

ROLLS-ROYCE IMPORT Customs fines importer Tk 56.4 crore for illegal release

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

The Chattogram Customs House has fined Z&Z Intimates Ltd Tk 56.4 crore for illegally releasing an imported Rolls Royce vehicle.

The company, owned by Ananta Group and located at Chattogram Export Processing Zone, will have to pay the fine as well as the Tk 24 crore in unpaid tax, according to an order issued by Chattogram Customs Commissioner Md Fyzur Rahman on October 12.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the order.

On July 6 this year, the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate seized the car, a Rolls Royce Cullinan, from the Dhaka residence of Z&Z Managing Director Sharif Zahir for the illegal release.

The vehicle was taken from Chattogram to Dhaka before customs assessment on May 17.

According to customs rules, no product can leave the port or customs house until assessment by customs



officials. In the order issued on October 12, the Z&Z managing director was asked to pay Tk 56.4 crore as penalty for violating Sections 9, 10, 16, 18, 80 and III of The Customs Act-1969.

The order said the importer would not get the duty-free facility even though they submitted an application to avail it as an export-oriented company. As a result, apart from the fine, the importer has to pay the customs duty of about Tk 24 crore, the order said.

Zahir, the Z&Z managing director, told The Daily Star, “We are being harassed by customs officials for no valid reason.

“Our company was accused of tax evasion of Tk 24 crore and fined about Tk 56.4 crore for importing a vehicle, although we have all legal documents with BEPZA’s [Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority’s] permission under the duty-free facility to import the car.

“We will go for further legal procedures,” he added.



A polling official verifies the identity of a voter before letting her vote in the Dhaka Zilla Parishad polls at the polling centre at Ambagicha Government Primary School in Aganagar of Dhaka’s Keraniganj upazila. Elections to 57 zilla parishads were held peacefully across the country yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Russia hits Kyiv with Iranian kamikaze drones

Critical infrastructure hit across Ukraine leaving hundreds of towns without power

AFP, Kyiv

Hundreds of Ukrainian towns were cut off from electricity yesterday by Russian attacks against critical infrastructure and deadly kamikaze drone strikes in Kyiv, Ukraine said.

Moscow is thought to be trying to counter weeks of battlefield losses by waging a punitive policy of damaging energy facilities before winter in a move that President Vladimir Putin hopes will weaken Ukrainian resistance in the eight-month war.

Ukraine branded the swarm of attacks, which the presidency said killed four people in Kyiv, as an act of desperation with a senior official demanding that Russia be excluded from the G20, which is to hold a summit in a month.

Russia launched five strikes in Kyiv and against critical infrastructure in the central Dnipropetrovsk and northeast

Sumy regions, knocking out electricity to hundreds of towns and villages, said Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmygal.

“Hundreds of settlements were cut off as a result of the attack,” he said.

Ukrainian regional officials said the strikes in Sumy killed at least four people.

The Russian army said it hit “all” its targets, having aimed “high-precision and long-range ... weapons at military command and control facilities and the energy systems of Ukraine”.

An AFP journalist saw drones swooping low over a central district of Kyiv as police tried to shoot them down with automatic weapons and smoke rose from explosions across the city.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko, a senior official at the Ukrainian presidency, said emergency workers rescued 19 people from the rubble, including an elderly woman.

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko said

a residential building in the central Shevchenkivsky district of the capital was hit, sparking a fire and damaging several buildings.

The attack comes exactly a week after Russia missiles rained down on Kyiv and other cities on October 10 in the biggest wave of strikes in months.

Those attacks killed at least 19 people, wounded 105 others and sparked an international outcry.

Air raid sirens sounded in Kyiv shortly before the first explosion at around 6:35 am (0335 GMT), followed by sirens across most of the country.

“Kamikaze drones and missiles are attacking all of Ukraine. The enemy can attack our cities, but it won’t be able to break us,” President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

The head of the national railways, Alexander Kamyshin, confirmed attacks “near” the capital’s central rail hub.

“We need more air defence systems and as soon as possible. More weapons,” Zelensky’s chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, said on social media.

Rising dengue cases

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separate dengue wards as “it is still manageable”.

In Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute, the number of patients was only 40 about 15 days back, but it was 85 as of yesterday afternoon, said Abdul Hakim, its public relations officer.

“We are increasing the number of beds every day and have made two separate wards dedicated to dengue patients,” he said.

Entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said every year in October, dengue cases start going down. But this time, the rising trend continues.

It is not possible to control dengue without managing the hotspots. This year, the authorities took inadequate measures to find and manage these sites, he also said.

“Hotspot management means identifying risky houses and areas by collecting addresses of dengue patients,” he explained.

Brig Gen Md Zobaidur Rahman, Dhaka North City Corporation’s chief health officer, recently said apart from regular and special drives, they have purchased 30 boats to clean water bodies and use insecticides properly.

Md Abu Nasher, public relations officer of Dhaka South City Corporation, said they are taking different special measures, besides the routine works, including drives around houses of dengue patients.

REASONS FOR RISE IN DEATH TOLL

Multiple exposures to dengue, late admission in hospitals and late diagnosis of the deadly virus are the main reasons for increasing dengue deaths, said experts.

Tahmina Shirin, director of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), said three variants of dengue virus – DENV-1, DENV-3 and DENV-4 – are

active in Bangladesh this year. Of them, DENV-3 is infecting people the most.

