



The weekend crowd throngs the portion of Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2014 in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

TOKI MURDER Capital punishment for killers sought

UNB, N'ganj

Santrash Nirmul Toki Mancha observed a token hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar in Narayanganj city yesterday demanding capital punishment for the killers of Toki.

The mancha arranged the three-hour hunger strike from 9:00am marking 11 months into the killing of schoolboy Tanvir Ahmed Toki. The programme ended by having drinks offered by Toki's mother Rawnak Jahan.

Toki's father and also the mancha Convener Rafiur Rabbi, Narayanganj Press Club President and the mancha Member Secretary poet Halim Azad, former press club president Mahabubur Rahman Masum, district Nagorik Committee General Secretary Abdur Rahman and district Sangskritik Jote President Pradip Ghosh Babu, among others, addressed the programme.

Meanwhile, a tense situation prevailed in the Shaheed Minar area as activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League had taken position there before the strike began.

However, there was no untoward incident as police and Rapid Action Battalion were patrolling.

Toki went missing on March 6 last year.

Later, he was found dead on the bank of the river Shitalakkhya on March 8.

Crowd enjoys festive book fair ambience

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The characteristic festive mood set in at Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2014 yesterday with the weekend crowd thronging the premises in Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan.

A long queue formed from Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University to Doyel Chatter waiting patiently to enter the fair grounds.

Housewife Maksuda Sultana, arriving with her entire family of six, was waiting in the queue for half an hour.

"Friday is the only day we get time to go somewhere with the entire family. But I did not think it would be so crowded," she said. Alauddin Sarkar, publisher of Biswa Shahitya Kendra, said, "Today the sale is the highest compared to what was in the last one week."

In addition to going through books, people were seen chatting in small groups while others were hunting their favourite writers.



Popular fiction writer Imdadul Haq Milon gave autographs at the stall of Ananya while cartoonist and satire columnist Ahsan Habib was surrounded by autograph hunters at Burdwan House.

The morning hours were less congested, visited mostly by families with little children. Rezaul Islam, arriving with his two sons, the eldest only one and a half years old, said he chose the late morning hours anticipating the evening crowd.

Meanwhile, children hours on Saturdays has been extended by an hour from 10:00am to 3:00pm after which the fair will continue as per schedule till 8:30pm.

The first weekend of the fair saw the arrival of 173 books including Sirajul Islam Chowdhury's "Bichhinnotai Osommoti" by Bidya Prakash and three on poems of Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah published by Okkhor Prokashani. While 29 books were launched yesterday, a painting competition for children was held in the morning.

Speaker Shirin hopes current JS will go forward

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday said she wanted to make the Jatiya Sangsad effective by creating space for participation of both governing and opposition parties.

She said the main opposition Jatiya Party was playing an important role, and its leader Roushan Ershad gave her statement in the January 29 sitting. In the last two days, ruling, opposition and independent members put their questions to the ministers, she added.

The Speaker hoped that the 10th parliament would go forward, and the opposition and other lawmakers would play their due role through constructive criticism.

Shirin Sharmin made these remarks after inaugurating a two-day conference of Rotary International's district 3282 at Chittagong Boat Club in the port city.

When asked whether she would take any initiative of dialogue between the government and BNP, she said she believed that parliament was the place of all sorts of discussion in a parliamentary democracy.

Rotarian Sufi Mohammed Mizanur Rahman chaired the inaugural session, while Rotarian Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Kesava Sankara Pillai, representative of Rotary International's president, and lawmaker MA Latif were present, among others.

DANGER BUILDING

The owner has added a five-foot space, circled in red, to the front of this five-storey residential building in the capital without authorisation and putting any supporting column or beam, making the extended part shaky and vulnerable to collapse even after a mild jolt. Out of fear of dangers, neighbours filed a complaint with the Rajuk on February 4. In the meantime, the owner, Humayun Kabir, has said he will demolish the extended part within a month. The photo of the building, located at 253/G, West Agargaon, was taken recently.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Road crashes kill 10

Two die in capital alone as bus crashes into road divider

CITY DESK

Ten people were killed and eight others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday and Thursday.

Our staff correspondent reports, two pedestrians were killed and another was injured when a reckless bus of Suprovat crashed into a road divider on which the three were standing in Merul Badda area of the capital yesterday.

One of the victims was identified as Saidur Rahman, 26, a private job holder in Narayanganj. Injured Habibur Rahman was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police seized the bus.

Our Gazipur correspondent reports, four people, including two of a family, were killed and three others injured as a human hauler collided head-on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Kapasia upazila on Thursday night.

The dead were auto-rickshaw passengers Parvin Akter, 35, her brother Jasim Uddin, 30, its driver Faruk, 25, and a mentally chal-

lenged man whose name could not be known immediately.

