



Army man dies, at least 2 hurt in mine blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An army man died and at least two others were critically wounded yesterday in a mine explosion in Jessor Cantonment.

Ammunition Technician Khorsheed Alam and his four associates were handling mines at the ordnance depot in the cantonment at 11:30am yesterday when a mine went off accidentally, killing Khorsheed Alam on the spot and injuring two others, according to army sources.

Condition of the two, who were civilian employees, is also stated to be critical, the sources said, adding they were being treated at the intensive care unit of the Jessor Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Police, however, put the number of the injured at four.

"They were putting the mines, dates of which had expired, in a packet when one of them exploded,"

Duty Officer Mohammed Hashem

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Home help dies in five-storey fall

Locals protest alleging rape and killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage home help died in a five-storey fall from a Dhanmondi house yesterday in mysterious circumstances, triggering an angry protest in front of the house by local residents who claimed she was killed after rape.

But it was hazy whether 15-year-old Rozina Akhter, domestic help at the house of Murad Hossain, manager of Mercantile Bank's Banani

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

WB threatens to withdraw funds for 450MW power plant

Slates govt decision to re-tender after procurement process

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

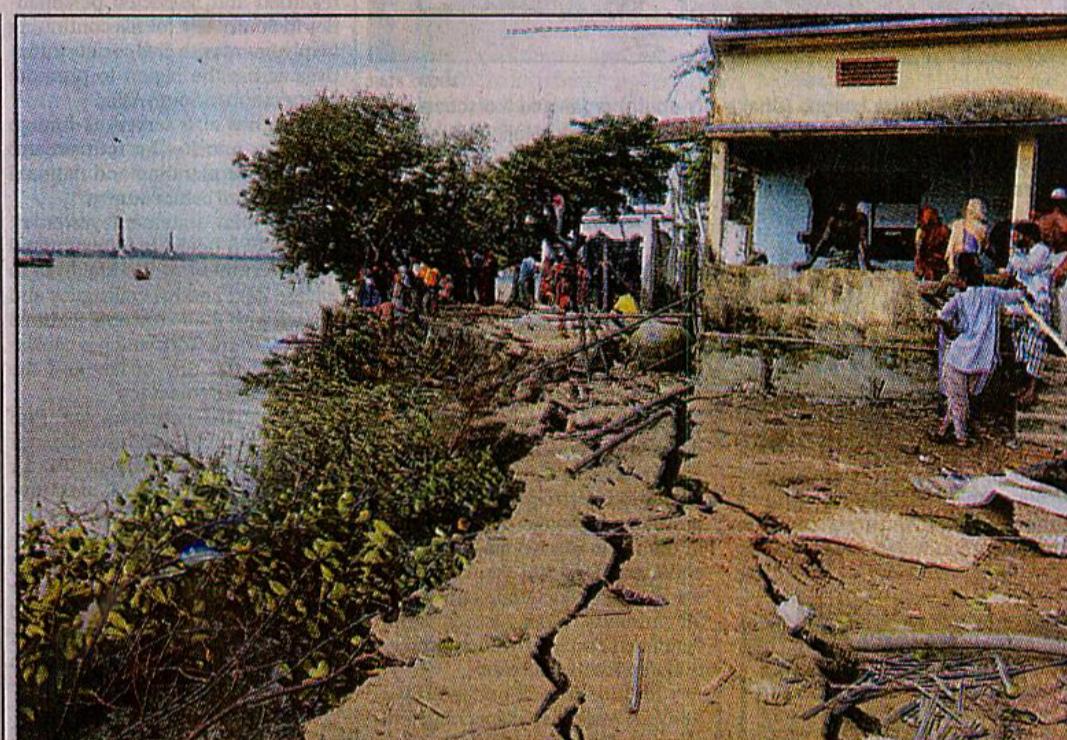
The World Bank (WB) has warned the government of stopping financing the 450-megawatt Sirajganj power project for its decision to re-tender the project.

"(The decision to re-tender the project) would have serious implications for us because going for re-tender after a procurement process which IDA has deemed valid would be considered 'misprocurement' and means that IDA cannot finance the same project under a new procurement," an August 4 letter of the WB to the prime minister said.

IDA (International Development Agency) is WB's soft-lending window and is a key financier of the project alongside International Finance Corporation (IFC), the commercial credit wing of the WB. Sirajganj power project will be run by a public-private partnership.

