

2 drug dealers arrested with heroin in Bhola

UNB, Bhola

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized two pounds of heroin and arrested two drug dealers at Borhanuddin yesterday.

The heroin was kept hidden in a primary school. Commander Shafiq of Rab said a team of Rab men posing as customers visited Manika bazaar and finalised a deal with Milan Bepari and Mohammad Yusuf to buy 2 pounds of heroin at Tk 1 crore.

As soon as they took out heroin from a room of Manika primary school at around 2:00pm, the Rab members arrested them and seized the drugs. The packets of heroin bear the seal of Afghanistan.

Milan Bepari hails from Char Fashion and Yusuf, a teacher of the primary school, hails from Borhanuddin.

Workshop on gender issues begins at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A three-day workshop on 'Gender in our everyday lives' began at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

Kamla Bhasin, a well-known gender expert in South Asia, is conducting the workshop organised by women and gender studies department of DU at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

A total of 25 teachers and a good number of officials, mainly from DU and University Grants Commission are participating in the workshop, says a press release.

Addressing the opening session, Kamla Bhasin said gender, like any other disciplines, cannot be learned merely by achieving a degree or completing any training. It requires day-to-day practice in the family, society and in the work, Kamla added.

Ayesha Banu, chair of the department, delivered the welcome speech at the session while Professor Emeritus of DU Dr Najma Chowdhury and Dr Mahmuda Islam also spoke.

Plan to provide victims of trafficking with jobs

BSS, Dhaka

The government has taken a plan to make women trafficking victims self-sufficient by providing them with jobs.

As part of the move, three coffee shops named 'Kafe Mukti' were set up at Bangladesh Secretariat, Women Affairs Directorate and Social Welfare Directorate in the city yesterday.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Nesley Bangladesh and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) supported the project.

Women and Children Affairs Secretary Begum Rokeya Sultana inaugurated a Kafe Mukti at the Women Affairs Directorate.

A total of six women trafficking victims from shelter homes of DAM, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association and Thengamara Mahila Sabuj Sangha have been appointed as sales persons to the Kafe Mukti, said a DAM press release.

With IOM South Asia Regional Representative of Rubab Fatima in the chair, the inaugural function was addressed, among others, by

Director General of Women Affairs Directorate Ekram Ahmed, Denmark Ambassador Einar H Jensen, Royal Norwegian Embassy Senior Advisor Mosthed Ahmed and DAM Assistant Director Advocate Shirin Nihar.

Speaking on the occasion, the secretary said 'Kafe Mukti' could be a model for empowerment of women trafficking victims and making them self-reliant.

Rubab Fatima described the 'Kafe Mukti' as a symbol of economic emancipation of the oppressed women.



Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Rokeya Sultana inaugurates Kafe Mukti by cutting a ribbon at the Women Affairs Directorate in the city yesterday.

Nearly 3 lakh children fell ill from tainted milk in China

AFP, Beijing

China said yesterday that a total of 296,000 children had fallen ill from consuming dairy products tainted with the industrial chemical melamine, up 2,000 from the previous official count.

The health ministry also told reporters at a briefing that a total of 52,898 babies had been treated in hospital for kidney problems caused by the toxic ingredient. Of these, 52,882 had been discharged.

The health ministry announced in early December a figure of 294,000 babies sickened

by melamine, a chemical normally used to make plastic.

Earlier ministry data also showed six deaths had been linked to melamine.

The figure was released as the nation awaited the verdicts in the first cases against officials from Sanlu Group, the company at the heart of the baby formula scandal.

The discovery that melamine was mixed into baby milk, in a bid to make it look richer in protein, shocked consumers both in China and abroad, dealing another blow to the reputation of the nation's products.

3 children die after taking toxic food

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Three children died after taking toxic food at Khatiamari village of Dhunat upazila in the district on Sunday night.

The dead are Jiban Manik and Mamin, 8, and Bulbul Khatun, 5.

Three others Shakil, 2, Mohammad Ali, 10, and Abul Kashem, 6, and their grandmother Laili Bawa are receiving treatment at a local hospital.

