

KILLING OF FISHERMAN Foreign ministry protests action by Myanmar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday lodged a protest with the Government of Myanmar over the killing of a Bangladeshi fisherman by the Myanmar Navy in the Bay of Bengal near St Martin's Island on Wednesday.

The victim, Md Usman, 60, lived in Shah Porir Dwip in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar.

In a diplomatic note sent to the Embassy of Myanmar in Dhaka, Bangladesh expressed deep concern over the tragic incident, further compounded by the abduction of 58 Bangladeshi fishermen and six fishing boats, including the boat of the victim, while they were fishing near St Martin's Island, said the foreign ministry in a press release.

The fishermen, along with the boats, were eventually released on Thursday in two phases following contact between the Bangladesh Coast Guard and the Myanmar Navy. Bangladesh urged Myanmar to take immediate steps to prevent the recurrence of such unwarranted actions, the press release said.

The foreign ministry reminded Myanmar to fully respect the integrity of Bangladesh's territorial waters and refrain from any further provocations



With no safety gear on, a construction worker paints a high-rise building in New Market area of Chattogram city yesterday. While deaths and injuries of such workers are common occurrences in the city and elsewhere, no substantial measures are visible in ensuring their occupational safety.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Release white paper on those who fled country Demands BNP leader Farroque

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson's advisory council member Zainul Abedin Farroque yesterday demanded the government publish a white paper on those who fled the country following the student-led mass uprising.

Speaking at a rally, he noted that telephonic conversations involving the deposed ruler Sheikh Hasina had gone viral on social media, in which she mentioned her intention to re-enter the country from India suddenly.

"I would like to say it wouldn't be that easy for you to enter the country crossing the border as you fled Bangladesh to India. The border is currently tightly secured by the BGB under the government of Dr Muhammad Yunus, not by the Awami League," the BNP leader asserted.

Farroque, a former opposition chief whip in parliament, also alleged that India tried to subdue Bangladesh with the help of Hasina.

"But the people of Bangladesh have bigger hearts, and they ousted the Awami League through years of agitations and struggle, as well as through the student-led mass revolution. Democracy must be restored, and voting will no longer be held at night. This movement won't be in vain," he said.

Jatiyatabadi Ganatantrik Party arranged the programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club, demanding the withdrawal of all the false cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, and other opposition leaders and activists.

Drives on to monitor prices of essentials

UNB, Dhaka

Two monitoring teams of the commerce ministry carried out drives at kitchen markets in Dhaka to control the prices of essential commodities and the market situation.

During the operations, the teams fined several shops a total of Tk 4,500.

The two kitchen markets are Shah Ali City Corporation kitchen market in Mirpur and Shanir Akhra kitchen market.

The prices of rice, pulses, potato, egg, vegetable and chicken among the essential commodities were monitored during the drives.

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়	ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়
বসুন্ধরা এফ-ব্লক ১৫০০ বর্গফুটের শতভাগ রেডি ফ্ল্যাট। ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমি। ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬ ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬	বসুন্ধরা এফ-ব্লক রানিমা এডিনিউটেড ১৮৫০ বর্গফুটের দক্ষিণমুখী নির্মলশীন ফ্ল্যাট। ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমি। ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬ ০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
চীফ মেট্রোপলিটান ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট আদালত, ঢাকা।
১ম অতিরিক্ত চীফ মেট্রোপলিটান ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট, ঢাকা মহানগর, আদালত নং-২, ঢাকা।
সূত্র নং- সি.আর. মামলা নং-৯৮৪/২৪ (জলশাসন), আপেল-২২/৯/২৪
স্মারক নং-২২ তারিখ: ০৩ অক্টোবর ২০২৪

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

যেহেতু তফসিলে উল্লিখিত আসামী/আসামীদের বিরুদ্ধে গ্রেফতার পরওয়ানা (WP&A) জারী হয়েছে এবং ১৮৯৮ সালের ফৌজদারী কার্যবিধি আইনের ৮৭ ও ৮৮ ধারার বিধান মোতাবেক আসামী/আসামীদের বিরুদ্ধে সকল প্রকার ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে এবং যেহেতু আদালতের বিশ্রাস করার কারণ রয়েছে যে, আদালতে বিচারার্থে আসামী/আসামীদের গ্রেফতার করা পূর্ণাঙ্গক রয়েছে বা আত্মসমর্পণ করেছেন এবং যেহেতু উক্ত আসামী/আসামীদের বিরুদ্ধে গ্রেফতার করার সম্ভাবনা নেই। এক্ষেত্রে সেহেতু ফৌজদারী কার্যবিধি ১৮৯৮ ধারার ক্ষমতাবলে আসামী/আসামীদের তার/তাদের নামের পার্শ্বে উল্লিখিত মামলার বিচারের জন্য এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশিত হওয়ার ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে আদালতে হাজির হওয়ার জন্য নির্দেশ দেওয়া হলো, অন্যথায় তার/তাদের অনুপস্থিতিতে বিচার কার্যক্রম সমাধান করা হবে।