The Power Development Board (PDB) floated tender for the project three times and secured a bid from Summit Group with a power tariff so low that it beats the price of the 450-megawatt AES Meghnaghata Project. Summit also received \$116 million credit from the WB and the ADB.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in July, however, ordered re-tender of the project, although it was



Another house stands on the brink of disappearance into the Buriganga at Basila, Mohammadpur, where unchecked river erosion has devoured at least 14 buildings in the last three days.

PHOTO: STAR

Akbar orders removal of brick kilns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shipping minister Akbar Hossain yesterday ordered immediate removal of the illegal brick kilns obstructing normal flow of the Turag river at Basila point and dredging of the river to save the village from severe erosion.

He gave the order at an emergency meeting at the ministry following a report from a team of experts of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) on the situation at Basila.

Copies of the letter were sent to State Minister for Power

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Panic grips Basila as river erosion goes on

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The fierce-flowing diverted channel of the Buriganga river continued to erode its banks threatening more land and houses yesterday, throwing about 15,000 people of Basila in Mohammadpur in mounting panic.

Having changed its course because of three massive encroachments, the Buriganga has devoured at least 11 houses including a four-

storey building on the island since Friday.

Officials of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) were seen trying to save Basila launch terminal from being washed away by strong current. The huge pillars supporting the pontoon tilted dangerously with gushing water hammering them.

A deputy director of the BIWTA monitoring the salvage work said

Dedicated probe unit in each cop station planned

REZAUL KARIM

The home ministry plans to set up a separate investigation unit in each police station across the country to ensure proper and prompt probes into criminal cases.

The police officials presently engaged in investigating cases are unable to give enough time for inquiry as they have additional duties to carry out, officials said.

In a letter to the establishment ministry, the home ministry proposed to set up separate investigation units comprising two sub-inspectors at each of the 669 police stations. It was later sent to the Cabinet Division for approval.

The proposal says two sub-inspectors will only investigate

cases. As they will have no other duties, it might help other police personnel at police stations to discharge their other duties smoothly.

Officials said sub-inspectors in most cases fail to investigate cases properly due to work overload. There is also a widespread allegation that investigating officers prepare reports sitting in police stations instead of visiting crime scenes.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar said the ministry sought recruitment of more officers in the Police Department as the officer-constable ratio is around 1:15.

"We want to gradually make the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

DUTA deposits fund for bringing back Azad's body

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) yesterday handed over euro 3,000 to the German charge d'affairs to bring back the body of Professor Humayun Azad from Munich, while the DU authorities told the foreign secretary they would bear all the expenses for doing this.

The DUTA raised the sum in collaboration with the deceased's family after PEN International had informed the family Tuesday that

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Govt borrowing up 30pc on earning-spending mismatch

REZAUL KARIM BYRON

The government borrowing from banks rose 30 percent in the first month of the ongoing fiscal year and stood at Tk 1,047 crore between July 1 and July 29.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Nepal rebels cut off routes to capital

AFP, Kathmandu

The figure was Tk 845 crore in the same period of the last fiscal year.

Finance ministry officials blamed the increased borrowing on the mismatch between the government's earning and spending. They

mostly empty. But the capital's airport was functioning normally and residents and tourists were moving around the city.

"No vehicle owners are prepared to put their vehicles into service because of fears of being attacked by the Maoists," Hira Udas, chief of the Nepal Transport Entrepreneurs Federation, told AFP.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

mostly empty. But the capital's airport was functioning normally and residents and tourists were moving around the city.

No vehicle owners are prepared to put their vehicles into service because of fears of being attacked by the Maoists," Hira Udas, chief of the Nepal Transport Entrepreneurs Federation, told AFP.

Pieter van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands won his second straight men's Olympic 100m freestyle crown here yesterday, destroying Ian Thorpe's hopes of becoming the first man to complete a 100m, 200m, 400m freestyle treble at the Games.

Kosuke Kitajima of Japan completed a sweep breaststroke gold, capturing the 200m title in a Games record ahead of Hungarian teenager Daniel Gyurta.

Polish world record-holder Otylia Jedrzejczak out-duelled Australian Petria Thomas to claim the women's 200m butterfly title.

The United States won the women's 4x200m freestyle relay gold in a new world record of 7min 53.42sec. China took silver and Germany the bronze.

Title-holder Venus Williams of the United States crashed out of the Olympic women's singles tennis

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1