

JAPANESE STUDIES

Admission test on August 27

The admission test for Post Graduate Diploma in Japanese Studies will be held at 10.00 am on August 27 at the Arts Building Examination Hall of Dhaka University, says a press release.

Application forms are available at the Japan Study Centre office, Room No. 1037, Arts Building, Dhaka University.

Last date for submission of applications is August 22.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League presidium member Abdus Samad Azad speaks at a discussion marking the 75th birth anniversary of Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib at the National Press Club yesterday. Awami Jubo League organised the discussion.

Sylhet car bomb attack condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday condemned the car bomb attack in which an Awami League (AL) leader was killed and several others were injured in Sylhet on Saturday.

AL Chief Whip Abdus Shahid MP expressed deep concern over the series of bomb attacks in Sylhet.

He said Mayor Badaruddin Ahmed Kamran was the main target of the car bomb attack.

Abdus Shahid demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for all bomb attacks.

Bangladesh Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimol Biswas condemned the car bomb attack saying the people should now come forward to maintain peace in Sylhet.

Bangladesh Communist Party expressed its deep concern over the attack and called upon the people to be united against the evil forces who are responsible for all bomb attacks.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal also condemned the bomb attack and demanded exemplary punishment to the attackers.

Sylhet Division Development Action Council said the miscreants are carrying out bomb attacks to tarnish the image of the city.

The council, in a statement, urged the government to find out the miscreants behind the bomb attacks and brought

them to justice.

Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association also condemned the car bomb attack saying it was apparently carried out to kill the city mayor.

The association demanded formation of a probe committee comprising a justice for proper investigation.

Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK) said the failure to detect the previous bomb attackers has encouraged the car bomb attack.

Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of AL, brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus to protest the attack.

2 extortionists beaten up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob caught and beat up two of a gang of extortionists at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday.

Local people said a gang of four led by one Shohag appeared at Khokon Cycle Store at Karwan Bazar Railway Market at around 1:45pm and demanded money.

But being refused, they exploded several home-made bombs in front of the shop to create a panic.

Hearing the explosions, shopkeepers from other stores chased the gang and caught Razin Hasan Sohel, 30, and Monir Hossain Sumon, 26.

DPRK PM shocked

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister of Democratic People's Republic of Korea Park Pong Ju yesterday expressed deep sympathy and condolence at the loss of lives due to the floods in Bangladesh.

In a message to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the Korean prime minister also mentioned the huge economic loss and the damage to property caused by the deluge.

Govt urged to reject US report on human trafficking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Citizens' Alliance Against Trafficking (BCAAT) yesterday called on the government to reject the TIP (Trafficking in Person) Report-2004 on Bangladesh released by the US State Department in June.

In a joint statement, the alliance termed the report dubious as it said ten to twenty thousand women and girls are smuggled out of the country a year but did not provide any evidence.

According to the report, globally 600,000 to 800,000 victims of human trafficking are transported across international borders each year.

The alliance expressed deep concern at the placing of Bangladesh from tier 2 to 3 in the report, which means that the country may face sanctions.

"The alliance would like to know what has happened between 2003 and 2004 that led to the downgrading of Bangladesh to tier 3 despite active government, NGO and donor engagement in

anti-trafficking," the statement said.

"To make the report credible, the US State Department should follow acceptable methodology in preparing the report and in ranking countries," it added.

The alliance also expressed concern that the US report will have negative impact on free movement of people and that women would also be victimised by the new policies.

It urged the government to take adequate care to handle the prosecutions so that the perpetrators can be punished following due course of the law.

The BCAAT is an alliance of women's, human rights and non-government organisations as well as Journalists, intellectuals, researchers and others concerned about human rights violations.



PHOTO: STAR

Prof. Dr CR Abrar speaks at a press conference organised by Bangladesh Citizens' Alliance Against Trafficking at the National Press Club yesterday. On his right is journalist Rita Rahman and on his left is women rights activist Farida Akhter.