6,000 litres of diesel seized in Chattogram

Illegal fuel tank found in Sherpur

STAR REPORT

Authorities in separate drives across three districts took action against the illegal storage and sale of fuel yesterday, seizing large quantities of diesel and fining those involved.

In Chattogram, the district administration, in a joint drive with police, seized around 6,000 litres of diesel illegally stockpiled in the city's Patenga area yesterday.

Two individuals were detained for initial questioning during the drive, conducted by an executive magistrate along with members of Patenga Police Station, said Officer-in-Charge Mostafa Ahmed.

"We also seized three pumps used for loading and unloading the diesel," he added.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

A group of teenagers leap off a cargo vessel docked by the Kirtankhola to bathe in the river on a warm afternoon, enjoying a brief respite with friends. The photo was taken yesterday in the Band Road area of Barishal city. PHOTO: TITU DAS

Khulna reels under mosquito surge

Residents blame poor control measures as outbreak worsens ahead of summer

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

With warmer days already setting in ahead of summer, residents of Khulna city are grappling with an alarming surge in the mosquito population.

From dusk till dawn, mosquitoes from nearby drains and stagnant waterbodies swarm residential areas and invade homes.

Residents complained that the Khulna City Corporation has failed to take adequate mosquito control measures, leading to an alarming rise in the mosquito population, particularly in areas such as Gallamari, Bastuhara, Tutpara, Banda Bazar, Daulatpur, Khalishpur, Shibbari, Bosupara, Phulbarigate, Nirala, Sonadanga, Boyra and Mujgunni.

Public health experts cautioned that without timely and effective intervention, the situation could deteriorate further as temperatures rise in the coming days, deepening the city's health and sanitation challenges.

Officials of KCC's conservancy department said 56 people are currently engaged in spraying anti-mosquito oil round the clock. Besides, over 300 cleaners have been cleaning drains and bushes, common mosquito breeding grounds.

KCC has also almost completed the Tk 823 crore project, "Drainage System Development (Phase I)", which officials said is expected to reduce the mosquito menace in the near future.

Mizanur Rahman, a shop owner at Boyra Bazar, said the mosquito menace has been affecting his daily business.

"Customers can't stay in the shop even for a few minutes due to mosquitoes from nearby open drains," he said. "I burn coils and use sprays, but nothing seems to work."

"Unless the drains are regularly cleaned and sprayed with larvicide, shopkeepers like us will continue to have our businesses affected adversely," he added.

Tahmina Sultana, a homemaker from Daulatpur Shil Para, said even during the daytime, mosquitoes are visible inside the house, disrupting activities including cooking, resting and helping children study.

Jahidul Islam, a student of Govt BL College living in a rented house near Khulna University, said he has been finding it difficult to concentrate on his studies at night due to mosquitoes.

"Using coils for hours gives me headaches, while electric repellents are too expensive for daily use," he added.

He also said landlords rarely take preventive measures to keep the surroundings clean.

Mohendranath Sen, member secretary of Khulna Civil Society, said inadequate fogging and larvicide spraying across the city have allowed mosquitoes to breed and proliferate beyond control.

Dr Suzat Ahmed, director of Khulna Medical College Hospital, said the hospital has recently been witnessing a steady rise in the number of patients with mosquito-borne diseases.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

1 killed, 25 hurt in Bagerhat clashes

40 homes, shops torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bagerhat*

A series of violent clashes over a land dispute between two rival groups in Bagerhat's Chitalmari upazila on Thursday left one person dead, around 25 others injured, and at least 40 homes and shops reduced to ashes.

The clashes broke out between the Biswas and Sheikh families in Chingri village around 6:30pm and continued until around 10:30pm.

The deceased was identified as Rajib Sheikh, 25.

On information, police, army, and fire service personnel arrived at the scene later on Thursday night and brought the situation under control.

As of yesterday afternoon, the area remained tense amid fears of further retaliatory attacks.

The conflict stemmed from a longstanding

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

PADMA BUS PLUNGE

Rescue operation enters third day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Faridpur*

Fire service continued its rescue operation for the third consecutive day yesterday following the sinking of a bus in the Padma river at Daulatdia Ferry Ghat in Rajbari.

"A 12-member diving team, comprising six personnel from the fire service and six from the Bangladesh Navy, resumed the rescue work after 8:00am," Dewan Sohel Rana, deputy assistant director of the Rajbari Fire Service, told The Daily Star around 11:30am.

Md Hafizur Rahman, deputy collector of the Rajbari Deputy Commissioner's Office, said a total of 26 bodies have been recovered so far. Of them, 25 have been handed over to their families, while one has been kept at Rajbari Sadar Hospital and will be handed over once relatives arrive from Dinajpur.

According to the district administration, families of 18 victims from Rajbari have each

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Mugger shot dead by accomplice in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

A suspected mugger was shot dead by one of his accomplices during an attempted mugging in Dighalia upazila of Khulna early yesterday.

