

# Blast at RU hall sparks panic

## Police recover machete, iron rods from Shibir workers' rooms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A powerful bomb went off at Nawab Abdul Latif hall of Rajshahi University (RU), sparking a panic among the students yesterday morning.

No-one was injured in the blast that prompted the police to raid the hall. They recovered a chapati (machete), iron rods, pipes and a hacksaw blade from two rooms belonging to Islamic Chhatra Shibir activists.

Mohammad Nazim, general secretary of the hall unit of Shibir, resides in one of the rooms, sources said.

At around 10.15am, Ganesh, a cleaner, found a packet at the storeroom on the second floor of the hall. Thinking it a packet of books, he threw the packet towards a window of the room but it exploded halfway.

Rafique, another cleaner of the hall, said that he heard sounds of two blasts.

Police locked the main gate of the

hall within half an hour of the incident as panic gripped the students. Some 200 policemen, led by the RU authorities and police, conducted a raid on the hall for two and a half hours.

The raid was launched to ensure security for the students, said hall Provost Prof. Amjad Hossain.

Students said that the raid did not pay off as most outsiders aligned to Shibir managed to flee before the police stepped in.

They also alleged that some pro-government student leaders' rooms were not checked.

Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Rawshan Ara, however, denied the allegation.

RU authorities formed a three-member committee headed by Latif Hall provost Prof Amjad Hossain to investigate the blast.

None was arrested till the writing of the report, but Ganesh was picked up for interrogation.

### LIBERATION WAR MUSEUM

## Founding anniversary celebrations begin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong cultural programme was inaugurated at the Liberation War Museum to mark its eighth founding anniversary yesterday.

A weeklong book fair on the War of Liberation was also launched at the museum auditorium.

The inaugural programme yesterday featured the screening of the film 'Shadhinata' directed by Yasmeen Kabir and a documentary on International Coalition of Historical Site Museum of Conscience were screened.

Earlier, Professor Anisuzzaman of Dhaka University delivered a commemorative speech on 'Our Liberation War and Principles of Constitution'.

He said the constitution no longer reflected the three basic principles of democracy, secularism and socialism said to be the pillars of the Liberation War.

Referring to ethnic minorities, Professor Anisuzzaman said, "Although the war was fought on the basis of Bangalee nationalism, we must recognize and respect the individualism of the ethnic minorities."

He said exclusion of secularist principles from the constitution has brought about the rise of communal forces. "The exclusion of the word secularism from the constitution has pushed non-Muslim Bangladeshes far away from the mainstream, paving the way for communal politics to stage a comeback."

"The non-Muslims have practically become second class citizens after the recognition of Islam as state religion," he said, adding that various sects within the Muslim community are also being subjected to harassment.

He said democracy is yet to get an institutional shape even after three general elections.

Earlier, Aly Zaker, one of the trustee board members of the Liberation War Museum, presented an overview of the museum's activities over the last one year.

He hoped the museum would be relocated to a more spacious building for better management of its activities and conservation of war artifacts.

Aly Zaker said the museum will extend its outreach programme with a view to inform the younger generation about the War of Liberation.

## 1839 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,839 people, including one listed criminal, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered six firearms and 24 rounds of bullets and filed five cases against seven people under the Arms Act.



An arsenic removal plant at Chandina.

### C'nawabganj municipality area

# Arsenic-free water from next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People in Chapainawabganj municipality area, one of the worst arsenic-affected areas in the country, will finally get supply of safe drinking water from next month under Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project, official sources said yesterday.

At present, most deep tubewells supplying water through pipelines to about 2.4 lakh people are contaminated by groundwater arsenic.

## World Meteorological Day today

BSS, Dhaka

World Meteorological Day will be observed today throughout the country with due enthusiasm as elsewhere in the world.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department has chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day with the theme "Weather, Climate and Water in the Information Age" chosen by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) for the year.

On the occasion, an inaugural function will be held at the Bangladesh Meteorological Department at Agargaon in the city. Defence Secretary KM Ehsanul Haq will inaugurate the function as chief guest.

Besides, papers will be presented and general discussions will be held on "weather, climate and water science".

## Reunion

Management net, an organisation of ex-students of the Department of Management, Dhaka university, will hold a daylong reunion at the Business Studies Bhaban on April 2, says a press release.

Interested ex-students have been requested to contact the Management Net office at 262/F, Elephant Road (Tel: 8617595) by March 31.

## Death anniversary



Today is the third death anniversary of Engineer C M Shahjahan Kabir, says a press release.

On the occasion, Shahjahan

Kabir Smriti Parishad will offer ziarat at his graveyard at 6.00am, hold milad mahfil after Asr prayers and distribute foods among the poor at noon at his village home at Darirchar Laxmipur in Madaripur. A milad mahfil will also be arranged at the residence of his elder son at 28 Eskaton in the city.

## Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of the weekly Prochar Patra Editor Sayed Sajjadur Rahman will be held after Asr prayers today at his residence at 390/2 Jafrabad Poolpar in the city, says a press release.

Sajjad was killed in a road accident in the city on Friday.

## Chehlum



Chehlum of Musamat Fatema Begum will be held at her village home at Kashimpur of Nawabganj upazila under Dhaka district on March 26

after Juma prayers, says a press release.

Fatema died at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital on February 12 at the age of 90.

She left behind her five sons and three daughters. She was buried at her family graveyard at village Kashimpur.

# Arsenic contamination takes serious turn in Chandpur, Comilla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arsenic contamination in drinking water has taken a serious turn in Chandpur and Comilla districts.

In some villages of these two districts, water in almost 98 percent tubewells has been contaminated.

NGOs Arsenic Information and Support Unit (Naisu) organised a trip for the media persons on March 20 and 21 to show the real picture of the arsenic contamination in the country.

They found a terrible situation at Baburhat and Shilandia of Chandpur, Barkail of Comilla, and

Putia and Adampur of Daudkandi where people are suffering from serious arsenic contamination.

NGO Forum with the help of Disha, a local NGO, has set up a plant at Barkail of Chandina to remove arsenic from contaminated water.

The forum has also been trying to face the problem through Community Managed Piped Water Supply System by preserving rain water in a tank.

Officially, 13,000 people are suffering from arsenicosis while more than three core people are living in the risk of arsenicosis.

## No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry over the country with chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 38.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and the lowest 21.0 degree Celsius at Dinajpur and Sayedpur.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6.11 pm today and rises at 5:59 am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.6	25.6	74	57
Chittagong	29.8	23.8	66	72
Rajshahi	37.5	23.0	78	38
Khulna	35.0	26.0	78	67
Barisal	33.7	24.4	80	73
Sylhet	33.5	24.7	78	65
Cox's Bazar	31.8	24.0	68	83



Students who received scholarship certificates pose with the guests at the Merit Scholarship Awarding Ceremony at the auditorium of East West University in the city yesterday. EWU will provide Tk 1.5 crore in scholarships for 500 meritorious students this year.

