

Zia Fertiliser Factory silent again

One lakh tonnes production loss due to 12 shutdowns in current FY

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Urea production at Zia Fertiliser Factory (ZFF) at Ashuganj is stopped since Thursday evening due to leakage in its 'reactor vessel'.

Engineers are trying to repair the technical fault, which will take three to four days, factory sources said yesterday.

The factory faced at least 12 shutdowns and remained inoperative for 70 days since July 10 last year, incurring a production loss of

around 1,00,000 tonnes of urea during the current financial year, the sources said.

The factory was closed for 35 days from July 10 to August 13 last year for overhauling, done at a cost of Tk 60 crore.

The sources claimed that the frequent shutdown was due to dilapidated condition of the factory and its worn out machinery.

Some sources in the factory however claimed that the cooling tower damaged by a storm in 2004

and dilapidated tubes of ammonium plants could not be repaired properly during the overhauling, which caused the frequent shutdowns. Production is interrupted due to leakages in tubes, they said.

The factory had a production target of 4,50,000 tonnes for the current financial year, fixed by the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC). It is already 100,000 tonnes behind the target and smooth running for

the rest of the financial year is also uncertain, the sources said.

In last financial year, the factory remained inoperative for 73 days and incurred a production loss of 12,50,000 tonnes. The production target was 4,20,000 tonnes. The factory could not achieve its production target in 2004-2005 financial year.

An engineer on condition of anonymity said the cooling tower damaged in 2004 could not be renovated properly till today while

some important parts of the factory are in dilapidated condition. These keep the factory silent off and on, he said.

It was supposed to produce at least 1500 to 1600 tonnes of urea a day after the overhauling but it produces 1400 to 1500 tonnes, the engineer said.

When contacted, general manager of the factory admitted that it faces frequent shutdown despite the overhauling.



PHOTO: STAR
Relief CI sheets used in MA Muttalib Technical and BM College in Mohimaganj in Gaibandha are still intact.

Man kills wife, daughter for insurance money

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushthia

A man killed his wife and five-year-old daughter to evade payment of loan taken in her name from several NGOs and to get the insurance money.

The culprit, Ashraful confessed to the murders to police after arrest on Friday.

The incident occurred at Zermantala village in Daulatpur upazila on Wednesday, police said.

RU ADMISSION FORGERY

Probe body yet to begin work

OUR CORRESPONDENT

The committee formed to probe admission of eight fake students in Social Work department at Rajshahi University (RU) could not start its work as it did not get any official letter till yesterday, sources said.

The six-member committee was formed on Wednesday.

However, RU authorities sent on forced leave clerk Masud Rana, who is alleged to be behind the admission forgery.

Prof Khalequzzaman, who heads the probe body, told newsman yesterday that he did not receive any letter in this regard.

Sources in Social Work department said investigation will also be made whether such forgery was done in previous years also.

The RU authorities also asked all other departments to investigate whether such things took place there, campus sources said.

Earlier, hundreds of students of staged demonstrations in front of administrative building and boycotted classes protesting admission of fake students and demanding punishment of persons responsible for this.

Earlier, Ashraful married twice. His first wife died mysteriously leaving one-year-old daughter while his second wife abandoned him for attempting to murder her.

Ashraful took loan amounting to Tk 45,000 from several NGOs including Asha and Alo with the help of his 23-year-old wife Kabita, police said. As he failed to repay the monthly installment against the loan, he planned to kill his wife and baby daughter Itee to get insurance money from the NGOs.

Police said, Ashraful bought sweet from a local fair held at the shrine of Bhadu Saha. He mixed poison with the sweet and came back home at about 9:30pm. He served the poison-mixed sweet to his wife and daughter and went out the house saying he would return home at deep night.

After intake of the sweet, both Kabita and Itee felt pain at abdomen and started vomiting. Immediately, they were rushed to local upazila health complex where they died at 6:30am.

On information, police recovered the bodies and sent those to Kushthia General Hospital for post-mortem. The post-mortem report showed that they had died due to intake of poison food.

A case was filed with Daulatpur Police Station accusing Ashraful who had fled the scene.

Kushthia superintendent of police (SP) Moinul Islam visited the spot after the indent and asked Daulatpur police to arrest the killer.

Police arrested killer from a neighbouring village on Friday and took him to Daulatpur Police Station for interrogation where he had confessed to his guilt.

Police was still interrogating Ashraful till filing of this report.

Police said they had recorded the statement under 161 CrPC of penal code.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA
A procession was brought out from Chittagong Medical College yesterday marking the World Health Day, being observed this year with the theme 'Invest for Health, Build Safer Life'

Cop held in Lalmonirhat for taking bribe

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a police constable while he was allegedly taking bribe from an accused in a case in Lalmonirhat yesterday.

Rab sources said, police constable Nazir Hossain was caught red handed while he was taking Tk 5000 from Shafiqul Islam Patwari in the town.

Shafiqul alleged that constable Nazir Hossain had demanded a big amount of money from him to drop his name from the charge sheet of a criminal case.

He paid the first instalment earlier.

Shafiqul filed a case with Lalmonirhat thana in this connection.

69 out of 71 clinics, labs closed in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least 69 out of 71 private clinics and diagnostic centers in Satkhira were closed in about three weeks for operating without registration and trained doctors and technicians, according to sources at civil surgeon's (CS) office.

These are in Satkhira town and different upazilas.

Only two private licensed hospitals- Islami Bank Community Hospital and Farzana Clinic and Heart Care Center- now operate at the district headquarters.

The unregistered clinics and diagnostic centers were doing brisk business illegally allegedly in connivance with a section of government officials and doctors, the sources said. Even critical patients were operated upon with untrained doctors at some of the clinics, leading to death.

Following complaints by people

and victims' relatives, the district health department launched a drive against illegal and ill equipped clinics and diagnostic centers last month.

Acting CS Dr. Abdur Razzak said, the clinics and diagnostic centers were closed as they were run without licence and required equipment and trained manpower.

Most of the owners are now hiding after arrest of eight staff from some illegal clinics and diagnostic centers on March 21 allegedly for trading on unscreened blood.

The arrestees were Nur Ali and his wife Sakina Khatun; alleged drug addict and blood donor Moinuddin; Kasim Uddin, owner of Sundarban Clinic; Moktar Ali owner of Farzana Clinic; Rabindra Nath Ghosh, a blood technician at Satkhira Sadar Hospital and Abul Kashem and Monzur Kadir of Islami Bank Community Hospital in Satkhira town.

12X3

9X2

5X3

4X3