

Death toll climbs to 4 Cause of BSEC blaze yet to be found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rescuers recovered another body from the 11-storey BSEC Bhaban in Karwan Bazar yesterday, raising the death count to four while the investigators were yet to find out the cause of Monday's devastating blaze.

Anwar Hossain, 25, a private security agency employee who was working for ntv, might have died from suffocation, failing to find an exit, some rescue workers told The Daily Star.

Security personnel sealed off the site to keep off the curious onlookers.

Meantime, Director General of

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Property of 15 to be confiscated

ACC to send list of defiant graft suspects to govt in couple of days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will send a list of 15 graft suspects to the government in a day or two to initiate the process of confiscating their properties as they failed to submit wealth statements to the ACC in time.

The 15 are on the list of 50 graft suspects whom the ACC asked to submit wealth statements in 72

hours that ended on Sunday.

The ACC at a meeting yesterday decided that it would send the names of the 15 people to the Cabinet Division, home ministry and law ministry to take the next steps as per the Emergency Power Rules, 2007.

"It is stated in the law what the next steps will be... Property can be confiscated subject to approval by magistrates," ACC Commissioner Habibur Rahman told a press

briefing later.

He chaired the meeting in the absence of ACC Chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, who left for Pakistan yesterday morning on a private visit and is scheduled to return home on March 8.

As per rules, the government will seek permission from magistrates to confiscate movable and

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DU holds 43rd convocation today

Pro-AL organisations to boycott it

DU CORRESPONDENT

The 43rd convocation of Dhaka University (DU) will be held today at the central playground of the university amid boycott decision of the pro-Awami League teachers and different student organisations.

The DU will confer an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on Nobel Peace prize winner Prof Muhammad Yunus at the convocation ceremony.

A total of 7,755 graduates, including 4,050 female students, will receive certificates while the

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No specific timeframe for polls right now

CA also says reforms on for credible elections

UNB, Cig

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said it is not yet possible to give a specific timeframe for elections as reforms are still being carried out for free, fair and credible polls.

He said the government is determined to hold election "as soon as possible" after necessary reforms.

The chief adviser made the remarks responding to queries, proposals and appreciation of

government steps by the representatives of various professions and the elite of Chittagong at an exchange of opinion meeting at Chittagong Circuit House in the afternoon.

He categorically said the influence of 3Ms—Money, Muscle and Misuse of authority—in election has to be curbed as much as possible.

His observations came at a time when some political quarters are calling for holding the stalled general election as early as possible.

He noted that the reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC) is part of institutional reform process and the EC will be central point of all activities relating to the elections.

"The Election Commission will carry forward the relevant tasks of electoral process and the government will cooperate," he told the meeting.

He said the newly appointed chief election commissioner and

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Croc pops up at Hoseni Dalan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forest department officials rescued a saltwater crocodile from the pond of Hoseni Dalan at the city's Bakshibazar yesterday.

Somebody might have possessed it illegally and set it free in the pond sometime in the previous night fearing arrest during the state of emergency, locals and wildlife experts suspect.

Saltwater crocodiles are an endangered species and only a few hundred could be found in the Sundarbans.

Locals discovered the reptile on the steps leading to the pond in the morning. The exciting news soon spread and hundreds of people thronged the spot to have a look at

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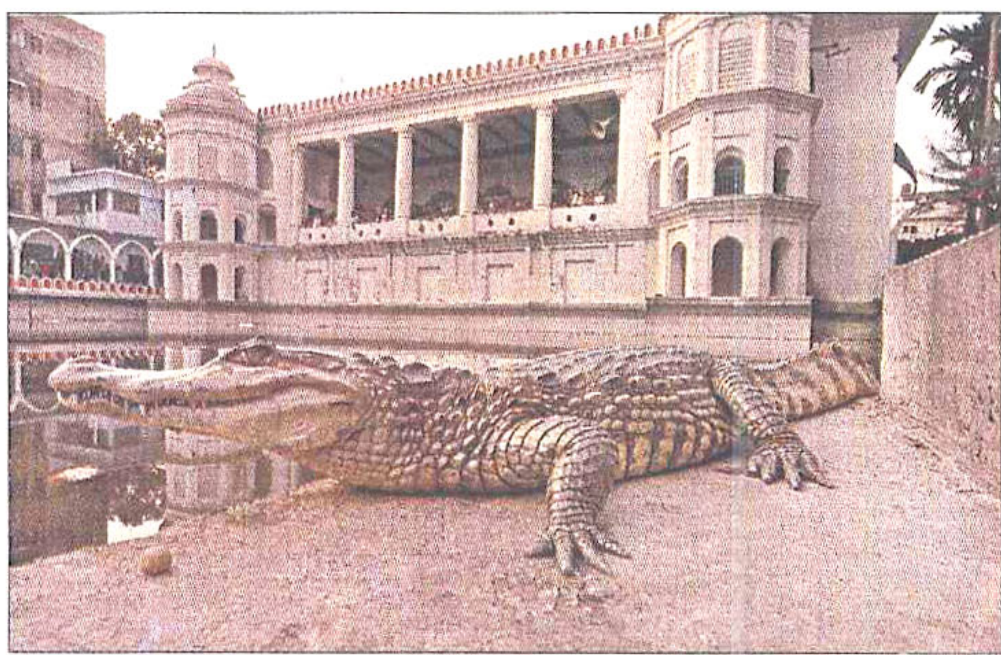


