

Bomb scare at Secretariat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bomb scare prompted the police to conduct a search inside the Secretariat for three hours on Wednesday night, but in vain.

They picked up 12 people who were released later on confirmation of their identities.

The Special Branch (SB) of Police went on operation from 10:30pm to search for bombs and other unwanted elements but did not find any explosives.

They picked up 12 people as

they were staying inside the Secretariat without any prior permission.

The SB later handed over them to an official of the home ministry. Later, owners of different canteens inside the Secretariat identified them as canteen boys.

They were set free in the evening, an official of the SB said.

During the routine check yesterday, police picked up 17 people while they were trying to enter the Secretariat without passes.

Robbers loot city house, 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of robbers posing as tenants looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh from the landlord's room in the city's Badda area yesterday noon but two of the gang members were caught while decamping with the booties.

Police recovered six tolas of gold ornaments, three cameras, a table clock and Tk 3,000 in coins from the two -- Guljar Hossain alias Rony and Arshad Uddin alias Asad.

The four other members of the gang managed to flee along with 19 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 47,000 and other valuables.

The previous day, Rony and Asad came to the house of Custom Inspector Md Nazimuddin at North Badda seeking to rent a room and paid Tk 500 in advance after fixing the rent at Tk 3,500.

They along with four others entered the house at around 12 noon yesterday and taped the mouths of two daughters of the landlord before looting valuables, said Badda police.

As they were leaving the house along with the booties, local people and police chased them on suspicion and caught hold of the two.

Indigenous Cultural Fair begins in Rangamati today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The 7th Indigenous Cultural Fair begins at Rangamati today amid great enthusiasm.

Deputy Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan will inaugurate the three-day fair at the local Tribal Cultural Institute premises at 5:00pm.

Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council and PCSJS leader Jotirindra Bodhipriya Lama alias Santu Lama will attend the inaugural function as chief guest.

Jum Aesthetics Council (JAC) has been organising the fair since 1998 to introduce the ethnic cultural diversities to the people of the rest of the country and to the foreigners, Ashok Chakma, JAC social affairs secretary, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Different ethnic groups including Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Khyang, Lushai, Tanchangya, Bom, Mro, Chak, Pankhua and Khumi are taking part in the fair.

Injured DU student improves at DMCH

DU CORRESPONDENT

The condition of a Dhaka University (DU) student, who was seriously injured falling from the fourth floor's balcony of Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall on Wednesday night, has been improving slowly, said the doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Rokonuzzaman Chhoton, an honours final year examinee of English department and resident of room no 510 of the hall, was rushed to the DMCH and admitted there.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof. SMA Faiz and Proctor AK Firoz Ahmed have visited the hospital and asked the doctors to ensure proper treatment for Chhoton.

Firoz Ahmed told The Daily Star that Chhoton has an examination tomorrow. Considering his condition, the university authorities would allow him to sit for the exam in the hospital.

"The hall administration is bearing partial cost of his treatment," he added.

Mysterious disease claims 2 more in Faridpur

UNB, Faridpur

Two more people have died of a mysterious disease raising the total death to 15.

Bachchu, 40, one of the three patients taken to the capital, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday morning.

Another young man Firoz, 28, resident of Laxmipur in the town, died on Wednesday night.

Civil Surgeon SM Abul Khair Mia has confirmed nine deaths so far in the district.

Meanwhile, the unknown disease has been spreading in other parts of Faridpur.

A number of people, mostly children, have been affected at

Goalundo, Dr Rahim Molla informed a meeting here yesterday.

He said 20 people were attacked by the disease at Laxmipur alone in the town during the last four days.

A motivational meeting was held here yesterday with Deputy Commissioner Jalal Ahmed in the chair. Physicians, political leaders, public representatives, officials and newsmen attended the meeting.

Dr Rafiqul Islam, an expert dispatched by the health directorate, apprehended that the disease might spread to other parts in the district.



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Oikya Prochesta President Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a press conference at the Jtiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding formation of an independent and neutral inquiry commission to investigate the recent arms haul in Chittagong.

Bagerhat BNP man gets 17 years RI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Ruling BNP activist Lutfor Rahman Nikari, 30, of Syedpur village under Bagerhat Sadar upazila, has been sentenced to 17 years rigorous imprisonment for keeping illegal arms.

Sagir Ahmed, Judge of the Special Tribunal, Bagerhat pronounced the verdict on Wednesday.

Prosecution story in brief is that

police arrested Lutfor and recovered a pipegun and three live gun cartridges from his possession while he was trying to escape from his house. Sub-Inspector Altaf Hossain lodged FIR with Bagerhat Sadar thana as complainant. Eleven prosecution witnesses were cross-examined during trial in the court.

Bagerhat town Jubo Dal president held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bagerhat town Jubo Dal President Mallick Mokaddes Hossain was arrested on Wednesday night from Puratan Bazar area.

Sadar thana OC Fariduddin said Mokaddes is a suspect in shrimp trader Mallick Atiqul Islam murder case. Jubo Dal leader lost the Dema Union Parishad election to Mallick Atiqul Islam's brother-in-law, the OC added.

Mallick Atiqul was gunned down by unidentified miscreants in his fish farm on April 3 last year.

