

HIROSHIMA DAY OBSERVED

'Establish peace to build a better world'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called on all the peace-loving people to come forward to establish world peace in order to build a better world for the next generation.

Murshid, Shaon Mahmud, daughter of Shaheed Altaf Mahmud, journalist Shahin Reza Nur, son of Shaheed Sirajuddin Hossein, Akkas Ali and Ale Mae, a Japanese citizen.

Chowdhury Bir Bikram, Col. (ret.) Ziauddin Ahmed Bir Uttam, Dr Nazimuddin Ahmed, Gono Parishad President Ishtiaq Aziz Ulfat, and First Secretary of the Australian Embassy Michael Long also spoke.

WASTE DUMPING IN SAVAR HC issues rule on DCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday restrained the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) for three months from dumping waste in flood flow zone of Konda and Baliarpur mouzas in Savar, says a press release.

The bench comprising Justice Syed Mohammad Dusthagir Hossain and Justice Mamnoon Rahman passed the order following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) challenging the dumping of waste.

The rule also asked the government to show cause why it should not be directed to take appropriate measures to protect the flood flow zone of Konda and Baliarpur villages and frame appropriate rules under the Environment Conservation Act and the DCC ordinance prescribing the procedures for waste management.

Tech college teachers announce fresh agitation programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Technical College Teachers' Association (BTCTA) yesterday announced fresh agitation programmes to realise its 12-point charter of demands.

The programme was announced by BTCTA President Principal MA Sattar at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

The demands of BTCTA included registration of students, reduction of examination fees, elimination of salary discrimination between general and vocational education, initiation of a separate pay scale for technical teachers and their representation at the academic programmes of the board.

Principal Sitar said some 4.70 crore youths in the country remain unemployed albeit they might be provided with technical education to generate national income.

Website on election info launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shujan, a citizens' movement for good governance, yesterday launched a website containing relevant information about elections, including voter list, results of last three general elections and the profiles of prospective candidates in the next election.

Eminent economist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad launched the website (www.shujan.org) at a simple ceremony at the Shujan office in the city.

The organisers said the website is aimed at empowering the voters with adequate information about the political parties and their candidates so that the voters can make a more informed decision while choosing their representatives.



Thai Foreign Minister Dr Kantathi Suphamongkhon calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

MADHYAPARA MINE

11 workers sued over strike call

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Officials of Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Ltd (MGMCL) sued 11 'unruly' mineworkers yesterday after they beat up an MGMCL official last Monday.

Following the last Monday's agitation, Petrobangla's subsidiary MGMCL has remained closed.

Sources said Md Kamruzzaman, a mining engineer of MGMCL, filed a case with Parbatipur Police Station on behalf of MGMCL against the 11 workers.

They said 280 mineworkers went for an indefinite strike on Monday last demanding their jobs to be transferred to the government revenue sector and threatened to continue their agitation until their demands were realised.

Local Chairman Md Abu Taher had tried to resolve the matter yesterday but failed to reconcile the feuding parties.

MILD TREMOR

JN Hall students fear building collapse

Demanding new building

DU CORRESPONDENT

Fearing collapse of building in earthquake, students of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University (DU) took shelter in front of the Vice-Chancellor's (VC) house right after a mild tremor jolted the university area on Saturday night, demanding a new building at the hall.

A 'building-collapse' fear sparked among the residential students of the hall, especially among the residents of hall's old-aged East Building, as it was 'jolted heavily' by the earthquake. They came out of the building running and took shelter at open space.

Some residents of the building said the building was jolted heavily by Saturday night's earthquake and they feared that it might collapse, adding, the building is now beyond renovation.

At a meeting at late Saturday night, resident students demanded a new building as early as possible as they 'do not want to be victims of another building collapse as happened in 1985'.

Provost of the hall Prof Nim Chandra Bhomik was also present at the meeting.

Thirty-nine students and employees and some of their relatives died in a building collapse at Jagannath Hall on October 15 in 1985. Since then the day is being observed as

DU Mourning Day. VC Prof SMA Faiz could not be contacted for his comment in this regard. Some students quoting the VC said he assured them to consider their demand.

DU Chief Engineer Md Amir Hossain told The Daily Star that the authorities verbally informed him about the students' demand but yet to send any formal letter to inspect the building.

