

Bomb hoax in Ctg court building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detection of a bomb-like substance created a huge panic in and around Chittagong court building premises yesterday.

It was found on the door of the bathroom of Chittagong Anjibi Bhaban (Lawyers' building) at around 9:30am.

Members of law enforcement and intelligence agencies rushed to the spot and explosive experts from the detective branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) recovered the bomb-like substance at around 10:30am.

After examining the experts found three pencil batteries tied together with some wires having an antenna attached to it.

It did not have any explosive or detonator and meant for creating panic, said ADC Mahbubur Rahman.

All activities of the offices housed in the building remained halted for around three hours.

DU exams postponed

Dhaka University authorities postponed all examinations under the faculty of Postgraduate Medical Science and Research, supposed to be held on August 25-30, says a press release.

Fresh dates of the postponed examinations would be declared soon.

Obituary

Majibur Rahman Mollah, a freedom fighter and acting president of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal, passed away due to leukaemia at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in the city yesterday at the age of 60, says a press release.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock at his death.

In a condolence message, the former prime minister said Majibur was a devoted leader of BNP and played courageous role in democratic movements. His contribution as a freedom fighter in the liberation war is immense.

She prayed for salvation of the departed soul and also conveyed her deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Jatiyatabadi Secretary General Nazimul Karim Khan and acting General Secretary Anwar Hossain also condoled the death of Mollah.

Death anniversary



Today is the sixth death anniversary of Dr Nirafat Anam Shipra, a former faculty of Dhaka University, says a press release.

On this occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at her paternal residence at Gaibandha after Asr prayers and at her brother's house no-W/14, Nurjahan Road residence in the city after Maghrib prayers.

Syed Harunar Rashid



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Syed Harunar Rashid, former chief of personnel of Bangladesh Chini Okhaddo Shilpa Sangstha, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil and Quran khwani will be held at his 84/2B, Uter Jatrabari, Bibir Bagicha residence in the city after Asr prayers.

Besides, Fateha will be offered at his grave and food will be distributed among the destitute.

All have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Release 5 university teachers

Eminent citizens urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens and different organisations yesterday expressed deep concern over the arrest of five teachers of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities and demanded their immediate release.

In a statement, the citizens said placing the teachers on remand for quizzing is creating resentment.

They also expressed concern over the filing of cases against thousands of people.

The statement, signed by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, also expressed concern over the harassment of journalists while performing their professional duties.

The citizens urged the government to ensure independence of the media.

They also demanded integrated efforts through discussion to solve the present crisis.

The eminent citizens, who made the statement, included Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Justice K M.

Sobhan, Justice Golam Rabbani, Journalist Kamal Lohani, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, and artist Qayyum Chowdhury.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has condemned the arrest of the teachers of the universities and placing them on remand for quizzing.

It also protested the filing of cases against thousands of people.

CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Muzahidul Islam Selim, in a joint statement, said policy to suppress would make the situation more complicated.

They hoped that the government will hold discussion with the political parties to bring normalcy.

Teachers of different colleges and universities, professionals and community activists demanded immediate release of the teachers of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities, says a press release.

They made the demand in a statement sent to the America News Agency (ANA).

More relief for flood victims

STAR REPORT

Various organisations continued their relief distribution programmes among the flood-affected people across the country yesterday.

Our Bogra Correspondent adds: Prime Bank donated Tk 20 lakh for the flood-affected people in Bogra.

In this connection, Managing Director of Prime Bank Limited M Shahjahan Bhuiyan handed over a pay order for Tk 20 lakh to General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 11 Infantry Division and Area Commander, Bogra Major General Mohammad Shamim Chowdhury nwc at the latter's office yesterday.