The arrested Jubo Dal leader is the mastermind of the murder, OC said.

College girl rescued in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

A college girl was rescued at Sabdipur village under Godagari upazila on Wednesday.

Quoting witnesses police said, two youths -- Alauddin, 25, and Selim, 24, of Palpur village of the same upazila took her to the frontier Sabdipur village Tuesday. One of the youths promised to get married the girl, police said. They kept her at a house of one Helal Uddin with a view to trafficking her to India.

Sensing their suspicious movement, local people informed police. Police rescued the girl from the house and arrested Alauddin. But the houseowner Helal Uddin and Selim fled.

3 children of a family die after taking poisoned puffed rice

UNB, Sirajganj

Three children of a family died as they took puffed rice poisoned with insecticide at a village in Belkuchi upazila yesterday.

Locals said Zahirul Islam, a weaving factory worker, scattered puffed rice mixed with pesticide on the floor of his home at Charsohagpur village to kill flies.

But his children -- Abdul Alim, 10, Ranzita, 7, and Kona, 5, -- took the puffed rice in absence of Zahirul and his wife.

As the kids fell seriously ill, his neighbours took them to the upazila health complex where doctors declared them dead.

Police took the bodies to local police station from the hospital. A pall of gloom descended on the neighbourhood.

IER admission test today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Admission test for first year honours courses (Bachelor of Education) under the Institute of Education and Research (IER) of Dhaka University will be held today.

The test will be held at the Arts Faculty, Business Studies Bhaban, IER Building and at IBA Building.

Results of Public Works Deptt exams

Bangladesh Public Service Commission yesterday published the results of the examination for the posts of sub-assistant engineers under Public Works Department, says a press release.

Following are the registration numbers of the successful candidates:

- For the posts of sub-assistant engineers (civil):
- 000148 000160 000234 000250 000257 000272 000307 000345 000350 000388 000390 000453 000479
- 000500 000513 000523 000530 000539 000541 000544 000588 000686 000754 000787 000794 000826
- 000836 000837 000850 000860 000878 000911 000922 000927 000931 000936 000940 000941 000942
- 000954 000968 000972 000998 001002 001004 001017 001061 001085 001107 001138 001146 001169
- 001192 001334 001423 001426 001428 001468 001480 001507 001519 001540 001582 001583 001604
- 001608 001615 001628 001642 001652 001656 001691 001706 001707 001717 001718 001720 001747
- 001774 001789 001810 001834 001836 001851 001873 001874 001892 001977 001978 002014 002037
- 002073 002088 002093 002141 002197 002209 002212 002296 002322 002329 002330 002359 002360
- 002371 002391 002423 002432 002445 002446 002493 002519 002520 002521 002530 002543 002626
- 002660 002662 002665 002666 002667 002670 002672 002719 002762 002823 002826 002831 002841
- 002902 002916 002931 002938 002959 002974 002986 002996 003001 003007 003008 003061 003101
- 003103 003148 003151 003163 003197 003260 003261 003265 003266 003321 003384 003400 003404
- 003419 003431 003444 003455 003471 003492 003524 003531 003536 003572 003579 003585 003668
- 003705 003708 003713 003741 003767 003769 003774 003817 003819 003826 003846 003851 003862
- 003864 003867 003870 003874 003902 003936 004009 004019 004027 004141 004155 004169 004183
- 004230 004260 004344 004387 004389 004395 004459 004486 004540 004579 004581 004597 004642
- 004714 004792 004796 004802 004811 004838 004862 004887 004941 004974 004975 005005 005010
- 005022 005025 005060 005069 005103 005126 005177 005208 005217 005262 005263 005272 005277
- 005292 005318 005325 005358 005364 005366 005399 005405 005422 005427 005430 005436 005447
- 005463 005466 005489 005498 005520 005529 005537 005552 005585 005650 006052 006081 006082
- 006087 006098 006122 006237 006266 006355 006552 006553 006555 006559 006589 006592 006612
- 006616 006718 006727 006753 006809 006818 006827 006830 006853 006854 006903 006904 006905
- 006960 006981 006983 006990 007031 007046 007053 007059 007151 007160 007162 007200 007219
- 007221 007262 007270 007304 007309 007312 007333 007344 007350 007382 007409 007412 007415
- 007438 007615 007662 007679 007768 007775 007796 007816 007834 007847 007874 007894 007896
- 008031 008050 008052 008057 008058 008278 = Total=331

For the posts of sub-assistant engineers (E/M):

- 000054 000057 000156 000170 000212 000288 000339 000351 000368 000378
- 000549 000624 000641 000784 000814 000929 000999 001066 001126 001129
- 001383 001409 001415 001514 001516 001678 001703 001818 001898 001904
- 001913 001920 002126 002191 002228 002239 002358 002384 002458 002482
- 002599 002611 002634 002708 002709 002713 002908 003106 003123 003124
- 003125 003165 003221 003331 003399 003442 003518 003526 003527 003535
- 003576 003676 003723 003760 003794 003819 004075 004137 004361 004643
- 004823 004843 004877 004916 005097 005257 005483 005616 005743 005850
- 006106 006113 006145 006173 006178 006287 006347 007370 007435=Total=89