



Families, students and locals pay homage to Mirsarai accident victims at a memorial on Abu Torab Bahumukhi School playground in Chittagong yesterday. They demanded that the government declare the tragic day, July 11, as Safe Road Day, formulate strict laws ensuring punishment for reckless driving and construct a monument on the accident spot. On July 11, 2011, 44 students and a guardian died when a truck carrying them flipped over into a ditch after the driver lost control over the vehicle in Mirsarai upazila while returning from watching a football match. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Majority people not empathetic towards minorities

Views-exchange meeting told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Press Club.
Rashed Khan Menon MP, convener of the parliamentary caucus, said national progress was not possible with defying the rights of indigenous people. Indigenous people were being forcibly evicted from their lands both in hilly and plain areas, he said, adding that the Adivasi Odhikar act was for upholding their rights. Mainuddin Khan Badal, lawmaker of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, presided over the meeting. Abul Momen, a poet and journalist, also spoke.

Tk 403.93cr NCC budget announced

BSS, Narayanganj
Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) yesterday announced a Tk 403.93 crore budget for the current fiscal 2013-2014. Mayor Dr Selina Hayat Ivy announced it at a press conference at NCC conference hall. She expected that Tk 181 crore would come from Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) and UNDP, Tk 94 crore from the government grant and Tk 42 crore from the city corporation's own fund. She said Tk 317.76 crore had been targeted for different development projects, including construction of roads, drains, culverts, children's park, and completion of the construction of Ali Ahmed Chunka Stadium.

DEMO FOR PAY HIKE RMG worker shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A garment worker was killed after unknown assailants opened fire on a group of his colleagues demonstrating for a pay rise at the capital's Merul Badda yesterday. Mohammad Sohag, 22, a worker of Riviera Resources Ltd at Purba Rampura, was shot in the head around 3:00pm. He died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital seven hours later. A passer-by, Shariful Islam, 27, was also injured in the shooting. With a gunshot in the right arm, the house painter was being treated in DMCH. Shahidul Islam, an agitating garment worker, said several hundred workers from a number of garment factories at Purba Rampura were agitating for various demands including wage hike. When they were heading towards Badda to collect more workers, around 30 armed men intercepted them and shot at them, he added. Three or four gunshots were heard, he said. Badda police were trying to identify the shooters. In another shooting, Md Atiul Islam Siddik, managing director of Super Dyeing & Thread Super Accessories at South Badda, was wounded. He was admitted to DMCH. Three unknown men stormed his office in the area and fired at him around 3:00pm. Badda police were looking into the shooting too.

ICT ACT 1973 Amendment applicable to Quader Mollah's case

Amicus curiae tells SC
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Eminent jurist Mahmudul Islam yesterday told the Supreme Court that the amendment to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, which cleared the way for challenging inadequate sentences of convicts, was applicable to the case of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah. He placed the opinion as an amicus curiae (friend of court), since the apex court earlier requested him to do so. Earlier on Monday, two other amici curiae--Rafique-Ul Huq and M Amir-Ul Islam--made similar opinions before the Appellate Division of the SC. Mahmudul Islam, a former attorney general, argued that almost all the laws, which were formulated to try those who committed crimes against humanity and war crimes across the world, had been given retrospective effect since those laws were made after the crimes had taken place. Customary international laws will not be applicable to the International Crimes Tribunals constituted under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, if there is any contradiction between them, he said. Mahmudul said the ICT act could not be challenged, since the constitution of the republic had protected it. He argued that the constitution had given inherent powers to the Supreme Court to pass necessary orders in any case for the interest of justice. The Appellate Division earlier questioned whether the amendment to section 21 of the ICT act is applicable in the case of Abdul Quader Mollah and whether the customary international laws are applicable to the International Crimes Tribunals. The court fixed today for further hearing opinions from the amici curiae. Quader Mollah was jailed for life for committing five crimes during the Liberation War.

GRABBING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S LAND IN DINAJPUR All political parties involved

Discussion told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Speakers at a discussion yesterday claimed that an all-party syndicate has been grabbing pieces of land of indigenous people at Ghoraghat upazila of Dinajpur and demanded administrative and legal actions against it. The remarks came in the backdrop of an incident on June 6 when Bangalee land grabbers attacked indigenous people in the upazila and torched their houses over a land dispute leaving one Morshedul Alam dead. Police arrested seven indigenous men in this connection. Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and Kapeng Foundation organised the discussion at Dhaka Reporters' Unity. At the discussion, a civic delegation led by Pankaj Bhattacharya, president of United National Awami Party, which recently visited the areas, shared their findings and experience. The speakers demanded immediate release of the arrestees, compensation to the victims and safety and security for indigenous people. Pankaj Bhattacharya said no case was filed and nobody was arrested for torturing the indigenous people living there. He criticised the role of local administration and alleged that ruling party men led the attack on June 6. Columnist Syed Abul Maksud, among others, spoke.

It's not a military coup in Egypt

Envoy tells journalists in Dhaka
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Egyptian Ambassador in Dhaka Mahmoud Ezzat yesterday claimed that the armed forces in Cairo had not assumed power but handed over power to the chief justice of the constitutional court reflecting the will of the majority of the Egyptians. "It's not a coup d'etat... It's a peaceful transfer of power from one civilian to another civilian," he repeatedly asserted at a press conference at the embassy. The Egyptian envoy invited diplomatic correspondents from different print and electronic media to brief them about the latest situation in Egypt where over 20,000 Bangladeshi nationals are living in the major cities of Cairo, Alexandria and other ports. Replying to a question, Mahmoud said all Bangladeshis were safe and secure in Egypt following the violent street protests over the removal of President Morsi by the armed forces on July 3 in the wake of popular unrest. He claimed that the army took action as 60 percent of the total population wanted removal of Morsi for his failure to meet the expectation of the people. Asked how they calculated 60 percent have favoured Morsi's removal, the ambassador said it was determined based on the sizes of the anti- and pro-Morsi demonstrators through the Google Earth. Asked how he claimed that it was a peaceful transfer of power when army was on the street killing dozens of pro-Morsi activists in the last few days, Mahmoud said it was not the army and security personnel who shot down people, it was some unidentified people who killed them. He said the army was on the street to protect the people. The Egyptian envoy said Chief General Abdel Fattah Al Sisi declared that the constitution had been suspended and said the provisional government would hold fresh parliamentary and presidential elections in due time, maybe in next three to six months. The envoy said a special commission would be constituted with the representation of all parties and stakeholders, including the Muslim Brotherhood which elected Morsi as president in June 2012, to formulate a draft constitution for the country.

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