NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-Somoy TV MD Ahmed Jobaer sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Somoy TV's former managing director Ahmed Jobaer to jail in a fraud case.

Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Zakir Hossain passed the order, rejecting Jobaer's bail petition, defence lawyer Forhad Hossain Nion told The Daily Star.

Earlier in the day, Jobaer, along with three others, surrendered before the court and sought bail in the case, he said.

The court granted bail to Jobaer's son, Ahmed Rafid Kader Rivu, and Somoy TV employees Sheikh Mahmud Yeasin and Sany Chowdhury, he added.

On June 17, another Dhaka court issued arrest warrants for the four as they did not comply with its order. The case was filed on May 10 by Syed Asaduzzaman under various sections, including fraud and breach of trust, of the Penal Code.

Forhad claimed that the case was "entirely false and baseless" and had been filed to harass his client. He said a longstanding dispute exists over the ownership and management of Somoy Media Limited.

Scrap trader killed, bike set ablaze

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Munshiganj*

A scrap trader was hacked to death at his home in Munshiganj's Louhajang upazila early yesterday.

The victim, Sohel Munshi, 39, of Kalurgaon village, was found dead in the courtyard of his residence, while his motorcycle was found ablaze nearby, said Md Anisur Rahman, additional superintendent of police (Sreenagar Circle).

Quoting family members, the police official said Sohel went to bed after dinner. His wife was sleeping in an adjacent room with their child and mother-in-law.

Late at night, family members noticed a fire in the yard and rushed outside, where they found Sohel's body lying in a pool of blood and his motorcycle on fire.

According to the family, unidentified assailants may have lured or called Sohel out of the house, hacked him to death with sharp weapons, and then set his motorcycle on fire before fleeing.

Police sent the body to Munshiganj General Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

According to police, Sohel was involved in the scrap business and had a drug-related case filed against him in 2022.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

A colourful spread of local, lesser-known and nearly extinct fruits draws visitors at the three-day National Fruit Fair at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday.

Students perform to songs by Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam at a cultural programme marking their birth anniversaries at the Rajshahi College auditorium yesterday. Prof Dr Shikha Sarkar, principal of New Government Degree College, attended the event as the chief discussant with Prof Dr Ibrahim Ali, principal of Rajshahi College, in the chair.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Billboards creep back into Ctg

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Ten years after a major eviction drive cleared Chattogram's skyline, billboards are making a return to the port city.

New billboard structures have appeared at key intersections, including Jamal Khan, Kazir Dewri, Probortok, GEC, Lalkhan Bazar and Tiger Pass, frustrating residents who remember a time when advertisements dominated the skyline and obscured the city's hills.

The campaign to remove billboards began in January 2016 under then mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, following sustained pressure from civil society groups. At the time, Nasir vowed that the Chattogram City Corporation would never allow billboards to return.

His successors, former administrator Khorshed Alam Sujan and former mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, largely maintained that position. Current Mayor Shahadat Hossain, after assuming office on November 5, 2024, also pledged not to allow billboards in the port city.

"In the past, we saw that those involved in the billboard business

were affiliated with the ruling party. This time, the situation appears no different," alleged Akhtar Kabir Chowdhury, president of the Chattogram chapter of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik.

Amid growing criticism, the CCC launched an eviction drive on February 19, beginning at Kazir Dewri.

Mohammad Ashraful Amin, acting chief executive officer of the CCC, said no permission had been granted for any billboard installation.

"We have ordered those who installed the structures to remove them immediately," he told The Daily Star.

Mayor Shahadat reiterated his opposition to illegal structures but said digital displays would be treated differently. "LED screens will remain. People need a place to advertise. LED screens exist in Dhaka and in cities abroad as well," he said.

The mayor said the CCC would allow owners a "reasonable period" to dismantle the unauthorised structures. "If they do not remove them, we will take those down ourselves," he warned.

65 RMG workers become ill after drinking water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

At least 65 workers of a ready-made garment factory in Kaliakair upazila of Gazipur fell ill after drinking water yesterday morning and were admitted to the Kaliakair Upazila Health Complex.

The incident took place at Dressmen Garments Ltd in the Chandra area.

The workers said they drank water shortly after starting work. Soon afterwards, several workers began experiencing dizziness, vomiting, and weakness. Gradually, workers on other floors developed similar symptoms.

Some workers, requesting anonymity, said they noticed an unusual taste and smell in the water. Although they tried to alert the authorities, the situation deteriorated rapidly before any action could be taken.

Kaliakair Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Sadiya Tasnim Munmun told The Daily Star that

> **The workers said they drank water shortly after starting work and soon developed symptoms including dizziness, vomiting, and weakness.**

workers started arriving at the hospital around 10:30am, creating pressure on its services. "We are providing them with the necessary treatment."

Civil Surgeon Dr M Mamunur Rahman said 60 to 65 workers had so far been admitted to the health complex.

Industrial Police Superintendent Md Amzad Hossain said additional police personnel were being deployed to the factory to prevent any potential unrest.

