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Arson attack on Ananda Shobhajatra artist's home

4 suspects held

STAR REPORT

Four people were arrested over setting fire to the Manikganj house of artist Manabendra Ghosh, who made the tiger motif for the Borsho Boron Ananda Shobhajatra, yesterday.

SM Aman Ullah, officer-in-charge of Manikganj Sadar Police Station, said Manabendra filed a case against unidentified people. "We have already arrested four persons. Drive continues to arrest the others."

The suspects are Al Amin Tomal, 22, finance secretary of banned Chhatra League of Manikganj Sadar upazila unit, and Mainuddin Ahmed Pias, 22, joint secretary of the unit, Babul Hossain, 54, general secretary of ward-3 unit of Awami League, and Meer Maruf, 21, said police.

Manabendra told The Daily Star, "The day before Pahela Baishakh, a [Facebook] page called 'Rajya Sabha' spread misleading information that I made the motif of deposed prime

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A Palestinian girl walks past the ruins of a building destroyed by Israeli strikes on a residential area in Jabalia's southwestern district of Nazla in northern Gaza yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

UN PEACEKEEPING Trump admin seeks to scrap funding

REUTERS, Washington

The White House budget office has proposed eliminating funding for United Nations peacekeeping missions, citing failures by operations in Mali, Lebanon and Democratic Republic of Congo, according to internal planning documents seen by Reuters.

Since resuming their operation last month, Israeli forces have carved out a broad "security zone" extending deep into Gaza and squeezing more than 2 million Palestinians into ever smaller areas in the south and along the coastline.

"Unlike in the past, the IDF is not evacuating areas that have been cleared and seized," Katz said in a statement following a meeting with military commanders, adding that "tens of percent" of Gaza had been added to the zone.

"The IDF will remain in the security zones as a buffer between the enemy and the communities in any temporary or permanent situation in Gaza - as in Lebanon and Syria."

Hamas has repeatedly described calls to disarm as a red line it will not cross and has said Israeli troops must withdraw from Gaza under any permanent ceasefire.

In southern Gaza alone, Israeli forces have seized about 20 percent of the enclave's

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Efforts to revive Gaza truce stall

Hamas rejects calls to disarm; 13 more Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israeli troops will remain in the buffer zones they have created in Gaza even after any settlement to end the war, Defence Minister Israel Katz said yesterday, as efforts to revive a ceasefire agreement faltered.

territory, taking control of the border city of Rafah and pushing inland up to the so-called "Morag corridor" that runs from the eastern edge of Gaza to the Mediterranean Sea between Rafah and the city of Khan Younis.

Yesterday, Palestinian medical authorities said an airstrike killed 10 people, including Fatema Hassouna, a well-known writer and photographer who had documented the war. A strike on another house further north killed three, they said.

Medical charity MSF said Gaza had become a "mass grave" with humanitarian groups struggling to provide aid. "We are witnessing in real time the destruction and forced displacement of the entire population in Gaza," Amande Bazerolle, MSF's emergency coordinator in Gaza said in a statement.

Katz also said Israel, which has blocked the delivery of aid supplies into the territory, was creating infrastructure to allow distribution through civilian companies at a later date. But he said the blockade on aid would remain in place.

He said Israel would push forward with a plan to allow Gaza civilians who wished to leave the enclave to do so, although it remains unclear which countries would be willing to accept large numbers of Palestinians.

- » Israel will keep Gaza buffer zone: Israeli minister
- » Israeli forces seized about 20pc of Gaza territory
- » No humanitarian aid will enter Gaza: Israeli minister
- » Medical charity MSF says Gaza is a 'mass grave'

Mujibnagar Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the historic Mujibnagar Day, the day Bangladesh's first government took oath in 1971 amidst the Liberation War.

The official announcement, known as the Proclamation of Independence, stated that the government's objective was to ensure equality, human dignity and social justice for the people of Bangladesh.

The Proclamation of Independence mentioned that the "order shall be deemed to have come into effect" on March 26, 1971.

It served as the Constitution of Bangladesh from March 26, 1971 to December 16, 1972.

Senior Awami League leaders assembled at Baidyanath Tala, Meherpur, on April 17, 1971, to form the provisional government of independent Bangladesh, in the absence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was in prison in Pakistan.