তফসিল

ক্রম	পশ্চাত আসামী/আসামীদের নাম ঠিকানা	মামলার নম্বর ও ধারা
০১	১. আদার কম্পাউন্ড লিমিটেড ফ্যাঙ্কি-১সি সি এড বি বাজার, মিলাডগালা, শ্রীপুর, গাজীপুর। অফিস-ফ্ল্যাট নং-০২, বি-১, বাসা নং-১১, রোড নং-১১, সেক্টর-০২, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০। ২. জ্ঞান মো: মনিউর রহমান, বাবুগঞ্জ পরিচালক, ফ্যাঙ্কি-১সি সি এড বি বাজার, মিলাডগালা, শ্রীপুর, গাজীপুর। অফিস-ফ্ল্যাট নং-০২, বি-১, বাসা নং-১১, রোড নং-১১, সেক্টর-০২, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০। ৩. জ্ঞান মো: পলক রহমান, পরিচালক, ফ্যাঙ্কি-১সি সি এড বি বাজার, মিলাডগালা, শ্রীপুর, গাজীপুর। অফিস-ফ্ল্যাট নং-০২, বি-১, বাসা নং-১১, রোড নং-১১, সেক্টর-০২, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-১২৩০।	সি.আর. মামলা নং-৯৮৪/২০২৪, ১৮৯৮ সালের সোসাইটিয়েস ইন্ডেন্ট্রেন্ট এ্যাক্টের ১৩৮/১৪০ ধারা।

১ম অতিরিক্ত চীফ মেট্রোপলিটান ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট, ঢাকা মহানগর আদালত-২, ঢাকা।

Pirtala canal on deathbed

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Once a vibrant waterway, the Pirtala canal in Dumki upazila of Patuakhali now teeters on the brink of ecological collapse due to rampant encroachment and pollution.

Stretching five kilometres between the Lohalia and Payra rivers, the canal was a crucial transport route for traders at Pirtala Bazar.

The situation began to deteriorate in the 1990s when sluice gates constructed by the Bangladesh Water Development Board in Angaria, Kadamtala, and Gabtali became non-functional. Locals subsequently blocked the mouth of the canal, halting its natural flow. Over the years, illegal encroachments, including structures and pavements, have transformed the once wide canal into a narrow ditch.

The problem has been exacerbated by increased littering, particularly since the establishment of Patuakhali Science and Technology University in 2000, which attracted more visitors to the area. A recent visit revealed heaps of garbage lining the canal's banks and its waters, with hundreds of illegal structures encroaching on its land.

"The canal was once 30-40 feet wide, allowing boats and goods-laden trawlers to navigate freely. Now, it is almost a dead waterbody,



This is what has become of Pirtala canal in Patuakhali. Rampant encroachment and pollution have turned this once vibrant waterbody into a narrow ditch.

PHOTO: STAR

polluted and encroached upon," said Ruhul Amin, a bakery owner at Pirtala Bazar. He added, "A part of my shop lies on the canal's land, but I will remove it if excavation begins."

Local residents also shared concerns about the canal's degradation.

Abdul Quddus, head teacher of Srijani Bidyaniketan, said the stench from the garbage dumped into the canal disrupts classes for students.

Farmers like Ali Hossain, 70, expressed frustration over the canal's loss of functionality, stating it no longer drains rainwater or

provides irrigation, leading to waterlogging and drought on their lands.

Imran Hossain, the upazila agriculture officer, said the canal's current state affects approximately 270 hectares of cropland.

Md Shaheen Mahamud, upazila nirbahi officer, said initiatives will be undertaken to identify illegal grabbers, clean the canal, and restore its flow.

Arif Hossain, executive engineer of BWDB in Patuakhali, confirmed that steps would be taken to repair the sluice gates to restore the canal's functionality.

Dengue deaths cross Rajbari roads need

FROM PAGE 3

care into three levels — primary, secondary, and tertiary — to streamline patient management and lower death rates.

He said a stronger primary healthcare system is essential as many people lack access to dengue testing at local clinics. This leads to late diagnoses, especially for impoverished communities.

Mushtaq also proposed establishing additional blood collection centres and expanding secondary care facilities in the city to reduce the burden on medical college hospitals.

"City corporation and railway hospitals could be used for secondary care, with critical patients transferred to medical colleges when necessary," he said.

FROM PAGE 5

"Despite paying our taxes in time, we are deprived of the municipality's facilities. Roads outside the municipality, even in union level, are comparatively in much better shape," said Dipok Dey, 35, a trader in Binodpur area.

