

# More organisations decry Habiganj grenade attack

## Incidents increase as perpetrators not brought to book, govt fails to ensure security of people, they observe

STAR NATIONAL DESK

More political and socio-cultural organisations, professional and student bodies and individuals yesterday condemned Thursday's grisly grenade attack on Awami League rally at Bidder Bazar in Habiganj that killed former finance minister SAMS Bibra and four other party activists.

The government has to bear the responsibility for this as it could neither properly probe earlier such incidents nor could ensure security of people's life and property, they said.

Such incidents are happening due to "indifference" of the ruling BNP-Jamaat alliance in bringing the culprits to book, they alleged.

Our RU Correspondent reports: One hundred and seventy-three teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) in a statement expressed deep shock and condemned the killing.

They criticised the four-party alliance government for its "utter failure to ensure security of people's life".

They said, incidents of killing,

terrorism and repression on oppression political parties increased after the alliance government came to the power in 2001.

Militants group like Bangla Bhai have emerged under the shelter of the government, they alleged, expressing their anguish at the lack of security in public life.

In Kibria's killing, the country lost an internationally reputed personality who held important United Nations posts of Under Secretary General and Escap Executive Secretary.

They also expressed sympathy with the bereaved family members. The teachers demanded stream action against the criminal immediately.

They said if the grenade attack on August 21 was properly investigated and killers punished, such incident would not have been repeated.

They termed former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria an asset of the country and said this killing is equal to the killing of intellectuals in 1971.

Those who killed the intellectuals in 1971 have become active again.

They must be contained anyhow, the mentioned.

They blamed ruling BNP-Jamaat coalition for patronising terrorist across the country and they were responsible for the heinous grenade attack.

They also said there is no alternative for the nation with out going for movement to remove the present alliance government.

They also alleged that the bomb attacks are going against Awami League leaders and workers one after another but the government is indifferent.

Secular and pro-liberation forces are the prime targets of the culprits, who will not spare such forces in BNP also, they said.

They also demanded immediate exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Signatories to the statement include Progressive Teachers Association Convener Prof. Muhammad Nurullah, former RU VC Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, Social Science Faculty Dean Prof Zihadul Karim, Prof Entajul Haque, Prof Mijan Uddin,

Prof Anando Kumar Shaha, Prof Moloy Kumar, Prof Shamsuddin Ilias, Prof Hasibul Alam Prodhon, Prof Muhammad Shobhan, Prof Bidhan Chandra Shaha and Prof Tarek Noor.

Other organisations which condemned the grenade attack include RU teachers, Officers and Employees Welfare Association, RU Bangabandhu Parishad, Bangabandhu Sangkritik Jote, Sammilito Sangkritik Jote, Anushilon Drama Group, RU Samajtrantik Chhatra Front, Udichi RU unit, RU Mohila Parishad, Jatiya Samajtrantik Dal, RU Chhatra Federation, RU Chhatra Union and its city unit, Udichi Rajshahi city unit and Gono Shilpi Sangha.

Chittagong Chamber Our Staff Correspondent in Ctg reports: Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) in a statement expressed its deep shock at the killing of Kibria and four others and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

Such incidents are taking place

one after another as the culprits can not be brought to book, CCCI leaders said in the statement issued Friday evening.

Terrorists do not belong to any party. They are enemies of all. They should be given exemplary punishment for the benefit of all including political parties both in power and in the opposition, they said.

Signatories to the statement include CCCI President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, Senior Vice-President SM Nurul Haq and Vice-President MA Latif.

Women Employers Association of Bangladesh Nasreen Awal Minto, President of Women Employers Association of Bangladesh, in a statement expressed her deep shock at the murder of Kibria and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

Such incidents are taking place as the perpetrators could not be brought to book, she said and urged the government to take all out steps to nab them.



Mushroom produced are being store at a house in Rangamagi, awaiting marketing.

PHOTO: STAR

# Hopes lose way in marketing snags

## Lack of trade facilities frustrates over 27,000 mushroom growers in Rangamati

MONIRUL ALAM, Rangamati

Mushroom growing, which lured scores of people, particularly poor women and promised better life in the hill district, is on the wane only due to lack of transportation and marketing facilities.

Its commercial production had expanded rapidly both in urban areas and in distant hills in the district but the enthusiasm among the growers is fading but the government agency concerned is unconcerned, many of the growers alleged while talking to this correspondent recently.

Over the years after launch of a project by the Parbatya Chattagram Mushroom Chash Prokopa five years ago, consumption of the highly nutritious food with medicinal value also increased, creating a local market.

"Most of the growers now produce mushroom only to meet family demands", said Sazal Barua, a trainer working under the project.

