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Many missing for week

EMRAN HOSSAIN, from Gangaram Mukh, Rangamati

Relatives and family members of the missing people are waiting anxiously for the return of their near and dear ones although they are not getting any information after a week of the violent incidents in remote Baghaichhari upazila of Rangamati.

Family members are searching nearby localities, as they do not know the fates of the missing people.

In a hilly road near Gangaram Mukh, Malati Chakma came out of her hideout to trace her 16-year old son Rup Shanti Chakma who went missing since the trouble began on February 19. "As the firing began, I ran for cover and fled deep into the

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Peace rally at Khagrachhari

Curfew continues; local ex-Jamaat chief among 8 held

EMRAN HOSSAIN and JASIM MAJUMDER, from Khagrachhari

The situation in Khagrachhari hardly improved, although the district administration brought out a multi-ethnic peace march in the town yesterday as a part of a peace initiative it had started the day before.

Meanwhile, law enforcers last night arrested former amir of Khagrachhari unit Jamaat-e-Islami Mahbubul Haq Selim from the district town in connection with the ethnic violence that has been plaguing Chittagong Hill Tracts for the last seven days.

The government joint forces arrested seven other people yesterday -- four adivasis and three Bangalee settlers -- from the town and its adjacent areas raising the number of arrestees to 73.

Sixty six of the 70 people including 42 adivasis, who had been arrested on Tuesday, were sent to jail yesterday, while four were released.

Four cases including one by police were also filed with

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ADMIN'S INITIATIVE FOR CALM: People of the indigenous community yesterday bring out a peace rally at Khagrachhari, organised by the district administration, following violence over the last few days between Bangalee settlers and the indigenous people.

PM urged to probe, act rightly

CHT Commission writes letter with concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing deep concern over the arson attacks and killings in Rangamati and Khagrachhari, the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Commission yesterday urged the prime minister to immediately pursue a high-level, independent and impartial enquiry into the violence.

Referring to the torching of houses in Baghaichhari in Rangamati and Khagrachhari, and the killings reported to date, the commission in a memorandum to the PM

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BNP finds it hard on women leaders' front

Hectic lobbying, grouping go on to get into Mohila Dal committees

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Lobbying and grouping among leaders of Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, women's wing of BNP, reached extreme levels as BNP high-ups are now working to finalise the central and Dhaka city unit committees of the organisation.

Party insiders said the 251-member central committee and the 151-member Dhaka city unit will be announced after BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain returns from Singapore, where he is undergoing treatment.

They said former lawmakers Noor-e-Ara Safa and Shirin Sultana may be nominated as president and general secretary of the Mohila Dal central committee.

Khaleda Zia, in a recent meeting of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, announced that Mohila and Jubo Dal committees would be announced soon as per reorganisation process of BNP and its front and associate bodies.

As part of the process, BNP held its national council and a new committee was announced for Chhatra Dal. Party leaders said after reconstituting Mohila

Dal committee, they will declare the committee for Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal.

However, following the announcement, leaders of Mohila Dal started lobbying to ensure their position in the new committee. Former lawmaker Shirin Sultana and incumbent lawmaker Syeda Asifa Ashrafi Papia are leading two factions of Mohila Dal.

Against this backdrop, Khaleda Zia sat with a number of her senior female colleagues including BNP standing committee member Sarwari Rahman and

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NOR'WESTER Mother, baby killed

UNB, Sirajganj

A young mother and her baby daughter burnt to death at home in a fire as the season's first nor'wester in Sirajganj Wednesday night wrecked some thatched houses.

The victims were identified as Shakitan Begum, 25, wife of Nazrul Islam, and their four-month-old daughter Subarna.

Police said an electric wire from a nearby pole snapped under the whips of the rain-storm at about 1:30am and fell on Nazrul's house at

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BOGRA 20MW RENTAL POWER Plant uncertain

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

After failing to fulfil contractual obligations and then suing the government to dodge penalty for that, local company Energy Prima is now asking the Power Development Board to take 14 megawatts of "free" electricity from its 24MW Bogra rental power project.

So far the PDB has not responded to the proposal to avoid legal complications.

Energy Prima sent two letters to the PDB and power ministry last May, seeking permission to supply free power to the national grid. However, it seeks the fuel and operational cost for the power generation.