Dressmen Garments AGM (Administration) Atiqul Islam claimed, "Around 50 workers had fallen ill. Treatment arrangements were made immediately."

He added that the workers might have consumed water from a tap submerged by Monday's rain. "We did not find any problem with the factory water."

Kaliakair Police Station OC Shahidul Islam said the workers had consumed water supplied from their own water pump. "The water samples have been sent to a laboratory in Dhaka for testing."

Murder case

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case. Police are working to arrest the accused."

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the school authorities acknowledged that Mehedi had been physically and mentally tortured by a group of higher secondary students at the dormitory on Monday night.

The next day, Mehedi filed a complaint with the school authorities, prompting the school to launch an inquiry. Later that day, Mehedi was found hanging in a corridor adjacent to Room No. 614 of the dormitory around 6:00pm, the statement added.

Mehedi was first taken to a private clinic and later to Chatkhil Upazila Health Complex in Noakhali.

Don't isolate me

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adding that the force's professionalism is reflected in how effectively it manages such situations.

Tarique inaugurated a newly built state-of-the-art firing range for the SSF and observed a demonstration exercise. He expressed hope that the facility would enhance the force's professional capabilities and help its members further improve their operational skills.

Highlighting institutional reforms, he said the SSF's "Red Book" has been revised and modernised for the first time since 2002 to meet contemporary needs. The updated manual not only provides operational guidelines but also strengthens the legal framework governing the force's activities.

The prime minister said SSF members must strictly follow the principles outlined in the manual while also being capable of taking prompt decisions in response to changing circumstances.

The prime minister also urged SSF members to treat citizens with respect while performing their duties.

Expressing confidence in the force, Tarique called on its members to remain committed to patriotism, democratic values and the highest standards of professionalism in carrying out their responsibilities.

Arrest them or lose your jobs

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to Dhaka, where Tipu and Kabir were arrested with assistance from the DMP's Detective Branch on February 20, 2015.

According to the witness, Eshanullah then instructed the team to hand the detainees over to a Barishal DB team instead of taking them to Agailjhara Police Station.

Later that night, the detainees were killed in a staged crossfire, he said.

Nazrul was the second prosecution witness against former Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Eshanullah, and former Uzirpur ASIs Mahabul and Jasim.

Meanwhile, a Hefazat-e-Islam activist yesterday told ICT-1 that he was abducted by DGFI personnel in 2015, held in secret detention for over a year, tortured, and later shown arrested in alleged staged militancy cases that kept him in jail for eight years.

Tajul Islam Sumon, 39, said he was abducted from a madrasa in Manikganj on November 4, 2015, after posting criticism of the then government's repression and alleged killings of Hefazat activists on Facebook.

According to him, before being presented as a militant and handed over to the police on December 8, 2016, he was moved through several detention facilities, including ones he identified as belonging to Rab-4, Rab-10, and Rab-7.

He alleged that he was repeatedly tortured and pressured to confess to militant activities while he was in the detention facilities.

Three cases were later filed against him under anti-terrorism, explosives, and arms laws.

Sheikh Hasina and 12 others, including former and serving military officers, are among the accused in the case.

64% rural girls face

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boys, or 34 percent, were unaware that pregnancy is possible after the onset of menstruation, compared with 16 percent of girls.

Knowledge of family planning methods was also limited. While 84 percent of boys had heard of condoms, only 45 percent of girls were aware of them. Similarly, 38 percent of boys knew about emergency contraceptive pills, compared with just four percent of girls.

Researchers noted a link between reproductive health knowledge and later outcomes. Girls who had knowledge of family planning before marriage were less likely to experience an unplanned pregnancy than those without such knowledge, with the rates standing at five percent and 10 percent, respectively.

During the study period, nearly 200 girls got married and 72 became pregnant.

Speaking at the event, Professor Dr Farhana Dewan, former president of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh, said social stigma often prevents adolescent girls, particularly in rural areas, from discussing menstrual problems.

She said untreated menstrual health issues could adversely affect girls' education and future wellbeing.

Syed Md Nuruddin, adviser on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights at Plan International, stressed the need for targeted awareness programmes to prevent child marriage and called for greater investment in girls' education.

Dr Md Manjur Hossain, assistant director of the MCH Service Unit at DGFP, said the DGFP is working to incorporate pre-marital counselling into its curriculum.

Dr Asif Iqbal, assistant director for School Health at DGHS, said the government is developing an "Adolescent Friendly Local Body" initiative at the upazila level to improve access to health services for young people.

The panel discussion was moderated by Dr Fauzia Akhter Huda, scientist at icddr,b.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve menstrual health education
- Ensure counselling, treatment access
- Reduce stigma through awareness
- Provide SRHR education before marriage
- Include boys in awareness programmes

59m children exposed to climate

FROM PAGE 3

further increases their vulnerabilities by disrupting education, limiting access to nutrition and compounding psychological stress.

While Bangladeshi children rank among the most exposed to climate hazards globally, they are not among the most vulnerable when climate risk is assessed through broader indicators such as health, nutrition, education and social protection.

By these measures, Bangladesh ranks 63rd worldwide.

Globally, the report paints a grim picture.