The six children and their grandmother consumed stale rice in the afternoon, cooked at noon for their grandfathers' kulhwani.

Narsingdi BNP leader expelled

BSS, Dhaka

Abu Saleh Chowdhury, joint convener of Narsingdi Sadar upazila unit of BNP, was expelled yesterday from the party for violating party discipline and anti-party activities.

The primary membership of Abu Saleh has also been cancelled.

The action has been taken at the instruction of BNP chairperson under article 5c of the party constitution, a press release signed by Office Secretary of BNP Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said.

JU Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University Day was observed yesterday in a befitting manner.

JU Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammad Muniruzzaman inaugurated the day's programmes by releasing balloons on the premises of the microbiology faculty.

He said the university has been contributing to educational research and cultural practices ever since it was established on this day in 1971.

JU Treasurer Prof Syed Abdul Hye also spoke at the programme moderated by Registrar Abu Bakar Siddiq.



An old man waits for his turn to cast his vote while others stand in a long queue at Nawabganj Govt Primary School polling centre in Sonaimuri upazila in Noakhali during the by-election yesterday.

Technological dev to be ensured in shipping sector: Minister

BSS, Dhaka

Shipping Minister Dr Mohammad Afsarul Amin yesterday said that the aim of the present government is to ensure technological development in the shipping sector like all other sectors of the country.

"I am calling upon all to work together to achieve this goal," he said.

The minister was addressing as the chief guest at the inaugural function of a training workshop on 'Administration and development of shipping sector' at the BIWTA Bhaban, an official handout said.

The four-day training course was organised by the Department of Sea Transport.

A total of 30 officials of the Ministry of Shipping and different organisations under it are taking part in the course.

Amin underlined the importance of such time befitting training which would help to earn technological knowledge for the growth of the shipping sector.

He also urged all to further

contribute for the development of shipping sector by applying knowledge in practical life which was earned during the training.

BIWTC Chairman ASM Ali Kabir presided over the function while secretary of the ministry Sheikh AK Motahar Hossain, director general of Department of Sea Transport Captain AKM Shafiqul Islam and trainee Saiful Islam spoke.

Orientation ceremony of PMC Jan 20

BSS, Dhaka

The orientation ceremony of the newly enrolled first year MBBS students of Pabna Medical College (PMC) for 2008-09 session will be held at the auditorium of Pabna Medical Hospital at 11:00am on January 20.

The regular classes of the students will be started on the same day, said a press release yesterday.

Criminal caught after bomb attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A criminal was caught red-handed when he was fleeing the scene after a bomb attack on a village doctor at Islampur village under Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga on Sunday night.

They handed the criminal over to the local police.

Sources said a number of criminals led by gang leader Hafizur demanded Tk four lakh as extortion money from village doctor Chad Ali several days ago.

Chad declined to pay the money as it was beyond his capacity. The gang then threatened him of facing the dire consequences.

A gang of five to six criminals stormed Chad's house at around 8:30pm and threw a bomb on the village doctor when he was sitting on a chair on veranda. He got serious injuries in his left leg and eye.

Hearing the sound of the bomb blast, neighbours rushed to the spot and chased the bomber. They caught the gang leader, while his accomplices managed to escape from the spot.

Three rental power firms

FROM PAGE 1

Another local company--Venture Energy Resources--was also supposed to launch 35MW three-year rental power plant in Bhola from May last year. Its schedule has now been set for January. Venture will also have to pay the penalty as per the agreement, the sources said.

THE FLAWED PROJECTS

BOGRA 20MW: PDB signed the Bogra 20MW 15-year rental power project contract with local GBB Power Ltd on September 19, 2006, with the goal to achieve the commercial operation date (COD) within 120 days. But it faced initial delays as the government could not ensure gas supplies.

On June 11, 2007, the power ministry decided that the contract period would be effective from the date of signing the Gas Sales Agreement (GSA). On July 3, 2007, the GBB signed the GSA with West Gas Company.