Mason falls from 4-storey bldg, dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mason died as he fell from a 4-storey building at the city's Mohammadpur area yesterday.

The incident occurred around 5:00pm when Musa Mia, 32, along with two other workers was painting the outside wall of a 4-storey building at Shankar.

While painting the exterior, Musa accidentally lost control and fell on the ground.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.



Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers' Association begins a hunger strike at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to press for its demand for nationalisation of their jobs.

7 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed and nine members of a family injured in separate road accidents in Narsingdi, Khulna, Patuakhali and Jhenidah yesterday.

UNB from Narsingdi reports: Four people, three businessmen and their driver, were killed when a bus rammmed into their private car on Narsingdi-Gazipur road in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Police and local sources said a Narsingdi-bound bus collided with a Dhaka-bound private car at Bhatpara Char Madhabdi at about 2:00pm, leaving all the three passengers and the driver of the car dead.

The dead were identified as businessmen Bulbul Ahmed, 70, Shawkat Ali, 40 and Matiur Rahman, 70, and driver Badal Mia, 40.

Police sent the bodies to Sadar Hospital morgue. Police also seized both the vehicles.

"The accident occurred when the victims, hailed from Kandail in Kishoreganj, were going to the capital on business purpose," says a witness.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports: Khulna Mohammedan Sporting Club football player Shohan, 22, was killed in road accident at Mujgunni in Khalishpur yesterday.

The accident occurred at 5:00am when a Khulna-bound passenger bus run over him while he was crossing the road.

Police seized the bus, but its driver managed to escape.

Our Correspondent from Patuakhali reports: Two children were killed in separate road accidents in Galachpa and Dumki upazila in the district yesterday.

Sonia, 3, daughter of Hasan Midha of Char Kazal village under Galachpa, crushed under the

wheels of a motor cycle when she was playing on the road in front of her house at about 10:00am. Delwar, 13 son of Atahar Mollah of Mukaran village was killed on the spot when a pick-up van hit him on Patuakhali-Bansal highway in Dumki.

Our correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Nine members of a family were injured when a microbus collided head-on with a truck yesterday on Jhenidah-Jessore highway near Tatultala.

The injured are the inhabitants of Kaliganj upazila.

Police said Lutfur Rahman, headmaster of Naldanga Bhusan Pilot High School and his family members, were injured when a

Jessore-bound truck from Jhenidah collided head-on with a microbus coming from Kaliganj at Tatultala at around 10:00am.

The injured are Aktar Banu, 60, wife of Lutfur Rahman, two sons Hasan, 35, and Ruku, 32, Ruku's wife Shyamoli, 25, Lutfur's daughters Sumi, 27, Rumi, 24, and Nipa, 20, Lutfur's son-in-law Saiful Islam Mohon, 45, micro driver Bakhtiar Alam, 30, and helper Alam, 22.

The injured were rushed to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

TRAWLER CAPSIZE IN BURIGANGA

Victim still missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Divers from the Fire Service and the Navy searched for five hours yesterday but could not find out the man who remained missing following a trawler capsized in Buriganga near Basila on Saturday.

Sohrab Khan, 45, a Krishak Dal leader, remained missing after a trawler carrying a picnic party capsized following a collision with a sand-laden trawler, while 11 other members of the picnic party managed to swim ashore.

The divers continued their

search from 11:00am to 4:00pm in the Buriganga yesterday but could not find out Sohrab, a resident of Shankar in Mohammadpur.

The depth of the river where the trawler capsized is about 60-70 feet and the river current is also very strong, said the divers. They also failed to salvage the sunken trawler.

A large number of people, including the relatives of Sohrab, gathered on both sides of the river during the search.



Three visually impaired people sing at a publication ceremony of a book 'Geetobitan' by Rabindranath Tagore at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday. The book was published in Braille.

Obituary

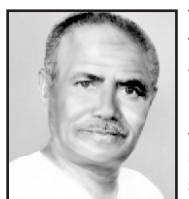
UNB, Dhaka

Shahana Khatun, wife of renowned musician of the subcontinent Ustad Phuljhuri Khan, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 80.

She left behind her five sons, five daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Her gulkhwani will be held at her 93 West Rampura residence on Wednesday.