Of the world's approximately 2.3 billion children, a large majority are now exposed to severe climate hazards. Nearly 78 percent of the global child population is exposed to droughts.

Roughly one in three children -- 662 million in total -- face tropical storms.

About 15 percent of all children worldwide, or 337 million, are exposed to riverine flooding, while coastal flooding threatens another 33 million, accounting for 1.4 percent of the global child population.

South Asia is the most affected region, with 387 million children -- more than a third of the global total -- facing such combined exposures.

To protect children, Unicef called on governments and partners to strengthen the climate resilience of the sectors that shape young lives.

It also urged countries to cut emissions across all sectors, phase out fossil fuels, and advance a just transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency in line with the 1.5°C pathway.

[This report draws exclusively on Unicef's Children's Climate Risk Report 2026 and its accompanying data dashboard.]

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নথি নং: এস-৪/৯২/World Bank Group (WBG)/প্রকল্প/২০২০-২১ (অংশ-৪)/ তারিখ- ১৮/০৬/২০২৬ খ্রি.

ক্রমিক নং	বিষয়	বিবরণ
১.	কাজের নাম:	কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম-এর বিদ্যমান পরিত্যক্ত/অকেজো (Condemned) ঘোষণাকৃত ২১ (একুশ) টি ভবন/স্থাপনাসমূহের সিভিল অংশ (বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জামাদি ব্যতীত) দ্রুততম সময়ের মধ্যে ভেঙে, ফাউন্ডেশনসহ মাটির নিচ হতে সম্পূর্ণ স্থাপনা অপসারণপূর্বক সাইট পরবর্তী অবকাঠামো নির্মাণের জন্য পরিষ্কারকরণ ।
২.	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা:	৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন
৩.	ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতা:	আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারগণ নিজে অথবা বৈধ প্রতিনিধির মাধ্যমে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদপত্র, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেটের কপি এবং দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য পরিশোধ সংক্রান্ত এ-চালানের কপিসহ কমিশনার অব কাস্টমস, কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম বরাবর দরপত্র সিডিউলের জন্য লিখিত আবেদন করবেন।
৪.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য:	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা হারে (অফেরতযোগ্য) কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম-এর অনুকূলে এ-চালানের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র দলিল ফি খাতে কোড নং-1110203102008-110000000-11001000-1422328-এ জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।
৫.	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি:	উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% (দশ শতাংশ) পরিমাণ অর্থ কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম-এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার অথবা Bank Guarantee আকারে প্রস্তুতপূর্বক দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করতে হবে।
৬.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় ও প্রাপ্তিস্থান:	রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা (প্রশাসন) এর কক্ষ, নীচ তলা, কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম।
৭.	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান:	দরপত্র গ্রহণের সুবিধার্থে নিম্নবর্ণিত দপ্তরসমূহে সিলকৃত দরপত্র বাক্স স্থাপন করা হবে: (ক) জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড (NBR); (খ) অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট কমিশনার (প্রিভেন্টিভ ও প্রশাসন) এর দপ্তর, কক্ষ নং-২০৪, ২য় তলা, কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম; (গ) কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, চট্টগ্রাম; (ঘ) কাস্টমস বন্ড কমিশনারেট, চট্টগ্রাম; (ঙ) চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ; (চ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম; এবং (ছ) চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ (সিএমপি) কার্যালয়। উল্লেখিত যে কোনো দরপত্র বাক্সে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে সিলকৃত দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর প্রাপ্ত কোনো দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
৮.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান:	-ঐ-
৯.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়:	০৫/০৭/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ বেলা ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়:	০৬/০৭/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১১.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়:	নির্ধারিত সময় পর্যন্ত বিভিন্ন দপ্তরে স্থাপিত দরপত্র বাক্সে প্রাপ্ত সকল সিলকৃত দরপত্র সংগ্রহপূর্বক একই দিনে অর্থাৎ ০৬/০৭/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখে কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম-এ আনা হবে এবং উক্ত তারিখে বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকায় অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট কমিশনার (প্রিভেন্টিভ ও প্রশাসন) এর কক্ষে উপস্থিত দরদাতাগণের সম্মুখে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।

১২। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।
১৩। অনিবার্য কারণ বশতঃ দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ, গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ বা খোলার তারিখে দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রি/গ্রহণ বা খোলা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তী কার্য দিবসের উল্লেখিত সময়ে যথাক্রমে দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রি/গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।
১৪। কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ, বাতিল অথবা কাজ ভাগ করে দেওয়ার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।
১৫। এ দরপত্র The Public Procurement Rules, 2025 অনুযায়ী প্রচলিত হবে।
১৬। অন্যান্য সংশ্লিষ্ট তথ্যাদি জানার জন্য আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারগণ দপ্তর চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে পারবেন।

১৮.০৬.২৬

শরীফ মোহাম্মদ আল আমিন
অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট কমিশনার (প্রিভেন্টিভ ও প্রশাসন)
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