

NEWS IN brief

Campaign on liberation war history begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day campaign, to inspire youths in the spirit of the liberation war, begins in seven divisional cities across the country today.

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs, Capt (ret'd) AB Tajul Islam, opened the campaign styled Abar 71 ('71 once again) at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

The Moot Court Society of Brac University organises the programme, under which seven makeshift military camps, as used by the freedom fighters in 1971 war, will be set up in the divisional headquarters.

Young made-up soldiers (students of the university) of different forces including army, navy, air force, and guerrilla will stay in the camps and display their performances.

"The youths will express their view about the liberation war and present situation of the country through dance, drama, debate, song, poster, and speech," said Dr Turin Afroz, organiser of the campaign and associate professor of Brac University.

"Youths are reluctant to converge the liberation war with politics. The campaign will help them understand how the spirit of the 1971 war is used in the politics of the country."

Mishu freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment workers' leader Moshrefa Mishu was released on bail yesterday after four and half months of her detention.

Though the High Court granted her bail petition and asked the jail authority to release her on March 28, the bail order reached on-duty police yesterday noon at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Mishu was under treatment.

Mishu, general secretary of Gonotantrik Biplobi Party and president of Garments Sramik Oikya Forum, was undergoing treatment in the hospital due to her respiratory and spinal problems.

She fell sick after she was produced before a Dhaka court on December 19. The court allowed her to take treatment at DMCH.

She was arrested on December 13 last year from her sister's house at Vuter Goli in the city on charges of instigating garment workers towards vandalism and arson.

Auto-rickshaw thieves held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested 10 CNG-run auto-rickshaw thieves in the port city.

The arrestees were identified as Jamal Uddin, 34, Md Ibrahim Khalil, 41, Azizul Hoque, 40, Harun, 55, Md Rafiq, 35, Jahangir Alam, 28, Moqbul Hossai, 28, Md. Manir, 45, Md Selim, 37 and Md Shamsuzzaman, 39.

The CMP Commissioner Abul Kashem briefed journalists about it at a press conference at the CMP headquarters yesterday.

He said the thieves were arrested during a two-day drive on Tuesday and Wednesday.

He said the thieves used to steal auto-rickshaws through new techniques. After stealing auto-rickshaws they would contact the owners and demanded Tk 80,000 to Tk 1 lakh, he added.

Restoration of secularism demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday demanded reinstatement of "secularism" in the constitution.

The leftist party said the government should repel the 8th amendment that established the provision declaring Islam as state religion to restore the secularist character of the state.

CPB leaders placed the demands at a news conference at its office yesterday, says a press release.

CPB acting president Hyder Akbar Khan Rono, general secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, presidium members Sahidullah Chowdhury, Shamsuzzaman Selim, and Laxmi Chakrabortee, among others, were present at the conference.

JOBS FOR 765

Charge framed against ex-DU treasurer, 7 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against former treasurer of Dhaka University (DU) and seven others in a case filed against them for appointing 765 employees to different posts through a forged tender in 2004.

The accused are ex-DU treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad, ex-acting registrar of National University (NU) Shamsheer-uz-Zaman, deputy registrar (Parishad) Mohammad Shahidur Rahman, deputy registrar Mohammad Nurul Haque, ex-contractual dean Sher Mohammad, examination controller and college inspector Mohammad Abdul Hamid, ex-director (finance and accounts) Mohammad Shahabuddin and ex-syndicate member Prof Feroza Begum.

Rejecting the discharge petitions submitted on behalf of the accused, Third Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AHM Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan framed charges and fixed July 5 for trial of the case.

All the accused, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after the charges were read to them.

On May 6 in 2009, NU lecturer (education) Mohammad Hafizur Rahman filed a case against Prof Azad and eight others with Dhanmondi Police Station.

According to the prosecution, the accused in collusion with others on October 10 in 2004 appointed 765 employees to different posts making a forged tender. The accused made a forged tender published in The Daily Independent on September 15 in 2004.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Afsana, 17, suffering from Leukemia appeals to the well-off of society

for financial assistance as her family already exhausted their savings for her treatment.

She is undergoing treatment under Prof Dr ABM Yunus of haematology department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, cabin-417/A, says a press release.

Assistance can be sent at: AKM Shah Alam, Account No-2416, Sonali Bank Ltd, Kort Building Branch, Jhalokathi, or over cellphone #01719733859.



Samajik Protirodh Committee holds a rally in front of Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding an action plan for quick implementation of National Women Development Policy.

PHOTO: STAR

People of all religions enjoying equal rights

PM tells Pope's special envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said communal harmony is prevailing in the country as people of all religions living here are enjoying equal rights.

The prime minister said when Eminence Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue Based in Vatican paid a courtesy call on her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the morning.

Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting.

Hasina told the special envoy of the Pope Benedict XVI that apart from ensuring religious fraternity among the people, the government is working relentlessly also to ensure people's access to quality education and health services.

In this regard, she said the government has taken programme to provide free textbooks to the students up to secondary level.

She also mentioned about the recently launched e-book which makes 106 primary and secondary level textbooks available on website.

Hasina recalled her meeting with Pope Benedict XVI last year in the Vatican City.

The special envoy of Pope lauded the prime minister for her visionary leadership in upholding religious harmony and in other socio-economic sectors.

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran termed Bangladesh an ideal country of religious harmony and peace.

Ambassador at Large M Ziauddin, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad and Vatican Ambassador in Dhaka Joseph Marino were present.

No place for fatwa in constitution, law

Rokanuddin Mahmud tells SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Rokanuddin Mahmud yesterday said there is no place for fatwa (religious edict) in the constitution and therefore, the laws of the country.

He termed fatwa unconstitutional and unlawful while placing his opinion before the Supreme Court as an amicus curie (friend of court) during the hearing of an appeal against a High Court verdict that declared fatwa illegal.

The senior jurist said those who are giving fatwa in the country lack sufficient knowledge on Islamic jurisprudence.

The SC judges take oath for upholding the constitution and fundamental rights of the people, noted the lawyer adding, they can issue suo moto rule over any issue for protecting people's rights.

Fatwa means theological decision and there is no particular authority to issue fatwa against anybody, M Amir-Ul Islam, another famed legal expert, told the apex court.

There is no cleric system in Islam and the court can take steps to stop anything in the name of fatwa if that damages the personal

Those who are giving fatwa in the country lack sufficient knowledge on Islamic jurisprudence

freedom of any national, stressed Amir-Ul.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam opined that the SC should not prohibit fatwa as a whole. Rather, it can give guidelines on this issue.

A six-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, adjourned the hearing till May 2.

The HC on January 1, 2001, declared illegal all punishments imposed in the name of fatwa after a hearing on its suo moto ruling.

The court issued the ruling following a newspaper report on hilla marriage (marriage with a third person).

Mufti Mohammad Toyeeb and Abul Kalam Azad challenged the verdict at the SC in the same year.



Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue (Vatican's Department), calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Former Wasa chief engr found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) chief engineer Md Nurul Huq Sharif was found lying dead adjacent to his residential building at Wasa Officers' Quarters in Dhanmondi yesterday morning.

"He might have fallen while nursing plants on the rooftop of his five-storied building," said SM Asaduzzaman, a nephew of the deceased.

Hailing from Baufal upazila in Patuakhali district, Nurul was on leave prior to retirement (LPR) since February 7 last year.

Asaduzzaman said Nurul's wife first saw him lying dead when she went to the roof looking for him.

Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Monirizzaman of Dhanmondi Police Station said the deceased's family filed an unnatural death case.

Padma Setu Bastobayan Steering Committee in a press release issued by its Secretary General Ziaul Kabir Dulu expressed deep shock over the death of Nurul as he was a committee member.

Glaxose WEATHER TODAY
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Rain likely
UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:26pm today and rises at 5:26am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and lowest 21.4 degrees Celsius at Cox's Bazar and Madaripur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.2	24.4	58	60
Chittagong	31.5	23.5	63	76
Rajshahi	32.0	23.6	69	87
Rangpur	32.2	22.6	65	68
Khulna	32.0	23.0	79	86
Barisa	31.5	23.4	75	95
Sylhet	33.5	24.0	69	73
Cox's Bazar	31.5	21.4	78	74

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