

16 hurt in chemical factory blast

BDNEWS, Gazipur

At least 16 people were injured in an explosion at a chemical factory at C&B area in Sreepur upazila of the district early yesterday.

Of the injured, one was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Sources said the explosion occurred two hours after a fire broke out from an electric short-

circuit at the Tower Corporation Limited, a blister and medicine-foil manufacturing factory, at about 2:30am.

A number of fire fighting units from Joydebpur and Bhaluka rushed to the spot and tried to bring the fire under control.

At about 4:30am, a barrel full of chemical exploded with a big bang injuring 16 people, including eight fire fighters.



Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW)
Islamic Institute for Research and Propagation of the Teachings of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW)

The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) organised a workshop titled 'Islamic Philanthropy and Poverty Eradication: Proposal for Zakat-based Programmes' at the Brac Centre in the city recently. The workshop was organised in order to generate proposals for the effective utilisation of zakat funds. Institute Executive Director Ahmad Shafi Maqsood, Chief Advisor of the Institute and former minister Lt General (Retd) Md Nooruddin Khan, former BIDS chairman and Institute economic division Chairman Dr Monwar Hossain and Institute President Major General (Retd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim attended the workshop.

AAA to honour 5 graduates

The American Alumni Association (AAA) hold its first award-giving ceremony at the Winter Garden of the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel tomorrow to honour five Bangladeshi American university graduates, who made significant contributions in their respective fields in Bangladesh and abroad, says a press release.

The nomination categories are arts & culture, business, education, public service, and science and technology. The 'AAA wards 2005' has been initiated for the first time to recognise the efforts of American university graduates who have returned to the country and are contributing to the betterment of Bangladesh.

AAA is an association of graduates from American colleges and universities in Bangladesh.

WAEPA Bangladesh meet postponed

A general meeting of Women Architects, Engineers, Planners' Association (WAEPA), Bangladesh scheduled to be held on June 30 has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

The WAEPA Bangladesh ad hoc committee regrets the inconveniences caused to the members.



PHOTO: STAR

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman speaks at the 9th biennial conference of Moulvi Bazar Zila Samity at the Diploma Engineers' auditorium in the city yesterday.

JP men burn 3 dailies, threaten journos

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Agitated Jatiya Party (Ershad) activists yesterday burnt copies of three Bangla national dailies after publication of a report that Nurul Islam Dipu, a convict in the Ahsan Ullah Master MP murder case, was one of the entourage of HM Ershad who arrived here for a three-day visit on Friday.

Unknown callers also gave death threats to journalists Mahbub Rahman, Wadud Ali, and Ariful Hoque of the Jugantor, the Ittefaq and the Prothom Alo, the three mentioned in separate GDs (general diary) with the Kotwali Police Station.

A procession of the party leaders and activists led by Yaser and Abdur Razzak went to Rangpur Press Club chanting slogans against the journalists of the three dailies for publishing the report in yesterday's issue, eyewitnesses said.

Referring to JP sources, the three national dailies reported yesterday that Nurul Islam Dipu stayed at Ershad's Rangpur residence Polli Nibash and moved along with the latter's motorcade in a jeep with tinted glass.

Police have been deployed on the press club premises and Jugantor's Rangpur office following the incident.

131 cops held for extortion, criminal activities

Babar tells JS

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A total of 131 members of police force were arrested for their involvement in extortion or committing criminal activities since the ruling alliance took charge till June 20 this year.

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar told this to the House Tuesday in reply to a question from Jatiya Party (JP) lawmaker GM Quader.

Of the total accused, 23 were fined or sent to jail after trial, he added.

In reply to a question from ruling BNP lawmaker Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lalu (Bogra-7), he said the government has given arms license to 15,264 people in the last ten years.

Of the total, highest arms license to 3,195 people were given in 1997 following 2,962 in 1998 and in 2001 while lowest 95 till June 20 this year.

He also informed the House that arms license to 2,574 people were given in 2000, about 2,448 in 1999, some 525 in 1996, a total of 338 in 2004, about 108 in 2003 and 102 in 2002.

UNB adds, Replying to MM Shaheen (BNP-Moulvibazar), he said 19 members of elite Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) were awarded BPM, BPM (Service), PPM and PPM (Service) medals for their outstanding performances while taking part in risky

and courageous drives.

Apart from this, 3,402 other Rab personnel were awarded Tk 933,301 for discharging duties with utmost sincerity and honesty, the state minister said. He told MA Hashem (BNP-Noakhali) that at present, there are 452 police outposts in the country and the government would set up more such outposts considering the prevailing situation.