

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.

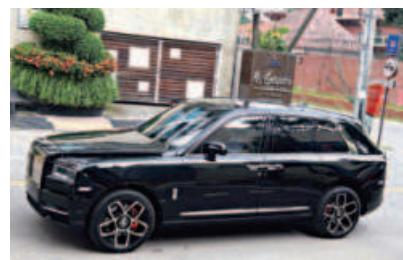
The company, owned by Ananta Group and located at Chattogram Export Processing Zone, will have to pay the fine as well as the Tk 24 crore in unpaid tax, according to an order issued by Chattogram Customs Commissioner Md Fyzur Rahman on October 12.

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.

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



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 parishes 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

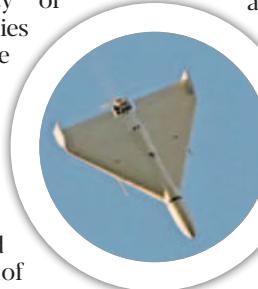
AFP, Kyiv

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 Dnipro Petrovsk and northeast



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

"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.

73pc crimes went unreported in 2018

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population are estimated to go to bed hungry regularly.

"Things have now become worse with the Ukraine war, and subsequent sanctions and counter-sanctions, which have disrupted global food supply and raised the cost of food," she said.

Hasina said she had repeatedly appealed to the international community to stop war, stop politics with food, and stop wastage of food.

"If, on the other hand, a fraction of the money invested on manufacturing weapons was spent on food production and distribution, no one would go hungry in this world.

"Instead, please ensure food supply to areas of food shortage, and famine. As human beings, we must believe that everyone has a right to survive with food and have a decent life."

She stated that "In real sense, there is no dearth of food in our planet. The scarcity is simply manmade".

In another event, Hasina yesterday reiterated her call to work together to produce more food and save Bangladesh from a possible global famine or food crisis against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war.

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

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

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

victimisation rates followed by Chattogram. It also stated that most of the crimes occurred between noon and 9:00pm.

According to the study, the nearest police station was about 3.3 km away, on average, from the spots where the crimes were committed.

Asked about the findings of the survey, Maruf Hossain Sorder, additional deputy inspector general of police (planning and research) at the Police Headquarters, said he was not aware of the study as he was new to the office.

He said he would be able to comment on the report after going through it.

Stop war, stop politics over food

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

its helping hands to the possible famine-hit countries by giving food assistance.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder, Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim and Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the agriculture ministry and its former minister Matia Chowdhury addressed the programme.

Agriculture Secretary Md Sayedul Islam gave the address of welcome.

A documentary on the World Food Day and the government's efforts for development of the agriculture sector was screened at the function.

The World Food Day 2022 was observed on Sunday in the country and elsewhere in the world.

Hasina also stressed the need for properly preserving the produced food, particularly the perishable agri-products, and establishing food processing industries in the 100 special economic zones being set up across the country.

She said Bangladesh is now concentrating on becoming self-reliant in producing edible oil.

The Awami League government has brought 80,000 hectares of abandoned land under the cultivation

process, she said.

Hasina said her government has taken various measures, including enacting laws, establishing food testing laboratories, observing national safe food day, introducing instant screening system and engaging mobile courts to ensure safe food for the countrymen.

'A special win'

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skipper Richie Berrington.

"We haven't had as many T20 cricket as we would have liked but have played a lot of 50 overs cricket. It was about transferring those skills to the short form."

Meanwhile, Sikandar Raza smashed 82 off 48 balls to set up a convincing 31-run victory for Zimbabwe against Ireland in the second match at the same venue on Monday.

Zimbabwe lost three early wickets after being invited to bat first in Hobart, but Raza put on key partnerships to guide the team to 174-7 in Hobart.

Returning paceman Blessing Muzarabani took three wickets as Zimbabwe restricted Ireland to 143-9.

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, Mosharrat 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 VIP flight yesterday morning.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, who saw him off at HSIA, 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.

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