

Woman, child electrocuted in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A woman and her seven-month-old daughter were electrocuted while cooking rice in an electric cooker at their home in Magura's Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The incident occurred around 9:00am at the family's residence in Tilla village under Moghi union of the upazila.

The deceased were identified as Setu Khatun, 30, wife of Awal Molla of the village, and their daughter Anisha.

According to Setu's brother-in-law, Md Ripon Biswas, Setu was cooking rice using an electric cooker holding Anisha on her lap when they suddenly got electrocuted.

Family members rushed them to Magura District Hospital, where the on-duty doctor declared them dead.

Dr Omar Faruk of the hospital's emergency department said, "They were brought dead to the hospital around 9:30am with signs of electric burns."

Md Ayub Ali, officer-in-charge of Magura Sadar Police Station, said, "Police have visited the hospital and an investigation is underway. Legal steps will follow accordingly."

Part of illegal shipbreaking yard demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A part of an illegally established shipbreaking yard in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram was demolished yesterday.

A joint drive, led by four executive magistrates from the Chattogram district administration, was conducted in Kohinoor Steel Shipbreaking Yard on Salimpur coast from 9:00am till 5:00pm with assistance of Rab, police, Ansar, Forest Department, and the Department of Environment.

During the drive, a newly constructed two-storey building inside the yard was knocked down.

Belayet Hossain, divisional forest officer in Chattogram, said, "The land belongs to the Forest Department. We had informed the district administration accordingly. After a lengthy official process, we were finally able to reclaim it today [yesterday]."

Stop destroying nature

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like the campaign for massive tree plantation across the country.

Yunus hoped that the new generation would be able to see pollution-free rivers and forests close to Dhaka.

"Young people inspired us to dream of a new Bangladesh. This young generation is the most powerful and creative in the world."

The chief adviser urged the young generation to play an effective role in addressing the challenges of climate change and protecting the environment from pollution.

He also urged all citizens to stop using single-use plastic products. "We must be free from self-destructive thinking processes. For economic benefit, the environment cannot be harmed."

Describing the growing dominance of plastic products, Yunus said the people will suffer a certain defeat against plastic if they do not want to change.

"There will be no question of avoiding use of plastic products if

their production is stopped. That's the root."

Yunus said humans are destroying nature, but they could not realise that nature also has a destructive mode.

He said plastic is accelerating climate crises, natural disasters, and biodiversity destruction.

The chief adviser said the country's waterbodies and biodiversity are being destroyed for a lack of proper plastic management.

About the longevity of plastic in nature, he said everything has a lifespan, but plastic is something that does not perish.

Green Bangladesh

Yunus later inaugurated the Environment Fair-2025 and the National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair-2025 at the function.

He also distributed the National Environment Award, the National Wildlife Conservation Award, and the National Tree Plantation Award among the recipients in recognition of their outstanding contributions to protection of the environment and conservation of wildlife.

Woman 'raped' in train toilet

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Quoting the victim, Railway Police sources said the woman was heading home to Kurigram when Saiful confined her to the train toilet and raped her.

"Upon being informed, police took immediate action and apprehended the suspect. They were taken to Santahar Railway Police Station in Bogura as it was the nearest police station after the train started its journey," SP Farhat said.

A case will be filed at Dhaka Railway Police Station in Kamalapur, and further legal procedures will be completed there, he said.

Habibur Rahman, in charge of

Bogura's Santahar Railway Police Station, said police took both the victim and the accused off the Rangpur Express around 4:15pm.

Later, at 4:45pm, they were sent to Kamalapur on the Panchagarh Express under the supervision of Railway Police, he said.

Contacted, Jaynal Abedin, officer-in-charge of Dhaka Railway Police Station, said they were informed about the incident and were waiting for the victim to come.

A case will be filed with the Dhaka Railway Police Station in connection with the incident, he said.

[Our correspondents in Lalmonirhat and Bogura contributed to this report]

Students lock KMP gate

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Kabir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Khanjahan Ali Police Station, said, "After hearing that SI Sukanta was being assaulted by locals [on Tuesday], we rushed to the scene. The situation was very tense. We managed to intervene and took him into our custody."

He added that Sukanta was later admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital for treatment. Later, he was released from the hospital.

Suknata stands accused in several

criminal cases, said the KMP sources.