Bangabandhu was declared the first President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and Vice-President Syed Nazrul Islam became the acting president.

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Protest rages at Kuet

Students say VC must go

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Students at Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (Kuet) continued their protest yesterday, pressing ahead with their one-point demand -- the immediate resignation of Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Mashud.

The agitating students accused the VC of failing to ensure campus security and acting against student welfare in the wake of the February 18 clash that left at least 40 students injured.

Academic activities at Kuet have remained suspended since the violent clash between activists of Jatiyataabadi Chhatra Dal and another group of students under the banner of 'general students', over the banning of student politics on campus. Kuet was declared closed indefinitely on February 25.

Around 11:00am yesterday, students brought out a procession from the "Durbar Bangla"

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BDR carnage probe report likely by June: commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation into the 2009 BDR (now Border Guard Bangladesh) carnage is progressing in full swing and a report may be submitted by June, said the independent commission set up for the probe.

The Chief Adviser's Press Wing disclosed the matter in a press release yesterday.

Members of the probe commission briefed the chief adviser on the progress of the investigation during a meeting held at the state guesthouse Jamuna.

"We are communicating with various stakeholders. As the incident occurred 16 years ago, reaching out to some of them is taking time. Many of the accused are currently abroad, and we are coordinating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to trace them," said Maj Gen (ret'd) ALM

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Provide info on wilful loan defaulters every 3 months

BB asks banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday instructed banks to furnish detailed information about wilful loan defaulters.

The central bank issued a notice stating that lenders must submit detailed information on the wilful defaulters to its Credit Information Bureau (CIB) every three months.

It also stated that it is mandatory to include the names, identities, and all relevant details of such defaulters.

In March last year, the banking regulator issued a similar notice, but the new one further refines the reporting process regarding the defaulters.

As per the new notice, once a bank identifies

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Vehicles with headlights on stuck in a traffic jam on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue around 4:00pm yesterday, as a nor'wester and heavy rain cast an early darkness over the city. The downpour offered relief from the scorching heat.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MORE NEWS

Xi calls on Asian nations to resist confrontation, protectionism

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Is BNP really anti-reform?

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Dynasties bloom on foreign soil causing Tulip troubles

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তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)

কলসেন্টার-১৬৪৯৬

অপনার রান্নার কাজ শেষ হয়ে থাকলে এখনই গ্যাসের চুলাটি নিভিয়ে ফেলুন

জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

জরুরি গ্যাস শাট-ডাউন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা ম্যাস ট্রানজিট কোম্পানি লিমিটেড-এর আওতাধীন এমআরটি লাইন ১-এর ভূগর্ভস্থ স্টেশন (বিমানবন্দর ও খিলক্ষেত) এর অ্যুলাইনমেন্ট হতে তিতাস গ্যাসের বিদ্যমান গ্যাস পাইপলাইন স্থানান্তর কাজের জন্য আগামী ১৮ এপ্রিল ২০২৫ তারিখ রোজ শুক্রবার সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা থেকে রাত ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত মোট ১৪ (চৌদ্দ) ঘণ্টা বসুন্ধরা আবাসিক এলাকায় গ্রামীণফোন প্রধান কার্যালয়, নর্থ-সাউথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ইউনিক হোটেল, যুক্তরাষ্ট্র দূতাবাস, অনন্ত এনার্জি রিসোর্স, পিনাকল পাওয়ার, প্রগতি সিএনজিসহ কাওলাস্থ বলাকা ভবন হতে শাহাজতপুর সুবাস্ত্র টাওয়ার পর্যন্ত সকল শিল্প, বাণিজ্যিক ও ক্যাপটিভ শ্রেণীর গ্রাহকের গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকবে। এছাড়া, নিকুঞ্জ, খিলক্ষেত, বারিধারা, বসুন্ধরা আবাসিক এলাকা, কুড়িল, জগন্নাথপুর, কালাচাঁদপুর, বারিধারা আবাসিক এলাকা ও তৎসংলগ্ন এলাকায় গ্যাসের স্বল্পচাপ বিরাজ করবে।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য কৃতপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

তিতাস গ্যাস কর্তৃপক্ষ