

SEARCH FOR THE MISSING CONTINUES



1) A rescue worker points to a bullet hole in the glass of the main gate of Darbar Hall at BDR headquarters yesterday. The gunfire by mutineers broke out at the Darbar Hall on Wednesday morning. 2) Two divers search for arms and ammunition in a pond inside BDR headquarters. 3) A relative of a missing army officer looks at bodies (not in the picture) to identify whether the officer is among the dead. 4) Relatives of an army officer wait in front of BDR Gate No. 4 after they came to know that the officer was killed in the mutiny. 5) Army men recover a number of arms and ammunition used by BDR mutineers. 6) CID personnel collect evidence at Darbar Hall.

Asean to intensify counter-terrorism efforts

AFP, Hua Hin

Asean states will intensify efforts to fight militants and pledge to work for the full implementation of a regional counter-terrorism pact this year, according to a draft seen by AFP yesterday.

The document, to be adopted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) leaders at the end of an annual summit on Sunday, said the bloc will "promote effective implementation" of a comprehensive plan of action to fight terrorism and cooperate to address its root causes.

Southeast Asia is the base for Jemaah Islamiyah, the militant network blamed for a string of bloody attacks in the region including the 2002 Bali bombings that killed more than 200 people -- many of them foreign tourists.

Muslim separatist insurgencies are meanwhile being waged in southern Thailand and in the southern Philippine

island of Mindanao.

The counter-terrorism plan is contained in a blueprint for an Asean Political-Security Community to be adopted by Southeast Asian leaders on Sunday in the Thai resort town of Hua Hin.

A draft of the document said Asean would "work towards the entry into force of the Asean Convention on Counter-Terrorism by 2009".

The convention, signed in January 2007, provides a framework for regional cooperation to "counter, prevent and suppress terrorism in all its forms and manifestations".

It calls for the exchange of intelligence and the prevention of one Asean member's territory to plan, finance or facilitate attacks on another.

The wide-ranging blueprint also contains Asean's commitment to fight corruption, combat maritime piracy and develop an "early warning system to prevent the occurrence/escalation of conflicts".

Call to create awareness to prevent diabetes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Creating awareness can prevent the trend of diabetes in the country, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

The discussion was held at the Birdem auditorium to mark the Diabetes Awareness Day and the 53rd founding day of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh.

Prof AK Azad Khan, presi-

dent of BADAS, presided over the discussion while the diabetic patients who have been living ideal lives and staying well were awarded with crests.

Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haq Mostafa Shahid, Mohammad Saifuddin, secretary general of BADAS, and Maj Gen (ret'd) Prof AR Khan, vice president of BADAS, also spoke.

The day was observed

through different programmes, including free diabetes screening in different areas, discussion session between selected diabetes patients and specialised physicians and free heart camp at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital.

Affiliated associations at different districts also organised several programmes to mark the day.



Speakers at a discussion at the Birdem auditorium in the city yesterday. Diabetic Association of Bangladesh organised the discussion to mark the Diabetes Awareness Day and its 53rd founding day.

Career Opportunity in ASA

ASA, one of the leading and sustainable Microfinance Institutions (MFI) in the world, is currently looking for the two posts of "Accounts Officer" at the central office. At present, more than 25,000 staff are working in ASA to serve its almost 7.2 million members. ASA is also working in different countries for providing Technical Assistance (TA) to NGO/MFIs as well as managing Greenfield microfinance operations in 10 countries in Asia and Africa under ASA International banner.

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Slumdog child star slapped for refusing interview

AFP, New Delhi

The father of one of the child stars of the Oscar-winning film "Slumdog Millionaire" slapped him for refusing to give media interviews, a report said yesterday.

Ten-year-old Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, plucked from a Mumbai slum to play in the movie, has been barraged by media attention since returning to his shanty home earlier in the week from the Oscars awards ceremony in Los Angeles.

Jet-lagged after the long flight, Azharuddin wanted to sleep and refused to talk to reporters when his father got angry and slapped him, the Press Trust of India reported.

"I was being naughty. I did not want to give the interview because I was tired so he slapped me but he loves me," said Azharuddin, who came back Thursday to his tarpaulin-covered lean-to home.

Azharuddin -- Azhar to his friends -- plays the young Salim, elder brother of the film's central character, Jamal.

Azharuddin's father Mohammed Ismail, who suffers from tuberculosis and sells cardboard to eke out a living, told the news agency, "My child was very tired and bored but I had committed to one journalist (to give him an interview)."

"I felt badly when he refused him (the journalist). He is my child and I just slapped him but I feel sorry now," Ismail said.

Azharuddin and the other child "Slumdog" actor who went to Hollywood, Rubina Ali, have shot to fame with the huge success of the film, winner of eight Oscars.

But they both still live in slums that are home to half of Mumbai's population. Rubina's return has not been smooth either.

The child, who plays the younger version of Jamal's love interest Latika, came back to a warring family with both her biological mother Khushi and her stepmother Munni claiming custody of her,

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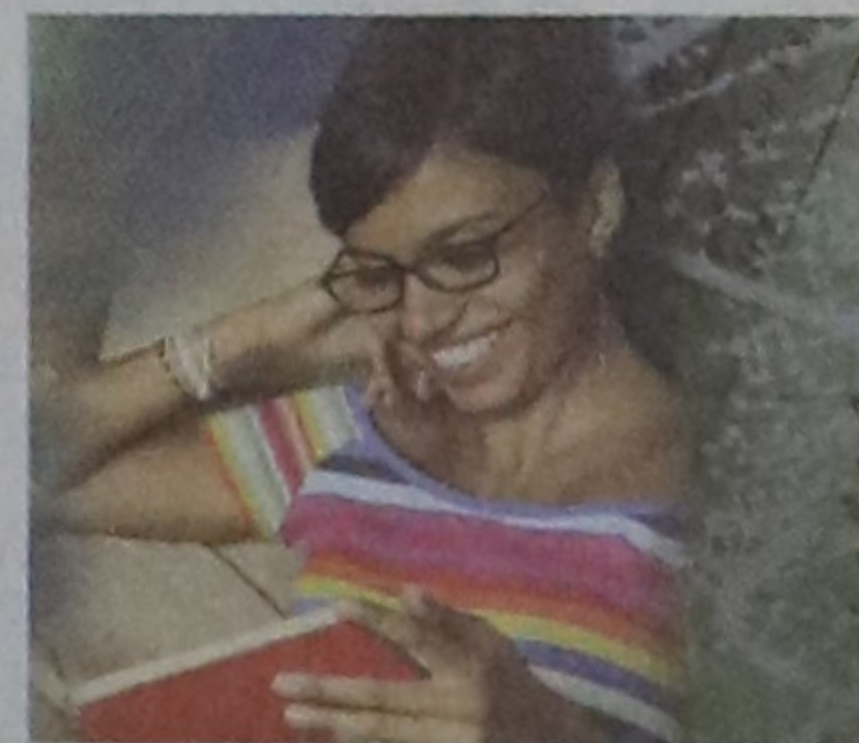
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