Tahmina emphasised the need for awareness campaigns involving councillors or locally influential persons to control Aedes mosquitoes in an area.

She also suggested taking sufficient fluids in any form like oral saline, fruit juice, sorbet and coconut water when anyone has a fever, which is a major symptom of dengue.

“A patient will take fluids during fever and also continue it even after the fever goes away as there will be the chance of deterioration after fever ends,” she said.

The patients need to be hospitalised when they will feel vomiting, pain in the belly, breathing problems or will bleed from any parts of the body, she advised.

Nazmul Ahsan of Suhrawardy hospital said the patients who are coming to the facility have mostly faced multiple exposures. It means they were infected by another variant of the dengue virus earlier.

If a person who was previously infected with one of the variants contracts dengue because of a different variant, the risk of mortality can also go up. But early detection of the infection and immediate hospitalisation can significantly lower the risk.

Late admission is another reason for the rising number of deaths this year, Nazmul said.

“Many dengue patients, mostly facing multiple exposures, delay getting admitted to hospitals as they are not diagnosed dengue initially through NSI kit. By the time they are hospitalised, the illness reached a severe stage.”

Many hospitals or clinics, especially private ones, do not follow guidelines on fluid management, he said, adding that this is another reason for increasing deaths.

73pc crimes went unreported in 2018

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while only 16 percent satisfied.

As a reason for non-satisfaction, 47 percent shared that police didn’t do enough to solve the case and 13 percent thought police were not interested in solving the case at all.

These figures show how the police have become detached from the people and the lack of people’s trust in police, the lead investigator of the survey, Omar Faruk, told The Daily Star.

He said that in the modern responsive policing system, public confidence in the law enforcers is considered a key factor in properly measuring the cops’ performance.

The researcher said the survey

attempts to address a gap between the yearly crime statistics prepared by the police based on their registered crime books, court orders and unreported crimes.

Eighty-one percent of the respondents said police’s cooperation with them would be highly appreciated, while 67 percent said police should be more humane and 91 percent opined that police need to be free from corruption to boost their image.

The victims said police should ensure public security to enhance their image and they should also stop committing brutality against anyone.

They also mentioned that police’s accountability to its higher

adds BSS.

“I again request you all not to waste food and increase food production. Bring every inch of land under cultivation. Protect Bangladesh from the possible global famine and food deficit like situations. I believe it is definitely possible with efforts from all,” she said.

The PM was addressing a function marking the World Food Day 2022 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

Virtually joining the event, organised by the agriculture ministry, from the Gono Bhaban, Hasina said international organisations have forecasted that the world is going to face famine and food crisis in the days to come.

“We all have to be alert from now on The government and private organisations have a lot of land. Cultivate food grains whatever you can utilising every inch of abandoned land.”

The premier said if all give attention to producing food, Bangladesh would not face any food crisis even if the world is hit by the famine hard.

In that case, Hasina said Bangladesh would be able to extend

authorities should be ensured.

Seven out of each 10 people studied agreed to the statement that the news of torture in custody causes fear among victims.

The study said almost all victims agreed with the statement that the lengthy process of the criminal justice system contributes to reluctance to seek justice.

Also, more than 50 percent victims think the offenders live in and around their neighbourhoods.

Surprisingly, about 10 percent of the offenders were either the victims’ relatives or family members.

The survey revealed that Dhaka North city has the highest

BISWAJIT MURDER

Rab arrests fugitive after a decade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab arrested a fugitive, who was sentenced to life, in a case filed over the murder of tailor Biswajit Das 10 years ago.

After a tip-off, Mosharraf Hossain alias Abdullah, 33, was arrested on Sunday evening from the capital’s Gulshan area, said Fazlul Haque, senior assistant director (media) of Rab-2.

The convict was absconding since Biswajit was murdered in broad daylight by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists on December 9, 2012.

Dhaka Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 sentenced eight accused to death and 13 to life in 2013.

On August 6, 2017, the High Court upheld the death penalty of two of the eight death-row convicts, reduced the death sentence of four to life imprisonment, and acquitted two others.

Brunei Sultan leaves

UNB, Dhaka

Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah departed for his country from Dhaka on a special VVIP flight yesterday morning.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, who saw him off at HSLA, gifted him an album with photos from his two-day visit.

The Sultan arrived in Dhaka on Sunday to attend a series of meetings with President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The two countries signed four bilateral cooperation documents, including a memorandum of understanding on energy cooperation.

Another dies of Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person died of Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, said a DGHS press release.

Meanwhile, 389 people tested positive for the virus after 5,625 samples were tested across the country, raising the daily positivity rate to 6.92 percent from the previous day’s 5.86.

With the new figure, Covid deaths rose to 29,402, while that of confirmed cases rose to 20,32,832.

During the same period, 644 have recovered] with the recovery rate now standing at 97.15 percent.

The deceased was a male aged between 71 and 80.

Woman and child die in fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajbari

A woman and a child died in a fire from an electric short-circuit in their house in Rajbari’s Goalanda upazila yesterday night.

Boro Bibi, 90, of Anser Baparipara village, and her great-granddaughter Tasmia Akter, 9, died in the fire while they were asleep, while other family members in another room managed to get out in time.

“The fire originated from an electric short-circuit,” said Sabekul Islam, leader of Goalanda Fire Service and Civil Defence.

The firefighters reached the spot after being informed around 9:30pm and recovered the bodies, which were handed over to the family upon their request, he added.