

JUDICIARY, RIGHTS TIB expresses concern over rollback of key ordinances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday expressed strong disappointment over government moves to repeal two ordinances related to the appointment of Supreme Court judges and a separate secretariat and to suspend the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance for review.

In a statement, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman urged the government to place these ordinances before Parliament in their original form.

He also called for other ordinances recommended for suspension – including those on the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Police Commission, and Right to Information – to be reviewed with stakeholders and enacted without delay.

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A child shares a playful moment with her mother as she arranges flowers for sale on the roadside at TSC on the Dhaka University campus, reflecting a glimpse of everyday resilience and warmth amid work. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Fogging operations go on amid diesel shortage concerns

DNCC, DSCC claim there is no immediate risk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

City corporations are continuing fogging operations for mosquito control in Dhaka amid concerns over the ongoing diesel shortage in the country during the monsoon, the usual time for outbreaks of Aedes mosquitoes.

Officials from both Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) claimed there is no immediate risk, as contractors responsible for ensuring fuel supply and the authorities concerned have already taken steps to avoid any disruption.

DNCC uses malathion, mixed with diesel at a ratio of 5 percent per litre for fogging, while DSCC uses deltamethrin, mixed at 0.1 millilitres per litre of diesel.

Sources say DNCC currently needs about 3,25,000 litres of diesel for fogging, while DSCC requires around 2,00,000 litres. Both city corporations, alongside contractors, are also contacting relevant government agencies to secure the fuel supply.

DNCC, which has 54 wards, requires about 1,100 litres of diesel-mixed malathion daily. As of March 30, it had around 27,000 litres in stock – barely enough to continue operations till April 25.

On March 12, DNCC issued a Tk 16.29 crore work order to procure a supply of 3,60,000 litres of malathion by May 11. However, contractor Habibur Rahman Gazi has informed authorities that he is unable to supply due to the diesel shortage, noting that 3,27,000 litres of diesel are needed to produce the required amount.

Brig Gen Imrul Kayes Chowdhury, DNCC's chief health officer, said there is no shortage until April 21, with detailed

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Heatwave grips parts of country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After several months of mild winter, people across the country have started to feel the intensity of rising temperatures as summer approaches.

According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), a mild to moderate heatwave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions, as well as the districts of Tangail, Faridpur, Manikganj and Nilphamari, and it may spread further.

The highest temperature in the country until 10:00pm yesterday was recorded 39.7 degrees Celsius in Chuadanga, while the temperature in Dhaka reached 36.4 degrees Celsius.

Weather officials said the gradual increase in temperature indicates the transition from winter to summer, with warmer days expected to continue in the coming weeks.

Residents in different parts of the country are already experiencing discomfort, especially during midday hours. Many are also afraid of not getting uninterrupted electricity supply during the scorching heat due to the current global oil crisis.

"I am planning to purchase an IPS fearing disruption of power, as the oil crisis is now a global issue and we do not know when it will be resolved," said Amowar Hossain, a resident of Dhanmondi.

Rose Garden: a palace where legacy blooms

Iconic Old Dhaka landmark turns into modern entertainment centre

DIPAN NANDY and SUKANTA HALDER

Hidden within the bustling alleys in Old Dhaka's Tikatuli lies a regal architectural gem – the Rose Garden.

Built in the early 20th century, the palace that once reflected an elite lifestyle now carries the scent of history, the echoes of political discourse, and the essence of cultural heritage.

Located on KM Das Lane, the Rose Garden now stands as a preserved heritage site and public entertainment centre.

The estate features an elegant white marble mansion exuding Greek architectural style, white marble sculptures, a field with an artificial fountain at the centre, a pond with a paved bank, and a lush green garden with rows of rose bushes, creating a mesmerising ambience of grandeur.

The ground floor of the palace consists of eight rooms, all currently closed. On the upper floor, four of the five rooms are open to visitors. Along the wooden staircase to the second floor, there are colourful glass designs that make the palace come alive in a play of light and shadow.

The palace features a large hall, which was once the ballroom, with every corner intricately adorned and the ceiling featuring chandeliers that are still ready to shine.

On one side of the palace is the Bengal Studio, where the Bangladeshi film "Harano Din" was

shot.

Every day, a host of local and foreign visitors visit the Rose Garden.

Shiuly Akter, a visitor, said, "The architecture of old houses and palaces always fascinates me. The Rose Garden is not just a palace. As I entered, I felt as if I were standing as a witness to time. Its serene beauty

resident, said, "I was born and brought up in this area. The Rose Garden is the symbol of pride not only for our locality but for the whole country."

The story of Rose Garden begins during the British era in 1931, when Rishikesh Das, a nouveau riche businessman, constructed the mansion.



is enchanting. If anyone ever seeks tranquillity, history, and beauty, then an afternoon visit to the Rose Garden is highly recommended."

Rajnin Farhana, another visitor, said, "I heard about the palace since it reopened. A number of my friends visited earlier and posted photos on social media. Now I came to visit the palace and take a lot of photos."

Monowar Hossain, a local



Once, after being humiliated at a cultural gathering at Baldha Garden, Rishikesh decided to host his own events at a grand garden house. Due to the abundance of rose bushes, the estate was named "Rose Garden".

