

TENGRATILA

Drilling of data well suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Drilling of the data well at Tengratila gas field that witnessed a blowout a couple of months ago was suspended yesterday, said an official of the Canadian company Niko.

So far the drilling has been done up to 427 metres while the target is fixed at 650 metres, the official said. It would take at least two weeks to complete the drilling, he added.

Australian Company Century is entrusted with the task of drilling of the data well for having a clear picture of the position of the reserve.

After drilling the data well, the second relief well will be drilled, which would be located about 10 metres off the observation well, the Niko official said.

Niko was to start drilling of the second relief well from July 30. But later the company postponed the relief well plan and decided to drill the observation well first.

NAT 'L MOURNING DAY

Huda blamed for foiling AL programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday accused the communications minister of directing the ruling BNP cadres to attack and foil AL's programme on National Mourning Day in Dohar on Monday.

"Nazmul Huda was present during the attack and it is his party cadres who swooped on AL leaders and workers with firearms, wood sticks and brickbats," said Asaduzzaman Noor MP, central publicity affairs secretary of the AL.

Addressing a press conference, Noor and other leaders of the party gave details of the attack and said on return of the party chief and other senior leaders from Tungipara today they would enforce programmes protesting the attack.

Noor alleged that a few days ago Nazmul Huda declared to thwart any programme on the death anniversary of Bangabandhu in Dohar.

"He (Huda) directed his party cadres to observe the day as Nazat day (a day of emancipation) and birth anniversary of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia," the actor turned politician Noor added.

He said the ruling party cadres with the help of local police grabbed the main venue of mourning day programme and started Khaleda's birthday celebration.

The BNP cadres also vandalised other makeshift tents and looted food for the destitute, he added.

Noor said at the directives of the minister, police began massive drive to arrest AL leaders and workers and put them behind the bar in false cases.

Police also barred them from attending the programme venue saying that they would not be able to provide security, he added.

"BNP cadres also fired gunshots targeting the microbus by which we were fleeing the scene after failing to attend the mourning day programme," Noor said.

Over 200 people including journalists were injured as a band of BNP cadres opened fire and hurled brickbats on an AL rally in Dohar on that day.

AL leaders Abdul Mannan Khan and Ashim Kumar Ukil, who came under the attack, were present at the press conference held at party's Dhanmondi office.

Meanwhile, Nazmul Huda categorically denied his involvement in attacking the AL rally at his constituency in Dohar.

HUDA'S DENIAL

Talking to a group of journalists yesterday, he termed the newspaper reports as 'absolutely false' and 'fabricated'.

"There might be a lot of bloodshed had I not been there," Huda claimed.

"I told my workers that the day is very significant as it is the death anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and birth anniversary of our prime minister. So we should not interfere in each other's programme," he headed.

'Opposition always vocal for press freedom'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both press freedom and responsible journalism are needed to establish the people's right to know, said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The roundtable on 'Responsible Journalism' was organised by Human Rights Journalist Association at the National Press Club in the city.

"The opposition in our country is always vocal for press freedom while the ruling party for responsible journalism," said Dr Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University while presenting the keynote paper.

Presided over by Human Right Journalist Association President Rita Rahman, the roundtable was also addressed by New Age Executive Editor Nurul Kabir, BSS Managing Director Gazilul Hasan Khan, association secretary MA Rahim Rana and National Press Club executive member Syed Lutful Haque.

'90pc garments workers victims of occupational health hazards'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 90 percent of garments workers in the country often suffer from respiratory problems, abdominal pain and runny nose and cough, according to a recent survey.

They also suffer from headache, fever, tuberculosis and jaundice, said Dr AKM Alamgir while presenting a keynote paper at a seminar on 'Occupational health hazards of garments factory workers' yesterday.

The worst sufferers are those who work with cotton and fibre in the garment factories, but about 12 percent of the workers have no idea that cotton and fibre particles pose such health hazards, the survey said.

Some 11 percent of the workers do not know that they can reduce the

risk of inhaling small cotton particles by taking preventive measures. Eight percent of the workers said they do not use masks to protect themselves from such health hazards.

During the survey, 41 percent of the workers said they do not avail themselves of the medical facilities provided by Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

The Bangladesh Nari Adhikar Bastabayan Sangstha (BNABS) and the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) organised the seminar at the LGED Bhaban in the city.

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon attended the function as the chief guest while BGMEA President Anisul Haque was present as special guest.

The state minister called on the factory owners to promote a healthy environment at the workplaces in order to maintain the status of garments industry as the highest foreign exchange earner of the country.

He also said the government has taken various initiatives to incorporate garments-related subjects, including fashion designing, into educational curriculum.

BGMEA President Anisul Haq admitted that some garments factories lack hygienic working environment because of unplanned growth of factories.

CAMPE Director Rasheda K Chowdhury, Tapan Kumar Das and Ahmed Ali Mridha also spoke.