The Bogra plant was supposed to come into operation in May 2008. As the company failed to meet the deadline, the PDB extended this time up till October 2008. But till date, Energy Prima--which had no prior experience of running a rental plant--could not commercially launch the plant.

According to the contract the company was to supply power till May 2011.

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RU VIOLENCE Two Jamaat leaders land in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two Jamaat leaders arrested over the recent violence at Rajshahi University were sent to jail yesterday after end of their remand.

Of them, Rajshahi city Jamaat General Secretary Abul Kalam Azad had been remanded twice and Siddique Hossain, assistant secretary of the same unit and a member of the RU syndicate, thrice.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate

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Civil society rallies round ethnic rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society members yesterday gathered on the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital raising their voice against the recent aggression by Bangalee settlers towards the indigenous people of Rangamati and Khagrachhari hill districts.

Addressing a gathering organised by Nagorik Samaj (citizens' forum), they warned that the atrocity is a threat to democracy and the state.

Demanding punishment of the perpetrators, speakers also emphasised the need for settling land dispute terming it the main cause behind the hill district crises.

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Another local co to market anti-cancer drugs

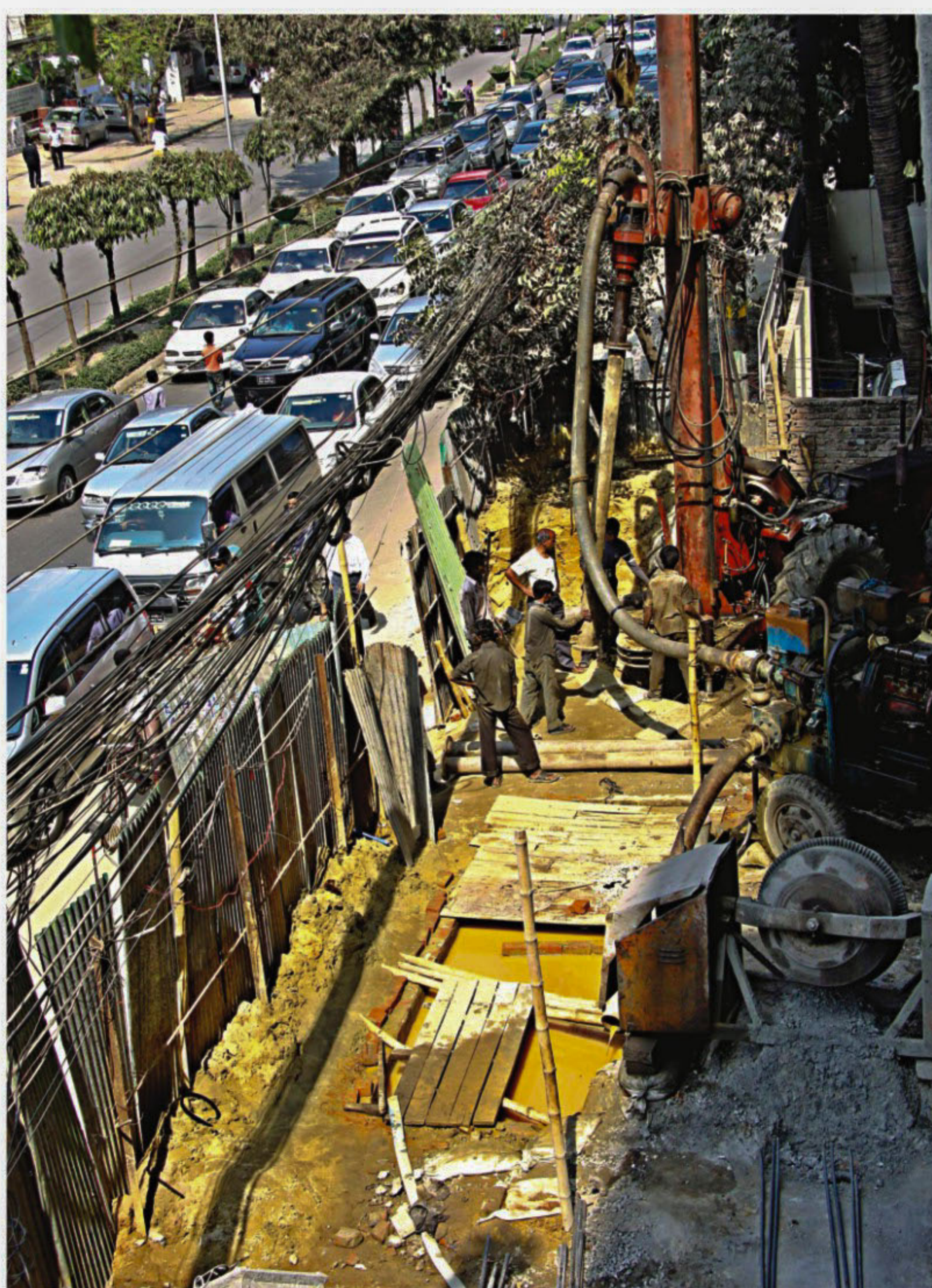
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Techno Drugs Pharmaceuticals will market anti-cancer drugs from March this year with a view to providing cancer patients with good quality drugs at a cheaper rate.

