

7 bombs, pipe gun recovered in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered seven powerful bombs and a bullet-loaded pipe gun beneath the ground of a banana garden at Hakimpur village under Shaikupa upazila.

On a tip-off, Rab launched the drive at around 3-30 pm and recovered those. But nobody was arrested in this regard.

Rab sources said criminals might have hidden those during the ongoing combing operation.

Law enforcers led by Rab man launched a combing operation to nab the criminals, police said.

3 die in septic tank in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three people died from gas poisoning in a septic tank of a commercial building in Kulaura upazila town yesterday.

The dead were Abdus Shahid, 45, caretaker of the building, Md Rolly Miah, 20, and Sumon Miah, 25, both of them labourers.

The two workers started working at the safety tank at about 11 am.

First of all, Rolly Miah went into the tank. As soon as he went into it, he was found missing. Subsequently, Rolly Miah and Sumon Miah went into the tank. But they faced the same fate of Rolly Miah.

At this stage, people from nearby called fire brigade personnel who rescued them and sent them to Kulaura Upazila Health Complex where physicians declared them dead.

Dr Sayed Enam, a physician of the health complex said the dead were infected with poisonous gas of the tank.

Moulvibazar bamboo forests face destruction

50,000 to become jobless, govt to lose Tk 1 cr revenue

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

With a massive flowering of bamboos in Moulvibazar, uncertainty looms large about employment of 50 thousand labourers as the unusual phenomenon is destroying bamboo clusters.

As the monsoon sets in, the bamboo plants will be totally destroyed, forest officials said, adding that the situation will cause the government lose Tk 1 crore yearly revenue.

Local people consider appearance of flower in bamboo plants as a bad omen that results in food crisis.

As bamboo plants have been covered with golden-colour flowers, usual scene of the groves has changed.

In many places green fruits of bamboos were seen hanging along with flowers.

Forest department sources in Moulvibazar said flowers are blossoming in almost all the 20 bamboo mohals of Juri-1, Juri-2, Kulaura and Rajkandi ranges under the district and consequently bamboo plants are dying.

Flowering has affected all the bamboo plants at Dholachhara, Ragna-Chungabari, Sagornal, Puthi-Chhara, East-Gugali, Halompachhara, and Surnachhara under Juri-1 range, and Latuchhara bamboo mahal under Juri-2 range.

Most of the bamboos in the mohals under other ranges are also affected.

Flowers have been seen mostly in muli and tenga-muli species of bamboos and it will lead to destruction of the bamboo groves, forest officials said.

The government earns about Tk one crore yearly revenue from 20 bamboo mohals of Moulvibazar district where 50 thousand labourers are engaged in bamboo mohals, they said.



Unusual flowering and fruiting in a bamboo cluster at Sagornal in Juri.

As flowers have blossomed in all the bamboo mohals of the district, bamboo groves will be destroyed, Moulvibazar Sub-Divisional Forest Officer Abu Naser Mohsin Hussain told journalists.

New saplings will grow from its fruits but it will take about four

years to mature, he said, adding that a large number of labourers will become unemployed with destruction of bamboo mohals and the government will lose revenue worth Tk one crore a year.

Bamboo flowering occurs after every 50 to 60 years, he said.

Vatican envoy visits Catholic Church in Natore

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

The newly-appointed High Commissioner of Vatican in Bangladesh and the representative of Pope Benedict, Joseph Marino visited Bonpara Catholic Church under Baraigram upazila on Saturday.

To mark the occasion, the Bonpara Catholic Church authorities organised a discussion on Social Safety, Religious Harmony and Activities of Catholic Churches.

Father Dino Jacominelli, priest of Bonpara Catholic Church presided. The high commissioner was present as chief guest while Md Ehsan Kabir, Deputy Commissioner of Natore was present as honourable guest. Father Jervas Rozario, Bishop of Rajshahi Dioceses and Md Saiful Alam and UNO of Baraigram were present as special guests.

Md Enamul Haque, AC (land) Baraigram, Gaupada Mondal, Headmaster of St Joseph's High School, Bonpara, Clement Costa, Vice President of Bonpara Parish Council, Father Emmanuel Rozario and Father Anthony Hasda were also present on the occasion.

Subal L Rozario conducted the meeting attended by leaders of the church, local elite, teachers, priests and nuns.

ALLEGED CI SHEET MISAPPROPRIATION Ex-BNP MP Monjur charge-sheeted in Sirajganj

Our Correspondent, Sirajganj

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday submitted charge sheet against Maj (ret) Monjur Quader and 11 other BNP men to Sirajganj Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court for misappropriating corrugated iron (CI) sheets of government relief fund.

Monjur Quader, former lawmaker of Sirajganj-6 constituency (Chowhali and Shahzadpur), used CI sheets of relief fund in Enayetpur cloth market and different other personal installations in Sirajganj through abusing power during the tenure of four-party alliance government, sources said.