Meanwhile, Talo Bangladesh Ltd and Littlewoods Shop Director Group yesterday donated Tk 3.5 lakh and Tk 1.25 lakh respectively to the Flood Relief Programme 2007 fund of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

General Anwar Hossain, resource adviser of Talo Bangladesh Ltd and Ashraf A Sarker, general manager of Littlewoods Shop Director Group, handed over the cheques to the society chairman Prof Dr Abdur Rob

on behalf of their respective organisations.

Nagorik Odhikar Sangrakhan Forum with the assistance of Resource Integration Centre (RIC) yesterday distributed 4 kg rice, 1 kg lentil, 1 kg potato, 1 kg salt and five packets of oral saline and old cloths among 200 flood-affected families of Islambagh area in the city.

Nagorik Uddyog also distributed rice, lentil, potato, salt, powdered milk, water purifying tablets and oral saline among the 600 flood-affected families of 14 unions in Tangail Sadar and Kalihati upazila since August 22.

Besides, Gono Gobeshona and Change Bangladesh USA jointly distributed rice, flour, potato, sugar, salt, puffed rice, pulse, oral saline and water purifying tablets among the flood victims at Dautia in Manikganj on August 22.

They also distributed pen and papers among 100 poor students.

Cybernet Open Schools distributed 4 kg rice, 1 kg potato, 500 gram lentil and 10 packs of oral saline among 1200 flood-affected people of 300 families at Vararia union in Dhamrai on August 18.



HSC examinees who came out successful with flying colours celebrate on their college premises following the publication of their results yesterday. (1) Viqarunnisa Noon College, (2) Dhaka City College, (3) Ideal School and College, Motijheel (4) Holy Cross College (5) Dhaka Commerce College (6) Dhaka College (7) Comilla Cadet College (8) Jhenidah Cadet College (9) Chittagong Govt College (10) Chittagong Govt Haji Mohsin College and (11) Ishpani Public School and College, Chittagong.

PHOTO: STAR

Phulbari mourns carnage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dibrugarh

The first anniversary of Phulbari killings was observed yesterday amid tight security at Phulbari in Dibrugarh.

Scores of people from Phulbari and adjoining areas thronged the GM Pilot High School at Phulbari and placed floral wreaths at the graveyard to pay homage to the victims.

National Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources and Port Protection Committee General Secretary Professor Anu Muhammad and its

Practical Action Bangladesh wins APFED gold prize

Practical Action Bangladesh wins 'The 2007 Ryutaro Hashimoto APFED Gold Awards' for the quality of environment management, alternative strategies for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development practices adopted in its project titled 'Disappearing lands: Supporting communities affected by river erosion,' says a press release.

The Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED) is a regional group of prominent experts based in Japan launched ECO ASIA (Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific) in 2001.

The forum aims at addressing critical issues facing Asia and the Pacific region and proposes new models for equitable and sustainable development.

The 2007 Ryutaro Hashimoto APFED Awards for Good Practices was renamed in honour of the late former prime minister of Japan Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Convenor Dr Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah also placed wreaths.

Special prayers were offered at mosques, temples and churches. The observance ended peacefully as the law enforcers patrolled the streets around the venue to ward off any untoward incident.

Three people were killed and many more wounded on this day last year when law enforcers opened fire on demonstrators demanding cancellation of Phulbari open-pit coal mine project and expulsion of Asia Energy Corporation (AEC), a UK-based company, from the country.

Professor Anu Muhammad said had the project been implemented, about four lakh people in the area would be displaced and much environmental damage caused.

But an Asia Energy official claimed that about 50,000 people would have to be relocated if the project was implemented.

Kishoreganj pouro BNP secretary held

UNB, Kishoreganj

Ismail Hossain Madhu, Kishoreganj pouro BNP secretary, was arrested by the joint forces from Amati Mirpur yesterday.

Madhu went into hiding after declaration of emergency in the country. He was picked up from a hideout in the afternoon.

After interrogation Madhu, also a leader of Paribahan Samity, was handed over to the police.

Police said Madhu had long involved in extortion, land grabbing and other criminal activities.

