

SNAPS

3 boys hurt in Khulna bomb explosion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three minor boys were critically injured in a bomb explosion in front of a food processing plant at Labonchora under Khulna thana on Tuesday. They are Mehadi, 9, AL Amin, 10 and Miraj, 7. They are undergoing treatment in Khulna General Hospital. The bomb, left there by unidentified persons, exploded when the boys touched it taking it for a toy, police said. Meanwhile two platoons of police from Khulna thana and Detective Branch on Monday launched a 'special operation' in Skid Ghat area in the town to recover arms of Ershad Shikder, reportedly concealed at different places there. Policemen are digging earth in search of arms and ammunition following a secret information from intelligence agencies. But no arms could be recovered till this evening. The search is going on.

Workshop on environment held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A three-day workshop on Environment organised by Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD), an NGO, ended at the Magura Dinanta Club yesterday. Ten local journalists and 10 primary school headmistresses took part in the workshop. CSD's Secretary General Mahfuzulhaq, schoolteacher Begum Nilufar, BELA (Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association) lawyer Iqbal Kabir, Senior Research Associate of BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) Mizanur Rahman and Chief Executive of LIFD (Local Initiatives for Development) Morjina Begum spoke as resource persons in the workshop.

Kailashtila finally chosen for NGL Fractionation Plant

International tender floated again after 3 years' of indecision

IQBAL SIDDIQUE, Sylhet

After a lapse of three years, the authorities have reverted to its decision to establish NGL Fractionation Plant at Kailashtila in Sylhet.

Rupantarita Praktik Gas Company Limited (RPGCL), a concern of Petrobranga, floated an international tender last week for design, installation and commissioning of a 110 MTD capacity plant under turn-key basis.

The work also includes construction of facilities for storage, loading stations and metering, RPGCL sources said here yesterday.

The proposed plant will produce Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) from NGL (natural gas liquified) and condensate, the officials said.

Fate of the said plant remained uncertain during the last three years though an international tender was floated in 2001 and six firms were short-listed.

The controversy arose when a proposal was made to set up the proposed plant at Ahuganj in Brahmanbaria district and supply of the condensate to the plant from Kailashtila through a 178 kilometre pipeline.

However, the authorities cancelled the idea due to numerous incidents pilferage of condensate from the pipeline between the Kailashtila and Ahuganj.

Sources said over 100 such incidents took place in the last one year. The latest incident took place in Singpon in Moulvibazar, where the pipeline caught during alleged pilfer-

age. Preliminary estimate said condensate worth at least Tk 15 lakh were burnt in the fire that rose up to four feet from the ground and spread over six acres of land.

The proposed fractionation plant will utilise the huge quantity of NGL, which is found in good percentage in the raw gas, produced by the six gas fields in Golapganj-Beanibazar region, unlike in other gas fields in the country, the sources said. Such gas is called wet gas.

Every day, the gas fields in Sylhet region, as a by-product of gas, produce a huge quantity of NGL, which is being burnt out for long years.

About 3000 barrels of NGL is being burnt out every day from the gas wells in Kailashtila (Golapganj) and another two in Beanibazar, they said.

The gas produced in the two Beanibazar fields has the highest 'wet' content.

Sixteen barrels of condensate is available in one million CFT gas of Beanibazar Gas Field while 13 barrels are found in one million cft gas of Kailashtila Gas Field, they added.

In 2000, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources conducted a feasibility study and field survey in Golapganj and Beanibazar upazilas, to select a site for a fractionation plant.

A six-men body headed by the Patrobranga Secretary and having representatives from Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), LP Gas Limited, Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (SGFL), RPGCL and Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFL) also visited the probable sites.

The approximate expenditure for the plant was fixed at US \$30 million that time. Now, the expenditure will be higher, the officials said.

Works on the project was scheduled to begin in late 2001.

They told The Daily Star that Golapganj-Beanibazar region is the best site for the proposed plant.

College girl rescued after 12 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Police rescued abducted college girl Nusrat Aman Tanni on Tuesday, 12 days after the incident.

Later talking to newsmen Tanni said the kidnappers at first took her to Sreepur village in Magura district and then to Rajbari district.

At one stage, she was forced to sign on a kabinnama (marriage registry form), Tanni claimed.

Tanni, Honours first year student at Jhenidah Government Keshab Chandra College, was kidnapped on December 9 while she was going to a coaching centre in the town in a rickshaw.

Jhenidah Jatiyotabadi Chattr Dal (JCD) leader, Abul Bshar Bashi and four others intercepted the rickshaw, whisked her to a microbus and sped away, she said.

Tanni's father Nazrul Huq filed a case accusing Abul Bshar and his party men Rana, Liton, Milton and Russel.

She was handed over to her family, the Sadar thana OCS said.

Lone BIWTC sea truck off Barisal-Bhola route

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation's (BIWTC) sea truck service on Barisal-Laxmipur-Bhola route is stopped since December 18 after Khizir-8, the lone BIWTC vessel plying the route, ran aground on a shoal in the Meghna.