Joint forces seized 905 pieces of CI sheets of relief fund from Enayetpur cloth market and lodged a case with Enayetpur Police Station in this connection accusing six persons including Monjur Kader on February 25 last year.

Five other accused are Enayetpur upazila BNP president Liakot Ali, upazila Jubo Dal president Aatur Rahman, Swebchhasebok Dal president Abdul Khalek, Sramik Dal secretary Abdur Razzak and engineer Niaz Ali.



Maj (ret) Monjur Quader

Later, the case was handed over to the ACC and Abdul Gaffar, deputy director of ACC office in Pabna, took charge of its investigation.

Finding involvement of six more people in the act, he included in the charge sheet their names along with the six persons named in the case.

The six persons later included in the charge sheet -- Enayetpur Cloth Hat Committee member Abu Taleb, Rebeka Sultana, Aleya Begum, Shahidul Islam, Abdul Matin and Janab Ali also belong to BNP.

Rajshahi Jubo League demands Hasina's release

RU CORRESPONDENT

Awami Jubo League in Rajshahi at a meeting yesterday demanded releases of Awami League (AL) president Sheikh Hasina for the sake of establishing democracy in the country.

Its leaders also demanded withdrawal of the cases filed against Hasina. Jubo League central president Jahangir Kabir Nanak and secretary Mirza Azam.

They also demanded lifting of emergency and trial of war criminals in special tribunal.

Rajshahi Jubo League president Abu Saleh presided over the meeting held on the premises of the party office at Laxmipur.

They also urged the government to stop conspiracies against Hasina and withdrawal of all cases against her.

The Jubo league leaders alleged that false cases were filed against Hasina only to declare her unfit for the next general election. The meeting urged the government to send her abroad immediately for better treatment.

Rajshahi health instt students protest decision on training

RU CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of students of the Institute of Health Technology, Rajshahi yesterday formed a human chain in the city protesting a decision of the authorities which offered private clinic technicians aged 40 years an opportunity to study diploma course in medical technology.

They demanded immediate cancellation of the decision taken by the higher authorities on March 03. They alleged the decision was taken aiming at earning money from private clinic owner, not for the purpose of education.

Agitating students carried banners and placards in support of their demand.

They also pressed for their other demands including immediate rehabilitation of jobless technologists, opportunity for higher education to technologists and scholarships to students.

The human chain was followed by a rally.

Students threatened a tougher agitation soon if their demands are not met immediately.

Among others, student leaders like Rakibul Islam, Farhad, Masud, Sharmin, Shamima, Firoza and Zannat addressed.

Moeen's commitment to Bagaihat victims fulfilled

Each of 180 families gets Tk 10,000

JASIM MAJUMDER, back from Bagaihat, Rangamati

The Army yesterday distributed Tk 18 lakh for 180 families who became victims of arson attack at Bagaihat in Bagchhari upazila in Rangamati on April 20.

Army chief General Moeen U Ahmed during his relief distribution among Bagaihat arson attack victims on April 29 had said that each to the victim families would get Tk 10 thousand as compensation.

People who want to block development in Chittagong Hill Tracts by creating enmity between peaceful Bangali and ethnic people designed the April 20 incident, speakers said at a function arranged on the occasion at Sajek union parishad under Bagaihat upazila in Rangamati district.

Both Bangalees and ethnic people should work unitedly for development of CHT areas, they said.

Due to development of road communication, the people of remote Sajek area are now able to sell their product in the nearest market, they said.

With different geography and environment in CHT, the people there have to face problems like indur banya (rat invasion) and the dwellers have to fight with the unfavourable situations, they said.

The government has taken

initiative for VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programme to face food crisis in the region, they said.

Bangalees and ethnic people want to live in peace in the hills and take part in development of the area. But a section of vested interest always tries to destroy the communal harmony.

They called upon all to remain vigilant against the conspirators. Khagrachhari Army Region Commander Brig Gen Kamruzzaman, who was present as chief guest at the function, handed over the money as compensation for Bagaihat arson attack victims.

As a total of Tk18 lakh was given to the victims of 180 families -- both indigenous and Bengali, each family received Tk 10 thousand for repairing their houses.

Bagaihat Zone Commander Lt Col Sajid Imtiaz presided over the function where Bagaihatari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shivir Bichitra Barua, Dighinala Zone Commander Lt Col Shamsul Islam, Khagrachhari Hill District Council Members Animesh Dewan, Ruhity Karbari, Abu Bakar, Khagrachhari district Samo Adikar Andolon leader, Abul Kashem, Nuruzzaman, Dousta Muhammad Chowdhury and Sajek union parishad chairman L Thanga Pankhua were present, among others.

LET'S BUILD A NEW BANGLADESH

Road show draws thousands in Panchagarh

A CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A road show was held at Panchagarh yesterday aiming at building a new Bangladesh.

