

Boy's wrist gets dismembered after coming into contact with live wire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

The wrist of a seven-year-old boy was dismembered from his arm after he came in contact with a live wire in Cumilla city yesterday.

His mother was also injured when she tried to save him.

Injured Abdullah, son of Md Shamim, and his mother were first taken to Cumilla Medical College Hospital and later moved to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka, said Md Tayebul Islam, head of the burn unit at Cumilla Medical College Hospital.

"The boy was critically injured as his hand was severely damaged and two of his legs got burnt. His mother's condition is also deteriorating," the doctor said.

Shamim was shifting his family from the fifth floor of the building they lived in to the third floor of Manik Mia Tower of Telekona Chowmohuni.

Around noon, Abdullah got electrocuted as he came in contact with an uncovered electric wire of PDB beside their flat.

Locals alleged that the high power electric cable often caused accidents in the area.

Monirul Islam, assistant engineer of PDB-1 in Cumilla, said, "We were not informed of the incident. The Chawkbazar area is under Balutoba station."

The Daily Star could not reach anyone from the Balutoba station despite repeated attempts.

Kabita Utshab begins at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day Jatiya Kabita Utshab began at Dhaka University's Central Library yesterday.

Veteran poet Nirmalendu Goon inaugurated the event virtually.

The event, organised by Jatiya Kabita Parishad, started at 10:00am with the national anthem, followed by a procession.



Sitting in their yard, Parul Begum and her daughter-in-law winnowing freshly milled aman rice to separate the broken grains in Barishal's Wazirpur area yesterday. Parul also has plans for the broken grains. She will make scrumptious pithas for her grandchildren with those.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

BIRGANJ HEALTH COMPLEX IN DINAJPUR

X-ray room locked for 8 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Patients at Birganj Upazila Health Complex in Dinajpur have been suffering for the last eight months as the X-ray service of the medical centre remains suspended following retirement of its only radiographer.

Bipul Kumar Mondal, radiographer at the health complex, went into retirement on May 23 last year.

Since then, the X-ray machine remains non-operational and the room locked. As a result, patients are forced to go to private clinics and diagnostic centres.

According to officials, a patient can avail of X-ray service at the government-run health complex for Tk 75-125, while private centres charge Tk 400-600 for that.



Nazmul Islam, a local resident, said, "We now have to go to Dinajpur town or Thakurgaon for an X-ray, that too spending around five times more."

Many people cannot even afford spending that much money for treatment, he added. Md Rashidul Islam, a patient at the

health complex, said, "It's unfortunate that a medical complex has to suspend its X-ray service due to the retirement of its operator."

Against a collective demand from the local community for resuming the service, the health complex authorities recently acquired a digital X-ray machine for screening tuberculosis patients.

Ironically, it is also not working due to technical complications.

As such, the radiology room has been closed for past months, as seen by this correspondent during a recent visit.

Dr Mohammad Mohsin, upazila family planning officer and in-charge of the health complex, said due to manpower shortage, the vacant post could not be filled yet.

A letter was sent to the health department in this regard, he added.

Police stations should be symbol Biggest event

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those who are involved in cybercrime.

He also emphasised the need to maintain a "zero-tolerance" policy against drugs and militancy.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was present at the programme as chief guest.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam, and Home Ministry's public

security division senior secretary Mostafizur Rahman were present on the occasion, among others.

Asaduzzaman said DMP, with 50 police stations and 34,000 personnel, is working relentlessly for the safety of Dhaka dwellers.

DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman said, "The pattern of crime is constantly changing. DMP dealt with these crimes efficiently. Along

with crime division, the Detective Branch is also working efficiently."

Termining traffic jams a "major problem" of Dhaka, he urged all concerned to come forward to solve it.

"We want to make a Dhaka where Gulistan can be reached in 15 minutes from Uttara. We want to make a Dhaka Metropolitan Police where a woman walking down the street at 3:00am feels safe thinking a policeman is around," he added.

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For those wondering how to navigate the capital's chaotic traffic, the recently opened Dhaka Metro Rail offers additional accessibility for booklovers visiting the fair.

After inaugurating the book fair, the premier also inaugurated a special exhibition titled "Bangla Language and

Bangabandhu" on Bangla Academy premises.

The fair will remain open from 3:00pm to 9:00pm daily, except on public holidays, till February 29.

On February 21, in observance of International Mother Language Day and Martyrs' Day, the fair will open at 8:00am and continue till 9:00pm.

Country saw 752

FROM PAGE 3

and vandalism in at least 41 districts, where seven people were killed and at least 696 injured, and more than 400 homes and businesses were vandalised and looted.

