

NEWSIN brief

Cops deny gonosraddha permission for Hindu martyrs of Liberation War

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An initiative to hold a mass memorial today for the Hindu martyrs of the Liberation War did not get police clearance, claimed the organisers.

 “We wanted to hold a gonosraddha to honour the Hindu martyrs but police forbade it,” Dayamay Biswas, one of the organisers, told The Daily Star.

 He, however, said he did not know the reason for the refusal.

 Shibli Noman, assistant commissioner of Ramna zone, gave them the decision over the phone but declined to give them a written statement of the refusal.

 Contacted, Noman said there was a political tension among the organisers, so they feared possible chaos at the gathering.

Three arrested with smuggled mobile accessories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested three persons with a huge number of smuggled mobile phone accessories at Sarah Telecomunication in the capital's Gulistan Shopping Complex on Wednesday.

 The accessories include around 8,000 labelled and unlabelled mobile batteries, 2,500 chargers, and 5,000 plastic covers, said CID officials.

601 women victims of violence in last month: BJMAS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 601 women and children fell victims to different forms of violence last month, said Bangladesh Jatiyo Mohila Ainjibi Samity (BJMAS) in a press statement yesterday.

 The organisation revealed a report, based on data published in 14 dailies, which says 52 women were raped, 17 were victims of acid attacks and 113 were trafficked during the last month.

 Besides, 36 women were tortured for dowry.

 Fourteen of them were killed while three committed suicide.

NU honours 4th year exams postponed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The fourth year honours exams under National University slated for October 7 have been rescheduled for Wednesday (October 9).

 The postponed exams will be held at 9:00am while schedules of the other exams will remain unchanged, said a press release yesterday.

Two DU students injured in cocktail blast

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two Dhaka University students were injured after a cocktail, hurled by unidentified miscreants, exploded beside Swaparjito Shadhinata, where they were chatting, on the campus yesterday around 8:00pm.

 Imran of law and Atiq of history were treated for splinter injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

 Acting proctor Amzad Ali said the explosion might be an attempt to create anarchy on the campus.

Youth arrested with revolver

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Tongi police arrested a youth and seized a foreign revolver and a bullet from his possession in Madhumita road area of Tongi in Gazipur city yesterday.

 The arrestee is Shafikul Islam, 25. When his alleged associate Kurban came to Tongi Police Station to meet him, police arrested him too.

 A case was filed in this connection.

BYLC bootcamp starts in Ctg tomorrow

CITY DESK

Youth Leadership Bootcamp 2013, a three-day leadership development programme of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), will begin tomorrow in Chittagong city.

 A total of 100 students, selected from 1,155 applicants, will participate in the programme, which will be held at Brac Learning Center in Kazir Dewri area.

 The programme was announced at a press conference yesterday at Chittagong Press Club. The US embassy is the main sponsor of the programme.

Discussion

Nouka Samarthak Goshthi will hold a discussion on the death penalty given to Salauddin Quader Chowdhury; Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Time: 11:00am.

Rally

Bangladesh Prathomik Shikhhak Samity will stage a rally to press its 11-point demand; Venue: Central Shaheed Minar; Time: 11:00am.



An illegal concrete structure on the bank of the Turag river being demolished in Kachari Road area of Tongi Bazar yesterday. A joint team of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and Gazipur district administration conducted the eviction drive.

PHOTO: STAR

One bigha of Turag river land reclaimed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve semi-concrete and makeshift structures built illegally on the Turag river land were demolished yesterday to free the foreshores.

 In the daylong eviction drive near Tongi Bridge, a joint team of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and Gazipur district administration reclaimed one bigha of land.

 “A total of two acres of the river land have been occupied by 33 illegal structures near Tongi fish market,” said Md Saiful Islam, port officer of Dhaka River Port.

 “We will recover the rest after Eid-ul Azha...We need to free the land to build walkway, plant trees, and protect banks with concrete blocks,” he said.

 The team with two workboats and 50 labourers carried out the demolition led by Mominur Rashid, executive magistrate of the district administration.

Lack of trust challenge for journalism now

Jatiya Press Club seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalism is facing challenges due to a lack of democratic practices in the country, leading to a drop in trust in the professionals, stated media personalities and journalist leaders at a seminar yesterday.

 Factionalisation among journalists' forums and unions reflects this challenge, they said, criticising media ownership aimed at pursuing political goals.

 The amended information and communication technology (ICT) act and national broadcasting policy, both in the making, need to be press friendly for the sake of journalism, they added.