Sources in BIWTC and BIWA (Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority) said tugboat Khanika is trying to salvage the sea-truck and the service would be resumed soon. If he sea truck can not be salvaged, it will be replaced by another vessel, they said.

On other hand, BIWTC's Rocket steamer service on Dhaka-Khulna-Dhaka route via Barisal and Chandpur has been reduced to three days a week from six days since December 19.

Now the service operates on Wednesday, Thursday and Monday from Dhaka and on Friday, Saturday and Wednesday from Khulna with PS Lepcha and ferry-boat Sonargaon.

BIWTC officials said, the service has been reduced following temporary withdrawal of PS Turn and PS Mahsud for river cruise of guests during the coming SAARC Summit beginning on January 11. The two vessels are now at a dockyard for check-up and renovation.

PS Ostrich, another on the route, went out of order and sent to dockyard for repair after it ran aground on a shoal in October.

The regular six days a week service will be resumed after the summit, the sources said.

Make Dec 30 'human wall' a success to topple govt

Menon tells party rallies in Satkhira, Jessore

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon has called upon opposition political activists and the people to make proposed 'human wall' from the Sundarbans to Sunamganj on December 30 a success to express 'no-confidence' against the government.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports:

The BNP-led coalition has to be toppled through a mass movement to save the country from fundamentalists, he said while addressing aparty workers' rally in the town on Tuesday.

Expressing concern over activities of a growing number of religious extremists, he said at least 27 such groups are now active in the country under the protection of the government.

Menon said, the BNP-led Four Party Alliance government has no right to stay in power as it failed to provide food and security to people.

He alleged that the government has unleashed 'state sponsored terrorism' through RAB, which is 'killing terrorists created by ruling parties without nabbing the godfathers'.

Killing in 'crossfire' in the name of containing crime is violation of human rights.

Menon said, unity of pro-liberation forces and formation of 14-party alliance is now needed to save the people and country from anti-liberation forces and government's 'misrule'.

He also warned of "dire consequences" if any attempt is made to foil the December 30 programme.

Workers Party General Secretary

Bimol Biswas said, Islamist zealots are the main threat to the nation. They want to turn the country into a theocratic state.

With Satkhira Workers Party secretary in the chair, the conference was addressed by, among others, Azizur Rahman, Prof. Sabir Hossain, Mohibullah Morol, Rafiqul Islam.

The conference, held at Satkhira PN High School ground, formed a 11-member committee headed by Advocate Mustafa Lutfulah as secretary was formed.

Our Jessore Correspondent reports:

The BNP-Jamaat alliance will not be given a chance to retain power, Workers Party President Rashed

Khan Menon said addressing a party workers rally in the town on Tuesday. "We will have to free the country from the clutch of fundamentalists and carry forward the struggle to establish rights of peasants and workers", he said.

Only unity of pro-liberation forces can do that, he said.

He also called upon party workers and the people to make the December 30 human wall success. The meeting was presided over by party central committee member Zakir Hossain and addressed by, among others, Bimol Biswas, Politbureau member Iqbal Kabir Zahid, Aminur Rahman Manik and Nur Ahmed Bokul.

Month-long agitation for hanging bridge on Surma

Hartal in Sylhet Jan 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Sylhet Division Ganodabi Parishad, a non-partisan citizens' forum, at a rally here on Tuesday announced a month-long programme including hartal on January 31 in Sylhet to press construction of a hanging bridge over the Surma in the city to replace the 70-year-old Keane Bridge.

The programme includes, press conference on Saturday, view exchange meetings with the professionals' groups from December 26 to January 9, human chain on January 10, handover of memorandums to the Communication

Minister on January 15, the Finance Minister on January 16 and to the Prime Minister on January 17, rallies in the city from January 20 to 30.

The rally was presided over by the forum's president Md Turon Miah. The speakers included its general secretary Abdul Malik, Ferdous Alam, Iftakhar Ahmed Limon, Sheikh Hanif Uddin, Moulana Mohammad Nasir Uddin, MA Abad Abdur Rahim Chowdhury Ripon, Dr. Habibur Rahman, Badrul Alam Mukit and Mohammad Ali.

The speakers said, they will go for tougher programmes if their demands are not met.

Request for Expressions of Interest (invitation for application)

BANGLADESH BANK
CENTRAL BANK STRENGTHENING PROJECT (Cr.3792-BD)
RESEARCH ECONOMIST (NATIONAL)

The Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for hiring a number of Research Economists in Bangladesh Bank under the Central Bank Strengthening Project.

The Research Economists would be positioned at the Research Department of Bangladesh Bank to strengthen its capability for applied research and policy analysis. The core areas of research in the Bank are macroeconomics, including monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies, international trade and finance, and economic modeling and forecasting. These positions thus provide a unique and challenging opportunity for competent research economists to contribute to policy analysis and policy-making in the central bank of the country. The tasks would include developing research projects and working in a team of research economists with varied academic background and capabilities. The selected economists will work with Bangladesh Bank for a fixed term assignment covering approximately 3 (three) years. Candidates for the position should have the following qualifications and experience:

- At least a Masters degree in Economics/Finance/Econometrics, from a well-recognized University. Strong quantitative skills and some experience in empirical macroeconomic policy analysis are required.
- Minimum 3 years work experience at financial institutions, research organizations and/or Universities. Familiarity with financial markets would be considered an added qualification.
- Some research publications in refereed journals, preferably on macroeconomic and monetary policy issues in developing countries, including Bangladesh.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, including in particular report writing skills in English.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively in teams and strong interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work hard and under pressure and deliver quality output in a timely manner.