Schoolteacher arrested for tampering with answer script

UNB, Dhaka

Police detained a schoolteacher of Kachua in Comilla for allegedly tampering with an answer script of a meritorious SSC candidate to favour another SSC student for monetary benefit, education ministry officials said yesterday.

Police also arrested the student and a school peon in the case on formal complaint from Attaullah, an SSC candidate from Kachua Government Pilot High School in last year's SCC examination under Comilla Board.

The education ministry, under the directive of State Minister ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon, discovered the scandal and arrested the school's biology teacher Babu Laxman for taking Tk 3,500 from the student, Md Yunus Hossain, of the same school, for exchanging the OMR slip in answer script with that of Attaullah and thereby illegally helping Yunus to pass in biology.

The tampering done by Laxman at the examination centre with the help of peon Abdul Malek brought tragedy for Attaullah who challenged his result with Comilliah Board and later applied to the state minister for re-examination of his biology paper. He obtained A+ grade in six subjects and A grade in two subjects but F grade in biology.

On directive of the minister, Comilla Board finally detected that the OMR form of biology paper of Attaullah was changed with another OMR form of Yunus of the same school. They also detected that Yunus, peon Malek and teacher Babu Laxman were directly involved in the incident.

Yunus and Malek were brought to the education ministry yesterday. During interrogation, Yunus confessed that he paid Tk 4,000 to Malek after being told that he would be ensured good marks in biology paper.

Replying to a question, Malek also confessed his guilt, saying that he gave Tk 3,500 to Lakkhan and under his advice changed the OMR form of Attaullah.

Comilla Board Controller Md. Yusuf, Deputy Controller Md Imrul Hasan and head examiner of biology were also present at the state minister's office.

Talking to newsmen, the state minister said the government was committed to remove all kinds of irregularities at the public examinations.

C'NAWABGANJ BORDER BDR on high alert

BDNEWS, C' nawabganj

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) troops have been put on high alert on Giliabari border of Chapainawabganj district, as Indian Border Security Force (BSF) took position with heavy weapons in bunkers on the other side.

The BSF dug the bunkers after they were barred by the BDR from dropping sacks full of sand into the river Mohananda in the "no-man-land," BDR sources said yesterday.

A flag meeting of the BDR and BSF was scheduled for yesterday, as a tense situation was prevailing on the border following the incident.

More donation for cancer hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tamizuddin Khan Trust yesterday donated Tk 5 lakh for the construction of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH), says a press release.

The trust chairperson Umme Kulsum Siddique Huda handed over a cheque to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President and Chief Executive of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), at a simple ceremony at its Dhanmondi office in the city.

Hasina calls for unity to oust govt

UNB, Tungipara

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged people to oust the alliance government, accusing it of killing, terrorism and corruption.

"Get united. This killer and corrupt government must be tried in the people's court," she told wayside crowds at Srinagar and Bhanga on way to Tungipara.

She deplored that despite a court verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case, its execution has not yet been done.

Accusing late president Ziaur Rahman of his involvement in the assassination of Bangabandhu, Hasina, also the leader of the opposition in parliament, said General Zia had protected the self-confessed killers and rehabilitated them through the Indemnity Ordinance.

As Hasina left the capital for Tungipara by road, Awami League workers and supporters wearing black badges were seen standing along the route. Many arches wrapped with black clothes were erected on the way as a mark of respect to Bangabandhu.

Hasina reached Tungipara at about 12:15pm, placed wreaths at the grave of Bangabandhu and offered special prayers. Party central leaders accompanied her.

Police briefly detain two BCL leaders

DU CORRESPONDENT

The police yesterday briefly detained two leaders of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) as they were found exchanging hot words in front of the New Market Police Station.

Police released Delwar Hossain, president of Dhaka University BCL, and Mantaz Begum, general secretary of Shamsunnahar Hall BCL, after around one hundred leaders and workers of the student organisation laid siege to the police station, demanding immediate release of the two.

Sources said Delwar and Mantaz were locked in an altercation a few yards from the police station at about 11:00am, prompting the law enforcement men to take them to the station and confine them for about an hour.

Later in a press statement, Mantaz said they suddenly became agitated while talking on political issues, but the police stepped in and picked them up after knowing their political identity.

Nixon, Kissinger know everything, said Mustaque

FROM PAGE 1

of Morris' thesis, in April 1979, Kai Bird and I wrote Henry Kissinger and asked him seven questions about secret contacts with the Mustaque group in 1971 and whether or not, as Secretary of State he personally had prior knowledge of the 1974-75 contacts between U.S. Embassy personnel and the Mustaque group in the months prior to the coup against Mujib. Kissinger was Secretary of State in 1974 at the time of the renewed contacts with the Mustaque circle and at the time of the coup against Mujib. By virtue of his position he had access to all the correspondence concerning Ambassador Boster having ordered contacts with Mustaque and his coup planners be terminated.

