



Garbage is left on the street near Mouchak Market in the capital yesterday. Locals dump their trash there regularly even though there is no skip.

PHOTO: STAR

NSA, Snowden clash over 2013 internal email release

REUTERS, Washington

An email exchange released on Thursday shows Edward Snowden questioned the US National Security Agency's legal training programmes, but provides no evidence the former contractor complained internally about vast NSA surveillance programmes that he later leaked to the media.

Snowden responded in an email to the Washington Post that the release by U.S. officials "is incomplete."

The release of the April 2013 emails between Snowden and the NSA's legal office is the latest round in a battle between Snowden, who casts himself as a crusading whistleblower, and U.S. security officials, who say he failed to report his concerns to superiors before acting.

In an interview with NBC News on Wednesday, Snowden said he had raised alarms at multiple levels about the NSA's broad collection of phone, email and Internet connections.

"I have raised the complaints not just officially in writing through email to these offices and these individuals but to my supervisors, to my colleagues, in more than one office," Snowden told the network.

"Many, many of these individuals were shocked by these programmes," Snowden said, adding that he was advised: "If you say something about

Scientists find compound to fight SARS-MERS virus

AFP, Geneva

An international team of scientists say they have identified a compound that can fight coronaviruses, responsible for the SARS and MERS outbreaks, which currently have no cure.

Coronaviruses affected the upper and lower respiratory tracts in humans. They are the reason for up to a third of common colds.

A more severe strain of the virus, thought to have come from bats, triggered the global SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) epidemic in 2002 that killed nearly 800 people.

The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is a new strain discovered in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and thought to have originated in camels. More deadly but less contagious, it has so far killed 193 people across 636 confirmed cases.

But now a team of scientists led by Edward Trybala from the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, and Volker Thiel from the University of Bern have discovered a compound called K22, which appears to block the ability of the virus to spread in humans.

They first noticed that K22 was able to combat a weak form of coronavirus that causes mild cold-like symptoms,

Ex-Rab officials

FROM PAGE 1

Three Rab officials were fired on May 6 for their alleged involvement in the abduction and killing of seven people late last month. The other ex-Rab member is Lt Commander SM Masud Rana. The three were held later.

Arguing in favour of the remand prayer, Shakawat Hossain Khan, president of Narayanganj Lawyers' Association, told the court that the two Rab officials have admitted their involvement in the seven-murder and disclosed important information in this regard. The two should be remanded further for verifying the information.

Citing the report submitted to the

court by the investing officer of the case Mamunur Rashid Mandal, OC of the district Detective Branch of police, Shakawat said the prime accused in the case Nur Hossain was a very close acquaintance of the three arrested ex-officials of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). Nur kidnapped the seven and later had them killed by the Rab, he added.

Speaking in the court on behalf of himself and Arif, accused Tareque denied their involvement in the murder of seven.

The lawyers' association refused to represent any of the accused in the case as senior lawyer Chandan Sarkar was one of the victims.

2 more confess

FROM PAGE 16

Shanan said he had heard Jihad instruct 25 to 30 of his supporters to attack Ekram's car.

Anik in his deposition said Jihad instructed him to inform Abid when Ekram leaves the Feni Diabetic Hospital on that day. Anik informed Abid accordingly. Anik also mentioned the names of people whom he saw approach Ekram's car before it was set on fire.

Afterwards, Jihad asked Anik to tell his uncle -- Feni BNP leader Minar -- that Ekram chairman was dead. Anik followed the instruction.

Another arrestee in the case Helal Uddin told the court Thursday that arrestees Abid, Shipon and Shifat went to his home on the night of May 20 after Ekram was killed. Detained suspect Saikat and Anik went there the following day. All of them were his school friends, Heleb said.

When they were discussing Ekram's murder inside his home, Heleb learnt about Jihad's involvement in the murder.

The court sent Shanan, Anik, and Helal to Feni jail after their depositions were recorded Thursday.

Suspect Belal Hossain Patwari, who was arrested on Thursday, was placed on a five-day remand yesterday.

Police so far arrested 21 people in connection with the gruesome murder. Four of them are in jail while 17 are in remand for questioning.

Paritosh Ghosh, superintendent of police of Feni, told The Daily Star yesterday that they were trying to arrest another suspect Jahangir Kabir Adel, a joint secretary of Feni district AL.