 Jatiya Press Club organised the seminar, “Emerging Challenges of the Media”, at its premises in the capital.

 Ineffective politicians and dictators, not leaders of a democratic country, fear journalism which reflects views of the masses, veteran columnist ABM Musa said as chief

guest.

 “The notable aspect of our democracy is that whoever tried to grab state power failed to do so in the end,” he said, adding that journalism should be without fear and favour.

 In his keynote paper, cine-journalist Chinmoy Mutsuddi said people nowadays do not have as much trust in broadcast and print media as they had in the late 1980s.

 “People have a generalised view that journalists are purchasable as it is a fact that trust in journalism has dropped over the years,” he said.

 Newly elected president of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul said the amended ICT act would only increase journalists' sufferings.

 It contradicts the Right to Information Act, 2009, said Information Commissioner Sadeka Halim.

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Polytech graduates can't be sub-assistant engineers

BSc engineers tell meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Engineers holding bachelor degrees at a meeting yesterday opposed the government's decision to allow polytechnic institute graduates to be eligible for the post of “sub-assistant engineer” at the entry level.

 Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh held the meeting at its premises where the speakers protested the move, saying that “only graduates who have had formal undergraduate education can be recognised as engineers”.

 Previously, a 2008 government provision recognised the entry level post of polytechnic graduates as “supervisor”.

 This, however, was changed following the countrywide movement launched by polytechnic institute students, resulting in more than 300 being injured during the past week only.

 The speakers also protested the other petition made by polytechnic institute students which demanded that diploma engineers be granted speedier promotion.

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JU deadlock continues

JU CORRESPONDENT

The stalemate at Jahangirnagar University continued as the teachers demanding resignation of Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain on Tuesday night rejected the education ministry's request for more time to come up with a solution.

 The ministry officials informally sought 10 more days after a two-member investigation committee filed its findings and recommendations with the ministry on Tuesday, an agitating teacher wishing anonymity told The Daily Star yesterday.

 In the meantime, both Prof Anwar along with his wife Ayesha Akter and the teachers opposing him continued their separate sit-ins in front of the VC's residence on the campus for the third day yesterday.

 Separately, some other agitating teachers have kept Registrar Abu Bakar Siddique and Deputy Registrar Abu Hasan confined to their offices since Monday so that the registrar did not sign the VC-approved appointment letters of three new deans.

 In protest of the confinement, JU Employees Association went on a work abstention indefinitely Wednesday.

 The agitating teachers under the banner, Sadharon Shikhhak Forum, launched a fresh work abstention as the VC did not quit by Tuesday. They have been intermittently staging demonstrations since April 27 accusing Prof Anwar of failing to expel a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader who had assaulted a teacher earlier, committing irregularities in teachers' recruitment, and misusing funds, among others.

POST 2015 DEV GOALS Prioritise needs of people with disabilities Dialogue told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While discussing the post 2015 development goals at the United Nations, the government should prioritise needs of people with disabilities, said speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

 The predicament of such people in countries like Bangladesh was not taken into account in the time bound millennium development goals (MDG) designed in 2000, they added.

 The dialogue, “Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Towards Post 2015 Framework”, was organised in the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

 Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), with Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network and international Christian development organisation CBM, organised the event.

 “The MDGs set for 2015 are very limited in scope. People with disabilities will continue to be ignored in the future if we don't take proactive steps now,” said ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir.

 “The society also has its disabilities. During times of disasters, sex workers and Dalits are always barred from entering shelters,” she said, stating that “society's disabilities” need to be cured before any positive change can be brought for people with special needs.

 Munir Chowdhury, joint secretary (disaster management), Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, said the government was counting the number of people with disabilities.

 “It is not possible to include the issue in the post 2015 development agenda without the baseline information,” he said.

 Rina Roy, director (programme), Manusher Jonno Foundation, said non-government organisations should repeatedly inform the government of the post 2015 development priority.

SQ CHY VERDICT

MKA urges BNP to take its grievances to court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday urged the opposition BNP to stop protesting on the streets and tell the higher court what it had to say about the death penalty verdict on its leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

 By taking to the street, they are not only disrupting law and order but also committing contempt of court, he told reporters after attending a certificate

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Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Istiaque Mahmud Tonmoy, former member of Magura district cricket team, has been battling for his life in a Dhaka hospital since he was diagnosed with cancer in 2011. He had to undergo surgeries and lose his leg earlier this year in order to survive. Tonmoy is now under the treatment of an

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