The road show was held to encourage people of all strata of life including farmers to boost production in fields and fight corruption.

Agriculture Ministry, Food and Disaster Ministry, Rab on behalf of Home Ministry, Tele-Communication Ministry, Election Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, Tourism Corporation and BTRC jointly organised the show.

Following the road show, a mass gathering was held on the premises of Panchagarh Collectorate building where Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi Md Hafizur Rahaman Bhuiyan attended as chief guest.

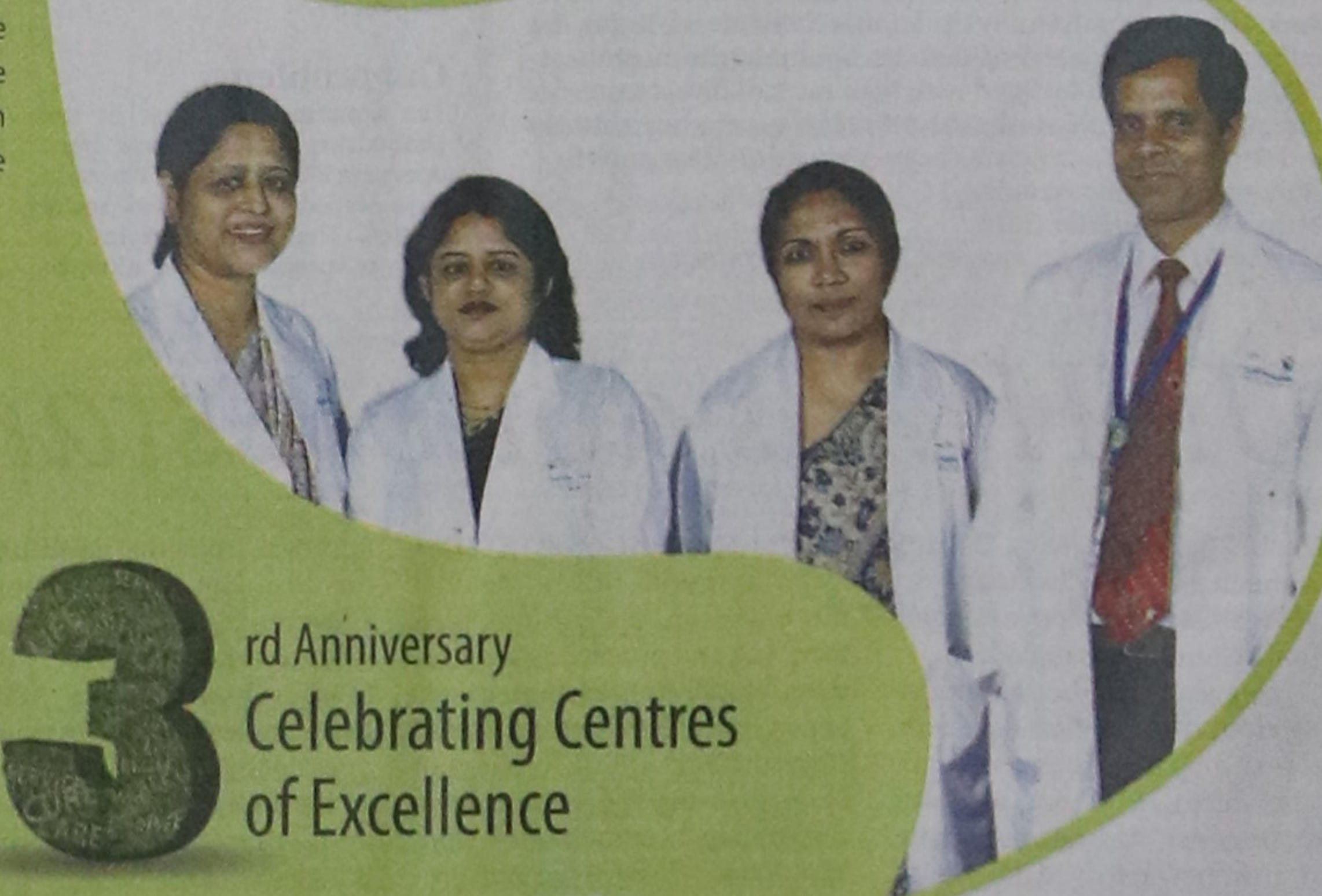
Deputy Commissioner of Panchagarh, Md Hafizuddin presided the meeting while Superintendent of Police, Panchagarh Harun-Or-Rashid and Deputy Director of the Department Agriculture Extension (DAE), Panchagarh attended as special guest.

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Consultant - Obstetrics/Gynaecology
- Dr. (Mrs.) Maya Mukhopadhyay**  
MBBS (Cal.), DGO (Cal.), DNBGO (NBE)  
Consultant - Obstetrics/Gynaecology
- Dr. Mrinal Kumar Sarker**  
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