Meanwhile, Feni district AL will hold a milad and doa mahfil at the party office today. They will also hold a protest rally demanding the trial of those accused in the Ekram murder case.

Phulgazi upazila AL called a hartal on Monday demanding the immediate arrest and punishment of Ekram's killers.

Students build

FROM PAGE 16

The situation worsens during the monsoon when students residing on the southern side have to take a detour of almost five kilometres to reach the northern side.

Chairman Fazlul Haque Prodhan of Shuknupukhuri Union Parishad said, "We have submitted several letters to the department concerned and local lawmaker Ramesh Chandra Sen about building a bridge here but nothing happened."

Earlier this month, youths of the area got together and decided to take the matter into their own hands and build a bamboo bridge to temporarily mitigate their sufferings.

They collected bamboo and money from villagers.

During a visit to the area on Tuesday, The Daily Star correspondent saw the young men working on the bridge.

Bashudeb Barman, 48, of Dangapara village told The Daily Star that local youths had taken up the initiative on their own and worked voluntarily to build the bridge.

Nur Alam Bhuiyan, a student of Lauthuti Junior High School and resident of Dangapara village, said, "The bridge will greatly benefit students of Lauthuti Junior High School and Lauthuti Government Primary School who have to travel from the south to the northern side each day."

The temporary bridge now also eases the challenges faced in traveling to the local market each day, villagers said.

Drug peddler

FROM PAGE 16

3:30am, acting on a tip-off that a gang of drug peddlers was holding a secret meeting there.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the gang started firing and throwing crude bombs at police. Police returned fire, triggering a "gun battle," said Rafiqul.

Taher received bullets during the "gunfight" and others managed to flee the scene. Taher was rushed to Jessore Medical College Hospital where he died later, said police.

Uproar over question leak

FROM PAGE 1

Choice Questions of yet another recruitment test in Rajshahi yesterday.

There have been widespread allegations that questions of a number of papers in the recently held Secondary School Certificate and the ongoing Higher Secondary Certificate examinations were leaked.

Alongside hardcopies, the questions were leaked allegedly on Facebook pages and through SMS as well.

Similar complaints were made from across the country during the Junior School Certificate and Primary Terminal examinations last year.

The education ministry had then formed a probe committee, which found proofs of question paper leak of English and Bangla subjects in four districts. That's all the government did. It did not even cancel the examinations, let alone tracking and punishing the perpetrators.

It is the same situation in the government recruitment tests.

The Daily Star has learnt that question papers of at least 25 tests for recruiting teachers, health officials and bankers in government institutions were leaked in the last five years.

However, no visible action was taken to bring to book those responsible or to prevent such incidents from happening.

In fact, the government in almost all the cases have dismissed the allegations, terming them "rumours".

According to the Public Examinations (Offences) Act- 1980 and the Public Examinations (Offences) (Amendment) Act- 1992, disclosing, publishing or distributing questions, by any means whatsoever, before any public examination is a punishable offence. And the offenders may face jail terms between three and 10 years, including fines.

The acts stipulate the same punishment for anyone disclosing or distributing fake questions of such examinations.

However, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid outright rejected Prof Zafar's remarks, saying there is no possibility of any official's involvement in leaking questions.

"He [Zafar] did not say it right. Once the questions are printed from the press, none has the chance to see them," he told The Daily Star last night.

The minister also differed with Zafar's comment that the ministry is not admitting the leaks.

"If we did not admit it, why would we form the probe committee?" he said.

He also asked Prof Zafar to come up

with evidence to back his claim.

A committee, formed by the government to probe the leak of English Second Paper questions of the HSC exams, is likely to meet Zafar Iqbal today, said sources.

Meanwhile in Rajshahi, several examinees of the non-government teachers' registration examination held yesterday alleged that the question paper had been sold on Thursday night.

The questions were available at several photocopy stores and dormitories of different educational institutions in Rajshahi for Tk 10 to Tk 1,000, reports our Rajshahi correspondent.

When they showed our correspondent four sets of question papers bought from these sources, it was found that 98 questions of the 100 matched with the original question paper.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner Mesbah Uddin Chowdhury of Rajshahi said they were looking into the allegation.

"We believe there is no chance of question papers leaking from Rajshahi because a foolproof security was maintained at the treasury [where the questions are kept] and while these were taken to the examination centres," the DC told The Daily Star.

Lightning kills

FROM PAGE 16

The injured have been undergoing treatment at different hospitals and clinics.

