

Explosion in N'ganj flat leaves two youths injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj
Two youths sustained burns in an explosion believed to be triggered by gas leakage inside a flat in Ruggani of Narayanganj on Friday. Ibrahim Mia, 25, son of house owner Abul Khair, and Ibrahim's brother-in-law Aynal Haq, 30, were injured as they were caught up in a fire following the explosion. They were being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A portion of the wall of a room where the explosion occurred collapsed. After primary investigation, a bomb disposal unit and fire service teams said the explosion occurred as gas accumulated in the room due to a leakage. "There was no evidence of a bomb on the scene," said Mostafizur Rahman, Narayanganj additional superintendent of police. He said a five-member probe committee was formed on Friday to investigate the incident. The committee was given a week to submit its report.

Police seized a laptop of Ibrahim. Officer-in-Charge of Ruggani Police Station Ismail Hossain said Khair, who was once a Kuwait expatriate, built the house named "Camilla House" a few years back. In one of the two units with the first floor, Khair lived with his wife and two sons in the first floor and Ibrahim and Aynal lived in the other flat. Around 3:30am on that day, a huge explosion took place in the flat where Ibrahim and Aynal lived leaving the duo severely wounded, the OC said.



City corporation workers removing waste of sacrificial animals from a cattle market at Purbachal in the capital on Sunday. PHOTO: PTD

A job well done

Dhaka city corporations accomplish task of cleaning animal waste
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Except for some scattered waste, both of the Dhaka city corporations have successfully cleaned around 29,000 tonnes of waste of sacrificial animals from the capital. And the credit goes to the corporation officials and workers who have worked since the Eid day noon to give the dwellers respite from stench of dung, blood and unsexed parts of the animals. Expressing satisfaction, Mohammad Hakim, an elderly resident, said "I couldn't even imagine it about two to three years ago. I hope such cleaning efforts will continue..." Habiba Naznin, a resident of Elephant Road, said, "Before, it used to be difficult to inhale due to the heavy stench even as they were able to bring some changes."

Seeking anonymity, a Dhaka South City Corporation official said as the lanes

were narrow in many parts of the old town, it took longer to clean those places. Visiting yesterday noon, it was seen that the waste of sacrificial animals was scattered here and there in Dhupkhola, Shantinagar, Swamibagh, Dayaganj, Dholakhal, Adabar and Shekheret areas. On Sunday, DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon said 90 percent of the waste has been removed from the cattle markets and slaughtering zones. "We made a pledge to clean the city within 24 hours... as per our commitment, we have removed around 90 percent of waste from both the north and south city corporation areas," he told a press conference at Nagar Bhaban. The DSCC cleaned around 18,000 tonnes of waste while DNCC around 11,000 tonnes in the last two days. The corporations had begun their cleaning drive from Friday night. DSCC Chief Waste Management Officer Air Comptroller Shaiful Alam

said, "We begin our cleaning drive the night before the Eid day. Otherwise, it would not be possible to complete the cleaning." At least 4.5 lakh cattle were slaughtered during the three consecutive days from Saturday. In the last three days, around 12,000 cleaners worked with 350 vehicles and other cleaning equipment. The corporations used social media and a hotline to receive complaints and to unmanage waste from the city dwellers. But the corporations could not lead cleaning drive at the temporary cattle markets in full swing due to the bamboo fences set up there. Saying that the fences create obstacle to launching a comprehensive cleaning drive, DNCC Chief Waste Management Officer Commodore MA Razzak said, "The DNCCs have begun to unfasten the fences. We, too, have begun our cleaning process."

Saifur Rahman's 8th anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the 8th death anniversary of former finance minister and BNP founding member M Saifur Rahman. He was the country's longest-serving finance minister. Born in Moulvibazar in 1932, he was elected four times to the parliament and delivered 12 national budgets. He took part in the 1952 Language Movement and was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2005. Saifur died in a road accident in 2009 on route to Dhaka from his Moulvibazar village home.



NEWS IN brief

Bangladesh concerned over North Korea nuclear tests

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh has expressed grave concerns at the successive nuclear tests conducted by North Korea. With utter disregard to the concerns expressed by the international community, North Korea has carried out its sixth nuclear test on September 3, according to a foreign ministry statement yesterday. "Such act of North Korea constitutes a threat to regional peace, security and stability," it said.

DSCC transport worker killed after attack in house

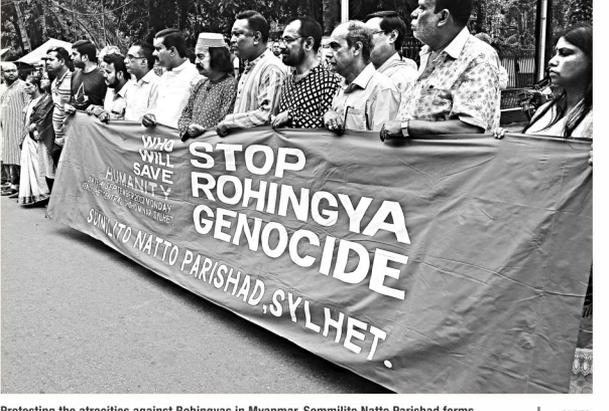
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) transport worker was reportedly stabbed dead and another severely injured in Hazaribagh area of Dhaka last evening. The deceased was identified as Arun Mia, 40. Injured Liton Mia, 25, is a cleaner of the city corporation. Arun and his brother-in-law, Liton Mia, 25, were stabbed at their City Corporation Colony residence in Ganakuli area around 5:30pm, police said. They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Arun succumbed to his injuries around 7:15pm. Sub-inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of the hospital police outpost, told The Daily Star. One Zinnab Ali along with his associates "attacked and stabbed" them at their residence, Bachchu said quoting the victims.