Kissinger wrote us back the following month complaining of our "astounding letter" saying our press deadline did not afford him the time to respond. He added, "I cannot deal with the extraordinary mixture of allegations and innuendos contained in your letter, except to say that in substance they are so far from the truth that I am impelled to question the motives of your informants." We wrote back in June telling Kissinger that we certainly intended to write future articles and that he should not be concerned about our earlier press deadline. We would be patient. He should simply answer the questions.

In our June reply we wrote Kissinger the following: "We do not consider the questions we have put to be, as you say, 'far from the truth'. Indeed, as questions they are designed precisely to get at the truth. We know of no other method, but to ask with as much precision as possible. If there are details, facts, names or sequences with which you disagree, this is exactly what we would like to know. What is your version of the 1971 contacts and the 1974 contacts? In our view, to be 'astonished' is not to be specific in response." Twenty-six years later Kissinger has yet to frame a response despite several press deadlines having come and gone.

What I failed to mention to Kissinger in our original letter was that many of the same questions that we had posed to Kissinger I had earlier posed in 1976 to Khondhaker Mustaque Ahmed over tea at his home in Old Dhaka months after the coup that killed Mujib and after Mustaque had

Expand road networks to ease city traffic jam

Says survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a survey presentation yesterday called for building alternative bypass, circular and link roads to ease traffic jam in Dhaka metropolitan areas.

They warned that around three lakh vehicles would be plying on the main city streets during the peak hours in 2024 against the present one lakh vehicles.

The survey presentation on 'The Strategic Transport Plan for Dhaka City' was held at the National Press Club in the city.

To expand the city road networks the government has undertaken a 20-year-long strategic transportation plan (STP) under which a US company Luis Berger Group and local consultant company Bangladesh Consultants Ltd carried out a joint one-year survey of road transport system in Dhaka city from March 2004.

Presenting some salient features of the survey the speakers said the population of Greater Dhaka City is expected to rise to 3.60 crore in 2024.

They said the existing traffic control system in the city is very poorly managed which is why the traffic in the city during the peak hours experiences unnecessary congestion.

"Unlike the industrialised nations where traffic control system is completely managed by a separate agency, law enforcers are carrying out this duty in the capital city, said the speakers.

They urged the government to develop a separate traffic controlling body to ensure smooth movement of vehicles on the streets.

The speakers said the STP has suggested coordination among the major public service providing agencies like Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka Wasa and Rajuk to minimise the sufferings of the city dwellers.

"We have noticed that when these agencies work on the roads for repairs or for new construction without any coordination among themselves, the sufferings of the people increase enormously," they added.

The speakers said if the STP is implemented an estimated US\$ 4

billion would be required to expand the road transport network in the city.

Private sector would be encouraged to provide fund for the project, they added.

CROSSFIRE KILLING

Cops decline to record it as murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammadpur police yesterday declined to record a case that the father of slain Jagannath University student Iqbal Hossain Masum wanted to file for the killing.

Instead, the police took a general diary (GD) and said claims made in the GD will automatically be added to the case they had earlier filed in connection with Masum's death.

Masum was killed on August 8 in "crossfire" with crime-busting force Cheela of Detective Branch (DB) of police.

At about 11:30am yesterday, Masum's father Khandaker Abul Khaer and his eldest sister went to the Mohammadpur Police Station and requested the officer-in-charge (OC) to take their case on Masum's death.

But the OC said they are unable to take the case as a case on Masum's death had already been filed.

At the OC's suggestion, Khaer later filed a GD.

"I will go to courts and if necessary, all other places for the arrest and punishment of the killers of my son," Khaer said while coming out of the police station.




Inspector Nurul Alam, Sub-Inspectors Shafiuddin Sheikh, Badiuzzaman, Afan Ullah, Ifran Hossain, Abdul Hakim, Bazlur Rahman and constables Abul Hashem and Ali Haider of team No 4 of DB killed his son Masum in cold blood in a planned way, Khaer said in the GD.

Masum's dress was clean and the sandals he wore were still on even when he was lying in the hospital morgue that suggests he was killed in cold blood, he said.

After the killing the law enforcers staged a drama of "crossfire" and tried to brand Masum as a notorious criminal, he added.

Mentioning a dispute with Iqbal Hossain Likhon, chairman of Nilkomal union of Charfashion upazila in Bhola, he said Likhon might have a hand behind the murder.

"The accused are constantly threatening over telephone to kill me and my younger son if I file a murder case," Khaer said.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderate heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 25.0 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar, Chittagong and Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:30pm today and rises at 5:35am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	26.4	90	76
Chittagong	32.6	25.0	80	75
Rajshahi	33.0	26.3	81	84
Khulna	33.0	26.6	86	77
Barisal	32.3	26.3	84	86
Sylhet	33.0	25.0	79	79
Cox's Bazar	31.4	25.0	85	86