In another incident, a woman died of cardiac arrest following shock from a thunder strike at Pathardanga Adarshagram village in Porsha upazila.

The victim is Sabina Khatun, 35, wife of Nur Mohammad.

In Chapainawabganj, a housewife, Samera, of Masterpara village in Gomostapur upazila was hit by a thunderbolt and died on the spot. She was looking for fallen mangoes

Tension rises on Myanmar border

FROM PAGE 1

our troops followed their suggestions. But suddenly they opened fire on our troops ... We retaliated," BGB chief told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Sources in BGB and locals claimed that around 600 bullets were exchanged between 11:00am and 4:00pm.

"We're still waiting for a body," the BGB chief said.

Locals claimed that a BGB man collapsed on the ground during the shooting of Wednesday. After the BGB patrol team had retreated, the Myanmar Border Guard Police came across the no man's land and took the man away.

A foreign ministry official quoting a top ranking BGB official said the situation on the ground was not suitable for holding a flag meeting and

getting the nayek back.

"We are in contact with the Myanmar government and are closely monitoring the situation," said a senior official of the foreign ministry.

The BGB had deployed additional forces and heavy weapons along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Naikkhangchhari of Bandarban since Wednesday while Myanmar deployed its army.

BGB chief Maj Gen Aziz said they are adequately prepared and were trying to resolve the situation on the ground and through diplomatic means.

Dhaka yesterday lodged fresh protests with Myanmar against the firing and demanded immediate release of the BGB member.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh embassy in Yangon handed over a note

verbale to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar yesterday protesting the firing and demanding release of the BGB personnel and a thorough probe into the incident.

On Thursday, the ambassador of Myanmar in Dhaka was summoned to the foreign ministry and was handed a similar note verbale.

BGB sources said without any provocation, Myanmar border guards had also opened fire on a BGB patrol team at Baishpari in Chundhoom of Naikkhangchhari on May 21.

The next day a flag meeting was held and the BGP apologised.

Bangladesh and Myanmar share 152kms of border.

Our correspondents in Bandarban, Cox's Bazar and our diplomatic correspondent contributed to this report.

INSURANCE DEVELOPMENT & REGULATORY AUTHORITY (IDRA)
Sadharan Bima Bhaban-2, 139, Motijheel C/A (2nd floor), Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Website: www.idra.org.bd

Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are invited from the bonafide Contractors/firms for supply & installation of 2 (two) nos, diesel generator (200 KVA prime 1 no. & 100 KVA prime 1 no.) at Insurance Development & Regulatory Authority, Head office at Sadharan Bima Corporation Tower (8th floor), 37/A, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.

Necessary information are given below:-

01. Procuring entity	: Insurance Development & Regulatory Authority (IDRA)
02. Source of Funds	: Own fund
03. Invitation for Tender No.	: IDRA/GAD/1515/2014/ date- 29/05/14
04. Method of Procurement	: Open Tendering Method (OTM)
05. Eligibility of Tenderer	: Any well reputed firm or supplier who fulfills the criteria stipulated in PPR 2008 and Standard Tender Document. The firm should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Minimum business experiences of 5 (Five) years. ii) Supply & installation experience of at least 2 (two) nos. diesel generator of minimum 200 KVA each work value not less than 20.00 lac in a single order at any Government / Semi-government / Autonomous organization during last 2 (Two) years.
06. Name & address of the offices receiving tender document.	: INSURANCE DEVELOPMENT & REGULATORY AUTHORITY (IDRA) Sadharan Bima Bhaban-2, 139, Motijheel C/A (2nd floor), Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
07. Last date & time for purchasing tender document.	: ...11...../...06...../...2014... up to office hour.
08. Last date & time for submission tender document.	:12...../...06...../...2014..... up to...2.30...pm.
09. Date, time and place for tender opening	: All tenders will be opened at INSURANCE DEVELOPMENT & REGULATORY AUTHORITY (IDRA) Sadharan Bima Bhaban-2, 139, Motijheel C/A (2nd floor), Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. On ...12...../...06...../...2014.... at ...3.00...pm (Intending tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the Tender opening with authorization letter)
10. Brief Description of Works	: The works consist of Supply & Installation of Generator (European Standard), ATS and Canopy both made by generator assembling co.
11. Time for completion of the Works	: 50 (fifty) days from the date of issue of Contract Award.