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THINKING INDEPENDENTLY

Wiser politics, free press to spur youths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is crucial to ensure that young people think independently in a spirit of curiosity and self-questioning, while a free press and wiser politics can act as catalysts to help them realise their potential.

The suggestions came from renowned and experienced journalists at a media session of the South Asian Youth Convention: Lead 2012

at a city hotel yesterday.

Several hundred youths -- from students to entrepreneurs -- listened to Simon Dring, former managing director of Ekushey TV, Jawed Naqvi, a Delhi-based columnist, Kanak Mani Dixit, editor of Himal Southasian in Nepal and Nurul Kabir, editor of New Age in Bangladesh, speak of their experiences.

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The opposition's road march towards Chittagong yesterday leaves a day-long gridlock at several places on Dhaka-Chittagong highway. The photo is of stationary vehicles on Kanchpur Bridge.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

GATEWAY LICENCE BTRC tangles with JS body

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The telecom regulator yesterday differed with a parliamentary body on the formation of a committee that will evaluate applications for international gateway licences.

The disagreement arose over the inclusion of experts in the committee as per recommendations of the parliamentary standing committee on the telecommunications ministry.

Following an advertisement, 153 new entities recently submitted applications seeking licences for international gateway,

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FACEBOOK POST JU teacher to face sedition charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the inspector general of police (IGP) to file a sedition case immediately against a Jahangirnagar University lecturer for making a "derogatory comment" about the prime minister on social networking website Facebook.

The court, delivering its order on a suo moto order, asked the IGP to submit a report to it by January 15 after complying with the order.

On January 4, the same court sentenced lecturer Md Ruhul Amin Khandaker to six months imprisonment for contempt of court.

Ruhul Amin, a teacher

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'Land grabbing' by Bashundhara under JS scan

Probe body formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body will investigate allegations of land grabbing against the Bashundhara Group.

The parliamentary standing committee on land ministry yesterday formed a four-member body headed by its chief AKM Mozammel Huq to investigate the allegations.

The probe body was asked to submit report to the parliamentary committee as soon as possible.

"The committee has received a complaint that Bashundhara Group has grabbed about 40 acres of government land in Dhaka. After a discussion, we formed the probe committee to dig into the matter," lawmaker Matiur Rahman, member of the parliamentary committee, told The Daily Star after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He refused to give further details or the name of the complainant for the sake of investigation.

The lawmaker, however, said Bashundhara Group had constructed illegal structures on government land.

The committee also asked the land ministry to form an

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TOXIC PARACETAMOL Complainant skips Rid Pharma trial

Pharma trial

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Despite fixing dates five times for the trial against the managing director and four other officials of Rid Pharma Ltd to commence, a Dhaka court could not hold the trial as the complainant did not appear before it.

Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the Drug Court yesterday deferred the hearing until February 14 following a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing as the

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PRAYER TIMING		January 9
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-35
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Sayeede ordered torching houses



Says 10th prosecution witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness told the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday that Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayeede ordered a group of collaborators to torch the house of a businessman in Parerhaat of Pirojpur during the Liberation War.

"Tora ghor-duare agun dhoraiya de [set fire to the houses]," was

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BCB wants Tigers to play in Pakistan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday asked the government to provide a security team which would assess security measures taken in Pakistan for Bangladesh cricket team's proposed tour in April.

The BCB has taken this step for the Pakistan tour

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Rival factions of Comilla district BNP clash over space on the dais at Khaleda Zia's rally at Poduar Bazar in Comilla yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

We deeply mourn at the sad demise of country's most eminent Industrialist, Courageous Entrepreneur, Philanthropist & Chairman of Square Group of Industries and Mutual Trust Bank Limited.

We pray for his departed soul rest in eternal peace and express our profound sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Samson H Chowdhury

All members of Board of Directors & Employees of
Apex Tannery Limited

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with TIB executive director Dr Iftekharuzzaman that fighting graft needs change in our political culture?

Yes (94.3%)
No (4.2%)
No Comments (1.4%)

TOTAL VOTES: 353

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda that EVMs should be used in all future polls?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT
facebook.com/dailystarnews

21st Anniversary of The Daily Star

BANGLADESH THE YOUNG AND THE FUTURE

On the occasion of our 21st anniversary, we at The Daily Star have planned to dedicate our anniversary supplement to recognise both the achievements and visions of the youth of Bangladesh.

The supplement which will be titled 'BANGLADESH, THE YOUNG AND THE FUTURE' will aim to highlight and bring to national attention the work of young achievers from every corner of the country.

But to do so we need the help of our readers.

If you know of any young people who have managed to set themselves apart with diligent work for the greater good, please drop us a nomination. We will run a tooth-comb over it and if the work is indeed exceptional we will share the story with a national audience.

The categories under which the nomination will be sorted are:

1. Technology (also science)
2. Public Service (also professionals)
3. Politics
4. Entrepreneurship
5. Arts (music, film etc.)
6. Academia (also vocational learning, skill development etc.)
7. Agriculture
8. Labour (including young workers inside garment factories)
9. Sports
10. Environment
11. Gender

If you are willing to share a story please e-mail us at elita@thedailystar.net with the name of the individual or group and a brief write-up (no greater than 400 words) of what they are doing.

Deadline for submissions is **January 15, 2011**. This is your chance to get recognised. So get your nominations in.