

HC grants Poton bail in morning, SC stays in afternoon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday morning granted bail to former lawmaker Kamrul Ashraf Khan Poton and four others in a Tk 582 crore corruption case.

However, the Supreme Court chamber judge stayed the bail order in the afternoon.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, stayed the order till July 22. The apex court chamber judge passed the order following a petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission challenging the HC order.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the HC bench of Justice ASM Abdul Mobin and Justice Md Mahmud Hassan Talukder granted ad-interim bail to Poton, also owner of Poton
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These illegally set up power connections on footpaths not only cause losses but also consumes a chunk of the available power in the capital. Despite load shedding being a constant menace in the city, such activities continue unabated. The photo was taken in the Purana Paltan area recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

363 foreigners currently in Bangladesh jails: minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told parliament yesterday that no one is kept in the country's prisons "unlawfully".

He said this in response to a question from independent MP Mohammad Huchamuddin Chowdhury from Sylhet-5. In response to another question from Awami League MP Farida Yasmin, he said 363 foreign nationals from 16 countries are detained in the country's jails. He said 212 Indian citizens were detained in the jails of Bangladesh. Among them, 11 were prisoners, 53 were inmates and 148 were released.

There are also 114 Myanmar nationals detained in Bangladesh jails. Besides, seven from Pakistan, six each from Nigeria and Malaysia, four each from China and Belarus, two each from Cameroon and Peru and one each from USA, Botswana, Georgia, Tanzania, Malaya and Angola are in country's prisons.

The minister also said 994 displaced Myanmar citizens have been arrested in murder and arms cases from August 25, 2017 to May 31, 2024.

Two road accidents in an hour leave three dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three persons were killed in two road accidents in the capital's Gabtoli area within an hour yesterday morning.

A motorcyclist and his co-rider were killed as a truck hit their bike from behind in front of a restaurant in the area around 5:30am, said Mofizur Rahman, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Shafiqul Islam, 44, the driver, died on the spot while Abul Hasan, 38, succumbed to his injuries at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

The driver fled with the truck after the accident.

In another accident, a helper of a bus driver was killed as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw hit him while he was crossing a road in front of a market adjacent to the Gabtoli bus terminal around 6:30am.

Babul Ali, 50, died at National Institute of Neurosciences Hospital.

The auto-rickshaw driver, Haider, was arrested in this regard.

CATTLE MARKETS

High supply, higher price

Traders fear loss due to low customer presence

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Despite a large number of sacrificial animals being on sale at all 16 cattle markets in Dhaka, the prices are still quite high.

Meanwhile, the number of customers is very low even four days before Eid-ul-Azha.

Cattle traders, who faced huge losses last year due to a significant drop in prices two days ahead of Eid, are passing days anxiously fearing losses due to the low customer presence.

"I'll have to sell my land to pay off debts if I face losses again this year," said Md Badhon, who has faced losses of Tk 5 lakh in the last three years.

He said they have brought 10 bulls to Diabari cattle market, priced around Tk 1 lakh each.

"Demand for small sized bulls is good, but supply is very low, for which I am expecting some profits this year," he added.

Jamal Hossain, who brought four bulls to the Diabari cattle market from Kushtia, echoed him.

Meanwhile, in the Kachukhet cattle market, Abul Kashem brought 40 bulls.

"I had to take a Tk 8 lakh loan to bring the cattle to the capital. I haven't had much sales yet," he said.

Many farmers did not raise bulls



this year due to last year's loss, he added.

These correspondents also saw a similar situation at Gabtoli cattle market.

The number of big sized bulls at the market was lower due to losses made by traders last year.

"I have brought 10 big sized bulls, priced between Tk 5 lakh and 7.5 lakh, including five that went unsold last year," said Nurul Islam, a trader from Sirajganj, adding that last year he faced a Tk 5 lakh loss.

Musa Ibrahim, owner of Everest Dairy and Agro Farm at Dakkhin

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Yunus being tried like any other person

Says law minister; SCBA president claims the Nobel laureate facing harassment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus is being tried the same way as any citizen of the country who breaches the law.

"But what he [Yunus] is saying is untrue and insulting to the people of Bangladesh," he said while talking to journalists after a meeting with a European Union delegation at the conference room of the law ministry.

Various countries consider tax evasion cases as important and that's why Dr Yunus has been sued, he said.

"The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a case against Prof Yunus. I told them [EU delegation] about that case, which is pending before a court..."

"I informed them that there was another tax evasion case against him. He [Yunus] paid tax after losing another tax evasion case," he said.

The minister also said discussions on the Labour Law, Artificial Intelligence Law, Data Protection Law and Cyber Security Law

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2 mayors pledge prompt removal of sacrificial waste

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two Dhaka mayors yesterday pledged to dispose of sacrificial animal waste promptly on Eid day.

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam made the promise at the induction ceremony of 32 new dump trucks and eight compactor trucks for waste management in the capital's Gabtoli.

"Last year, we disposed of all sacrificial animal waste within eight hours. This year, we will do the same work within six hours," he said.

Mentioning that all preparations have been made, the mayor said more than 10,000 workers will work to remove the waste during Eid.

He also requested people to keep sacrificial waste in a specific place.

Meanwhile, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh has assured of clearing sacrificial waste within 24 hours.

He made the announcement during a media interaction following the inspection of the National Eidgah ground yesterday.

"We will remove all sacrificial waste within 24 hours, like last year. We will also start the removal of the makeshift cattle markets on the night before Eid," said Taposh.

Action if extra fare charged during Eid

Warns DMP, provides guidelines for vehicles transporting cattle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday warned that action will be taken against any transport service if they collect extra fare from passengers during Eid journey.

Munibur Rahman, additional commissioner (traffic), issued the warning during a press briefing at DMP Media Centre.



DIRECTIVES

- Buses must pick up or drop off passengers at terminals
- Passengers should remain in terminal before boarding
- Buses leaving Dhaka must not carry extra passengers
- No unfit or unlicensed buses permitted to operate

He also provided guidelines for vehicles transporting cattle ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

Munibur said long-haul buses must only pick up or drop off passengers at designated bus terminals in Dhaka. Passengers should remain inside the terminal before boarding the buses.

Also, long-distance buses leaving Dhaka must not carry extra passengers or goods, and cannot carry passengers on the roof.

No unfit or unlicensed buses are permitted to operate, he said.

The traffic pressure on roads increases
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Budget too Dhaka-centric

Speakers tell BIP discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year prioritises Dhaka at the expense of other districts, experts said at a programme yesterday.

"If we concentrate on development projects and budget on Dhaka and neglect the rest of the districts, it will not benefit the people," said Amanur Rahman, director of CARE Bangladesh. He also said the proposed budget does not prioritise green and balanced urbanisation.

He was speaking at a press conference titled "Proposed Budget for FY 2024-25: Review of BIP," organised by Bangladesh Institute of Planners at the capital's BIP conference hall.

Amanur said the government should increase budget allocations for districts with low per capita income.

"If we allocate more funds to these districts, people will not feel the need to move to Dhaka. Development in coastal and other remote areas will reduce Dhaka-centric migration," he said.

He also highlighted the importance of investing in government hospitals, educational institutions, and other critical infrastructure at the district level.

BIP president Adil Mohammad Khan, said "We need a specialised budget that reflects allocations for each district."

He said the government has taken a positive initiative to introduce the district budget, but the failure to apply it is disappointing.

Implementing a district budget could expose
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From left, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury at an event celebrating the birthday of King Charles III at a city hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS