

NIMTALI DISASTER

Deadline to remove chemical warehouses expires today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The timeframe set to remove all chemical warehouses from Nimtali in the Old Dhaka gets expired today...

On June 3, a deadly fire broke out at Nimtali residential area, which was intensified from a chemical warehouse claiming over a hundred lives.

Following the fire accident, the government asked businessmen and traders to remove their chemical warehouses from the area by August 17, and later extended the timeframe till September 30.

Poribesh Bachao Andolan, a platform working to save environment, demanded a number of times the withdrawal of the chemical warehouses, but without any effect.

PBA yesterday raised the demand once again at a human chain at Nimtali where peo-

ple have been living under high risk as most of the buildings in the densely populated area house stores of flammable substances.

A good number of Nimtali residents joined the human chain in support of the demand, and environmental workers blamed the government departments concerned for the laxity.

They said the newly set deadline will expire, yet initiatives are hardly taken to withdraw the factories from Nimtali.

PBA also demanded formulation of an act to stop storing flammable objects at the residential areas in the city, with immediate steps to remove the stores and factories of chemicals.

The platform also urged the government to set up an industrial zone at the outskirts of the city so that traders can store flammable object there.

PBA leaders Syed Sagiruzzaman Shafeeq, Taufiqur Rahman Santu, Sabina Nayeem and leaders of other environmental organisations joined the human chain.



Poribesh Bachao Andolan stages a demonstration at Nimtali in the city yesterday demanding removal of all chemical warehouses from the residential areas.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chowdhury Shahidul Islam Nayan, a former vice-president of Bangladesh Engineering Industry Owners' Association (BEIOA) and social worker, passed away at a hospital in the city on Monday night at the age of 66, says a press release.

He played a significant role to flourish the engineering industry in the country.

BEIOA president and secretary general condoled his death.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 57th death anniversary of Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharod, a pioneer of promoting Bangla literature and culture, says a press release.

He was awarded with 'Swadhinata Padak' posthumously. Karim played a significant role in promoting Bangla language, literature and culture during the British and post-British period.

On the occasion, Bangla Academy, Samaj Rupantor Addhyayan and different other organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes marking the day.

Shamsul Alam

METRO DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Shamsul Alam, a chartered accountant, says a press release.

He was a former chief executive of Burmah Eastern Ltd and Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Kamal Uddin Khan, elder son of Samsuddin Khan, will be held at new colony mosque at Asadgate in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Kamal passed away in the city on September 26 due to a cardiac arrest at the age of 54. He left behind his one son, one daughter, wife and mother.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

ATTACK ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN NAOGAON

'Land grabbers' still issuing threats

Two cases filed, none yet to be arrested

ANWAR ALI from Naogaon

Almost 47 families, mostly indigenous, could hardly forget the indiscriminate attack by a group of people on them to grab the victim's land at Nakhoil Boarambari village in Niamatpur upazila of Naogaon on September 23.

Though two cases were filed with Niamatpur Police Station in this connection, none was arrested as of yesterday. Rather,

the "land grabbers" are now threatening them, alleged the families.

Shariful, the alleged "Land grabber", along with his 60 men equipped with sticks, spears (locally known as ballam), and machetes attacked the houses of the families at dawn on the day, said local people.

The attackers broke open the doors of their thatched houses and beat them up indiscriminately with spears and

other sharp weapons, leaving five men and four women injured.

They dragged Ruhel Hembrom, a three-year-old son of Biswanatha Hembrom, out of the room with holding his legs and circling him around over the head and threw out the child on the ground.

The injured victims are Biswanath Hembrom, Laxmiram Murmu, Lobin Mardi, Molin, Sumon Murmu, Mainu Mardi, Probhati Mardi, Digi Mardi and Arati.

While visiting the area, the villagers expressed deep concern over lack of security and shelters as the attackers are still moving around area with issuing threats to the victims.

Local people said five indigenous men -- Laxmiram Murmu, Marang Hembrom, Noksha Murmu, Toro Murmu and Lobin Mardi -- inherited a piece of 72 bighas of land.

As they went to India during the War of Liberation, they could not establish their rights on the land after returning home.

As situation improved after the present government assumed power, some 38 indigenous and nine Muslim families started living on the land setting up straw houses.

The "land grabbers" first attacked them on July 12 this year and damaged their houses. Failing to capture the land, the grabbers again attacked on them on September 23 morning, said the victims.

The affected families had a little food until some political leaders and indigenous leaders visited the spot and distributed some relief materials, including rice, pulse, salt, clothes and medicine.

