METROPOLITAN

Bomb hoax creates panic in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg.

A bomb hoax created panic and prompted law enforcers to beef up security with deployment of additional forces in and around Chittagong Press Club (CPC) and Court Building premises here yesterday.

One unidentified person sent an SMS titled 'Information Message' giving the threat of blowing up CPC and Chittagong Press Club sometime between 10:00am and 2:00pm.

CPC General Secretary Rashed Rouf received the message on his cell phone at 12:33pm while CPC President Abu Sufian also received the same message around the same time.

The CPC general secretary said the message giving the threat came from a cell No. 0182127700 and he called back to that number several times but no response was made from the other end.

The press club leaders immediately informed the district administration, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), police, NSI, DGFI and all other authorities concerned.

Police and Rab carried out a thorough search of the press club in the morning but found nothing. Nothing untoward was also reported later.

However, a contingent of law enforcers were deployed at CPC while security was also beefed up on Chittagong Court Building premises as well.

Court Inspector Md Khorshid Alam, in absence of AC prosecution, said they did not receive any such message. But following apprehension of feared bomb explosion, security measure was taken in and around the court building since the morning.

व्यवड

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(bleeding in toilet), Longo



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presents National Standard to a unit of East Bengal Regiment at MR Chowdhury Parade Ground of East Bengal Regimental Centre in Chittagong Cantonment yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

SOUTH ASIAN CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Show zero tolerance to violence against women

Speakers urge govts, political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a two-day regional conference of the South Asian civil society ended in the city yesterday with a declaration of zero tolerance to violence against women in the regional politics.

They called for immediate actions by the governments as well as political parties to create a violence-free political atmosphere for women to ensure their full participation in politics on equal terms without any fear.

They demanded steps to ensure minimum 33 percent positions for women in party governance as well as its implementation with strict regulations on political parties.

against women before, during and after ing quota system offered to them. elections.

Representatives from civil society organisations, gender, human and civil rights advocates, legal experts and journalists from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka Bangladesh, women account for 18 per-

attended the conference on 'Democracies without violence: Engendering politics, policies and actions'.

It was organised by South Asia Partnership International (SAP) and SAP Bangladesh supported by Oxfam Novib at Brac Centre Inn.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Sultana Kamal, former adviser to a caretaker government, said women are considered intruders in a male-dominated political world, adding that they have to remain dependent on the goodwill of others to change their lives.

She pointed out that women are the marginalised among the marginalised.

Together with violence, pressure from They also demanded a gender sensi- religion, discrimination in the family life tive monitoring mechanism by election and lack of information, they fail to enjoy promoting the political rights of women. commissions to minimise violence the constitutional guarantee or the exist-

> These factors influence their performance in politics. They must have a congenial atmosphere to be in politics, Sultana noted.

Speakers at the programme said in

cent of MPs in the parliament. In India, the ratio is 8.3 percent while in Pakistan the ratio is 21.6 percent. The global average was 18.3 percent in 2008.

Anis Harron, chairperson of Women Commission of the Status of Women, Pakistan, said politics has become fully criminalised in Pakistan after the war on terror was imposed, making it even unsafe for women.

She called for implementation of international instruments such as Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw).

Rohit Kumar Nepali, executive director of SAP International, said the states have failed to fulfil their obligations of In the current political situation, men are not going to share the power. Women have to fight the battle within political parties and outside.

Also spoke at the conference were Richard Harmston, manager of SAP Canada, and Syed Nurul Alam, SAP Bangladesh, among others.

VESTED PROPERTY RETURN ACT

Call to fulfil demands of affected people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday demanded the government ensure that the aspirations and demands of the affected people are effectively reflected in the amendment to the Vested Property Return Act 2009.

They called for holding

meetings with representatives of human rights organisations and civil rights movement and those of the affected people, saying that the just demands of the civil society should be incorporated in the amendment.

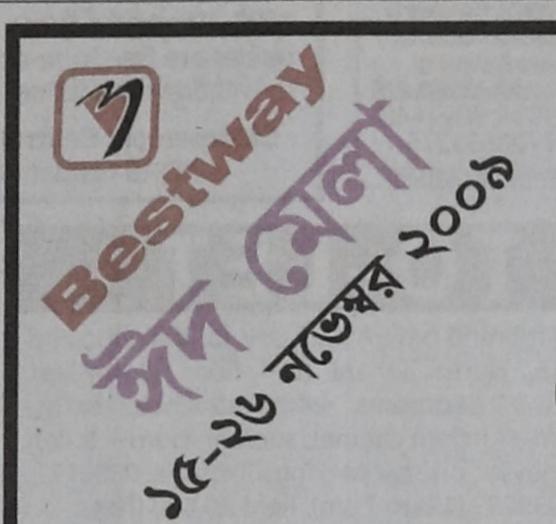
The speakers said this at a meeting of the representatives from different human rights and civil society organisations at Supreme Court Bar Association Building in the city.

Leader of Sammilita Samajik Andolon (SSA) Ajoy Roy presided over the programme where General Secretary (GS) of Vested Property Act Resistance Movement Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, SSA GS Advocate Tobarak Hossain and ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Hudawere present.

The meeting discussed elaborately the Vested Property Return (Amendment) Act 2009 approved by the cabinet recently.

It highlighted different inconsistencies in the proposed amendment and expressed deep concern over it.

The meeting called on the government to take proper steps to remove these discrepancies. It demanded publication of a gazette of all property listed as vested property till March 23, 1974 only according to the Supreme Court decision.



চোখ রাখুন....

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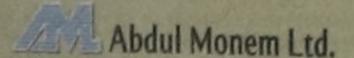
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