They no more grow mushroom on

commercial basis because of lack of marketing facilities. The training project is at Asambosti in Rangamati town.

A total of 27450 people were given training on mushroom cultivation under the project in last five years.

The project was undertaken by the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) to encourage hill people, particularly the ultra poor and unemployed ones to grow mushroom for self-employment.

This created much enthusiasm among unemployed youths as they saw in it a way to change their life. But lack of marketing facilities has marred the prospect, he said.

Mushroom growing is highly profitable business. Only around Tk 20 is spent to produce one kilogram of mushroom, which can be easily sold at between Tk 80 and Tk 100, Sazal Barua said. The youths were attracted because it involved virtually no capital and extra space. It can be grown at a corner of a house or at a small cottage.

Mushroom has high demands in big cities in Bangladesh and abroad because of its multiple food value. It is full of minerals and cancer resistant ingredients but negligible fat, said Assistant Horticulturist Iqbal Hossain.

Mushroom soup is a popular food in the Western countries. It is also used in preparing varieties of delicious dishes.

"As it is holds high demand in Dhaka, Chittagong and even among indigenous people in CHI, unemployed people could easily create self-employment and reduce poverty," said Fasiul Alam, Director of the project.

A small investment in marketing could easily meet the demand of about 5000 foreigners living in Dhaka and Chittagong who love to have mushroom dishes in their menu almost every day, he said.

He suggested that investors can set up storage facilities in Rangamati town to preserve it and then supply to cities.

This small initiative can be taken either by the government or the private sectors, he said.

# Food poisoning kills 4 of a family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Four persons of a family including a minor girl died from food poisoning at Damuderpur-Balapara village in Rangpur Sadar upzila.

Eight others also fell sick after taking food allegedly mixed with harmful chemicals.

The tragic incidents came to light three days after the death as the affected

family tried to hush up the matter as they reportedly tried to avoid police.

The dead are Achhir Uddin, 60, his third wife Areza Begum, 45, his mother-in-law Alema Begum, 70, and his 8-year old daughter Belly.

Achhir Uddin died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital on December 20. Areza Begum died on January 21 and Alema Begum and Belly on January 26 at their home after they fled from hospital,

fearing police interrogation.

The eight sick persons now at the hospital are Ayeshah, Parveen, Zamil, Nasreen, Zakir, Ayema, Armina and Ariful.

Police recorded an UD case after the death of Achhir Uddin. Asked about three others, the office-in-charge of Sadar thana said police are yet to be informed of the death of three persons.

### SNAPS

#### Training on fishery ends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

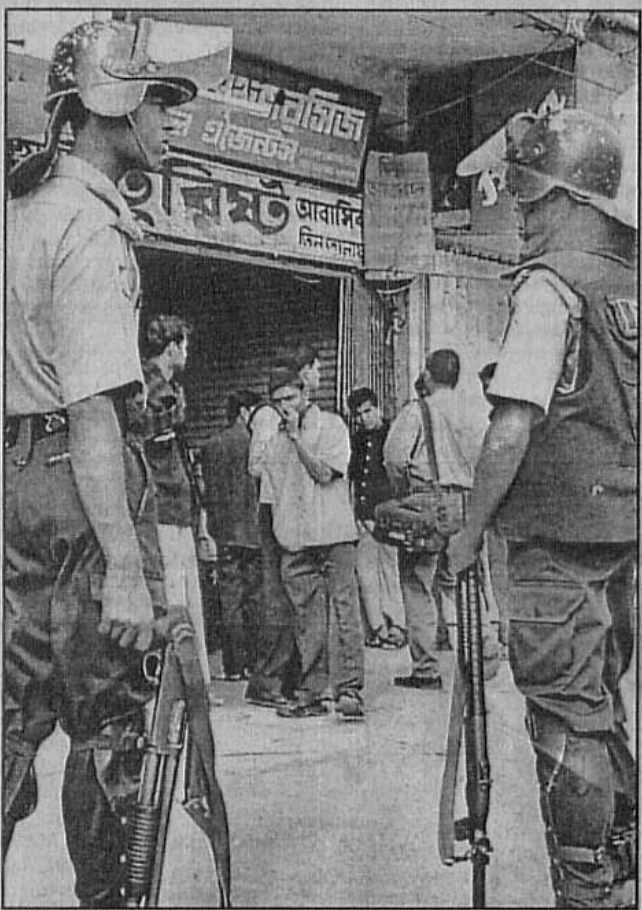
A three-day 'trainers' training on Gender Awareness and Development ended here on Friday. It was organised jointly by the district fisheries department, DESHA, a local NGO and Aquaculture Development Project (IFAD), Faridpur. Twenty-five people from eight districts of Khulna division took part in the training. Dr. Mamataz Uddin, chief coordinator of IFAD, Kushtia District Fishery Officer Hasanuzzaman Choudhury, DESHA Executive Director Rabul Islam and IFAD officials Nurul Amin and Sahanara Begum conducted the training.