Notre Dame, Viqarunnisa, City College

FROM PAGE 10

A total of 825 students secured GPA-5 from Notre Dame College, 493 from Viqarunnisa Noon College while 348 students from Dhaka City College.

The other top ten colleges in Dhaka Board with GPA-5 achievers are Ideal School and College, Motijheel, Holy Cross College, Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School and College, Dhaka Commerce College, Dhaka College, Rajuk Uttara Model School and College and Agricultural University College.

Considering the percentage of pass, Shamsul Haque Khan Uchcha Madhyamik Bidyalaya, MEH Arif College, FM International College, Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College, Mirzapur Cadet College and Aftab Uddin Uchcha Madhyamik Bidyalaya under Dhaka Board were in the top six, as 100 percent students from these colleges passed the HSC.

The other four colleges in the top ten in this category under Dhaka Board are Dhaka Commerce College with pass percentage of 99.67, Shaifuiddin Sarkar Academy and College, Tongi with 99.61, Holy Cross College with 99.59 and Ideal Commerce College with 99.54 percent.

In Rajshahi Board, among the highest GPA-5 achieving colleges, Rajshahi New Government Degree College, Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College and Bogra Cantonment Public School & College came out on top with 308, 154 and 129 GPA-5 achievers.

Other colleges that made it to the top ten under the same category are Government AH College, Bogra, Saidpur Cantonment Public School and College, Dinajpur Government College, Rangpur Government College, Shahid Bul Bul Government College, Pabna, Rajshahi Government City College and Rajshahi Cadet College.

Cantonment Public School & College, Pabna Cadet College, Rajshahi Cadet College and Rangpur Cadet College secured the percentage of 100 percent pass under Rajshahi Board.

In Chittagong Board, Chittagong College, Government Haji Muhammad Mohsin College and Ishpani Public School & College clinched the first, second and third positions with 279, 178 and 106 GPA-5 achievers.

Other colleges in the same board that with highest GPA-5 achievers are Government Commerce College, Chittagong Public School & College, Chittagong Government City College, Fauzdarhat Cadet College, Chittagong University College, Nou Bahini College and Chittagong Government Girls' College.

All of these top ten colleges, except Chittagong Government City College and Chittagong Government Girls' College, also succeeded to be included in the top

ten colleges with high pass percentage category. The other two colleges that joined them in this category are BEPZA Public School & College and Chittagong Metropolitan Commerce College.

In Comilla Board, Comilla Victoria Government College, Comilla Cadet College and Ishpani Public School & College had 117, 53 and 44 GPA-5 achievers.

Other top ten colleges in this category include Adhyapak Abdul Majid College, Comilla, Noakhali Government College, Hajiganj Model College, Chandpur, Brahmanbaria Government College, Chandpur Government Girls' College, Feni Government College and Zia Saar Karkhana College, Ashuganj.

Top ten colleges in Comilla Board with higher pass percentage are Comilla Cadet College, Ishpani Public School & College, Bijoikara High School & College, Kalikapur Abdul Matin Khashru College, Cantonment College, Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain College, Dr Roushan Alam College, Al-Amin Academy, Chandpur, Chantkhal Women's College, Noakhali and Al-Haj Nur Mia College, Comilla.

In Jessore Board, Cantonment College, Jessore, Government Girls' College, Khulna and Khulna Public College attained the first, second and third positions with 175, 84 and 68 GPA-5 achievers.

The other seven colleges in the top ten GPA-5 achievers category include Khulna Public College, Jhenidah Cadet College, Kushtia Government College, BAF Shaheen College, Jessore, Government KC College, Jhenidah, Chuadanga Government College and Sheikh Akiz Uddin Higher Secondary School, Jessore.

Top ten colleges with higher pass percentage in Jessore Board are Jhenidah Cadet College, Cantonment College, Jessore, Sheikh Akiz Uddin Higher Secondary School, Khulna Public College, Noapara Model College, Haji Jalal Uddin Adarsha College, Sathkira, Budhata BBM Collegiate College, Jhenidah and Katagari College, Jhenidah.