The incident took place around 3:00am near the Steamer Ghat area when Tohidul Islam, a mobile banking agent, was returning home after closing his shop and was waylaid by three armed muggers, said police.

At one stage, an altercation broke out, and the muggers opened fire. One of the bullets struck Sagor, a member of the gang and also a local resident, leaving him dead on the spot. The other two muggers promptly fled the scene.

Tohidul also sustained injuries during the incident. Locals rescued and took him to Khulna Medical College Hospital, where he is currently undergoing treatment.

Police recovered the body and sent it to KMCH morgue for autopsy, said Dighalia Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Shah Alam.

No case has been filed yet, but police are trying to identify and arrest the suspects, he added.

Pallabi Jubo Dal leader killed

FROM PAGE 3

controlled various illegal activities in Mirpur, including jhut trading, extortion, housing and developer businesses, and collecting money from footpath vendors. Kibria had reportedly become an obstacle to these operations.

"Due to this, they planned to eliminate him," he added.

According to Rab, the two arrested suspects admitted their direct involvement in the killing. Lopen told investigators that he fired two rounds at Kibria, while another blank shot was used to disperse people during the attack.

Shahabuddin said six to seven people were involved in the "killing mission", with three shooters assigned to carry out the attack, including one Johnny, who had been arrested earlier.

Other arrestees include Monir Hossain alias Sohail, also known as "Pata Sohail", and Sujon alias "Bukpora Sujon".

The Rab official said others involved included Masum, who was part of a backup team ensuring the shooters' escape; Sohail, who supplied weapons and coordinated security; and Sujon, who conducted surveillance on the victim.

"The two shooters went into hiding after the incident and initially tried to flee the country through illegal routes. However, tightened border security thwarted their plans. They later returned to Dhaka and were preparing to go abroad legally by arranging passports and visas before being arrested," he said.

Golam Kibria, 50, was shot dead on the evening of November 17 last year at a shop in the Mirpur-12 area. Assailants opened fire on his chest and back before fleeing. During their escape, they also fired at locals, leaving a rickshaw-puller seriously injured.

Locals managed to catch one of the shooters and handed him over to police.

The victim's family later filed a murder case with Pallabi Police Station.

We must face

FROM PAGE 3

that threatens our transport system, industries, agriculture, and the daily dignity of millions," he said.

Highlighting the urgency of the situation, the Jamaat ameer called on all political parties to rise above their differences and act in the interest of the people.

"The people who placed their trust in us and continue to endure hardship deserve better. This is not the time for political point-scoring; this is the time for unity," he said.

He stressed that political divisions must not stand in the way of addressing a national crisis, urging leaders to work together to protect the people and stabilise the economy.

"Whatever divides us politically is insignificant compared to what unites us as Bangladeshis. We must stand together, work across party lines, and face this crisis as one nation," he added.

A decade of stalled trials

FROM PAGE 3

Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka framed charges against them.

Court records show that 24 out of 40 listed witnesses testified before the case was transferred to the Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court-12 of Dhaka on December 1, 2022.

Since then, no witnesses -- including the complainant Masud -- have testified as of February 17 this year, according to a court staffer.

Over the past nine and a half years, the court summoned Masud 94 times and even issued an arrest order to secure his testimony, but the prosecution and police failed to produce him, documents show.

After the July uprising, Zikrullah, Ariful and Saiful were released on bail between December 5, 2024, and January 12, 2025. The other two accused -- Akram and Junaid -- have been absconding since the case was filed.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Farid Uddin Sarker declined to comment without reviewing the case records on March 3.

NAZIMUDDIN CASE

A day after Nazimuddin's murder, Sub-Inspector Nurul Islam filed a case with Sutrapur Police Station against unidentified assailants under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

On August 20, 2020, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police submitted a charge sheet accusing nine Ansar al Islam members -- Syed Ziaul Haque alias Major (sacked) Zia, Mozammel Hossain Saimon, Arafat Rahman Siam, Sheikh Abdullah, Rashed-Un-Nabi Bhuiyan, Akram Hossain, Junaid Ahmed, Asadullah alias Foyjul and Sabbirul Haque Chowdhury.

On June 24, 2024, the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal of Dhaka framed charges against Ziaul, Akram, Abdullah and Rashed-Un-Nabi, while discharging the remaining five accused.

Only one witness testified in the case in 2024 after charges were framed, the prosecution said.

Mohammad Anisur Rahman, additional public prosecutor of the tribunal, said on March 4 that the trial has seen little progress due to the non-appearance of witnesses.

"We are trying our best to produce the witnesses for testimony. But they are not coming to the tribunal on scheduled dates," he said.

Ziaul and Akram have been absconding since the case was filed, while Abdullah and Rashed-Un-Nabi are currently in jail.

NILOY CASE

On the day of the killing, Niloy's wife, Asha Moni, filed a case with Khilgaon Police Station against four unidentified individuals.