The human hauler first hit the unidentified man while he was crossing a road in Jamir Char area and then collided with the auto-rickshaw, said police quoting witnesses.

The injured were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

UNB from Gazipur adds, Alam Palwan, a member of the central committee of Krishak League, was killed as a bus hit his motorbike at Charagali in Tongi yesterday.

Our Munshiganj correspondent reports, two persons were killed and three others injured when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound bus in Chaltipara area at Sirajdikhan upazila yesterday evening.

Identities of the dead could not be known immediately.

Meanwhile, in Gazaria upazila, driver of a newspaper-laden pick-up van was killed while his helper injured when the vehicle fell into a roadside ditch in Bhaberchar area. The deceased was Shafiqul Islam.

5,000 killed in road accidents last year

Says survey of Nirapad Sarak Chai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 5,000 people were killed and 7,218 injured in road accidents across the country in 2013, says a recent report of Nirapad Sarak Chai, an organisation campaigning for safe roads over the last two decades.

The report observed that the figures of casualties were smaller than those of the previous year, as vehicular movement remained suspended for about three months due to political violence last year, reducing the number of accidents.

The findings are based on 2,750 incidents published in six national dailies. The report claimed that the number must be higher as many incidents were not covered by the newspapers.

The findings were disclosed yesterday at the launching ceremony of www.nirapadnews.net, a venture of Nirapad Sarak Chai to increase awareness among the educated people to reduce road accidents.

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu inaugurated the website at a hotel in the capital.

Chairman of Nirapad Sarak Chai Ilias Kanchan said,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

NEWSIN brief

Libyan PM congratulates Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan Mohamed congratulated Sheikh Hasina for assuming office as the prime minister of Bangladesh.

The Libyan premier expected stronger relationship between the two nations in various fields. He also wished success, progress and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh in his message, according to a foreign ministry press release.

90th annual Ahmadiyya confce begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day 90th annual conference of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama't Bangladesh (AMJB) began in the capital's Bakshibazar yesterday with an appeal to spread the ideals of Holy Quran and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Around 5,000 members of AMJB attended yesterday's programmes, says a press release.

Unidentified man's body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the body of an unidentified man from Nimitala Kharpur in Chittagong city yesterday morning.

The body bore stab injury marks on the abdomen, said Aung Sha Prue Marma, assistant sub-inspector of Bandar Police Station.

The body was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy, said the ASI.

Drug addict youth kills father

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A drug addict youth killed his father at Uttar Muradia village in Dumki upazila of Patuakhali yesterday noon, said police.

The law enforcers arrested the son, Sanjoy Khaskel, 28.

Sanjoy hacked his father, Horinath Khaskel, 70, with a sharp weapon as he refused to give money to his son, said Dumki police Officer-in-Charge Md Ziaul Haque.

Later, locals handed over the youth to Dumki police.

Section 144 imposed at Kishoreganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Local administration imposed section 144 at Dampara in Nikli upazila of Kishoreganj as a pro-BNP upazila election candidate's meeting coincided with another one called by a party faction at the same venue yesterday.

Badrul Momen Mithu called a meeting on Mahtab Uddin High School ground for election campaign while the faction called it in protest against backing Badrul.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Habibur Rahman announced the eight-hour ban from 2:00pm, said Nikli police Officer-in-Charge Mahbub Alam.

Drug peddler jailed in Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A mobile court yesterday sentenced a drug peddler to one year's imprisonment soon after detaining him with 1kg of marijuana in Sharsha upazila in Benapole.

On information, a mobile court led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer ATM Sharif Alam detained Shahidul Gaji, 37, of Benapole Port Thana, at Sharsha Bazar from where he was going to Jessore to sell the drugs.

He was sent to Benapole Port Police Station.



Citizens' rally

Nagorik Sanghati will stage a citizens' rally to express solidarity with the struggle of potato farmers; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable

The Dhaka Forum will hold a roundtable discussion on "Bangladesh at a Crossroad"; Venue: The Daily Star Centre; Time: 10:00am.

Website inauguration

Nagorik Oikya will launch its website; Venue: Bangladesh Medical Association auditorium; Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Karmajibi Dal will arrange a roundtable on extrajudicial killing; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Let's Build A Beautiful Tomorrow

**Asset
DEVELOPMENTS**

*Owners of Land Plots
Are Invited
To Discuss
Their Proposals*

Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Banani, Old DOHS, Cantonment R/A
New DOHS, Baridhara, Bashundhara, Lalmatia, Wari, Uttara
Eskaton Garden & Other Prime Areas

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL US

Tel: 9857495-9

01714 161147 | 01714 161144

01714 161145 | 01714 161146