But the GBB failed to achieve its November 2, 2007, COD deadline and launched the plant on June 17, 2008. Its plant was supposed to have a guaranteed capacity of 19MW but it delivered 18.36MW max.

As per the contract, GBB is supposed to pay a maximum penalty of Tk 4.53 crore--equivalent to three months' rental payment--for the delay in project implementation and another \$640,000 as liquidated damages for failing to deliver the guaranteed capacity.

The PDB served the company a notice demanding liquidated damages in 15 more days but the company did not comply.

In this situation on December 1, the PDB board decided to deduct the penalty money from GBB in 20 instalments from the monthly invoices for GBB. The PDB already deducted the first instalment of the penalty from GBB's October billing.

KUMARGAON 50MW: The PDB signed the Kumargaon 50MW three-year rental contract with local Energyprima on January 16, 2007, with 120 days deadline for achieving COD. Energyprima achieved COD 68 days late and also failed to achieve dependable power generation capacity of 47.93MW, falling short by 2MW.

As per the contract, the company is supposed to pay a penalty at the rate of \$500 per megawatt for 68 days' delay. The penalty totals at \$1.7 million plus another one million dollar for not achieving the dependable capacity.

The PDB issued a \$2.73 million liquidated damages notice which Energyprima refused to pay. Accordingly the PDB board decided on December 1 to deduct the penalty in 10 instalments from the company's monthly invoices.

The first instalment of this penalty worth \$273,200 has been deducted from Kumargaon plant's November

invoice.

SHAHJIBAZAR 50MW: Energyprima signed the Shahjibazar deal with PDB on January 16, 2007, but failed to achieve the COD in 120 days. The project came online 181 days behind schedule and the dependable capacity is 0.33MW lower.

This delay and capacity flaw require Energyprima to pay \$4.6 million penalty to the PDB. As per a request, the PDB decided to deduct this sum in eight instalments from its invoices and has deducted the first instalment from the November invoice.

KHULNA 40 MW: The PDB signed the Khulna 40MW three-year rental contract with British company Aggreko International Projects on January 28, 2007, with 120 days' deadline for COD.

Aggreko achieved COD 15 days behind schedule on June 12 and achieved dependable capacity 0.152MW less than the target 39.4MW.

The delay and flawed dependable capacity earn a total penalty of \$376,000. The PDB served the company with a notice. Of this, Aggreko paid \$76,000 for its flawed dependable capacity but it did not pay for the delay. The PDB decided to deduct the remaining sum in 10 instalments from the monthly invoices and has deducted the first instalment from the November invoice.



Students and teachers of Jahangirnagar University take out a colourful procession on the campus yesterday to mark the Jahangirnagar University Day.

Shark attacks send shivers thru' Aussie holidaymakers

AFP, Sydney

A spate of savage shark attacks in Australia has sent a shiver through summer holidaymakers bombarded with graphic details and claims that the razor-toothed predators are increasingly targeting humans.

Three attacks on swimmers within 24 hours over Sunday and Monday -- just two weeks after a snorkeller was killed -- have fuelled a fevered debate over whether overfishing has put man on the menu.

"Humans are next in line on the food chain," veteran shark hunter Vic Hislop told commercial radio. "It will definitely get worse."

Experts say there is no scientific evidence to support his claim that reducing the shark's natural prey through overfishing has produced a spike in attacks.

But a steady stream of shock reports has won splash headlines and set radio talkback shows buzzing during the annual school holidays.

-- Fifty-one-year-old banker Brian Guest disappeared in a turmoil of fins and blood while snorkelling with his son south of Perth on the west coast on December 27. His body has not been found.

-- Two surfers were rushed

to hospital after separate attacks, one on the east coast north of Sydney and one in Tasmania, on Sunday.

-- A snorkeller's leg was ripped in a mid-morning attack south of Sydney by what is believed to be a bull shark, on Monday.

-- Punctuating the attacks have been several scares, including a kayaker being knocked into the water by a great white shark off a popular Sydney beach.