On December 12 last year, a case was filed with Khulna Sadar Police Station over an attack on students and civilians, which is under investigation by the Detective Branch of police, they said.

Around 8:30pm, the protest was suspended until this afternoon, considering HSC exams.

However, the main gate of the KMP Headquarters remained locked, but vehicular movement on the road became normal.

GOVT BROJOMOHUN COLLEGE

STUDENTS PROTEST waterlogging, poor facilities



SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Students of Government Brojomohun College in Barishal blocked the road adjacent to the institution yesterday, demanding infrastructural development and improved facilities on campus.

Several hundred students staged the protest from 11:00am till around 2:00pm, halting traffic for nearly two hours to press home their five-point demand.

Their demands include construction of new hostels and academic buildings, a permanent drainage solution to mitigate waterlogging, recruitment of adequate teachers, establishment of a modern library, and provision of transport facilities at the 136-year-old institution.

Students said they have long been concerned over worsening waterlogging within the campus, especially during the monsoon.

Even a drizzle leads to water

accumulation in key areas of the college, submerging roads, walkways, and fields. During heavy rain, much of the campus remains underwater, they added.

The stagnant water has turned the campus into a mosquito breeding ground, raising concern over Aedes mosquito infestation and a possible dengue outbreak.

"To reach our hostels, we have to wade through knee-deep water. At night, movement becomes risky," said Meherab Hossain Rifat, a student.

"Many students are suffering from different diseases due to the current condition of the campus," said Syed Mehedi Hasan, another student.

Teachers said poor drainage and elevated roads are the main causes behind the worsening waterlogging.

"This isn't a new problem. Due to elevated roads and clogged drains, the rest of the campus – being at a lower level – gets flooded even after a short spell

of rain," said a senior faculty member, seeking anonymity.

Contacted, Prof Md Tajul Islam, principal of the college, requested students to allow three days' time to address at least one of their demands.

"I have contacted the education adviser and the Education Engineering Department multiple times in this regard, but no concrete action has been taken yet," he said.

"Around 30,000 students are accommodated within this 48-acre campus. There is a desperate need for upgrading the infrastructure. We have communicated with the Barishal City Corporation for modifying the drainage system to divert the accumulated water into nearby canals," he added.

Contacted, Md Rezaul Bari, chief executive officer of BCC, said, "This issue technically falls outside our jurisdiction. However, since it has been brought to our attention, we are reviewing it."



Locals suffer as culvert remains inaccessible

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A culvert built without approach road in Yusufpur village under Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila remains largely unusable, causing immense sufferings to over 700 families in the locality.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief constructed the 7.5-metre culvert at a cost of Tk 27.80 lakh to restore safe connectivity for villagers after the previous one collapsed.

It is located about two kilometres away from the Kalapara-Kuakata road near the Sonatala river bridge. The culvert was constructed around six months ago, said locals.

"There is no access road to use the culvert for movement. The existing road is in poor condition as well. People from Yusufpur and neighbouring Latifpur, including around 100 students of local schools and madrasas, use this route daily for commute amid much difficulty," said Marjina, a local resident.

Locals Jane Alam and Abdul Latif echoed her.

Residents urged the authorities concerned to construct an approach road for the culvert to eliminate their miseries. The contractor for the culvert's construction could not be reached for comments as his phone was found switched off.

Moksedul Alam, project implementation officer in Kalapara upazila, said steps would soon be taken to build the approach road.

Two more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people died from dengue, while 326 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

The DGHS data showed one fatality outside the city corporation areas in Rajshahi division and another within Dhaka South City Corporation.

With the new deaths, the country's dengue death toll this year has climbed to 36, including 16 from outside Dhaka. During the same period, the total number of reported dengue cases increased to 8,870.

Drug smuggling via air, land routes

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from 1.12 lakh kgs.

Each bottle of Phensedyl is sold for Tk 3,000 to Tk 3,500 while cannabis costs Tk 64,000 a kg. Heroin prices range from Tk 20 lakh to Tk 25 lakh per kg, said local drug dealers.

Phensedyl and cannabis are smuggled from India, using private vehicles, motorbikes, and courier services. The drugs are then transported to urban centres, said DNC officials.

COCAINE SMUGGLING

International drug traffickers are using Bangladesh as a transit point for transporting cocaine to Europe and North America, according to police and DNC officials.

The seizure of a cocaine consignment in January 2023 led to the arrests of traffickers from Malawi, Cameroon and Nigeria, along with local drug dealers. The suspected ringleader – a Nigerian national – remains at large.