Barisal human chain protests

Rupa's rape
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
A human chain was formed yesterday in front of Barisal city's Ashwin Kumar Hall protesting the recent rape and murder of Rupa in a speeding bus. Sixteen socio-cultural and NGOs arranged the programme. Rabeya Khatun, president Bangladesh Mahila Parishad's Barisal unit, presided over the event. The speakers said most of the attackers of women go unpunished. They urged the government to ensure capital punishment for the rapist.

Death anniversary of Alhaj Ahmed Yunus today

CITY DESK
Today is the ninth death anniversary of Alhaj Ahmed Yunus, a former joint secretary of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, says a press release. He was also the founder president of Rajshahi Zilla Samity during his lifetime. Ahmed Yunus was actively involved in many social welfare programmes around the country. His family has requested relatives, friends and well-wishers to pray for the departed soul.



Protesting the atrocities against Rohingyas in Myanmar, Sommiilo Natto Parishad forms a human chain in Sylhet city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

SOUTHEAST ASIA WHO to consider climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Health ministers of 11 member countries of WHO Southeast Asia Region will meet in Male, Maldives on September 6-10 to set health priorities and discuss the health agenda. Building health systems resilient to climate change, improving access to essential medicines for all and intensifying efforts to end tuberculosis are among the key issues to be highlighted at the 70th regional committee session of the region, says a press release. World Health Organization Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom and Regional Director Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh will address the meeting where officials from Bangladesh, Bhutan, North Korea, India, Indonesia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste and representatives of partner organisations will be present. The meeting is likely to focus on viral hepatitis, a preventable disease that kills 4, 10,000 people in the region every year. Strengthening primary healthcare and the health workforce and progress towards universal health coverage are among issues being addressed at the meeting. The region bears a disproportionate 45 percent of the global TB burden. It will also focus on the actions needed to cut down road traffic injuries that cause 3, 16,000 deaths in the region annually. Vector control will also be highlighted at the meeting.

Muhith for separate zone

FROM PAGE 3
During the Liberation War in 1971, people of the then East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, had taken shelter in India. Muhith said, as Bangladesh understood well the problems of the Rohingya refugees. The Bangladesh government has done whatever needs to be done for the Rohingyas, he added. **NEXT GENERAL ELECTION**
Talking about parliamentary election, Muhith said it would likely be held in the end of December, 2018. According to a notification of the Election Commission, it will start preparation of the election in August. Taking that into consideration, it seems the nation will see its next general election in December, the finance minister said. The election will be very good and the BNP will participate in it. "I am sure about it." Muhith then continued to say that if the BNP did not participate, it would no longer be a party. The BNP knew fair elections were held only under the Awami League, he added. Responding to a query about the BNP's demand for election-time caretaker government, the finance minister said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last time put forward a proposal, according to which the incumbent government would turn into caretaker government during election. Hasina had also offered the charge of the home ministry to the opposition during election. The BNP did not accept that offer. Now since it is no longer a parliament, Muhith said the party would not be given that offer. If BNP chief Khaleeda Zia runs in the next election from his constituency in Sylhet, the minister said he would contest against her. Otherwise, he will support his brother in the election for the seat.

Struggling to survive

FROM PAGE 5
Maulana Gafur took great care of the pond. He also instructed his son not to fill it up, he added. "We clean it on a regular basis." **POND AT EASTERN PEACE**
According to locals, there used to be a pond at Peer Saheber Goli around 20 years back. The privately-owned reservoir was filled up by its owner in 1999 to construct a multi-story building in Eastern Peace. Kazi Mohammad Jalal Uddin, a resident of the area, said there were three ponds on the lane. "Many used to

bathe in those," he said. Sunil Kumar Roy, executive project manager of Eastern Housing, said an eight-storey building was constructed after filling up the reservoir. "The pond's water became polluted. It looked like an abandoned waterbody." He said the pond area was around one bigha of which the pond was around six kathas. **POND AT GULISTAN PARK**
The pond inside the Gulistan Park (now Matir Rahman Park) is around 1.25 acres and it is surrounded by trees.

It also has two ghats. But the quality of its water is deteriorating due to a lack of proper maintenance. Mohammed Sumon, a rickshaw-puller, said every day around 500 people bathe in it. Mohammad Fazul Haque, a gardener of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), said the pond is there since the British period. It is now being maintained by the DSCC. He alleged that the vendors and vagabonds are ruining the pond.



Marking BNP's 39th founding anniversary, party leaders and activists place wreaths at the grave of its founder and former president Ziaur Rahman in the capital on Friday. PHOTO: BNP

Ctg rawhide traders eye loss recovery

FROM PAGE 5
"They got each rawhide at Tk 300 to Tk 400 on an average and we bought per cattle hide at Tk 600 to Tk 1,200," Muslem said. He also expressed his frustration over the price of salt as it soared from

Tk 950 to Tk 1,250 per sack (74 kg). It took extra money to preserve per cattle hide, added Hazi Md Sekandar, president Chittagong City Corporation Rawhide Association. "We may run up losses if the tanners association remains determined on

the fixed price," he added. The government fixed Tk 45 to Tk 50 as the price of cowhide per square feet while the price of goat skin was determined between Tk 20 and Tk 50.