PHOTO STAR

This saltwater crocodile, an endangered species, was found at the pond on Hoseni Dalan premises in the capital yesterday. The reptile was rescued and sent to Dulahazra Safari Park in Cox's Bazar.

Ineligible company to get gas plant deal

SHARIF KHAN

Under the influence of a corrupt nexus, Sylhet Gas Field Company Ltd (SGFL) is set to sign early next month a Tk 113 crore highly technical gas processing plant installation deal with a disqualified Chinese company ignoring the project consultant's strong reservations.

Accepting the Chinese plant would be a "total disaster", the consultant observed.

Represented by Sahco International, Chinese Petrochemical International Company Ltd (also known as Sinopec), which is being awarded contract for this project, does not even have the basic understanding about how to install a gas-to-

natural gas liquids (NGL) processing plant, said a highly placed source quoting observations of the project's European consultant.

The globally renowned consultant (its name not mentioned on request from the source) in its evaluation report on the Chinese bid clearly said Sinopec would not be able to deliver the end-product from the offered plant because its designs are grossly flawed.

But despite such strong reservations, the SGFL, which is financing the project from its own accounts, has asked the Chinese company to furnish its performance guarantee (PG) in the first week of next month so that it can sign the contract.

The consultant had determined at least 50 major deviations in

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Ex-BNP MP held in Srimangal

Giasuddin, Bakir sent to jail; more relief goods seized

STAR REPORT

The army-led joint forces yesterday arrested former BNP lawmaker from Moulvibazar 4 (Srimangal and Kamalganj) Shafiqur Rahman after raiding his house at Boruna village in Srimangal.

Sources said Shafiqur, an elected member of parliament in 1996 general elections, was detained for his alleged abuse of power and for patronising criminals.

Detained former BNP lawmaker from Narayanganj 4 Mohammad Giasuddin was placed on a three-

day remand in a money laundering case yesterday while detained CBA leader BM Bakir Hossain was sent to jail after a Dhaka court rejected his bail petition the same day.

Another detained former BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed was also sent to jail yesterday after police produced him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on completion of a five-day remand.

Meanwhile, joint forces lodged eight cases against former deputy minister for food and rehabilitation Asadul Habib Dulu along with

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UPDATED VOTER LIST EC not paying printing bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) Secretariat has stopped payment for the printing of the controversial updated voter list prepared for the suspended parliamentary elections scheduled for January 22.

A group of printers involved in the task claimed that the EC Secretariat is yet to pay their bills of about Tk 15 crore. They went to the EC Secretariat yesterday for their

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CI SHEET

BNP, Jamaat men try to bury scam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Former lawmakers and local leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP-Nazim) in Satkhira are making frantic moves to conceal their misappropriated corrugated iron

(CI) sheets meant for relief to the underprivileged.

The immediate past BNP-led four-party alliance government

had disbursed thousands of CI sheets to its partners-in-coalition for distribution among the

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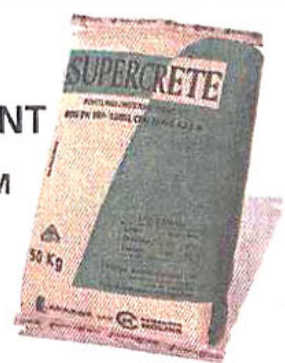
PHOTO STAR

Local Jamaat-e-Islami leaders replaced their party office signboard with that of a library to hide their links with the use of CI sheets of government relief in building the office at Jhahadanga Bazar in Satkhira. (More pictures on page-15)

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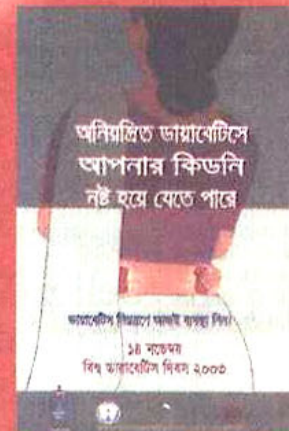
Deposit or Withdrawal can be done online through any of the following Branches.

- 1) Kakrail Branch
- 2) Dhanmondi Branch
- 3) Mahakhali Branch
- 4) New Elephant Road Branch
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- 7) Principal Branch

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