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Shilpi not yet out of danger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of Amena Akhtar Shilpi, injured in Saturday's bomb explosion at Ramna Batamul, did not improve.

Still unconscious, 18-year old Shilpi is not out of danger.

Surgeons yesterday morning performed tracheostomy (formation of a small opening in the windpipe) to enable her breathe directly through the device known as ventilator.

"Tracheostomy was done to help Shilpi breathe directly through the ventilator. Shilpi was breathing through an air-tube inserted into her mouth, which was a bit difficult for a patient like her," said Dr Luthful Aziz, who is in charge of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

CT scan, an advanced stage of brain imaging, shows that Shilpi does not have any blood clot in her brain. "There is no need for surgical intervention for the time being," said Dr Aziz.

Shilpi will stay at the hospital until her condition improves. She is being treated free of cost, and all costs are borne by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Meanwhile, six of the injured in Saturday's Ramna Batamul bomb explosion are still in the intensive care unit (ICU) while two others are in separate wards of Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

"All six patients in their early twenties are doing fine and their condition have improved since their



Luminaries of the country's cultural arena lead a silent procession in the city yesterday. Organised by Chhayanaut, the procession protested the Ramna Batamul carnage that left nine people killed and 20 injured on Pahela Baishakh.

'Resist conspiracy against Bangalee culture'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural luminaries at a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday called upon all sections of the public to build up a "firm and massive" resistance against the religious fanatics.

They said modern society cannot forgive them for their inhuman and heinous act. The rally was organised by Chhayanaut to protest the barbaric act of bomb attack at Ramna Batamul during Pahela Baishakh celebrations.

They felt that a fresh, vigorous movement should be initiated across the country against the forces who opposed the country's independence and were plotting to

destroy Bangalee culture.

The cultural personalities also demanded that the motives behind the bomb explosion be unearthed, and the attackers and their patrons immediately arrested and punished.

Several hundred people, mostly cultural activists gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar, wearing black badge and carrying black flag. A large contingent of police was stationed in the area.

Police also scanned some areas on the Shaheed Minar premises and used metal detector while checking people in.

The protest rally began with the song Eki Aparoop Roope Ma Tomai Herinu Pali Janani which was rendered at the Ramna Batamul during

Govt appoints 2 ECs keeping Opposition in dark: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the government again proved its dishonesty by appointing two election commissioners afresh without consulting any opposition political party.

Giving his instant reaction to the reporters at the 29 Minto Road yesterday evening, Bhuiyan said, "Personally, I don't know the two retired judges appointed election commissioners (ECs) unilaterally by the Awami League government."

Bhuiyan also said the government on the eve of its departure from power appointed the ECs without consulting any political party, which is completely unwise. The government did the same thing at the time of giving important

Haripur plant needs fine-tuning for reliable power supply

STAR REPORT

The 360MW Haripur power plant, installed by AES and inaugurated by the prime minister on April 15, would take two to three more weeks to reliably supply power to the national grid, sources said.

The plant started test operations from April 9 and supplied 15MW power to the national grid on April 15. However, it was shut down Monday as Titas stopped gas supply to install some valves at the local station and calibrate its equipment.

"In the next few weeks, the plant would run and be stopped as there is a lot of tests which AES should undertake," said a source explaining why the plant stopped functioning after inauguration.

With election drawing near, the government decided to push AES to begin operation much ahead of the schedule.

As per its contract with the Power Development, AES was scheduled to begin commercial power generation from January 28, 2003.

However, the US company declared last year that it would begin commercial operation using combined cycle technology from October 31 this year.

Ironically, while floating the power project, the government outlined a schedule of October 2001 as the Haripur private power plant's commercial operation deadline. Due to delays in negotiations with AES, the government differed from its original schedule by about two years.

However now, at the request of the government, AES agreed to supply 240MW from April 15 using simple cycle technology.

As this power supply has been arranged outside the actual contract, its tariff would be higher than

the contractual pricing of 2.72 US cents per kilowatt hour, a rate that is considered one of the lowest in the world. Sources said it would be around 5.5 cents per unit (or Tk 3.00). However, from October 31, PDB would purchase the power at 2.72 cents.

PDB has initiated a short-term power purchase contract with AES for power supply using simple cycle technology. The final agreement is yet to be signed.

Right now, whatever power AES would be producing as part of the plant test would be free.

