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Ruling party men snatch tender papers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Ruling party men allegedly beat a contractor in presence of police and snatched tender schedule from him in front of the civil surgeons (CS) office in the district yesterday.

Talking to local journalists victim Habibur Rahman from Khulna alleged that some young men beat him up severely when he just arrived there around 12:15pm for dropping schedules of a bid for supplying medical and surgical requisites (MSR) for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

7 carried out Taposh attack

53 aides identified; motive still unknown; Bazlul Huda's cousin arrested

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

The Detective Branch of police has identified seven attackers and 53 accomplices in the bomb attack on Awami League lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh, said a DB source.

The 53 people provided the attackers with information about the areas surrounding Taposh's law chamber in Motijheel but stayed

away from the scene where the bomb was exploded by a remote control on October 21, said the source.

The DB personnel are about to complete the probe and have submitted a primary report on the findings to higher authorities.

"Now, we are waiting for directives from the government high-ups to arrest the suspects,"

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

No power crisis by 2011, PM tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the country would get rid of power crisis by 2011 as 1,487MW of power will be generated and added to the national grid by then.

"Bangladesh will be self-sufficient in power by 2021 and 100 percent people of the country will get electricity facility according to the government's vision," Hasina said while replying to lawmakers' queries in parliament.

She also told the House that over 50,000 flats would be built in the capital and over 17,000 others across the country to address accommodation problem.

Hasina said as per her government's current plan 667MW of additional power would be fed to the national grid by 2009 and another 820MW through picking power plants by 2011.

She said the government has already floated tender for setting up of the picking power plants considering shortage of gas.

Processes are also underway to generate 900MW of power by 2012 and 1,895MW by 2014, she added.

Requests for proposal have been invited for setting up rental power plants in private sector in the first phase to generate 530MW of power by August 2010, she said, adding, "A process is

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Chandpur project okayed at triple cost

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The cabinet committee on government purchase yesterday approved Chandpur 150 megawatt combined cycle power project involving about Tk 1,006 crore which is more than three times the previously estimated cost.

It also approved a proposal to construct flats for government officials and low and middle-income group people in the capital in next three

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



They are 7 to 10 years old; Instead of playing or going to school they are engaged in carrying sand for the construction of a multi-storeyed building in Demra area. Their contract with a labour sarder is to toil for three to four hours daily only for Tk 10.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Beximco no more a loan defaulter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No company of the Beximco Group is loan defaulter any more, according to the latest Central Information Bureau (CIB) report of Bangladesh Bank.

A Bangladesh Bank high official told The Daily Star yesterday that the central bank has provided the information to the parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry based on the CIB report up to September.

Sources said the parliamentary standing committee sought to know the latest information regarding default loan of Beximco Group from the central bank.

Beximco has rescheduled loans with different banks, but no further details on loan rescheduling were available.

Earlier, the finance minister published a list of 2,196 loan defaulters in the Jatiya Sangsad on July 5.

Beximco Group topped the list prepared on the basis of CIB report until March 2009.

Controversy clouds PDB's rental bid

Rookie bidders with low cost offer get priority; bidder selection for Madanganj-Bheramara sites questioned

SHARIER KHAN

The Power Development Board's (PDB) selection of best bidders for eight rental power projects totalling 530 megawatt capacity reflects the process followed during the caretaker government rule as inexperienced bidders are getting priority by just offering lowest power tariff.

Sources say PDB's tender evaluation committees for diesel-based and heavy fuel oil-

based rental power projects have short-listed seven lowest bidders, while the eighth could not be decided yet.

But competing bidders and other officials are already questioning the incomplete evaluation process saying the committees were not cross-checking the tender documents to confirm their authenticity.

This is a major issue as during the caretaker government, an inexperienced bidder bagged

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Outlaw dons call shots from India

SHARIFUL ISLAM, back from Kushtia

Jogoti Union unit Jubo League president Zafar Ahmed went missing on July 25 last year. As his family started a frantic search for him, his uncle received a phone call from India the next day.

"You don't need to look for Zafar anymore; go back home and get ready for his burial," said the caller as quoted by one of Zafar's friends.

The caller was none but Shahin, second-in-command of outlawed Gono Mukti Fauz (GMF).

The traumatised family decided to file a general diary with the local police and sent two members to the nearby police station.

When they were hardly 100 yards from the police station, they received another call from the same Indian number. The caller, as if he had been observing them from a nearby watchtower, said, "You are just 100 yards from the police station and are going to file a GD."

"If you file any case or a GD, I'll kill you as well as Zafar's father this time. Whatever you do I'll surely know as I have 260 paid informers there," the caller threatened.

The victim's family members knew it was not an idle threat

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Ankhi top outlaw for real

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Taslima Khan Ankhi, detained general secretary of Kushtia unit Mahila Awami League, is a high profile cadre of Gono Mukti Fauz (GMF) and has been transporting arms and ammunition for GMF for the last 6/7 years, said police.

Arrested on Monday night, she and four of her cohorts were yesterday produced before the district chief judicial magistrate's court with a seven-day remand prayer.

The court placed them on a five-day remand.

The four other arrestees are Rani, 25, and GMF cadres Abdur Razzak, 26, Shahin, 25 and Akkas Ali, 40. Police recovered one AK-47 rifle, a shotgun and 82 bullets from them

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

AUGUST 21 ATTACK

Babar was in thick of things

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lutfuzzaman Babar, in collusion with former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu and his brother Moulana Tajuddin, used banned Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) to execute the August 21 grenade attack, said Criminal Investigation Department (CID) sources.

Former BNP state minister for home Babar, who was taken on a fresh remand yesterday for four days, disclosed it during the five-day interrogation by the CID investigators.

Meanwhile, senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Abdul Kahar Akand of CID, also the investigation officer of the case, yesterday told the court the unexploded grenades recovered from the spot could have been the most important evidence with the fingerprints of the criminals, but Babar had arranged to destroy those in a hurry without the court permission.

Abdul Kahar Akand also said Babar did not register the case in the monitoring cell of the home ministry to hide his own criminal acts and save the real culprits. Rather he tried to mislead the case by cooking up a Joj Miah episode.

The CID investigator told the chief metropolitan magistrate's

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