Pankaj Bhattachariya, presidium member of Gono Forum, Shakti Pada Tripura, organising secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, advocate M Shah Alam, an investigator of Ain O Shalish Kendra, Dipayan Khisha, vice chairman of Kapaeeng Foundation, Rabindranath Soren, Amin Kujur and Sabin Munda of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad visited the scene yesterday.

They demanded arrest of the attackers and establishment of the land rights of the indigenous people immediately.

Contacted, Shariful claimed they purchased the land from one Kashimuddin in 1952 and they went there on the day to recover it.

Officer-in-Charge of the police station Shahid Suhrawardy told The Daily Star that they could not arrest the attackers as they went into hiding after the incident.

Abandoned mortal shell injures three boys

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three minor boys were injured in a mortar blast when an army exercise was in progress at Jalalabad Cantonment in Sylhet city suburb yesterday.

The victims were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College hospital.

The blast occurred around 2:00pm while the boys were playing with an abandoned mortar shell they found near their house.

Dr Saber Ahmed, on emergency duty, said some army men brought the injured to the hospital and get them admitted immediately. Enamul Haque, 14, son of Abdul Jabbar of Jaintapur upazila, his brother Ashique, 4, and Shahin, 9, son of Jahangir Alam of Jalalabad Cantonment residential area were undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Enamul's right wrist had been blown away and he sustained leg injuries too; but the rest two suffered minor wounds, according to a hospital official.

Superintendent of Police (in-charge) of Sylhet, Forhat Ahmed, said it is not clear how the incident had taken place at village Pashchim Thakurermati of Jaintapur.

The blast might have occurred due to callous handling of the mortar shell, which the boys got abandoned, said Forhat.

The station commander of Jalalabad Cantonment could not be contacted despite repeated attempts over phone.



PHOTO: STAR

Pankaj Bhattachariya visits the child who was threw off during the attack on indigenous people at Nakhoil Boarambari village in Niamatpur upazila of Naogaon.

Appeal for help

Joy Narayan Sinha is just 35, yet he lost voice and became partially paralysed after suffering a stroke.

On the bed, Joy has been fighting for life as his health condition is deteriorating day by day for absence of proper treatment.

A farmer, Joy's father Purna Chandra Sinha, has no other choice but to sell out what he has -- some land -- and he did it to save his child.

Doctors said Joy needs better treatment, which involves Tk 8-10 lakh since the patient is facing gradual damage to his rest of the organs.

So, Purna Chandra has appealed to the generous people to extend financial help.

Joy is now under the care of Neuro Surgeon Dr Rajkumar Roy of Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Joy's family resides at Banagaon village of Baliadangi upazila in Thakurgaon. Contributions can be sent to Purna Chandra Sinha, savings A/C No. 4523, Janata Bank, Lahirihat Branch, Baliadangi, Thakurgaon, and contact on 01720333092.

Practical edn on leprosy stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a consultative meeting on practical education on leprosy yesterday stressed the need for destigmatising leprosy, which causes alienation and endless

social sufferings to the affected people.

They emphasized integrated practical education on leprosy and exposure along with theoretical education for MBBS undergraduate students, says a press

release.

The Centre for Medical Education (CME) under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) organised the meeting at CME at Mohakhali.

The Leprosy Mission Bangladesh sponsored the programme attended by teachers of several Medical Colleges in Dhaka, Comilla and Rangpur, Leprosy Mission Directors and CME officials.

The meeting recommended that the Leprosy Mission would do a big job by providing possible exposures, which is crucially important for clinically handling leprosy cases.

This will help the process of making leprosy treatment integrated in general health institutions as a step towards the achievement of 'A Bangladesh without leprosy' - the vision towards which Leprosy Mission Bangladesh works in the country, they added.

Prof Dr Shefyetullah, director of DGHS, Dr Zahidul Basunia, registrar, BM & DC, Prof Dr Rouf, principal of Rangpur Medical College, and Prof Saiful Islam, director of CME among others spoke.



Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over all the seven divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:47pm today and rises at 5:50am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 22.8 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Special Announcement

Banglalink has been expanding as well as upgrading its network continuously. During this upgrading process, some customers might have experienced difficulties on Tuesday, September 28, 2010, for a limited time. We are very sorry for this unintentional inconvenience. If you are an affected subscriber, you will receive 10 free minutes and an SMS notification in this regard tomorrow (October 1, 2010).

We thank you for staying with us.

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