The encounters have been reported in breathless detail under headlines such as Monday's "Escape from the jaws of a killer" in the Daily Telegraph, accompanied by pictures of victims and a surfboard with a monstrous bite taken out of it.

The surfboard was carrying 13-year-old Hannah Mighall at Binalong Bay on the southern island of Tasmania on Sunday when she was attacked by a great white shark estimated to be five metres (16-feet) long.

"She was slapping it and screaming, 'Get it off me, get it off me,'" her cousin Syb Mundy told national radio.

"Then she was just yelling out that her leg was hurting and next thing you know all the water was just blood, pretty much couldn't see anything,"

Come to Beautiful British Columbia For Studies and Careers in Canada.

The University of Victoria - an absolute world-class university on Vancouver Island... now taking applications in Dhaka at the Canadian University Application Centre.

Superb Bachelor degrees for top students:

■ Engineering (Electrical, Computer, Software and Mechanical) ■ Business ■ Computer Science ■ Health Information Science ■ Biological Sciences, plus 100 more programs.

Free Information Session on

Saturday, 17th January from 6pm - 9pm at BRAC Centre Inn followed by Free Counseling on Tuesday, 20th January from 10am - 5pm at our CUAC Dhaka Office (address given below).

Book your appointment. Contact:

Canadian University Application Centre
Hosna Centre, Suite 210, 106 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka 1212 (Bangladesh)
Tel: +880 2 8826445 Cell: +88 01713 464451
E-mail: dhaka@canada123.org Website: www.canada123.org



University of Victoria



Bangladesh Services Limited

(A Public Limited Company)

1, Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Invitation for Proposals

Notice inviting proposals for Management of the Hotel of Bangladesh Services Limited (presently Dhaka Sheraton Hotel) under Franchise arrangement

Sealed proposals in 2 (two) separate envelopes one containing "Technical Proposal" and other containing "Financial Offer" are hereby invited by Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL) from renowned Hotel Management Companies for Management of the Hotel of Bangladesh Services Limited presently managed by Sheraton Overseas Management Corporation (SOMC) as Dhaka Sheraton Hotel under Franchise arrangement.

2. The intending companies must fulfill the following eligibility criteria for their participation in the bid:

- Experience in Franchising and Management of 5 or 4 star Brand renowned Hotels. Documents/certificates from the corporate/regional office in this regard need to be submitted along with the Technical Proposal.
- Have at least one renowned 5 or 4 star Brand Hotel under Franchise arrangement in Operation and Management at present. Certificates from the Franchiser in this regard need to be submitted along with the Technical Proposal.
- Submit consent letter from the corporate/regional office of the Franchiser of the Brand that they are willing to franchise their brand (mentioning their star status 5 or 4 star) for at least 10 (ten) years for the Hotel of Bangladesh Services Limited along with the Technical Proposal.
- Submit a confirmation letter along with the Technical Proposal from the Franchiser to the effect that the Hotel will be in full operation with the new Brand from the 1st day of April 2009.

3. The intending companies must fulfill the eligibility criteria mentioned in para 2 above failing which the proposals will be considered as disqualified.

4. Documents including Notice Inviting Proposal, Background Information, Terms and Conditions, Details of Rooms, Food & Beverage Outlets and Banquet Outlets of the Hotel, Format for Technical details, Format for Financial Offer will be available from the Office of the undersigned, during office hours (0900 to 1700) on all working days from 15 January 2009 to 3 February 2009 and will also be available in the website of BSL (<http://www.bsl.gov.bd>) under the caption "Document Inviting Proposals" simultaneously.

5. The Technical Proposal and Financial Offer must be submitted separately in sealed envelopes which will be received in the Office of the undersigned by 1500 hours BST, of 5 February 2009. The Technical Proposals shall be opened at 1530 hours on the same day and place in presence of the representatives of the intending companies (if any). Financial Offer of only those companies shall be opened subsequently who would qualify in the evaluation of their Technical Proposal.

6. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposal(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Secretary
Bangladesh Services Limited