"Smugglers bring cocaine from Peru

and Colombia, and later transport the drug mainly to Europe," said Khorshid.

DNC Additional Director Badruddin said, "Cocaine is smuggled in only via air routes. Despite limited manpower and logistics, we're trying our best to arrest traffickers and seize consignments."

"Steps have been taken to install more detection tools, including body scanners, at airports and border checkpoints to better detect such consignments," he added.

FRESH LISTS OF NARCOS

The police headquarters have directed the superintendents of police in all districts to prepare fresh lists of drug dealers after a recent home ministry meeting acknowledged a rise in drug trafficking across the country.

They have been instructed to intensify operations to bust dens of narcotic traders, identify both new and long-time traffickers, and follow up on pending narcotics cases.

Enamul Haque Sagor, assistant

inspector general at the PHQ, said, "Vigilance has been heightened in border areas. We are coordinating with other agencies to curb drug trafficking."

DNC and police officials said the kingpins of several local syndicates are in direct contact with drug traffickers from Nigeria, Ghana, India and Myanmar. And drug traffickers are very active in at least 32 districts, including Dhaka, Cox's Bazar, Cumilla, Sylhet, Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi.

They also said some police personnel are complicit in the narcotics trade.

Requesting anonymity, a deputy inspector general of police admitted that there have been lapses in monitoring by law enforcers in recent months.

He said that police are now carrying out raids in different parts of the country to arrest drug dealers. Over a hundred suspected traffickers have already been identified in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar and other regions.

Help us bring drugs, graft under control

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networks. If we fail to dismantle them, the supply chain will remain intact."

The adviser acknowledged that certain regions, including Cox's Bazar, have become "strategically important" for narcotics smuggling, and admitted to corruption in the process securing postings to these areas.

He also warned of a continued influx of Yaba from Myanmar, facilitated by armed groups dependent on the drug trade. "We have flagged this repeatedly. It is a transnational threat."

Jahangir noted the resurgence of cross-border Phensedyl smuggling as well. "It's not even being consumed in India anymore. It's being produced in their border areas solely to be smuggled into Bangladesh. It has become a cottage industry there."

Narcotics have infiltrated every level of society, from the affluent to the poor, he added. "When I visited a correctional facility, I saw children, students, professionals – all affected."

The government is currently spending Tk 1,400 crore to establish seven new state-run rehabilitation centres in seven divisions, in addition to the existing four. "But I sincerely hope no one ever needs to go to those centres. We must act before people end up in rehab. Prevention must be our top priority."

Also addressing the briefing,

Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) Director General Maruf Hasan described drug abuse as a deep-rooted social crisis fuelled by the complicity of individuals across all sectors, including DNC officials, media professionals, and other influential groups.

He also responded to questions about recent raids on shisha lounges and bars in upscale areas of Dhaka, where licensed establishments have allegedly been serving illegal alcohol with the approval of certain DNC officials.

"This is a social disease in Bangladesh. Yes, some of our officers are involved, as are people from the media and other sectors of society. This problem is sustained by collective complicity."

"We must act with integrity. Whenever we receive credible information, we take action. In Banani, we carried out two successive raids to shut down illegal operations, but faced resistance from powerful quarters residing there."

He noted that many bars were flouting the rule requiring alcohol to be sourced exclusively from the state-run Carew & Co warehouse.

"Illegal stocks are turning up everywhere. Shisha lounges are also mushrooming across Dhaka's elite neighbourhoods, attracting young people. These establishments remain under close surveillance."

Maruf acknowledged allegations that some DNC officials have accepted bribes or favours. "We have received such complaints. But this is not just a law enforcement issue; it is a societal problem. Everyone – law enforcers, the media, the public – must work together."

HSC, equivalent exams begin today

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Board and head of the committee, all candidates and staff must wear masks, and hand sanitisers will be available at all entrances of the entrance of centres.

Centre authorities have been instructed to ensure cleanliness to help prevent the spread of dengue. Medical teams will be on standby at every centre in coordination with local health authorities.

Meanwhile, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board in a notification said that class XI students, who were admitted in the 2024-25 academic year and began classes in the second week of August last year, will sit for the HSC, Alim, and equivalent examinations in May-June 2026. The exams will cover the entire syllabus, including all subjects and the full marks structure.