

Another BDR man dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A member of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) died at Jessore Combined Military Hospital early yesterday four days after he reportedly attempted to commit suicide by taking poison at Sainik Lines in Khulna.

With the death of Nayek M Rafique Miah, 42, the number of deaths of BDR members has risen to 67 since the BDR mutiny on February 25-26.

BDR Public Relations Officer Md Muhasin Reza said Rafique of Battalion-23 took poison on January 2 evening. He was soon rushed to Khulna Sector Sick Bay and then transferred to the CMH in Jessore where he died yesterday.

Rafique hailed from Tangail and was suffering from bipolar disorder, BDR officials said.

Moudud warns of movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Moudud Ahmed yesterday said his party would be forced to take to the streets if the prime minister compromises with India over gas and water issues.

Terming the Awami League government inefficient, he said that the AL has failed to ensure human rights and improve the law and order situation.

The AL government has to face criticism, as they failed to run the country properly, Moudud said at a roundtable on 'One year of grand alliance government: Expectations and outcome' organised by the National Youth Forum at the National Press Club in the city.

In a written speech, Dr Md Golam Rahman Bhuiyan, chairman of Bangladesh Manabdhikar and Samaj Unnayan Sangstha, said the AL government has totally failed to fulfill its election pledges.



Workers clean up garbage along the bank of the river Buriganga during a drive launched by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority yesterday. The picture was taken in Keraniganj area. (Story on Page 1)

95pc youths with disabilities unemployed

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said almost 95 percent of the youths with disabilities are sitting idle without any employment opportunities.

The country's overall national development would not be possible without mainstreaming this huge segment of population, said the speakers.

They were speaking at a discussion on 'Development of the disabled population - what the Youth Development Directorate should do', organised by the National Grassroots

Disabled Organisation (NGDO) in association with Action on Disability Development (ADD) in the city yesterday.

Presenting the keynote paper, NGDO Training Officer Saifur Rahman said the women with disability are the worst sufferers adding that they are not only suffering from disability, but they are also being discriminated against their male counterparts.

"Therefore, everyday living is synonymous with struggle and hardship for more than 45 lakh women (with disability) in the country," he said.

The speakers pointed out that despite containing 10 percent of the total population of the country, only 0.10 percent of the national budget is allotted for their development activities.

Speaking as the chief guest, Director General of the Youth Development Directorate (YDD) Fakhru Islam said a positive attitude should be developed towards the people with disability.

Many young people with disabilities throughout the country are taking part in the training programmes organised by the YDD, he added.

Fakhru said he would take initiatives to help more young people with disabilities to effectively participate in the training programmes and become self-sufficient.

They also demanded a special quota system in the training programmes for youths with disabilities along with special loan facilities with easy terms and conditions.

YDD Director of Training Al Amin Chowdhury, City Welfare Project Welfare Officer Sitara Yasmin and ADD Finance Controller Golam Mostafa also spoke.

Govt to do everything for peace in S Asia

PM tells Indian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government would do everything necessary to ensure peace and prosperity for the people in the South Asian region.

She expressed her resolve while talking to newly appointed Indian High Commissioner Rajeev Mitter when the envoy paid a courtesy call on the PM at her official residence Jamuna.

Hasina assured him of extending necessary cooperation from the government in discharging his diplomatic duties in Bangladesh.

Mitter congratulated the PM on her party's landslide victory in the December 29 elections and also on completion of one year of her government.

Poverty alleviation, electricity crisis, democracy, river dredging and climate change are among the issues discussed during the meeting.

Awami League General Secretary and LGRD Minister

Syed Ashrafur Islam, ambassador-at-large Ziauddin, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister MA Karim, PMO Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman, Press

Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad and Deputy Indian High Commissioner Mukta Dutta Tomar were present on the occasion.

স্টল নং ৭১

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