"It is yet to begin operation commercially. The government is paying for the gas being provided by Titas, but AES is not charging anything until it is ready to provide power commercially," said a source adding AES would undertake a lot of tests this month.

Property worth Tk 5 lakh of cotton mills gutted in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Property worth Tk 5 lakh of Ibrahim Cotton Mills was gutted at Natunpara under Bayezid thana in the city yesterday.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit at around 7.40 in the morning.

A ring machine and other machinery were damaged in the fire.

BSS adds: In another fire, at least 60 thatched houses were burnt at Labour Colony of A K Khan Match Factory at Kalurghat.

One person was critically injured when he came in touch with a live electric wire. The fire originated from a kitchen in the colony.

The injured was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Over 300 labourers became homeless in the two-hour fire, sources said.

In another fire incident at Maizpara, Rubi Gate in Panchlaish thana 12 dwelling houses were gutted.

The fire originated from a burning cigarette and rendered more than a hundred people homeless.

Bangabandhu Murder Case Hearing on split verdict ends in Third Judge's Court

BSS, Dhaka

The hearing of Bangabandhu Murder Trial yesterday ended at the High Court with the prosecution reply to defence claims demanding acquittal of six of the 15 accused after 24 days of arguments on the split verdict of the previous bench.

"The case is adjourned for verdict (CAB)," Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim told the prosecution and defence lawyers when chief prosecution counsel Serajul Haq ended his submission before the third judge.

He added that both the sides would be asked to appear on the day

he would pass the judgement on the case.

Earlier, replying to the defence claim questioning the legal basis of the trial of "army officers" in civil court, the chief prosecution counsel said the army authorities gave their clearance to try their personnel in line with the legal provisions.

Haq said according to the law both the civil and military courts could try the convicts. The army authority gave their approval to try them in civil court when Dhaka Sessions and District Judge in 1996

Opposition calls Ershad a 'collaborator' of AL govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led opposition alliance yesterday formally disowned Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, calling him a collaborator of the Awami League government.

"The desertion of Ershad will not do any harm to the opposition movement," a meeting of the Central Liaison Committee (CLC) said.

Held at the BNP central office yesterday with BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair, the meeting said those betraying the current movement



Former president and chairman of his faction of Jatiya Party HM Ershad addresses an extended meeting of the party at the Institution of Engineers in the city yesterday.

Will journalist Tipu remain disabled?

The Daily Star - প্রথম আলো

Tipu Treatment Fund

Donate generously to this Fund Save Tipu from Disability

Send donations to: Savings Account No. 25002111 Dhaka Bank Ltd. Karwan Bazar Branch, Dhaka

Export Promotion Bureau
122-124, Motijheel C/A Dhaka

Notice

All concerned are hereby informed that due to unavoidable circumstances the 33rd meeting of the Export Promotion Council will now be held on the 29th April, 2001 at Sonargaon Hotel at 10:00 am instead of the 18th April, 2001 as was notified earlier. Letters have already been sent to all concerned in this regard. EPB is extremely sorry for the inconveniences caused.

Director (P & P)
Export Promotion Bureau
Dhaka

UNIQUE HOTEL & RESORTS LTD

Unique Hotel & Resorts Ltd., a concern of Unique Group has started its operation with a view to constructing a five-star business hotel in Dhaka. The company has signed partnership agreement/ten-year management contract (renewable), with world famous American business hotel chain Starwood Hotel & Resorts World Wide Inc.

Unique Hotel & Resorts Ltd. is implementing an investment program that includes such activities as 'The Westin Dhaka', a five-star business hotel. The project is to build and operate a 242-room 5 star hotel with Heavenly bed, of a standard that international business visitors would expect, in an area of Dhaka known as Gulshan, approximately midway between the increasingly congested city center and Dhaka's International airport.

An Environmental Review Summary Report for the project has been prepared by International Finance Corporation as part of its environmental and social due diligence. The Environmental Review Summary Report will be available for public review starting 18/04/2001 at the following places:

- Unique Group of Companies Ltd. 51/B, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213
- Hotel Site Plot No. 1, CWN (B), Road No. 45, Gulshan -2, Dhaka -1212

Members of the public can view the Environmental Review Summary Report until 18/05/2001. Questions may be directed to:

Lokman Hossain
Project Management Team
51/B, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka -1213
Tel: 9885116-23 Ext: 118, Fax: (880-2) 8823392, 8824107
E-mail: <bre@bdcom.com>

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