However, before the decoration of the building could be completed, Rishikesh went bankrupt and had to sell the property in 1937 to

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BANGABAZAR FIRE

Victims yet to be compensated three years on

Tk 6.25cr raised for affected traders remains frozen in bank

DIPAN NANDY and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Even after three years since the devastating fire at Dhaka's Bangabazar on April 4, 2023 that gutted thousands of shops just days ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, victim traders have yet to receive any compensation.

A fund of Tk 6.19 crore collected to assist affected traders remains frozen in bank accounts, growing to Tk 6.25 crore with interest, while most traders, now burdened by debt, are struggling to restart their businesses.

Also, the Dhaka District Administration raised Tk 3.5 crore, with 600 traders and 1,200 employees were disbursed Tk 25,000 each, officials claimed. However, victims allege that the aid reached only a handful, leaving many in the dark about the distribution process.

Moreover, the then prime minister announced a Tk 15 crore grant for the affected traders, but those funds were never deposited following her ouster.

Belayet Hossain, owner of Tahmid Garments, lost

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Woman, five-year-old son found dead at home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and her five-year-old son were found dead at their home at Tilpa Para area in Dhaka's Khilgaon yesterday afternoon, police said.

The deceased were identified as Nargis, 35, and her son Mahim.

Sub-Inspector Rafiqul Islam of Khilgaon Police Station said police visited their house in the afternoon after receiving information and recovered their bodies.

The police station OC Shafiqul Islam said the child was found with his throat slit, while the woman's body was found hanging from the ceiling fan.

"The woman might have stabbed the child and later died by suicide. The door was found locked from inside," said the OC, adding that her husband was not home during the incident.

Members of the Crime Scene unit of the Criminal Investigation Department, along with senior officials, visited the scene. Police said they are trying to gather further details about the incident.

3RD TERMINAL AT HSIA Govt eyes deal with Japan while safeguarding interest: minister

BSS, Dhaka

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam Rita yesterday said the government prefers to assign operational responsibility of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport's 3rd terminal to the Japanese consortium through negotiations while safeguarding national interests.

Bangladesh and Japan yesterday held the second round of a high-level meeting to advance negotiations on the operation and maintenance of the 3rd terminal, signalling renewed momentum towards finalising the long-delayed deal.

"The discussions are now focused on the revenue-related aspects. Once we reach a mutual understanding on that, we will be able to arrive at a decision. So, we will sit down for discussions again," Afroza told reporters after emerging from the meeting.

"We are repeatedly sitting at the table to safeguard national interests. We want to make the terminal operational as soon as possible," the minister added.

At the meeting, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Rashiduzzaman Millat urged the Japanese side to reconsider Bangladesh's proposals and submit a revised offer, reiterating the government's interest in working closely with Japan.

The meeting, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam Rita, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam, Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Kabir, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Rashiduzzaman Millat, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun and CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal Md Mostofa Mahmood Siddiq, among others.

The Japanese delegation was led by Assistant Vice Minister of Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Nakayama Rieko.

ANTI-HOARDING DRIVE 1,550 litres of fuel seized, Tk 10,000 fine imposed

STAR REPORT

As the government continues its drives against hoarders, large quantities of fuel have been seized in two districts.

In a joint operation, law enforcement and intelligence agencies seized 800 litres of fuel in Chandanaish of Chattogram on Thursday night for being transported illegally to be sold at higher prices.

Chandanaish Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate Jhantu Bikash Chakma led the raid in Dewanhat area.

According to upazila administration sources, 600 litres of diesel and 200 litres of octane, stored in four large drums, were being transported on a trolley from Dohazari to Baitali Yunus Market in the upazila.

Md Sayeed, son of Nur Mohammad from the market area, was intercepted while transporting the fuel, upazila administration officials said.

Investigators said the fuel was intended to be sold at inflated prices in the local market, bypassing official regulations.

Chandanaish Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Rajib Hossain confirmed the seizure. In Noakhali, the Subarnachar upazila

administration seized 750 litres of diesel that had been illegally stored in a rooftop water tank of a residence in Char Jabbar union on Thursday night.

The hoarder was fined Tk 10,000 for illegal stockpiling.

The operation was conducted by Executive Magistrate and Subarnachar UNO Akib Osman.

Acting on a tip-off, the mobile court raided the house of Bashir Sareng and recovered the fuel, the UNO said.

Meanwhile, in Barguna and Patuakhali, a prolonged shortage of diesel and petrol has left many fishing trawlers non-operational, rendering several thousand fishermen jobless.

Yusuf Fakir, a trawler owner from Mohipur in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali, said he had prepared to head to sea with his fishing vessel, FB Ma-Babar Doa, after the Eid holidays.

"I spent around Tk 50,000 on preparatory work such as collecting ice and hiring fishermen. However, the trip was cancelled due to the fuel shortage," he said.

(Our respective correspondents contributed to the report.)



JCD leader hacked to death in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was hacked to death by unidentified assailants in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila on Thursday night.

The victim, Imran Hossain Sohag, 26, was a member of the upazila unit of JCD, said police.

He was the member secretary of a proposed committee from a faction of the unit.

According to police and locals, the attack took place near a railway line in Sara Gopalpur around 11:00pm. Sohag, from Baghoil Mannabipara village in Pakshi union, was chatting with friends at a roadside tea stall when a group of assailants arrived.

Following a heated argument – believed to be rooted in a long-standing dispute – the attackers hacked him and fled the scene. Sohag died on the spot.

Contacted, Pranab Kumar, additional superintendent of police (Ishwardi circle), said police were trying to arrest the attackers.

