



A sand-laden truck plunges into the Crescent Lake after it skidded off the road at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city on Wednesday night.

PHOTO: STAR

Reconstruct Aila-hit embankments

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to take immediate steps to reconstruct and repair the breached embankments in the cyclone Aila-hit regions in order to help people return to

Tk 25 lakh help for AMCH

METRO DESK

Janata Bank Limited on Wednesday donated Tk 25 lakh for the construction of the Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) at Uttara in the city.

Janata Bank Limited Chairman Suhel Ahmed Choudhury handed over a cheque for Tk 25 lakh to Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam at a ceremony at the head office of the bank, says a press release.

Janata Bank Limited Directors Commodore Mohammad Zarzul Islam, Azizur Rahman, Md Enamul Haq Choudhury and Chowdhury Abdul Quayum, Managing Director SM Aminur Rahman, DMD (Admin and Finance) Dr Md Zillur Rahman, DMD (Credit) Md Jahangir Miah, Company Secretary Md Mosaddaek-Ul-Alam and Mission officials were present.

Suhel Ahmed Choudhury said, "We have participated in this noble venture as part of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). By undertaking such a gigantic task, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has set a unique example."

He urged the corporate world to come forward to help the Mission in this noble venture.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam said the hospital can start its operation by June next year if only Tk 23 lakh more can be managed.

He appealed to people from all walks of life to help the Mission to this end.

their homes.

Even three months after the cyclone, many villages in the Aila-affected areas are still inundated and thousands of people live in dismal condition without shelter and proper water and sanitation facilities, they said.

Cyclone Aila ripped through the country's south-western coast on May 25, killing about hundred and washing away several thousand homes and properties.

Reconstruction of the damaged embankments is a must to rehabilitate the people, speakers at the discussion said, urging the government to create long-term employment opportunities for people of the affected areas.

Requesting the prime minister to visit the affected areas, they demanded

increasing the allotment of rice in the areas until the breached embankments are repaired.

The Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) Project, a joint effort of six humanitarian organisations -- CARE, Concern Worldwide, Catholic Relief Services, Oxfam, Save the Children and World Vision -- organised the discussion to discuss the current challenges after three months of cyclone Aila.

Three lawmakers from Khulna who were present at the discussion, however, expressed their frustration at the government's failure to take significant steps to help the affected people.

They also condemned the role of the Water Development Board (WDB) for its negligence to repair the dilapidated

embankments that got breached in several points during the Aila.

They added that people cannot return home as the villages are still under 2-3 feet water.

Shafiqul Azam Lenin, chairman of an affected union in Satkhira, said the river water still enter his union during high tide inundating the villages. The problem will not be solved unless the damaged embankments are repaired, he said.

He also said the government is distributing rice under VGF cards among 2,000 people in a union, which is inadequate.

Nani Gopal Mondal, a lawmaker from Khulna, said the WDB did not do any development work for the dams after the independence, which

made them more vulnerable.

"Reconstruction of the dams, which were established during '60s, in the affected regions is a must," he said. He also demanded alternative income generating facilities for the affected and necessary measures to ensure safe drinking water.

Another lawmaker Sohrab Ali Sana said the condition of those areas is more vulnerable now compared to those days after the cyclone hit the areas.

Speaking as the chief guest, Dr Akram Hossain Chowdhury, member of standing committee on Food and Disaster Management, said he would place the problems in the next meeting of the committee.

He also said he would request the concerned authorities to increase the number of VGF cards in the areas.

Nazrul Islam Monju MP, Dr Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, adviser of Centre for Global Change, Barbara Burroughs, deputy country director of Save the Children, and Ziaul Haque, manager of Oxfam, also spoke.

Mortar shell recovered in Chuadanga

UNB, Chuadanga

An eight-inch long abandoned mortar shell was recovered at Hoidarpur in Alamdanga on Wednesday night.

Locals said Abdus Samad found the shell, weighing 7/8 kg, while he was digging earth in his nursery for planting saplings.

On information, police recovered the shell and later informed the bomb disposal squad of the army.

Ghorashal urea factory to be shut in Ramadan

Move to ease gas crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd has asked the authorities of Ghorashal fertiliser factory to suspend their operation during the month of Ramadan to reduce gas crisis in the capital.

An official of Titas Gas said they issued a letter yesterday to the factory authorities to suspend the production. The factory consumes a large volume of natural gas to produce urea fertiliser.

Gas crisis in Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Matuail, Dhonia, Rayerbag, Purba Nakharpura, Rampura, Jurain,

Moghbazar and Uttarkhan areas in the city is causing sufferings to thousands of city dwellers for the last four months and the situation worsened from the beginning of Ramadan.

The demand for gas in the capital has shot up to over 200 mcf a day while the supply stands at around 170 mcf, another Titas official said.

The demand for gas in the country has gone up to 770 million cubic feet a day during the Ramadan from 740 mcf, he added.

The country faces a gas shortage of 200 mcf a day during the peak season, the official said.

EXPLOSION AT N'GANJ GODOWN

3 succumb to burns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

All three workers who received serious burn injuries in a mysterious explosion at a sugar godown at Nitaiganj in Narayanganj have died.

Two of them -- Solaiman, 30, and Alamgir, 40, -- died at Razia Clinic in Dhaka yesterday afternoon while Shamsur, 40, died at Dhaka Medical College Burn Unit on Wednesday morning.