Contacted, AHS Mohammad Ali Khan, executive engineer of Rajbari municipality, informed that

of the total 108km road network in the municipality, 70km is in need of repairs.

"No major last renovation work has been done to the roads since 2014-15 fiscal year due to lack of funds," he added.

Md Tayeb Ali, executive officer of Rajbari municipality, said "The roads will be repaired on a priority basis once we get funds."

A city stuck in gridlock No playground at most primary

FROM PAGE 5

battery-run rickshaws ply the Sadar Road in hundreds even though it is not permitted there, and yet traffic police personnel pay no attention to this menace.

Sources at Traffic Division of Barishal Metropolitan Police informed 1,594 illegal vehicles were seized and 2,379 cases were lodged in June and July alone, and Tk 76 lakh was collected as fines. However, the drives remained suspended in August and September.

"Some of our operations remained suspended due to the change in situation," said Saddam Hossain, in-charge of BMP's Traffic Division.

"About 12,000 vehicles are impounded every year in Barishal city over irregularities, including around 30 percent illegal vehicles, and around Tk 3

crore is collected in fines. In last two months, the fine collection decreased significantly," he added.

Contacted, Runa Laila, additional deputy commissioner of police (traffic), acknowledged that traffic operations are lagging at present.

"Hopefully we will soon resume the activities, including drives against illegal vehicles," she added.

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primary schools in Pabna town serve 8,000 to 10,000 students, yet all are built on less than 20 decimals of land, according to the district primary education department.

The situation is even worse for the town's 79 private primary and kindergarten schools.

As per the primary education directorate, 33 decimals of land are required to establish a primary school in rural areas, and 20 decimals are needed in municipalities. Kindergarten schools must have at least 12 decimals.

"Of the 1,136 primary schools in Pabna district, many fail to meet registration requirements, including adequate land, playfields, and sports equipment," said Siddique Md Eusuf Reza, the district primary education officer.

He said, "We are working to address the land issue, but a solution is yet to be

Won't allow exploitation of religious conflicts Says adviser Nahid

UNB, Dhaka

Attempts to exploit religious conflicts for political gains will not be allowed, said Posts, Telecommunication and Information Technology Adviser Nahid Islam during his visit to the Durga Puja mandap at the Kalabagan field yesterday.



"We have made every effort to ensure that Durga Puja can be celebrated peacefully across the country. An additional day of public holiday has been declared, and the highest level of security measures has been implemented," he said.

The adviser also emphasised the importance of maintaining religious harmony in Bangladesh. He urged everyone to remain vigilant against attempts to create unrest in certain areas.

Earlier, while visiting another puja mandap in Khamarbari, Nahid encouraged members of the Hindu community to celebrate Durga Puja without any concerns.

Referring to the incident in Chattogram on Thursday, Nahid said swift legal action was taken, reiterating the need to respect the rights and freedoms of all religions.

Dept of Agriculture, USAID sign MoU

STAR REPORT

The Department of Agricultural Marketing and USAID's Feed the Future Bangladesh Policy LINK Agricultural Policy Activity have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen agricultural marketing in Bangladesh.

This collaboration focuses on developing a plan of action for the National Agricultural Marketing Policy 2023, which aims to improve market access for farmers and enhance value chains.

Md Masud Karim, director general (additional secretary) of the Department of Agricultural Marketing, and Joseph Lessard, director of the Office of Economic Growth at USAID Bangladesh, were present.



Hilsa fries flood

FROM PAGE 3

Ismail Hossain, a buyer at the market, said these jatkas would have grown into large hilsas if those were not caught, and fetched better value. He called for strict monitoring by authorities concerned.

Contacted, Bimal Chandra Das, district fisheries officer in Barishal, said large hilsas have been less available this year.

"To generate enough financial returns,

fishermen have been catching whatever sizes of hilsa they can find, large and small. It will definitely have a bad impact. The ministry has been informed in this regard," he said.

"Our campaign against jatka catching has been going on, but fishermen did not refrain from netting these hilsa fries. We will continue tougher drives to enforce the 22 day ban on hilsa catching from October 13," the official added.

BNP leader found

FROM PAGE 3

Meanwhile, Mamun got involved in the conflict as his father-in-law had purchased an apartment in the building.

"Mamun has been made the prime accused in the case. His involvement is under further investigation," the DC added.

The Daily Star tried to

contact Pleasant Properties Ltd and Mamun over the phone, but they did not respond.

In a related development, Saiful Islam, the officer-in-charge of Hatirjheel Police Station, has been removed from his post due to negligence in handling the case, the DC said.

He did not elaborate further.

PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 12

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:45	12:45	4:15	5:45	7:15

JAMAAT 5:20 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION