

VIOLENCE GRIPS DU



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1. Dhaka University students demonstrate on the campus on the second day of their protest yesterday demanding removal of the temporary army camp set up there. The protest began on Monday after army personnel had beaten up several students during a football match on the campus.

2. Police in riot gear chase students near the Rokeya Hall during the demonstration.

3. Agitating students set fire to a pick-up van near the Teacher-Student Centre.

4. Several policemen swoop on a student near the Institute of Fine Art at Shahbagh.

PHOTO: STAR



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Local govt reforms a must to bring dynamism

Speakers tell NILG confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local government reform is a must to bring dynamism into its overall activities, said the speakers at a conference in the city yesterday.

They said a better co-ordination between local and central governments is also needed to strengthen the activities of the local government.

The annual conference of National Institute of Local Government (NILG) was held at its auditorium in Agargaon where many representatives of local government from across the country were present.

Dr AMM Shawkat Ali, chairman of a committee to enhance dynamism and strengthen the local government institute, said reform is needed for enhancing the activities of the local government.

Most of the countrymen do not know about the role of local government, said Shawkat Ali, also a former secretary to the government.

He said performance-based

promotion should be introduced inside the local government.

Trainings and researches for local government officials are still backdated and traditional, said Shawkat Ali while addressing the conference as chief guest.

Dr Kamal Abdul Nader Chowdhury, joint secretary to LGRD and Cooperatives ministry, said the activities of the local government will not be strengthened without meaningful co-ordination between central and local governments.

M Arfan Ali, director general of NILG, admitted that reform inside the local government is needed for increasing its activities.

NILG Directors Farid Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury and Sayedul Haque also addressed the conference.

Housewife arrested for torturing two domestic helps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was arrested for allegedly torturing her two minor domestic helps at Pallabi in the city on Monday night.

Receiving information about torture from the neighbours, the police arrested Mamta Akter Eka from her residence at around 8:00pm.

The police also rescued the domestic helps -- Jahanara Khatun Rekha, 10 and Nayan Akter, 11 -- and took them to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). Both of them have marks of injuries in different parts of their bodies.

They were sent to the Pallabi police station in the early hours of

yesterday after their treatment.

Afterwards, police filed a case against the housewife and her husband MA Elahi Shimul under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Rekha, who has been serving at the house for six months, told this correspondent at DMCH that her employer often beat both of them.

However, Mamta said she beat them only when they failed to do something.

Police sent Mamta and the girls to the court yesterday noon. Later, the court sent Mamta to jail.

Bangladesh Women Lawyers' Association took Nayan while parents of Rekha took her to their house.

Tobacco kills 57,000 people a year

Speakers say at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Every year tobacco causes death to 57,000 people and disables further 3.82 lakh in the country, speakers at the inaugural session of a three-day inter regional meeting said yesterday.

Speaking as the chief guest, Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs AKM Zafar Ullah Khan quoting a recent study said the net economic loss for Bangladesh due to tobacco use is \$442 million per year.

In Bangladesh there are about 20 million tobacco users and five million among them are women, the speakers said adding that tobacco use can in fact be linked to each of the problems the MDGs aim to address.

World Health Organisation (WHO) South East Asia Region and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare jointly organised the meeting on Tobacco Control, Poverty Reduction and Millennium Development Goals' in a city hotel.

Joint Secretary (Public Health and WHO) Mohammad Jahangir presided over the meeting while delegates from Myanmar, Nepal,

Bangladesh, WHO SEARO India and WHO Headquarters Geneva participated.

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WHO Regional Director Dr Samlee Plianbangchang in his speech asked the participating

Verdict in extortion case against Minu Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The verdict in the extortion case filed against Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu and 10 others will be delivered on Sunday.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Zahirul Haque yesterday fixed the date after hearing a daylong argument between the state and defence lawyers.

Additional Public Prosecutor Masum Ahmed Tipu told the court that the prosecution has proved the allegations beyond any doubt by producing sufficient witnesses and evidences.

The defence lawyers argued that the place of occurrence was not identified as well as the plaintiff could not justify his delay in filing the case.

They also claimed that the accused is innocent.

Minu and nine other accused were on the court dock during the argument. The nine are district BNP Vice-president Nazrul Huda, BNP adherents Mainul, Ranju, Islam, Ashraf, Shamsul, Tajuddin Senu, Babu and Abdullah al Mamun.

A key accused and former city BNP General Secretary Shafikul Haque Milon is absconding.

Plaintiff Shamsul Alam Khan, a governing body member of Evergreen Model College, lodged the case with Rajpara Police Station on April 21.

The court framed the charges against them on July 26 after Sub-Inspector Abdur Rahman Sarkar pressed the charges against 11 persons on May 16.

According to charges, the accused waylaid Shamsul at Baharampur bypass intersection on March 29 and demanded Tk 4 lakh in toll after assaulting him at the direction of Mayor Minu.

Earlier in 2006, Minu allegedly called Shamsul and college Principal Abu Yusuf Selim at his office and asked them to include his men Nazrul and Milon in the governing body.

VolP equipment worth Tk 5 lakh seized in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A team of Detective Branch (DB) of police seized Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) devices worth around Tk 5 lakh from a flat at Bularhat in Narayanganj yesterday.

Police said DB police raided the 6th floor of Baily Tower and seized the VoIP equipment which included 28 cellular machines and two laptops.

Police arrested Jewel and his brother Russel, who were operating the business for the last 2-3 months from the flat owned by one Harun-ur-Rashid.

Sources said Jewel and Russel, sons of Dr Nurul Islam, rented the flat around six months ago.



(Left) Awami League leaders place wreaths at the site of 2004 grenade attack on an AL rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday to commemorate the third anniversary of the gruesome attack. (Top) Rashida Akter Ruma, a victim of the attack, who now uses crutches to walk, came to Bangabandhu Avenue to pay homage to those who were killed in the attack.

PHOTO: STAR

PHOTO: