

# Water reservoir toxic gas claims four in city

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Toxic gas claimed the lives of two construction workers and a local when they went into a water reservoir of an under-construction school building in Badda in the capital yesterday.

The construction workers are Ershad Rahman, 20, and Hafizur Rahman Fatik, 30, while the local has been identified as Mainul Haq Biswas Babul, 40, collector of a local cooperative society.

Witnesses said the incident took place when Ershad, one of the construction workers of Grace Talitha Khumi School at Khilbarirte, got down into the reservoir to complete the coat of plaster at 8:15am. "After he went down, we heard hissing sound coming out of the reservoir and I rebuked Ershad for making such sounds," Saidur Rahman, head of the workers, told The Daily Star.

As Ershad did not respond, Fatik got down into the reservoir to see what was going on and called out Ershad's name. "I heard scuffling sound in the water at the bottom of the reservoir for a few moments," said Saidur who was standing at the mouth of the reservoir.

As the sound in the reservoir suddenly stopped, he attempted to go down and see what was happening, but failed to slip through the manhole. Saidur asked Babul, who was standing in the crowd that had gathered during this time, to go down and have a look.

Babul got down into the reservoir

and the locals did not get any response from him after few moments. Alarmed at the situation locals informed police and the Fire Brigade.

Three members of the Fire Brigade rescue team went down into the reservoir with gas masks and recovered Ershad, Fatik and Babul's bodies at around 10:00am. Fire Brigade sources said the victims died of carbon mono-oxide inhalation.

## PRINTING OF BOOKS

## 'Lowest bidder not awarded work order'

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A book publisher yesterday alleged that the National Curriculum and Textbook Board's (NCTB) awarding work order of printing books to parties who were not the lowest bidders added Tk 2.20 crore to the estimated cost.

NCTB gave work order for printing 111 categories of primary and secondary (primary education in madrasa) level books for the year 2006 to disqualify, even fake parties, AFM Shah Alam, a director of Bangladesh Pustak Prokashok O Bikrata Samity, said at a press confer-

ence in a city hotel.

Showing the grounds of reaching the books to the students in due time, the NCTB violated the tender rule, he added.

Shah Alam, who is also managing director of Progoti Printing and Packaging Ltd, demanded amendments to the Textbook Publishing Act 1983 to give private publishers right to publish books.

Meanwhile, talking to The Daily Star last night, the NCTB chairman denied the allegation and said the tender process was accomplished according to government's public procurement

## AUGUST 21 ATTACK Prime suspect Mukul now living in India

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mukul, one of the prime suspects of the August 21 grenade attacks on an Awami League rally, is now living in India.

A top official of CID (criminal investigation department) said Monzur Hossain, driver of Mukul, disclosed to them that Mukul has bought a flat in India and his mother recently visited him there.

Monzur disclosed the names of bombers, investigation officer (IO) of the case told the court in his forwarding letter. The IO also added in the letter that Monzur could not say the whereabouts of the bombers.

The top CID official told The Daily Star that Monzur has two passports on different names and was planning to leave for Sweden prior to his arrest.

The CID arrested Monzur from his house at Dholapir High School Road in the capital's Shyampur area on August 28.

In his forwarding report, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Abdur Rashid of CID who is also the IO mentioned that he took Monzur on a seven-day remand on August 29 and interrogated him intensively to find out vital clues of the attacks. Producing Monzur before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, the IO pleaded for another seven-day remand of Monzur to find out more about the bombers. Metropolitan Magistrate Mamun Al Rashid granted a four-day remand after the hearing.

George Miah, who gave a confessional statement to a magistrate on June 26 disclosed Monzur's name and said a group of 14 led by most wanted criminals Subrata Bain Shuro and Mukul carried out the August 21 attacks.

They observed that the country has met the target to enrol equal number of boys and girls in the primary schools, but there are around 70 countries, which are yet to reach that level.

The Delegation of the European Commission in collaboration with the United Nations office in Dhaka organised the seminar ahead of the EU-UN World Summit 2005 to be held in New York from September 14 to 16.

More than 170 heads of state and government are expected to attend the summit, which will provide a rare opportunity to take decisions in the areas of global development, security and human rights as well as reforms of the United Nations, they said.

UN official Morten Giersing and EC Charge d'Affaires Francoise Collet spoke at the seminar.

They noted that the Asian countries, including Bangladesh, are doing well in terms of achieving MDGs and now the focus is on Africa and Sub-Saharan countries as the poverty is much acute there.

The situation is very alarming as



Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, Chittagong city Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and other leaders of 14 opposition political parties wave to supporters at a public meeting at Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong yesterday. The AL-led 14-party organised the meeting to protest the government's interference in judiciary and countrywide bomb blasts.

## Dhaka's efforts to achieve MDGs lauded

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials of the United Nations (UN) and the European Commission (EC) at a seminar yesterday appreciated Bangladesh for achieving some millennium development goals (MDG) and stressed the need for fulfilling other goals.

They observed that the country has met the target to enrol equal number of boys and girls in the primary schools, but there are around 70 countries, which are yet



## Appeal for help

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Sabder Ali alias Badal, a valiant freedom fighter, has long been suffering from stomach cancer.

Badal, who hails from Bonvarinagar in Faridpur upazila, Pabna, is now receiving treatment at the Radio Therapy Department of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Before the detection of his disease, he had to either pull a rickshaw or work as a peon to make ends meet. His well-wishers have already given financial assistance for his treatment during the last six months.

Generous people have been requested to extend a helping hand to save the life of a war hero.

Contribution can be sent to Savings Account No.-6876-8, Agrani Bank, National Press Club branch, Dhaka.

For details, please call at 0178-300396, 8351462, 0172-141589, 9663330 and 0171-588091.

## SSKOP demands Wage Board meeting

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor AK Azad Khan, secretary general of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, yesterday said they would set up an international standard transplant centre in Bangladesh.

He was speaking at a memorial meeting in the city to mark the death anniversary of Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, former national professor and founder of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh.

On the occasion, all the centres of National Healthcare Network (NHN), an institution of the Association, and RVT arranged diagnosis of diabetics at free of cost from 8am to 11am.

Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute arranged "free heart camp" for cardiac patients from 9am to 4pm.

Ibrahim Medical College also took up several programmes in this regard.

Professor Wahiduddin Ahmed, president of the Association, chaired the meeting at Birbhum auditorium. National Professor Dr Nurul Islam, Major General A R Khan and Professor M A Mannan were present in the meeting.

## Wife strangled, elderly man killed in city

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was strangled while an elderly man killed in the city on Monday.

The victims are Sharmin Sultana Hiya, 20, wife of Sayedur Rahman Saidur of Middle Badda, and Abdul Azim, 68, of Ahmednagar in Mirpur.

Police said Saidur strangled Hiya at his house at Adarshanganar at 4:00pm and went straight to Badda Police Station to surrender.

"I killed my wife over a conjugal feud," Saidur told the police asking them to recover the body and hand it over to her relatives.

Police went to his house and found the body in his bedroom.

The body had bruise in the neck and jaw, said police who sent it to the morgue of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Morgue sources confirmed that Hiya was strangled and she was carrying for four months.

Police arrested Saidur, his

brother, sister, and sister-in-law in this connection.

Saidur, an unemployed youth, killed Hiya for dowry, said Hiya's uncle Shahadat Hossain, adding Hiya's family gave Saidur 20-tola gold and Tk 2 lakh in different occasions after her marriage in March this year.

The body of Azim was found hanging from the ceiling of his room at Ahmednagar by his son Anisur Rahman on his return home from office at 8:00pm.

He informed the police who recovered the body and sent it to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Anisur Rahman told the reporters that his father was killed by his aggrieved in-laws as he divorced his wife over a family feud.

Quoting his neighbours, Rahman said they came to his house at 3:00pm when he was in office.

He filed a case with Mirpur Police Station against five of his in-laws yesterday.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Seminar on security

ATDP organises a group discussion on the 'Findings of ATDP conducted recent analysis of national seed policy and national agriculture policy'. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan. Time: 11:00am.

### Workshop

Unnayan Samanay and Practical Action Bangladesh organise a workshop on 'National workshop on participatory action plan development: Experiences of Practical Action in Charlands'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

### Rally

Gonomukt O Jatiya Sampad Rokhha Sammiliti Andolon, a movement to protect national wealth, will hold a rally and take out a procession protesting price hike of energy. Venue: Muktangan. Time: 4:00pm.

### Seminar on Geeta

Seemly Society organises a seminar on 'Education without cheating will strengthen the nation' and a launching ceremony of fortnightly Gyan manjary. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

### Information on scholarship

Asian Scholarship Foundation, Bangkok, organises a presentation and information session on

Cellphone sets, batteries worth Tk 1 cr seized at ZIA

## BDNEWS, Dhaka

The customs authorities at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday seized a huge number of mobile phone sets and batteries worth about Tk 1 crore.

They also arrested a passenger on charges of smuggling the goods. He was identified as Mosharraf Hossain, 28, from Faridpur district.

According to the customs authorities, they seized at least 1634 pieces of mobile phone sets and 1250 batteries wrapped in three bags.

Customs officials said Mosharraf came from Dubai by a Gulf Airlines flight at about 7:30am. But they were yet to be sure how Mosharraf was able to cross the green channel.

Customs officials interrogated some of their security men in this connection.

Police said Mosharraf visited different countries, including Hong Kong, more than 25 times during the last one and a half years and was linked with smuggling.

ALLEGATION AGAINST SPP  
Solicitor asked to submit report within 24 hours

## COURT CORRESPONDENT

The law ministry yesterday directed its solicitor to submit a report within 24 hours regarding the allegation of a complainant that a Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) demanded money unlawfully from him.

A source in the Law Ministry said the law minister gave the directive yesterday after seeing reports on different newspapers on the issue.

Mohammad Nizamul Haq, the complainant in a petition filed to the General Secretary of Dhaka Bar Association (DBA) alleged that SPP Mohammad Abul Khair on Monday demanded Tk 1,000 when he (Nizamul) appeared before the court for giving his deposition.

Nizamul Haq of Shahidbagh in Motijheel in the capital, complainant of a case filed under the Special Act for Prevention on Women and Children Repression, in his petition mentioned that he appeared before the court at about 10:00am for giving his deposition. But SPP would not take necessary steps for giving his deposition if he (complainant) did not pay the money, the petitioner said.

Khair became angry and misbehaved with the complainant as he refused to give the money. Moreover, the SPP ousted him from the courtroom, the complainant added.

But the SPP told The Daily Star that the charges brought against him were false, fabricated and concocted.

Court sources said the news was the talk of the court yesterday and it created a reaction among the lawyers and the litigants.

## Controversial RU staffs threaten agitation

## RU CORRESPONDENT

The controversially appointed 544 employees of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday threatened to launch tougher agitation along with their wives and children if the authorities make any fresh recruitment before confirming their jobs within a month.

They gave the threat from a meeting held near the administrative building on the campus and expressed dissatisfaction over a university press release that said the vice-chancellor did not confirm their jobs as their appointments are under legal process.

The meeting was organised by Oilya Parishad, an organisation of 544 employees with its Convenor Rafiqul Islam Sader in the chair.

"We withdrew our agitation programme on Sunday after being assured by the VC that our jobs would be confirmed," said Joint-convenor Masud Mia.

"The VC also promised us that he would not make any fresh recruitment without confirming our jobs," said Farman Ali, another joint-convenor.

Meanwhile, many teachers and students' organisations have expressed deep concern over the attitude of the administration towards the employees.

They protested the arrogance and misbehaviour of 544 employees at the administrative building on Sunday and demanded punishment to the employees.

The High Court stayed the controversial recruitment following a case filed by Abu Aslam, a lawyer, last year.