Jhenidah Cadet College stood out among them all with extraordinary feat in both categories - 90.57 of its students not only secured GPA-5, but 100 percent of them also passed the exams.

In Barisal Board, Amrital Dey College, Barisal took the first place with 40 GPA-5 achievers, Barisal Cadet College took second with 37 GPA-5 achievers and Barisal Government Girls' College became third with 19 GPA-5 achievers.

The other top seven GPA-5 achiever colleges are Government Syed Hatem Ali College, Pirojpur Government Girls' College, Shahid Smrity College, Pirojpur, Betagi

Deggei College, Barguna, Amrital College, Barguna, Galachipa Degree College, Patuakhali, Patharghata College, Barguna and Fazila Rahman Mohila College, Pirojpur.

In the same board, Barisal Cadet College secured the prestige of having 100 percent pass results. Other colleges that followed with higher pass percentage are Begum Faizunnessa Mohila College, Barguna, Muktiyoddha Memorial College, Patuakhali, Daulatkhan Abu Abdullah College, Bhola, Amrital Dey College, Barisal, Agarpur College, Barisal, Gouranadi Secondary Girls' School & College, Bamna College, Barguna, Barthi College, Barisal and Dr Rustam Ali Farazi College, Pirojpur.

Ailing mine runs in full swing

FROM PAGE 1

In the wake of severe power crisis, the PDB earlier this year imported low-quality coal from India to run the plant in full capacity.

The PDB is now procuring another bulk of coal from Indonesia. The plant's unit-1 has recently been shut down for maintenance and it will resume power generation from August 30. "We believe that PDB no longer needs to import this coal as the Barapukuria coalmine is producing enough coal for the plant," quips a BCMCL official.

On October 4, 2005 the BCMCL shut down the mine's production phase I, 110 due to deadly saturation of gas. It was primarily said that the gas saturation was caused by negligence of the BCMCL and the Chinese contractor.

On April 4, 2006, the Chinese contractors tried to unseal the area to recover the costly mining equipment. But as the gas situation was precarious, it was re-sealed on April 7, 2006. After this, the Chinese contractors were locked in a feud with the government over payment of the Chinese supplier's credit and

virtually there had been no progress. By October 2006, China stopped all mining work.

After the change of government, the BCMCL arranged loan repayment and the Chinese contractors resumed their work.

Since April, 2007 under the technical leadership of Prof Yang Sheng Qiant of China University of Mining Technology, the Chinese operators started injecting nitrogen in the sealed area to reduce oxygen and eliminate chances of self-combustion.

Between April and July, they injected 1.52 lakh cubic metre of nitrogen and two types of chemical solutions to seal off cracks and faults and to reduce the internal temperature of the sealed area.

Then the operators allowed one-month time to make sure that the nitrogen and the solutions have minimised risks. On August 18, a team—with the back up of the fire services, medical team and back-up power system—started unsealing the area. Upon unsealing, they noticed that there was no carbon monoxide or methane in the air.

However, after two days, there was small amount of carbon monoxide present in the air. "This phase has a tendency to generate carbon monoxide," quips a source. "From now on, there should be strict monitoring of all operations in this phase," he added.

"Normally when a phase is sealed off on grounds of safety, it is rarely reopened. In that respect, August 18 remains as a glorious day for Barapukuria coalmine," he pointed out.

The Barapukuria project was approved in March 1992 with the target of completion for July 31, 2001 at a cost of Tk 887 crore under Chinese Supplier's Credit. Project delays and severe corruption hiked the project cost to more than Tk 1600 crore. So far, the government has paid more than Tk 600 crore to the Chinese contractors.

The project was suspended when sub-soil water started gushing in at the rate of 700 cubic metre from April 5, 1998 at a depth of 1100 feet. This happened due to design flaws.