

Boy found dead in city ditch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A six-year-old boy was found dead in a ditch at Paschim Agargaon in the city early hours of yesterday.
Locals and police recovered the body of Rafiqul Islam, son of rickshawpuller Julhas Miah, who had been missing since Monday afternoon.
Sub-Inspector Nurul Haque of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station told this correspondent that Rafiqul went out of his house to play with his friends after taking lunch on Tuesday. One of Rafiqul's friends said they were playing with him on a makeshift house on the ditch, he added.
Rafiqul might have drowned in the ditch as his body was recovered from the ditch, Haque said.
The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

'Women being empowered but slowly'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Women are being empowered through education and economic activities, yet the pace at which it is happening remains slow, says a study.
"Though more women are becoming educated and economically self-independent and women lead the two main political parties, men still dominate our society", said Naila Kabir, a professor of the University of London, presenting her keynote paper on the study.
She said, "Programmes such as micro-finance have helped women a lot to earn, but whether they are empowered is still questionable".
The research was carried out under Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme, a five-year programme of Brac Development Institute (BDI), launched in 2006. The study findings were made public in the opening ceremony of a three-day conference titled "Revisiting women's empowerment: New horizons" organised by BDI in Brac Centre auditorium in the city's Mohakhali.
The conference's opening, which also marks closing of the research, was attended by BDI Director Prof Syed M Hashemi, Brac University Pro-Vice-chancellor Dr Golam Samdani Fakir, and Pathways Programme South Asia Coordinator Maheen Sultan, among others.



Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni speaks at a discussion styled "Fifteenth amendment to the constitution and anti-state politics of opposition" organised by Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee in the city's Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium yesterday.

Man beaten for violating minor girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Locals caught a man and beaten him up for violating a nine-year-old girl in the city's Ibrahimpur yesterday.
Mohammad Sanaullah, 42, an electrician and neighbour of the victim, was later handed over to Kafrul Police Station.
Sub-inspector Mosharraf Hossain said Sanaullah called the girl to his home around 4:30pm and violated her. Locals caught Sanaullah red handed hearing the scream of the girl. The victim's mother, a garments worker, was away at work during the incident.
Police said Sanaullah confessed to his offence during primary interrogation.
The girl was taken to a local hospital and then to Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night.



Police produce 31 accused in August 21 grenade attack case before Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Charter to be amended if necessary: FM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni said yesterday the government would further amend the constitution, if required, for the reality and circumstances in future.
"The government put its all-out effort to present the nation an excellent constitution. If necessary in future, the constitution will be amended further", she said.
Dipu Moni was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion styled "Fifteenth amendment to the constitution and anti-state politics of opposition" organised by Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee in the city's Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium.
The discussion was arranged to mark the 17th anniversary of the killing of five youths by Jamaat-Shibir cadres in Chittagong for protesting against a Jamaat rally.
Dipu Moni also brushed aside the opposition party's allegation that the government amended the constitution hastily. The special committee took 11 months and held 27 meetings for the amendment, she said.
She also said it is not possible to implement all the election pledges within five-year tenure when the government has to remove anomalies of the past 40 years.
Dipu Moni viewed that BNP and its allies are afraid as the government plugs all the loopholes to stop undemocratic power takeover.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku said BNP is trying to create anarchy in the country to protect the party chief's family interests and the war criminals. BNP launches movement not over the caretaker government system but to make the country unstable and destroy democracy, he added.
At the discussion, noted jurist Barrister Amir-Ul Islam termed some provisions of the 15th amendment "contradictory", saying Islam as state religion and secularism cannot go together in the constitution.
He called upon all pro-liberation forces to mount coordinated movements against the anti-liberation forces and militancy.
The jurist also urged the Election Commission to investigate into the documents of electoral manipulation in 'Yes' or 'No' vote during autocratic governments.
Delivering the welcome speech, the Nirmul Committee executive president demanded cancellation of citizenship of those who do not abide by the constitution and award punishment equating to that for sedition offence to those who will make derogatory comment regarding the constitution.
Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani, president of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, chaired the discussion while its vice presidents Ferdousi Priyabhashini and Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, among others, also spoke.

Environment ministry not playing due role

Speakers tell seminar
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Ignoring main business of protecting the country's environment, officials of the environment and forests ministry are mainly engaged in implementation of development projects, traveling abroad and devouring forest resources, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.
The speakers demanded of the government to reform the ministry thoroughly. They proposed the ministry's new name to be the 'Ministry of Environment Management' to protect the environment.
There are at least 15 ministries responsible to protect environment and ecology either directly or indirectly but these ministries do not play their due role, said the speakers.
They made the observation at a seminar on 'ecology and environmental management: role of ministries' held at Jatiya Press Club in the city.
Even, "Rules of Business" and "Allocation of Business" formulated for different ministries do not contain the business of protecting environment, they said.
Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) organised the seminar while its chairman Abu Naser Khan and former secretary of the government Sohel Ahmed Chowdhury presented two papers.
Mujibul Haq Chunnun, Prof Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed, Prof Nurzahan Sarkar of University of Dhaka also spoke at the event.
Only a few influential people, some private and government organisations are mainly responsible for environment pollution and degradation though the government can control these bad practices.
The industries are polluting water, air and soils, which industries and environment and forests ministries failed to control ultimately posing a great threat to public health.
The speakers demanded of the government to implement the environmental laws for sake of a sound environment.

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Teacher arrested for violating student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A coaching centre teacher of Bagerhat was arrested from the Supreme Court premises yesterday on charge of violating a student.
He appeared before the High Court for bail in a criminal case filed against him.
Police arrested Miskat Sikder, a teacher of Asha Coaching Centre at Gourasta Bazar of Rampal in Bagerhat, around 3:00pm as per a directive of an HC bench of Justice Siddiqur Rahman Miah and Justice Naima Haider.
Assistant Attorney General Md Ali Jinnah told The Daily Star that Miskat aged about 40 is an accused in the criminal case which was filed against him on charge of violating a 14-year-old student of the coaching centre.
Victim's father Rafiqul Islam filed the case with Rampal police station on June 1 under women and children repression prevention law, he said.
Jinnah said Miskat, who was on the run after the case was filed against him, submitted a petition with the HC through his lawyer seeking anticipatory bail in the case.
Miskat has to face the trial court now in the case, he added.

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