

42 tonnes of polythene seized

BSS, Rangpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Thursday seized 42 tonnes of banned polythene bags worth Tk 1 crore in Rangpur city and arrested a man in this connection.

The arrestee, Obaidul Islam, was held in Shalbon Mistripara area. He was produced before a mobile court that sentenced him to three months' jail and fined him Tk 50,000, said a press release yesterday.

Tipped off, a team of Rab-13 conducted the raid at three warehouses owned by Obaidul and seized a huge quantity of banned polythene bags kept in several sacks.

Similar drives are on in different areas of Rangpur to stop the illegal trade, the release added.



Ganosamhati Andolon forms a human chain in front of Narayanganj Press Club yesterday, demanding justice for Chawkbazar fire victims after proper investigation and compensation.

PHOTO: STAR

Global leaders

FROM PAGE 3

Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud sent separate messages to President Abdul Hamid to offer condolences on the deaths, according to a Saudi press agency.

UN Resident Coordinator in Dhaka Mia Seppo tweeted on Thursday night, "Our condolences to the families and friends of the victims of the tragic fire in Old Dhaka Wednesday. The UN in Bangladesh wishes the injured a quick recovery and recognizes the effort of the local authorities is responding to the blaze."

Ambassadors of Germany, Sweden, Norway and other countries in Dhaka, in separate tweets and messages, expressed their profound shock at the deaths.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan government also expressed deep condolences. "We express deep sympathy with the bereaved families of the victims and wish speedy recovery of those injured in the incident," said a press release of Pakistan Foreign Ministry on Thursday.

Selection round

FROM PAGE 3

Munir also said that the competition was held in all 64 districts of the country for the first time this year.

At the regional competition in Dhaka, a total of 1,723 students from schools and colleges in six districts -- Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Munshiganj, Manikganj and Narsingdi -- took part, and 257 of them passed through the selection round. The event was held at Ideal School and College in the capital's Banasree from 9am to 3:30pm.

In Sylhet, the competition was held at Sylhet Government Women's College and about 700 students from Sylhet, Sunamganj, Habiganj and Moulvibazar took part. Of them, 62 were selected for the final round, the organisers told The Daily Star.

In Barishal, 474 students from Barishal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bholia and Jhalakathi participated in the competition held at Shaheed Abdur Rab Serniabat Govt Secondary School. A total of 69 participants were selected, organisers said.

German parliamentary

FROM PAGE 3

Relations with the States of South Asia will arrive in Dhaka on Monday for a five-day visit.

Tobias Pflüger, chairman of the group, will lead the three-member delegation. Two other lawmakers of German federal parliament are Gabriele Katzmarek and Bettina Stark-Watzinger.

They will visit Cox's Bazar and meet government officials and representatives of the Rohingya in order to get a comprehensive picture of the challenges in dealing with the refugee crisis, according to the German Embassy in Dhaka.

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Unite for inclusive dev in Saarc region Speakers say

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for united efforts to ensure inclusive development in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) countries.

They were speaking at a seminar on "the strategies of lending for priority finance in the Saarc region" and 1st draft presentation of the collaborative study on "Reducing the Cost of Cross-border Remittances among Saarc countries" at a hotel in the city.

Governor of Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan Dasho Penjore was present at the inaugural session as chief guest while Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Fazle Kabir was the special guest.

Executive Director of Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) Dr Mustafa K Mujeri presented the keynote speech while BB Deputy Governor SM Moniruzzaman was in the chair. BB Executive Director Dr M Aktaruzzaman delivered the welcome address.

Dasho Penjore said Bhutan is one of the best friends of Bangladesh and the ongoing bilateral trade relation of the two countries is very healthy.

Fazle Kabir said the central bank is working to ensure inclusive development across the country and urged South Asian nations to be united for sustainable development in the region.

Senior officials of the central banks in the South Asian countries also attended the seminar.

Valuables worth Tk 1cr gutted in Sylhet fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Fire gutted valuables worth over Tk 1 crore at a supermarket in Sylhet city early yesterday.

Around 6:30am, the fire originated from an electric short circuit in Big Bazaar's Taltala outlet and spread rapidly, said Dinmuni Sharma, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Sylhet.

Two units of firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the blaze within an hour, he said.

Quoting locals, Sharma said the store located on the ground floor of a hotel was closed when the fire broke out.

All the goods in the supermarket and its warehouse have been destroyed in the fire, the official added.



Barishal University teachers and students bring out a colourful procession in front of the campus yesterday, marking "Barishal University Day".

PHOTO: STAR

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



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-Dr. Fazana Nahid, Assistant Professor, North South University



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