

SUTRAPUR EXPLOSION

Caretaker succumbs to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The injured caretaker of a house at Sutrapur in the city died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Kamrul Sheikh suffered serious burn injuries following a powerful explosion inside the 1st floor of a five-storey building on Friday.

Meanwhile, mystery has shrouded the explosion as Titas Gas officials, after a visit to the scene on Sunday, said the explosion was not

caused by gas leakage.

Earlier, Dr Donald James Gomez, nephew of the owner of the building and a teacher of Dhaka University, suspected that the explosion might be an act of criminals.

He said a criminal group extorted Tk 80,000 from them in last few months and demanded more tolls.

They also threatened the inmates with dire consequences if the toll is not paid, Dr Donald added.



PHOTO: STAR
David Jackson, director of Voice of America, gives a talk on 'Freedom of the press, democracy, tolerance and good governance' at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

Dab Centre performs 100th heart surgery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dab (Diabetic Association of Bangladesh) Cardiac Centre has completed one hundred open heart surgeries.

The centre, established in January last, performed the 100th open heart surgery at the state-of-the-art hospital in the city on Sunday.

The open heart surgeries include coronary bypass, coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), defective valve replacement and repairing of perforation in heart.

Speaking at a press conference, Prof Jacob Bargsland, a visiting cardiac surgeon from Oslo University, Norway said, "I am here to help upgrade the services of this hospital to a level equal to any cardiac hospital in Europe. My team and I myself are ready to extend any help in this regard and pay regular visit here."

A number of well-known cardiac surgeons and cardiologists will visit the Dab cardiac hospital as part of technology transfer.

The management of the hospital recently signed agreements with Oslo University and Aga Khan Hospital, Pakistan to develop collaborative relationship.

Dab Secretary General Prof A K Azad, DCC Chief Executive Officer M A Mokaddem, Advisor Subir Kumar Bhattachariya, Cardiac Surgeon Dr Masoom Siraj and Dr Momenul Huq were present at the press conference.

Teesta inter-city train resumes Sept 25

UNB, Dhaka

Teesta inter-city train on Dhaka-Dinajpur route via Bahadurabad and Balasi Ferry ghats will resume its service on September 25.

The direct train communication on the route remained suspended since July 11 as Bahadurabad and Balasi ferry ghats were damaged by the recent floods.

Greater cooperation among jute-producing countries suggested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a meeting called for increased cooperation among the jute-producing countries to improve the quality of jute seeds and reach them to farmers in time.

They also called on the private seed producers to come forward as the government agencies entrusted with the production, supply and distribution of certified seeds have limitations.

The meeting on 'Present Jute/Kenaf Seed Situation' was held at the International Jute Study Group (IJSJ) secretariat in the city on September 16. Jute experts from

Bangladesh and India attended the meeting.

The experts emphasised the need for developing a mechanism to control access of inferior seeds to the market and recommended simplifying the procedure for seed import and export.

They also underscored the need for dialogue between Bangladesh and India to improve quality of jute.

Production, supply and distribution of certified and labelled seeds should follow strict protocol and a certification system must be established at appropriate levels, the experts said.

SEIZURE OF EXPLOSIVES IN SYLHET

Five sent to jail hajat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Five people, including two Indians, arrested in connection with the recovery of high-power explosives from the Indo-Bangla border were sent to jail hajat after their interrogation in Dhaka.

A magistrate's court sent them to jail hajat after they were brought back to Sylhet yesterday. Among them, Bangladeshi national Kalaganju gave a confessional statement before the magistrate.

The BDR caught the two Indians and one Bangladeshi while they were entering Bangladesh territory through Chhanbarighat after crossing the river

Ichhamati on September 9. Four packets of TNT were also seized from their possession.

Chandan Hajong, 30, and Suresh Hajong, 34, both hailing from Shillong of Meghalaya, and Kalaganju of Nazirgaon, Compnayganj, were shown arrested in two cases filed with Companyganj Police Station the same day.

Two others – Azizur Rahman and his brother Abdul Motalib – were arrested from Sylhet city as suspects in the case.

All the five had been sent to Dhaka for interrogation by the joint interrogation cell.