The main reason for this violence is whether or not to vote for a particular party or in response to favouring any particular

candidate. Most of those involved in these attacks are associated with the ruling party, it said.

The HRSS urged the government and law enforcement agencies to take cognizance of all incidents of electoral violence and conduct a speedy and impartial investigation to identify the culprits.

AHSANULLAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AUST)
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Position : Treasurer

Applications are invited for the post of Treasurer at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST). The Position of the Treasurer requires planning, implementing and administering the financial matters and perform all other related duties, adhering to the university rules and policies, the statutes and the Private University Act 2010. The candidate will have significant managerial experience, strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated financial leadership acumen to help formulation and materialize institutional vision and objectives into practice at the university. Good salary will be offered for the exceptionally experienced candidate. Treasurer candidates having Business/ Commerce discipline are encouraged to apply. The appointment will be given subject to approval of the Honorable Chancellor of the universities and the tenure will be for 4 (four) years from the date of joining. If you find yourself capable for the post, then please apply online by sending an e-mail with detail resume indicating academic and professional experience. One copy recent passport size photograph need to be attached and send to secretary.bot@aust.edu. It is also necessary to send a hard copy of the same documents to the address given below within 20th February 2024. Candidates applied earlier no need to apply again.

Secretary, Board of Trustees
Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology
141-142 Love Road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.

AHSANULLAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AUST)
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Carbofuran: a toxic

FROM PAGE 3

This correspondent saw farmers purchasing carbofuran from Barkat Seed Store in Dholagao Bazar, Munshiganj, on January 20.

Posing as a buyer, when this correspondent asked for carbofuran, shop owner Barkat Hossain said one kg of "Corfuran-5G of Corbel Company" would cost Tk 160. "It effectively works on various pests," said Barkat.

Another pesticide shop owner Rubel Molla said he had a stock of 10 kg carbofuran from three different brands. "Which brand do you want?"

This correspondent visited over eight shops in Munshirhat, Dholagao, and Baligao bazars in Munshiganj and found all of them selling carbofuran. In Sunamganj's Jaobazar, Idris Ali, owner of Khan Enterprises, said he had a stock of 70 kg carbofuran from McDonald brand.

"The government banned it, so the stock is low. But we can supply more if the demand increases," said Idris Ali. Adam Ali, executive director of Corbel Chemicals International Ltd, said, "We don't have any stock. Some shops may have our product [carbofuran]."

Mohammed Shaifullah Biswas, head of sales, Marketing & Business at McDonald Bangladesh (Pvt) Ltd, said, "If someone has a packet or two, those could be isolated cases."

Ariful Islam, who runs an e-commerce shop, told The Daily Star he provides home delivery for agricultural products, including carbofuran.

"We sell carbofuran in retail. We also send the product via courier service to any place in the country." According to the Department of Agriculture Extension, 252 companies

import, process, and sell carbofuran.

Carbofuran is a generic name that is available in the market under various brand names. It is the most used pesticide in the country due to its affordability and effectiveness.

There were around 3,285 tonnes of carbofuran stock as of June 2023, according to the Pesticide Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC).

PTAC, in a meeting last year, directed all the companies to destroy the leftover stock by October 30 or face legal action, like cancellation of registration.

However, as per Pesticide Wing officials, no drives have been conducted to halt post-ban sales.

Farmers across districts also admitted to using carbofuran due to a lack of awareness.

Aminul Islam, a farmer in Munshiganj Sadar, said he sprayed carbofuran in his potato field to prevent insects. "No officials informed us about the ban," said Islam.

Echoing Aminul, Rafiqul Islam, a farmer in Saltha upazila in Faridpur, said he used carbofuran on the soil while cultivating onion seeds.

Shamsul Karim, Munshiganj district agriculture officer, said they have not received any instruction from the ministry or the plant protection wings to start an awareness campaign against the banned pesticide.

He said he did not have knowledge of carbofuran being sold in the district.

Faridul Hasan, director and member secretary of PTAC, said they sent a letter to local administrations asking them to take legal action in this regard.

Regarding awareness campaigns among farmers, he said they require a budget for that.

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Memo no : 12.08.0000.14.07.014.23.195 Date : 01.02.2024

Corrigendum

e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following Tender ID. The following amendments are applicable for that Tender ID under the Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER)", BMDA Part, Rajshahi.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Description of Amendments
1	931806	BOQ & Technical Specification

All other terms and conditions in the original Tender Notice shall be remain unchanged and valid.

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