#### Arms recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Uzirpur police recovered a pipe gun, one revolver and four bullets from a house Mashang village in Otra union on Friday. Police said, acting on a tip-off, they raided the house of one Dr. Hyder Ali Khan in the evening and recovered the firearms.

Police said case was lodged with Uzirpur thana but none was arrested till writing this report yesterday morning.



Police guarding AL office at Darul Fazal Market in Chittagong city and a barren (right) Hemayet Uddin Road in Barisal city during hartal hours yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

# Out of Bidi factories, but now jobless

## 200 teenagers may return to hazardous work

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Seventeen-year old Rohidul and 13-year old Sahanara are now very happy. They are earning Tk 60 to 70 a day now, three times more than they used to get from hazardous work at a Bidi factory earlier.

This was beyond their imagination a year ago when they were engaged at Bidi factories. Rohidul is an electrician and Sahanara a paper bag maker now.

"I'm very happy", a delighted Sahanara told this correspondent on Thursday while making paper bag at her house in remote Boiragirchar village in Daulatpur upazila, 45 kilometers off the district town. Rohidul is also from the same village.

They were trained in the vocations at the initiative of a local NGO-- SETU-- and the ILO (International Labour Organisation) after they were taken out of Bidi factories last year. They had been working in the factories for over four years.

The United States Department of Labour (USDOL) funded the ILO project named PEWFCL (Preventing and Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour). The project concludes next month.

But all teenagers taken out of Bidi factories trained are not lucky like Rohidul and Sahanara.

A total of 368 boys and girls aged between 13-17 were trained in different vocations including tailoring, paper bag making, nursery raising, electrical work, elementary engineering.

About 200 of them are unemployed now.

Most of the teenagers taken out of Bidi factories are from Daulatpur upazila, the biggest tobacco producing and processing zone in the country.

Selim Hossain, son Abdul Kader at Begunbaria village, got carpentry

training, but could not manage a job. Same is the condition of Tuhin Hossain of Philipagar village and Kalam of Golabari village. They were trained on repairing motor vehicle engine.

Their fate is uncertain and poverty may compel them to return to tobacco factories, many of them lamented while talking to this correspondent.

When contacted, MA Kader, Executive Director of SETU said he is aware of the situation. Parents of the teenagers were given Tk 28 lakh loans for income generating activities when the children were taken out of factories. But most of them did not utilise the loans to provide their trained wards.

He however said, "We will sit with them soon to see what can be done"

Contacted over cell phone, USDOL Coordinator in Bangladesh AT Siddique said the trainers of the teenagers were supposed to provide them with jobs. "There was no job commitment from us", he said.

SETU took out 2090 children and teenagers aged between 5-17 out of Bidi factories. Of them, 1170 aged between 5 and 11 have been enrolled in schools after pre-school orientation at education centres run by it. Another 190 below 5 are cared at its 28 centres.

ILO took the initiative in 2001 to remove child labour from Bidi factories in Bangladesh.

SETU started its project in December 2001 and later was joined by BTUC (Bangladesh Trade Union Kendro).

Before launching the project, a survey by SETU found that at least 5000 children were working at eight big Bidi factories in the district.

Sources said at least 2500 children are still working in eight tobacco factories in the district.

# Barisal phones to take 2 months more for normal operation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least one and a half months more will be needed for all telephones in Barisal division to function normally.

Sources in T & T Department here said conversion of 1600 lines starting with number '5' to number '6' will be completed within this month.

But the new 1000-line exchange being installed by a Chinese company will not start functioning before the first week of next month.

Then the company will start installation of another 2000-line new exchange, which may start functioning in March, the sources said.

All telephones will be functional after the whole work is completed, they said.

Tender for setting up another new exchange with a capacity of 7000 lines has been floated. The work will begin within the current financial year. New telephone connections would be given after that.

Mentionably, 4700 telephones starting with digit '5' under Barisal Divisional Telephone Exchange suddenly collapsed on December 15 as the Hard Disk Drive (HDD) at the Central Processing Unit (CPU) went out of order. The CPU was installed by ITALTEL Company of Italy.

# One held for damaging Rangpur temple

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police arrested the prime accused in Tuesday's Lalbag temple damage incident on Friday.

Rashid was held after Prof Narayan Chandra Kundu, secretary of Lalbag Kali Mondir Committee, filed a case with Kotwali thana earlier on the day.