A huge explosion took place at Gopinath Bhandar Sugar Godown on Friday night, injuring the three workers. But the police could not find out the source of the

explosion in the last six days.

Narayan Saha Naidu is the owner of the godown. Two years ago, the police recovered Phensidyl bottles from his business firm. Naidu used to sell Phensidyl under cover of sugar trade, the police said.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Narayanganj Police Station Akhter Hossain said unnatural death cases have been filed in connection with the deaths of three workers.

Samples of burnt sugar have been sent to Explosives Directorate in Dhaka, he said, adding that legal action would be taken on the basis of the report.

Bangladesh army deploys new contingent in Congo

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Army is going to deploy a new contingent comprising 850 army personnel, including officers, JCOs and NCOs, at United Nations Observer Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC).

An advance party consisting of 188 army personnel, including officers and soldiers led by Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Manir Rahman, left here for Congo on Tuesday night by a UN chartered aircraft, said a release of ISPR.

Senior officers of Overseas Operation Directorate and Infantry Directorate of Army Headquarters saw them off at the Zia International Airport.

A munajat was also offered at departure lounge of Zia International Airport prior to their departure.

Main body of the contingent expected to be deployed on 1st week of November.

A total of 1,127 army personnel, including one Infantry Battalion, one Ban Headquarters Support and Signal Contingent, One Force BANMP, 17 Observer and staff of different ranks, are presently working in Congo.

Bangladesh contingent deployed in Congo achieved the confidence of the government and the people of Congo by discharge their duties with efficiency, professionalism and sincerity in solving their internal conflict.



PHOTO: ISPR

An army contingent comprising 188 members board a UN Chartered Aircraft on Tuesday night to join UN Mission in Congo.

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বিল্ডিং ফর ফিউচার লিঃ
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BRAC UNIVERSITY

James P Grant School of Public Health

BRAC University

Admission to MPH Programme

BRAC University James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) is accepting applications from Bangladeshi nationals for its 6th Masters of Public Health (MPH) Programme beginning in February, 2010.

Features of the MPH Programme:

- 51 credits, 12 months' residential programme, full-time (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- Multi disciplinary, emphasizing development of the core public health competencies
- Faculty from BRAC University, ICDDR,B, BRAC, Columbia University (USA), Harvard University (USA), Johns Hopkins University (USA), George Washington University (USA), Karolinska Institute (Sweden), London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK) & University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Fees:

- Bangladeshi students are only required to pay the living cost (US \$ 6,000 equivalent to BDT 400,000). However once admitted, deserving candidates may apply and receive a waiver of up to 50% of their living expense (up to BDT 200,000).

Admission requirements:

- A Bachelor's/ Master's degree (at least 16 years of education) in Medicine, Nursing, Health Sciences or any physical, biological or social sciences. Excellent academic records with no third division or with GPA of less than 3.0 (out of 4)
- Basic Arithmetic skills and proficiency in English (written and spoken). A TOEFL score of 250 on computer-based test/100 on internet-based test or IELTS of 6.5 would be an advantage.
- Preferably 1 year work experience in health / social sector.
- Computer literacy is essential; skill in using data analysis software will be an advantage.
- The admission process involves a written test and interviews.

Application deadline: September 30, 2009. Only short listed candidates will be called for written test and interviews. Application forms may be downloaded from the website: http://sph.bracu.ac.bd/academics/mbp/Application_form2.doc or collected from BRAC University Admissions Office. For further inquiries please visit <http://sph.bracu.ac.bd/> (Tel. +88 (02) 8824051-4 Ext: 4164). Submit the **application form with attached detailed CV, photocopied attested transcripts & certificates along with 2 copies of passport size photographs**. Please mention "MPH programme 2010-11" on top of the envelope. Applications should be sent to: Sabina Faiz Rashid, PhD, Coordinator, MPH Programme, & Mrityunjay Das, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, 66 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212 or email to: sabina@bracu.ac.bd & mrityunjay@bracu.ac.bd (PDF format preferred). For details visit <http://sph.bracu.ac.bd/>

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4 listed criminals held, bombs recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective police arrested four accomplices of top listed criminal 'Dakat' Shahid and seized 15 hand made bombs and bomb making materials from them from an under construction building site in city's Sutrapur on Tuesday night.

Police made the arrests after arresting Golam Mostafa alias Panji Kalu alias Pichhi Kalu, 29 -- the second-in-command of Shahid on the night of August 24 night from city's Badda area.

'Dakat' Shahid is said to be in hiding in India at he moment.

The four men arrested on Wednesday night were identified as Sumon alias Shanta, 20, Sumon alias Chuka Sumon, 22, Jamal, 21, and Liton, 21. They are residents of Shwamibag. The arrestees confessed that they worked for the Shahid gang under the leadership of Kalu who paid them monthly salaries, DB sources said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Mohammad Mahub Alam said that the detectives, acting on a tip off, arrested Kalu from a house in Badda. Kalu confessed to his involvement in the sensational murder of DCC Ward commissioner Alim in Jatrahari. Kalu is an accused in the murder case.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Mohammad Sanwar Hossain said the arrests on Wednesday night were made from information extracted from Kalu. The men were making bombs at the under construction building site at the time of arrest.

'Dakat' Shahid issues threats to traders, businessmen and residents of old Dhaka and realise toll from them. The arrestees would carry out attacks on those who did not agree to pay the toll.

Detective Police produced the four arrested men before a Dhaka court yesterday. The court put them on remand.