

Four burnt in blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four youths were burnt critically in a blast at a building in the city's Moghbazar area early yesterday.

Injured Milon, 30, his neighbours Shohag, 28, Rajon, 27, and Mosharaf, 30, have been undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

A bang was heard in Milon's room on the ground floor of the building near Moghbazar level crossing around 4:00am, Milon's next door neighbour Masum Hossain told The Daily Star.

"Waken by the bang, I found the door of the room blown out on the floor and the four crying for help," mentioned Masum.

Hearing the big sound, locals came to their rescue and whisked them to DMCH.

Injured Mosharaf said they went to Milon's room to enjoy the night before the weekend. "As one of us tried to light a match for smoking, a fire engulfed the room immediately with a bang."

Hospital sources said 30 to 56 percent of the victims' bodies were burnt.

Police suspected gas leaked from a pipeline might have caused the explosion.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Aliul Islam, former chief selector of Bangladesh Cricket Board, and former captain of Abahani cricket team, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held for the salvation of the departed soul.

AKM Jahirul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of A K M J a h i r u l Islam, former principal of Abudharr Ghifari College and former president of Bangladesh College Shikkhak Samity, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at his daughter's Dhanmondi residence in the city.

Prof Habibur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Prof H a b i b u r Rahman of D h a k a University, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and a milad mahfil will be held at Kichak village in Shibgonj upazila of Bogra.



PHOTO: STAR

A bus and a truck rest precariously with one tire of each suspended in the air after they tore through the concrete girder of Poradah bridge on Jhenidah-Kushtia highway under Shaikupura upazila in Jhenidah yesterday.

978 bullets found in B'baria

STAR REPORT

Police recovered 978 bullets of three-not-three rifle and light machine gun from four sealed steel boxes found in the Ghughu River of Brahmanbaria district on Thursday night.

A group of workers located the boxes at Saldsa-Kayumpur point while a dredging work was going on in the river. They immediately informed the local authority about their finding, police sources said.

On information, a team of police from Kasba Thana rushed to the spot and recovered the bullets after breaking open the steel boxes, covered in mud and moss, reports our correspondent in Brahmanbaria.

Gazi Sakhawat Hossain, officer in-charge of the police station, said yesterday the ammunition seems to be live, but their

manufacturing date has yet to be ascertained.

A police team was working to find out how the ammunition boxes got dropped into the river, the OC said adding that some bullets bore inscriptions--POP 68 and POP 71.

A general diary was recorded in connection with the incident.

Meanwhile, members of Rapid Action Battalion in separate drives in Jhenidah town recovered arms, machete, bombs and 525 bottles of phenisidyl on Thursday night and yesterday morning.

They also arrested five people in connection with their alleged involvement in arms and phenisidyl smuggling, reports our Jhenidah correspondent.

The law enforcers recovered a light gun, a bomb, a machete from Beparipara on Thursday night and arrested Harun-Ur-Rashid, Azizul Haq and Nasir Uddin.



The four steel ammunition boxes, containing 978 bullets meant for three-not-three rifle and light machine gun, found while Ghughu River of Brahmanbaria was being dredged on Thursday.

PHOTO: STAR

Prof Khatibee passes away

CU CORRESPONDENT

Dr Muhammad Anwarul Huq Khatibee, Prof of Islamic Studies Department of Chittagong University (CU), passed away at a private hospital in the port city yesterday, due to a cardiac arrest at the age of 60.

He left behind his wife, one son, two daughters, a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death, says a press release.

He was buried in his family graveyard at Kalaujan village in Lohagara upazila of Chittagong.

CU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Md Anwarul Azim Arif and Pro-VC Prof Mohammad Alauddin condoled his death.

He, however, did not mention clearly about

Paschimbanga expert body delays report on Teesta

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

An expert committee of the Paschimbanga government is set to delay its report on the Teesta water-sharing issue between India and Bangladesh.

Head of the committee Kalyan Rudra, a leading hydrologist, hinted this on Thursday.

Paschimbanga Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on November 15 last year had appointed Rudra as the head of the one-man commission to find out a scientific solution to resolve the issue.

"A portion of my research is still incomplete. I need to study the flow of water in February and March and get some data from the central government to incorporate those in my report," the hydrologist told newsmen after a meeting with Chief Secretary of Paschimbanga government Samar Ghosh in Kolkata.

Sources said Mamata may also raise the issue of breakdown of two sluice gates of Farakka Barrage which has resulted in fall of water level.

the submission of the report.

Meanwhile, Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai is set to meet Mamata in Kolkata today, when they are expected to discuss the issues of Teesta water-sharing deal.

Mathai is likely to convey to Mamata that India would not sign any accord with Bangladesh that would harm the interests of Paschimbanga whose concerns will be addressed and accommodated as the federal government would like to see a consensus with Paschimbanga on the issue.

During the talks, they may also discuss the agreement on Indo-Bangla land boundary and exchange of enclaves as Trinamool Congress headed by Mamata had reportedly objected to some of its provisions.

Sources said Mamata may also raise the issue of breakdown of two sluice gates of Farakka Barrage which has resulted in fall of water level.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

JS resolution for political gains

Says Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed yesterday said the government, on Thursday, passed the parliamentary resolution to take legal action against those obstructing the war crimes trial for its own political gains.

"It would not be the right decision to identify someone as an obstructor of the trial if that person raises questions on the transparency of the trial process.

"Such a proposal is nothing but a sign of the government's moral bankruptcy," he said.

Moudud was talking to reporters after unveiling his book, "Bangladesh: A Study of the Democratic Regimes", at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Prof Dr Emajuddin Ahmed, Prof Talukder Moniruzzaman, Prof Dr Mahbub Ullah, Barrister Rafiqul Haque, New Age editor Nurul Kabir, Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman and journalist Shakhat Mahmud also spoke on the occasion.

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Five-yr campaign launched to save Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) yesterday launched a five-year long mass awareness campaign through different programs from Khulna University campus on how to protect the Sundarbans.

The programme under the Sundarbans Tiger Project has been launched for 26 unions of Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Pirojpur and Barguna districts -- adjacent to the Sundarbans -- for a period of four years.

In the fifth year, the campaign would cover all the unions of eight upazilas in these five districts.

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Arefin Siddique inaugurated the campaign as chief guest. Presided over by WTB Chief Executive Dr Md Anowarul Islam, the inaugural function was also attended by Asia Program Head of Zoological Society of London Adam Burlo, Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University Prof Dr Md Saifuddin Shah and Chief Conservator of Forests Md Yunus Ali.

The daylong event included a colourful procession, painting competition, discussion and a cultural function with participation of famous local and national artistes.

Prof Arefin in his speech called upon the people of all strata to work in a concerted manner to protect and preserve resources of the world's largest mangrove forest.

He said it is moral responsibility of the people to protect the Sundarbans and its biodiversity at any cost. "Because, it is not only the source of earning of livelihood of thousands of coastal people but it also protects them from onslaught of natural disasters."

Earlier in the morning, a procession was brought out from Khulna city's Shaheed Hadis Park that ended on the campus.



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