Shahjalaluddin Ahmed, managing director of Techno Drugs, yesterday said at a programme at the National Press Club that the company has been manufacturing anti-cancer drugs with the brand names, Gencetin, Paclitex, Oxalotin, Cesalin, Doxorub, 5 Fluril and Cylomide.

The drugs are being preserved in powder form using lyophilization that would help maintain the quality of the drugs, and their price will

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Premier Square Bhaban (house-78 between Gulshan-1 and -2) occupies the pavement with a makeshift corrugated-iron-sheet fence forcing pedestrians to use the street risking their lives.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HC clears way for DCC poll schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in a verdict yesterday cleared the way for the Election Commission's declaration of schedule for holding elections to Dhaka City Corporation and its wards, by discharging five separate writ petitions challenging the process of demarcating the DCC areas.

The court observed in the verdict that the DCC mayor and the councillors of its wards are still holding their offices although their tenures have expired long ago and they have no mandate to hold the offices now.

It hoped that the EC and the government would take steps for holding the elections to DCC and its wards as early as possible, as election is the main process for establishing democracy.

The EC has reportedly advanced much in the process of delimiting the areas of DCC and its wards in accordance with the provisions of the law and the EC should not be restricted in completing this job in the interest of the people, it said.

It seems that the EC has no lack of sincerity in demarcating the areas of DCC, the court said.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Borhan Uddin pronounced the verdict after hearing the arguments placed by the counsels for the petitioners and the EC and the government.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza and EC's counsel Shahdeen Malik told newsmen that there is no hindrance to declaring the schedule for holding the elections to DCC and its wards.

Sajjad Hossain, Abdul Quddus, Shamim Mollah, Syed Mohiuddin and Babul Sheikh, voters of different wards of DCC, had filed separate writ petitions with the HC on different dates earlier this month challenging the EC's process of delimitation.

The petitioners prayed to the court to direct the government and the EC to demarcate afresh DCC wards ensuring that each ward has equal population.

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NEW ISLAMIST GROUP

All detainees set free in Ctg

They warn of tougher movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

In the face of exhortation by newly emerging Islamist outfit Hefazat-e Islam, police yesterday released all 40 madrasa students who were arrested Wednesday on charge of clashing with law enforcers in Chittagong.

The release came in sequel to a late night negotiation on Wednesday between madrasa teachers and senior police officials, said sources present during the negotiation.

Additional Superintendent of Police Amena Begum said madrasa authorities contacted police for the negotiation. However, Hefazat-e Islam leader Musa Izhar claimed that police released the students after they had threatened police with a tougher movement.

Meanwhile, police recovered a service rifle yesterday afternoon. The madrasa students allegedly snatched it Wednesday evening near Hathazari madrasa.

Vehicular movement on Chittagong-Hathazari highway became normal when the agitating madrasa students moved their barricade around 9:00pm, just before the madrasa authorities sat in the meeting with police.

Superintendent of Police Md ZA Morshed, Ameer of Hefazat-e Islam and Director General (Mohtamim) of Darul Ulum

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think regional connectivity with China will have positive impact on our economy and politics?

Yes (90.2%)
No (7.9%)
No Comments (1.9%)

Total votes: 835

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the law and order situation in the capital declined since the AL led government came to power?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

February 26

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fajr | 5-20 | 5-55 |
| Juma | 12-30 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-30 | 4-45 |
| Maghrib | 6-03 | 6-07 |
| Esha | 7-30 | 8-00 |

Source: Islamic Foundation