Police have been deployed in the area. He told police during interrogation that he damaged a wall of the temple and snapped the power connection, OCNur Alam said.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Sylhet

Memo No. LGED/XEN/Sylhet/05-285/2004/262 Dated: 18.01.2005

### Invitation for Tender (IFT)

Tender Notice Number: 77/2004-05

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the undermentioned list of works as per terms and conditions stated below:

Sl No	Name of contract	Tender security (Tk)	Time for completion (days)	Price of tender documents (Tk)
01.	Construction of 9.00m span RCC Light Traffic Bridge on Punnaogon village road over Bewal Khal.	15,000/-	90	500/-
02.	Construction of 2x3.00x3.00m RCC box culvert on Gobindasree West Mahila road, Ch: 200m.	12,000/-	90	300/-
03.	Construction of 3x3.50x3.50m RCC box culvert on Angura-Mohammadpur road, Ch: 00m.	19,000/-	90	500/-
04.	Construction of 1x4.00x4.00m RCC box culvert on Roybashi-Dudboxi road.	13,000/-	90	500/-
05.	Construction of 1x4.00x4.00m RCC box culvert on Achirgonjbarazar-Holimpur road, Ch: 780m.	13,000/-	90	500/-

1.	Name of project	: Light Traffic Bridge.
2.	Date, time and place of pre-tender meeting	: 10.02.2005, 12:00 noon and office of the undersigned.
3.	Last date, time and places of selling tender documents	: 26.02.2005, 4:00 pm and A) Office of the undersigned, B) The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet. C) The Project Director, Light Traffic Bridge Project, LGED, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka. D) The Executive Engineer, LGED, Sunamganj/Hobiganj/Moulavibazar. E) The Upazila Engineer, LGED, all upazila, Sylhet.
4.	Last date, time & places of receiving tender	: 27.02.2005 upto 12:00 Noon and a) The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, b) The Executive Engineer, LGED, Sylhet/Moulavibazar. c) The Upazila Engineer, LGED, all upazila, Sylhet.
5.	Date, time and place of opening of tender	: 27.02.2005 at 3:00 pm and office of the undersigned.
6.	Tender shall be valid for a period of 119 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by the tender security specified in section 2. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Interested tenderer may obtain further information from the undersigned and purchase the tender documents in cash/treasury challan/bank draft from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorised representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders.	

DFFP-2071-26/01/05 G-114

**Executive Engineer**  
LGED, Sylhet

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
ময়মনসিংহ

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের  
ভর্তি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত  
জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আগামী ৩১ জানুয়ারি, ২০০৫ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত বাংলাদেশ কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ২০০৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষের স্নাতক শ্রেণীর লেভেল-১, সেমিস্টার-১ ভর্তি পরীক্ষা অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ স্থগিত করা হয়েছে।

পরিবর্তিত তারিখ অনুযায়ী আগামী ১১ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০০৫ তরুবার সকাল ১০টা হতে দুপুর ১২টা পর্যন্ত ভর্তি পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

আগামী ১৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০০৫ তারিখে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার ফলাফল প্রকাশিত হবে।

উল্লেখ থাকে যে, পূর্বে ইস্যুকৃত ভর্তি পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র যথারীতি বলবৎ থাকবে।

জিডি-৫৯

রেজিস্ট্রার

বাংলাদেশ মাদরাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড  
বখশি বাজার, ঢাকা

স্মারক নং-সংস্/০৩৬/সি-১, তারিখঃ ২৯/০১/২০০৫

### দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় বর্ধিতকরণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ মাদরাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ডের কার্যক্রম কম্পিউটারায়নের লক্ষ্যে সার্ভার, ব্র্যান্ড কম্পিউটার, প্রিন্টার, কম্পিউটার নেটওয়ার্ক সামগ্রী, ইউপিএস এবং কম্পিউটার ডেস্ক ও চেয়ার ক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত "দৈনিক ইনকিলাব" পত্রিকায় ১৭/০১/২০০৫ তারিখে এবং "দি ডেইলি স্টার" ও "দৈনিক প্রথম আলো" পত্রিকায় ১৮/০১/২০০৫ তারিখে প্রচারিত "প্রকাশিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী" শীর্ষক বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লেখিত দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় অনিবার্য কারণে নিম্নরূপে সংশোধন করা হলোঃ

দরপত্রের সিডিউল দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০১/০২/২০০৫ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা
দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০১/০২/২০০৫ তারিখ দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকা

প্রকাশিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লেখিত দরপত্র ক্রয় ও দাখিলের স্থান এবং অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

মোঃ আবদুল কাদের সরকার  
রেজিস্ট্রার  
বাংলাদেশ মাদরাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড,  
ঢাকা

জিডি-৬০