one of the most important responsibilities of municipal authorities.

But where will the residents go if the responsible bodies themselves dump waste at undesignated places, causing civic sufferings?

The Nagarkanda municipality authorities have been dumping garbage beside a road in Faridpur for three years, causing pollution and public nuisance.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw garbage piled up on around seven decimals of land beside Talma-Joybanga road in College Balia area of Rajoir upazila.

Seeking anonymity, a municipality worker said, "We have been dumping waste in the area for three years."

Jalal Mollah (41), an easy bike driver on Talma-Joybanga road, said, "This is a busy road. The dumped garbage spread putrid stench, causing sufferings to commuters."

Md Arik (19), a twelfth-grader of Government Nagarkanda Mohabidyalya, said, "We have to use this road to go to our college. During rain, the garbage spills on to the road, making it difficult for vehicles and pedestrians to pass through."

Saleha Begum (63), a resident of College Balia area, said, "We are the worst sufferers as we have to go to Nagarkanda Bazar several times a day through this road. If the municipality authorities

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Pink eye prevalence in the port city

Mostly children, their parents getting infected



SYMPTOMS

Redness in one or both eyes

Itchiness in one or both eyes

A gritty feeling in one or both eyes

A discharge in one or both eyes that forms crust during night that may prevent eye or eyes from opening in the morning

Tearing

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Wash hands often with soap, warm water

Wash hands after contact with infected person

Avoid touching or rubbing eyes

Do not share items used by an infected person

Clean, store, and replace contact lenses

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

There has been a sudden increase in conjunctivitis (inflammation of the conjunctiva of the eye) patients in Chattogram city for over two weeks.

Children are seen to be infected mostly in the disease, popularly known as pink eye, making the guardians concerned.

Many are afraid of sending their children to school lest they should get infected by their classmates.

The infected are mostly receiving treatment at home, said sources.

According to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH), around 100 patients with conjunctivitis are coming to the outpatient department of the hospital each day for the last couple of weeks. The number of patients was around two to three just a month ago.

According to ophthalmologists, conjunctivitis or pink eye is a medical condition when an inflammation or infection takes place in transparent membrane (conjunctiva) of the eye.

Doctors said the sudden increase is due to a viral infection. However, the good news is that most patients are being recovered

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Holding placards with slogans demanding climate justice and a safer world, students of various educational institutions in Barishal form a human chain in front of Ashwini Kumar Hall in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS