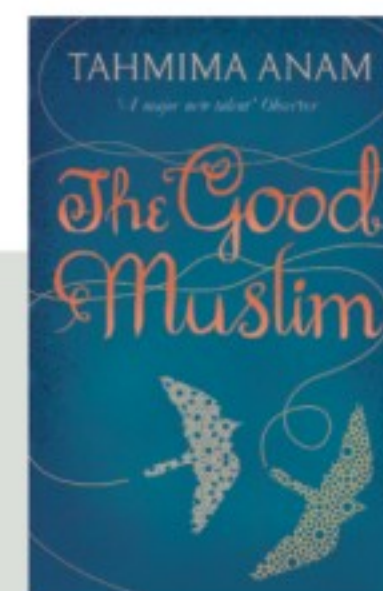




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Distributors : Ajkal, Uttaran, Suchayani, Banglabazar, Dhaka



Deputy Chief of the General Staff of China Ma Xiaotian calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Factory worker stabbed to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A factory worker was stabbed to death yesterday at Dholaiapar in the capital's Kadamtoli allegedly by local criminals.

The victim, Abdul Gafur, 22, died around 3:00pm at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The deceased's elder brother Abdur Rahman said Gafur was returning home from work when 10 to 12 local goons stopped him near Dholaiapar graveyard around 1:30pm and stabbed him indiscriminately.

Locals and family members rushed him to DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries.

The victim identified three of the assailants - Jewel, Sohel and Babu, said Rahman quoting his brother before he died.

Earlier on Wednesday, Gafur had a brief altercation with Jewel, a local criminal who ordered him to bring him breakfast and slapped Gafur after he refused, said Rahman.

Police said they are trying to track down the assailants.

Give war heroines status of FFs

Demand war heroes, members of civil society

BSS, Dhaka

Political leaders, war heroes and members of the civil society have strongly demanded that the status of freedom fighters should be conferred on Biranganas (war heroines) while many of them still face social humiliation even after 40 years of independence.

Calling war heroines as heroic women Awami League presidium member and Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury told the news agency that the demand for giving status of freedom fighters to war heroines is logical.

The nation must be grateful to all of them and they should be given the highest honour, she added.

President of Mahila Parishad Ayesha Khanam said immediately after the independence of the country many Biranganas, who were tortured and raped by the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators during the War of Liberation in 1971, were discarded by their families.

It forced them to live in miseries, she added.

General Secretary of Sector Commander Forum (SCF) Lieutenant General (ret) Harun-Ur-Rashid said the government must recognise the contribution of war heroines and give them honour and status of freedom fighters.

General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh Mujahidul Islam Selim, who was a valiant freedom fighter, said the war heroines should be rehabilitated under a government programme.

He also urged the government to give state honour to them after their death like the honour given to the freedom fighters.

Over two lakh women were violated during the nine-month war.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman set up rehabilitation centres for them immediately after Bangladesh came into being.

The centres were shut down after the gruesome murder of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975.

Military ties with China excellent: PM

UNB, Dhaka

The visiting Chinese military delegation called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban yesterday.

Deputy Chief of the General Staff of China Ma Xiaotian led the delegation.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting.

He said the premier told the delegation that the ties in the field of military cooperation between the two countries are excellent.

Hasina hoped that the Chinese military delegation's visit will strengthen the existing cooperation and understanding between the armies of the two countries.

She said the existing cooperation on training between the two armies have contributed a lot to Bangladesh Army. She thanked the Chinese government for its cooperation in developing Khulna Shipyard and Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory.

Recalling the visit of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to China, she said historically Dhaka and Beijing are enjoying very good relations.

Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Sheikh Wahid Uz Zaman, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Abdus Sobhan Golap, PSO Lt General MA Wadud and Military Secretary to the PM Major General Mia Md Joynul Abedin and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xianyi were present.

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Speed up trial of war criminals

FF journos urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The freedom fighter journalists yesterday urged the government to speed up the on-going trial of the perpetrators who committed atrocities and crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation in 1971.

They made the call at a rally organised by Muktijoddha Sangbadik Command at Jatiya Press Club in the city marking the 40th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh.

Chief of the organisation Akram Hossain Khan presided over the meeting while its general secretary Kartik Chetarjee, Mrinal Krishna Roy, Shafiqur Rahman, Abu Taher, Salimullah Selim and Sudhir Kaiborta Das, among others, spoke, said a press release.

They requested the freedom fighter journalists interested in joining the platform to contact before December 20.

Report on fire safety at hospitals

HC asks director general

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked for a report on fire safety measures at hospitals, clinics and other health centres across the country.

The director general of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) will have to submit the report by February 28, Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain told The Daily Star.

The court directive came in a suo moto move after a report was published in a Bangla daily yesterday that most of the hospitals and clinics are at risk and most health centres do not have fire fighting equipment to doze fire.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Salim passed the directive.

The directive came three days after a devastating fire swept through at a super-specialty hospital, AMRI Hospital, in Dhakuria locality in Kolkata. A total of 92 people, including one Bangladeshi, were killed in the fire.

Gauranga Mondol, the 75-year-old Bangladeshi citizen, had gone all the way from Munshiganj to India with a hope to get back a healthy life just three days before the fire incident.

The director general of Directorate General of Health Services will have to submit the report by February 28

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