After a five-year investigation, CTTC Inspector Shah Md Akhtaruzzaman Ilias submitted charges on October 4, 2020, against 13 ABT members -- Ziaul, Mozammel, Arafat, Abdullah, Khairul Islam, Abu Siddiq Sohel, Masud Rana, Saad Al Nahiyan, Tarikul Islam, Kamal Hossain Sardar, Kawsar Hossain Khan, Mortuja Faisal Sabbir and Mufti Abdul Gaffar.

On January 18, 2022, the Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court-1 of Dhaka framed charges against them.

Among the accused, Khairul, Abdullah, Mozammel and Arafat are in jail, while Masud Rana, Saad, Tarikul, Kamal, Kawsar Hossain Khan, Mortuja and Abdul Gaffar are on bail.

Court documents show that Asha Moni testified on August 22, 2022, and police officer Anowar Hossain Khan testified on July 30 last year.

"After charge framing, 27 hearings were held from April 6, 2022, to February 17 this year. During that time, only five of the 15 listed witnesses testified," said bench assistant ASM Shahadat Ali.

Waz, kirtan

FROM PAGE 3

incident of shrine demolition," she added, noting that a baul performance in Sylhet was attacked right after Eid-ul-Fitr.

Emphasising cultural preservation, Rumeen said it is a collective responsibility to uphold Bangladesh's traditions and pass them on to future generations.

"Those associated with baul songs and shrines are part of our cultural identity," she said.

Liberation War

FROM PAGE 3

Talking about Matiur Rahman's book, Liberation War Museum Trustee and writer Mofidul Hoque said it is not just a publication but a unique historical document.

He recalled the boot polish boys of Mumbai, who donated their entire day's earnings for the refugees of Bangladesh.

According to him, the Liberation War of Bangladesh brought the global youth rebellion and humanitarian consciousness of the 1960s to a single confluence.

Poet and editor Sajjad Sharif said a vast history lies behind every small piece of information in the book, highlighting the support of world-renowned literary figures like Octavio Paz.

Eminent singer Syed Abdul Hadi, while expressing gratitude to foreign friends, stressed the need to adequately preserve the history and contributions of the local artists and writers who remained confined within the country during the war.

He also shared a rare memory of recording a song late at night with martyr Altaf Mahmud.

Towards the end of the programme, singer Warda Ashraf performed Joan Baez's "Song of Bangladesh" and a composition by Ravi Shankar.

Info minister calls

FROM PAGE 3

Addressing a panel discussion titled "A New Framework for the Global Order: A Communication Perspective," the minister thanked the government of Turkiye for hosting the timely forum amid rising global uncertainty marked by shifting power dynamics and growing challenges of misinformation and disinformation.

He outlined Bangladesh's ongoing reform priorities, including strengthening democratic institutions, ensuring media freedom and developing an independent media regulatory framework.

The minister reiterated that the solution to information disorder lies in a balanced, institutional approach -- rejecting both censorship and unchecked chaos.

Referring to Bangladesh's context, he pointed out the challenges of tackling misinformation and disinformation in a densely populated and rapidly digitising country.

"In the digital age, an effective balance is needed between access to information and the free flow of information," he said, adding that a new and appropriate framework at both national and international levels would help address emerging challenges.

"Bangladesh seeks to learn from other countries while also contributing its own experiences to enrich global knowledge," he noted.

Highlighting bilateral ties, he reaffirmed the close relationship with Turkiye and appreciated its support on humanitarian issues, including the Rohingya crisis.

১১ সিগন্যাল ব্যাটালিয়ন
ঢাকা সেনানিবাস, ঢাকা-১২০৬

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। ১১ সিগন্যাল ব্যাটালিয়নের তত্ত্বাবধানে আভিযানিক ও নিরাপত্তা সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধিকরণের জন্য এতদসংক্রান্ত বিবিধ দ্রব্যসামগ্রী ক্রয় করা হবে। আগ্রহী প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/মেরামতকারী সংস্থার নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষের বরাবরে দেশীয় মুদ্রায় সীলমোহর যুক্ত উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। ক্রয়তব্য সরঞ্জামাদির তালিকা সহ বিস্তারিত বিবরণ দরপত্রের সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।

২। আগামী ০৯ এপ্রিল ২০২৬ ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (০৮৪০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৪০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত) ৭৫০.০০ (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ মাত্র) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) প্রদান পূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় বিনির্দেশ/শর্তাবলী সহ দরপত্রের সিডিউল এই অফিস হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। উক্ত সিডিউলের শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক আগামী ১৬ এপ্রিল ২০২৬ তারিখ সকাল ১১০০ ঘটিকার সময় এই অফিসে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে দরপত্র ফেলতে হবে এবং ঐদিন ১১৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র দাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র বাক্স খোলা হবে।

অধিনায়ক
১১ সিগন্যাল ব্যাটালিয়ন
ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

আই এস পি আর/সেনা/২৬৩

GD-653