Death anniversary



Today is the third death anniversary of Md Nabab Ali Mia of Gidari village in Gaibandha, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at his residence at Station Road and on the madrasa premises of his village. Foods will also be distributed among the destitute.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Advertisement for DHAKA TODAY newspaper. It includes details for a Presentation programme, Reception, Photo exhibition, Seminar, and Annual show, all held at various venues in Dhaka.

Weather forecast for Dhaka. It features a 'WEATHER TODAY' graphic and a table showing temperature and humidity for the next 24 hours.

BCL expels 8 JU activists

JU CORRESPONDENT

Eight activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Jahangirnagar University (JU) were expelled for different terms while show cause notices were served on three others yesterday for their involvement in different anti-organisational activities on the campus.

The orders came from the central committee of BCL in the wake of intra-party feud over the last few months that left at least 10 injured. Jahangir and Azibur were expelled permanently from the organisation while temporary expulsion orders were issued against six, including Mahfuzur Rahman, Zahid Parvez Pulok, two joint secretaries of JU BCL, Iqbal Hossain, organising secretary of JU BCL. The others who were expelled temporarily are Shamir, Bony and Nahid.

Show cause notices were served on Monir, Bablu and Imran.

RU gets legal notice against move to hire 546 staff again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) authorities were served with a legal notice yesterday to stop the recruitment of the 546 controversially appointed class three and four employees. The notice said if the authorities did not stop recruitment within two weeks, legal action would be taken.

Workers Party Politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha in the legal notice said the 'illegal and anti-people recruitment' would be challenged at the High Court (HC) division of the Supreme Court (SC) if it was not stopped.

The legal notice was addressed to the RU vice-chancellor (VC), pro-VC, the treasurer and registrar.

In the notice, the RU authorities were blamed for 'desperately moving to finalise the recruitment process before the end of the ruling alliance government's tenure'. A copy of the legal notice was also sent to journalists of different media.

It also blamed RU of legalising controversial appointments under the cover of fresh appointments in order to circumvent the SC order.

The notice pointed out that around 50,000 job seekers applied for the advertised posts but the authorities are issuing interview cards only to those applicants who were controversially appointed earlier.

RU authorities appointed 546 employees in 2004 in an unprecedented manner without any advertisement and violating the university rules and university grant commission circulars, the notice said.

A law suit, filed by Rajshahi Bar Association member Abu Aslam, against the recruitment is pending with senior assistant judge's court and the court order for injunction on the recruitment, which was upheld by HC division, is also pending with the SC.

RU authorities sought applications in 355 posts of officers and employees by publishing eight advertisements within one month for fresh recruitments.

The notice also blamed the RU of continuously trying to politicise the university and thus acting against national interest and destroying the sanctity of the educational institution.

The notice referred to RU Islami Chhatra Shibir President Mahbulul Alam Salehi and raised allegations that the RU authorities had double standards on student affairs and illegally allowed him to sit for his master's examinations.

Salehi, an accused in Prof S Taher Ahmed murder case, had only attended 16 percent classes, much below the requisite 75 percent to take the exams.

RU authorities however told The Daily Star they were yet to receive the notice.

Geetobitan published in Braille

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in the country, Geetobitan, a collection of songs and poetry by Rabindranath Tagore, has been published in Braille for visually impaired people.

The book in ten volumes was launched at a ceremony at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday.

Poet Titu Chowdhury converted the book into Braille, a system of raised dots which allows visually impaired people to read.

National Forum of Organisations Working With the Disabled (NFOWD), Handicap International (HI) and Answer Brandsmith Ltd. sponsored the publication of the book.

They also have a plan to distribute the copies of the book free among the visually impaired singers who sing Tagore songs.

The publication is an initiative to inculcate the spirit of Tagore's musical language in people with visually impairment who do not have access to the mainstream publications, said NFOWD President Khondkar Zahurul Alam.

He also said NFOWD would launch a nationwide awareness campaign in the next four years to ensure education of 16 lakh physically challenged children, most of whom are visually impaired.

Prof Sanjida Khatun, a Tagore song exponent, said the songs by Rabindranath are a source of inspiration to physically challenged people.

Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, director of Impact Foundation Bangladesh, called on the computer programmers and entrepreneurs to come forward to extend their service to visually impaired people so that they can have easy access to information technology.

Wahidul Huq, a Tagore song exponent, and Titu Chowdhury also spoke at the programme conducted by actor Khaled Khan.