The Bangladesh Bank now invites eligible candidates (who should be Bangladesh nationals) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested candidates must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (CV/Resume shall include - academic qualifications, work experiences, research publications, two sample copies of recent research papers and the names, addresses and contact details of three professional referees, etc.).

Bangladesh Bank officials having requisite qualifications and experience are also eligible to apply for the position.

Selected candidates will be paid a negotiated consolidated salary depending on qualification and experience, not exceeding Tk. 45,000 per month. Selection for the position will be made in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997), January 1999, and May 2002.

Interested candidates may obtain detailed TOR and further information at the address below on working days within working hours, or from Bangladesh Bank website at www.bangladesh-bank.org.

Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below by February 15, 2005.

DPRP: 48/2004-2403
Date : 20-12-2004

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A partial view of the discussion meeting on Immunity to World Bank. PHOTO: STAR

Immunity to World Bank opposed

Anti-Immunity Alliance formed at Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Speakers at a discussion meeting here on Monday called upon the government not to give immunity to the World Bank (WB).

The government has prepared a bill in this regard, which is yet to be placed in the Jatiya Sangsad.

The speakers also called upon the people to raise protest against the government move.

The discussion on "Proposed Bill to Give Immunity to International Financial Institutions" was organised by the Satkhira Chapter of Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), an NGO.

It was presided over by Anisur Rahman of CGG and addressed by, among others, Principal Asit Kumar Majumdar, Principal Sheikh Abdul Wadood, SM Saidar Rahman, all leaders of the newly formed Anti-Immunity Alliance; Advocate Nurul Alam; Subhas Chandra Sarkar and Madhab Dutta. It was held at the office of the Satkhira Unnayan Kendra, also an NGO.

They said World Bank officials speak of democracy, accountability and transparency. But they are now seeking immunity. This has raised doubt among people whether they

really want to help the country's development.

Tied loans given by WB and International Monetary Fund (IMF) do not really benefit the country as their lion shares are spent for the people deputed by them as consultants and officials, the speakers said.

They said WB does not give any aid to Bangladesh, it just gives loans which do not bring any good to the poor.

"So it will be very much injustice to give immunity to WB", Asit Kumar Majumdar said.

Anisur Rahman, a journalist, said, "We are in fact very unfortunate that our democratic government despite being aware of the implications is taking step to give immunity".

WB prescription has not benefited the poor in any country.

The proposed bill bars individuals from seeking legal help against the WB, he said.

SM Saidar Rahman said Bangladesh made a great mistake by giving immunity to the Asian Development Bank. "We can not afford another mistake", he said.

"What the government will do if other financial institutions and multinational companies seek immunity?" he posed the question.

Industrial Fair opens at B'Baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bbaria

A month-long Industry and Commerce Exhibition, jointly organised by the National Association of Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh (NASCI) and the district administration began at Annada High School playground in the town Tuesday evening.

This is the first such exhibition held in a district town to promote growth of small and cottage industries.

State Minister Land Abdus Sattar Buiyan inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. ADC (General) Mia Abdullah Mamun was in the chair.

Speaking on the occasion, the State Minister said there is no alternative to setting up of small and cottage industries in the country for

employment creation. The fair will encourage the local people to develop small and cottage industries in their respective areas.

Deputy Commissioner Md. Jahirul Haque, Police Superintendent ATM Tarque, Brahmanbaria Chamber of Commerce Chairman Md Farid Uddin, Poursabha Chairman Md. Hafizur Rahman Mullah Kachi, BNP Secretary Sayed Emranur Reza, NASCI central leader AKM Mujibur Rahman Belal also addressed the inaugural function.

According to the organisers, 96 stalls have been opened in the exhibition.

Participants from Iran, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia and India will also display their products at the fair.

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The selected economists will work with Bangladesh Bank for a fixed term assignment covering approximately 3 (three) years. Candidates for the position should have the following qualifications and experience:

- At least a Doctorate in Macroeconomics/Monetary Economics/International Trade and Finance/Econometrics, from an internationally acclaimed university. Strong quantitative skills and experience in empirical macroeconomic policy analysis are required. Previous academic background i.e. Bachelor and Masters in Economics/Finance would also be preferred.
- Minimum 5 years work experience at financial institutions, research organizations and/or Universities. Familiarity with financial markets would be considered an added qualification.
- High-quality research publication in refereed journals, preferably on macroeconomic and monetary policy issues in developing countries, including Bangladesh.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, including in particular report writing skills in English.
- Demonstrated ability to provide leadership, and strong interpersonal skills, including ability to work effectively in teams. The tasks would include developing research projects and leading teams of research economists with varied academic background and capabilities.
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