

NEWS IN
brief

Suranjit warns against chaos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will be forced to take action if the BNP creates anarchy in the name of rally on March 12, warned Railways Minister Suranjit Sengupta yesterday.
Referring to the violence of December 18 last year, he said, "As long as your (BNP) March 12 rally remains democratic, you will get all kinds of cooperation from the government. If you try to misuse your democratic right and create anarchy, the government will be forced to act."
Suranjit was addressing a discussion on "Government's Three Years: People's Expectations and Achievements" organised by Bangabandhu Peshajibi Parishad at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU).

DFID gives 8 vehicles to CRP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department For International Development (DFID) yesterday donated eight second-hand vehicles to Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP).
British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Gibson handed over the keys of the vehicles to CRP Executive Director Shafiq-ul Islam while visiting CRP in Savar yesterday, said a press release.
Gibson said DFID wants to work and support CRP's activities for the people with disabilities in future.
Valerie A Taylor, founder and coordinator of CRP, expressed her gratitude to DFID for their continuous support.
Daniel Device, senior programme manager of DFID and officials of CRP were present.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL
Govt under
int'l obligation
Says Shahriar Kabir

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, from
London

Policymakers of the UK and Europe support the war crimes trial and opined that the government was under international obligation to hold the trial, said Ekatturr Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Executive President Shahriar Kabir.
Shahriar, currently touring Europe, was addressing a rally organised by the UK unit of the committee in East London's Waterlily Centre on the early hours of Friday.
The policymakers met him in Paris, the Hague, Brussels and London and told him that the trial could set a standard for the world, especially South Asia.
As Bangladesh failed to hold the war criminals accountable for the crimes, a culture of impunity flourished in Bangladesh, he said, adding that these criminals were the source of today's religion-based terrorism.
These criminals built networks spanning across the globe and engaged international lobbyists to undermine the trial, he added.
Columnist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury chaired the rally. The committee's UK unit Secretary Syed Anas Pasha, Barrister Tureen Afroz and representatives of the UK units of different political parties were also present.



A student looks around before leaving the room of his dormitory ransacked by Bangladesh Chhatra League men during a factional clash at Sir Salimullah Medical College in the city yesterday. *Inset*, another student departing from the women's hostel. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

Victim women more
prone to suicide

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suicidal tendency is higher among women victimised by different forms of domestic violence than non-victims, experts said at a seminar yesterday.
The tendency rises with the increasing degree of violence, they said, referring to some studies conducted in and outside the country.
The experts also stressed the need for educating guardians to prevent suicide among the teens, especially girls, the most vulnerable section of the population.
It is unfortunate that in most families, girl children feel isolated and suffer the need of affection when a family already has one or more daughters. Isolation may drive the girls into suicide, Dr Mehtab Khanoa, a psychology professor at Dhaka University (DU), said.
To prevent the loss, family members should emphasise company and create an environment of sharing joys and sorrows so that no member can feel isolated, she added.
She also requested parents not to squabble before children.
Shamima Begum, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said police have been coordinating with 10 non-government organisations (NGOs) to prevent suicides.
The law enforcement agency is also thinking of launching helpline service at 41 DMP stations to help girls with counselling, she added.
The seminar, "Suicide among women: Context and prevention", was organised jointly by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), the Society for Voluntary Activities (SOVA), and the clinical psychology department of DU at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.
MJF executive director Shaheen Anam chaired the programme.
Torikul Islam, secretary to the women and children affairs ministry; Moazzem Hossain, director of the social services department; Dr Mahbuba Nasrin, a social science professor at DU; and Jahidul Islam, executive director of the SOVA; also spoke.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Rokeya Begum, a former professor of Dhaka University (DU) and sole female clinical psychologist of Bangladesh, died of cancer at a hospital in the USA yesterday at the age of 67, says a university press release.
She left behind one son, one daughter and a host of well wishers to mourn her death.
DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique expressed deep shock at her death.

Alimun Nessa

METRO DESK

Alimun Nessa, mother of Md Ataur Rahman, senior vice president of public relations department of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, passed away on Friday. She was 97, says a press release.
She left behind four daughters, four sons and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Abdur Rahim Choudhury

METRO DESK



Abdur Rahim Choudhury, eminent cultural personality of Bogra, passed away on February 9 at the age of 73.
He left behind his wife, three sons and one daughter to mourn his death.
He was buried at Bhai Pagla Majar graveyard in Bogra.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the third death anniversary of Prof SHK Yusufzai, a former dean of Civil Engineering faculty of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).
Prof Yusuf was a former member of Bangladesh Planning Commission, says a press release.

DHAKA
TODAY

Human chain

Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:30am.

Workshop

Plan Bangladesh will organise a workshop; Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel; Time: 10:00am.

View exchange meet

Pally Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) will hold a view exchange meeting; Venue: PKSF Bhaban auditorium; Time: 11:30am.

Rally

Bangladesh Patkal Sramik League and Patkal CBA Samannaya Parishad will arrange a rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qul Khwani of Sadik Ahmed Rumu, senior marketing manager of Eastland Insurance Company, will be held tomorrow at 66/B in Malibagh Chowdhury Para after the Maghrib prayers.
Rumu passed away on February 4 at a city hospital.

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