

Protect mass media from distortion: Inu

UNB, Dhaka

Terming mass media a "mirror of democracy", Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said it needs to be protected from "the wave of falsehood, distorted information and rumor" to ensure the media's due role towards the country and in strengthening democracy.

He said the mass media must remain transparent and active to play its due role maintaining objectivity and accountability towards the country, its security and to help implement the country's vision.

"You (journalists) must remain neutral...but, in the name of neutrality, you can't take the side of falsehood, rumor, Pakistan, militancy and military dictatorship," said the information minister.

He made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of the annual conference of the UNB (United News of Bangladesh) district

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Road accidents kill 7, injure 25

CITY DESK

Seven people were killed and 25 others injured in road accidents in the capital, Sirajganj, Khulna, Moulvibazar, Gazipur and Kushtia Friday and yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports, a man was killed as a rickshaw carrying him was hit by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw from behind in the capital's Jatrabari yesterday morning.

The deceased was Mainuddin, 30, of the area. Our Pabna correspondent adds, three motorcyclists died as the speeding bus hit two motorcycles in front of Shahzadpur fire station in Sirajganj Friday night.

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Bangladesh Shadharon Chhatra Parishad blocks off the road before Bangladesh National Museum in the capital yesterday demanding that the age limit for applying for public jobs be increased to 35.

PHOTO: STAR

Publishers trying to popularise paperbacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unlike Western countries, paperbacks are not common in Bangladesh but several publication houses taking part in the Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2014 stated that they have been trying to introduce this lightweight, low-cost version of books.

Publication house Adorn released its first 35 paperbacks in 2008 comprising English and Bangla classics such as Shakespeare's Hamlet and unabridged novels of Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Rabindranath Tagore and Begum Rokeya.

Syed Zakir Hossain, chief executive officer and publisher of Adorn, said, "It is reader



friendly and a lot of people who live outside the country or travel frequently can easily carry these books."

In contrast to hardbacks, paperbacks weigh almost five times less, is environmentally friendly and more content can be fitted into less paper, he explained to The Daily Star yesterday.

"In hardcover, a 100-page book ultimately turns into a 130 one while in paperbacks the same book can be printed with 80 pages," he said, adding that the binding cost is also less.

However, Shahidul Islam Bizu, proprietor of Pathak Shamabesh, which started off printing magazines in paperback editions in

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Sust students clash with trade fair staff to get free tickets

30 hurt; fair suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A local trade fair at Noyabazar of Sylhet was suspended following a clash between the students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) and the fair staff over tickets on Friday night that left about 30 people injured.

According to police and campus sources, a second year BBA student, Abhilash Dev, and some others went to the fair around midnight demanding that they be given tickets for free. An altercation soon followed during which the staff beat up Dev.

As the news of the incident spread, more Sust students rushed to the fair and vandalised stalls and rides there. Soon a clash ensued between the students and villagers, said police.

On information, police rushed to the area and fired 15 rounds of bullet to bring the situation under control, said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police Md Rahamat Ullah. He said the fair has

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Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman receives a framed paeen by poet Syed Shamsul Haque from Sultana Kamal, Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah, Bir Uttam; and Dr Akbar Ali Khan while Sarwar Ali looks on during a reception accorded to him by Bangladesh Rukhey Darao in the capital's Liberation War Museum. The reception was in recognition of Prof Anisuzzaman being chosen for the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award in India. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

Late Tangail-8 lawmaker's son gets AL ticket for March 23 by-poll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anupom Shajahan, son of late AL lawmaker Shawkat Momen Shajahan, yesterday got Awami League (AL) nomination to contest in the Tangail-8 constituency by-poll scheduled for March 23.

A meeting of the AL Parliamentary Board, chaired by the party President Sheikh Hasina, picked Anupom at her official residence Gono Bhaban, says an AL press release.

The constituency fell vacant following Shawkat's death on January 20. He was elected unopposed in the January 5 polls.

NEWSIN brief

BNCC training camp concludes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The closing ceremony of a 10-day training camp of Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) was held at its academy in Savar yesterday amid a colourful march-past.

Lt Gen Md Moinul Islam, chief of general staff of Bangladesh Army, attended the ceremony and took salute as the chief guest.

Male and female cadets numbering 650 from different universities and colleges joined the camp.

Brig Gen Murshedul Huque, director general of BNCC, and high military and civil officials were also present.

10 Jamaat-Shibir men held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested 10 Jamaat-Shibir activists in Satkania upazila of Chittagong in different cases filed over subversive activities.

They are Shibir activists Sahadat Hossain, 22, Md Sohel, 22, Abul Hasan, 25, Nurus Chhafa, 25, Sarwar Kamal, 28, Anwar Hossain, 30, and Abu Siddique, 22; and Jamaat men Abdus Samad, 40, Md Osman, 38, and Ahmed Hossain, 40.

Satkania police Officer-in-Charge Khaled Hossain said they were held in an overnight drive in Chhadaha, Dhemsha, Keochia, Madarsha and Pahartali areas.

Eight houses gutted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Eight houses were burnt to ashes in a fire at Geramara village in Mirsarai upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

The fire originated from an oven around 12:00 noon, said locals. Fire fighters doused the blaze around 2:40pm, said Mahmudul Huq, station officer of Chhagalnaiya Fire Service.

Body found in capital identified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body found buried in the sand at the capital's Aftabnagar Friday was identified yesterday.

Raj Kumar, 25, of Khilgaon, was a milkman, said Badda police Officer-in-Charge Abdul Jalil.

His body was discovered in Aftabnagar real estate project site when some construction workers saw a foot sticking out.

Raj was suffocated using a sheet which was also found wrapped around his neck, Jalil said.

Police are yet to find out the killers, he added.

Ctg Samiti-Dhaka accords reception to members' kids with GPA-5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is in dire need of a clear-cut language policy, said noted educationist Salimullah Khan.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a function of Chittagong Samiti-Dhaka at its auditorium in the capital on Friday.

The function was organised to accord a reception to the children of the Samiti's Life members who achieved GPA-5 in PSC/JSC/JDC examinations last year.

Chittagong Samiti-Dhaka President Laila Siddique was in the chair.



Workshop

Dhaka University's Department of Sculpture will organise a workshop on performance arts; Venue: its premises; Time: 11:00am.

Spring festival

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation will hold a five-day spring festival; Venue: its premises; Time: 11:30am.

Workshop

The Ministry of Agriculture will organise

a workshop on "Local Best Practices, Food Security Programme-2006, Soil Fertility Component Project"; Venue: SRDI Training Hall, Farmgate; Time: 9:15am.

Publiclecture

International Growth Centre, and Institute of Governance Studies will organise a public lecture, "Beyond education for all: Meeting the human resource needs of economic development" Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 10:30am.

3 suspended BCL men still residing in JU halls

One enjoying employment, remaining 10 accused frequent campus

JU CORRESPONDENT

Despite being suspended from Jahangirnagar University (JU), three of the 13 Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men accused in the Zubair murder case are not only residing in the halls, one of them is also still employed at the university.

The rest of the 13 frequent the campus and sometimes stay overnight in JU halls.

Of the aforementioned three, Mahamudul Hasan Masud and Najmul Hossein Plabon reside in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall while Shafiul Alam Setu in Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall.

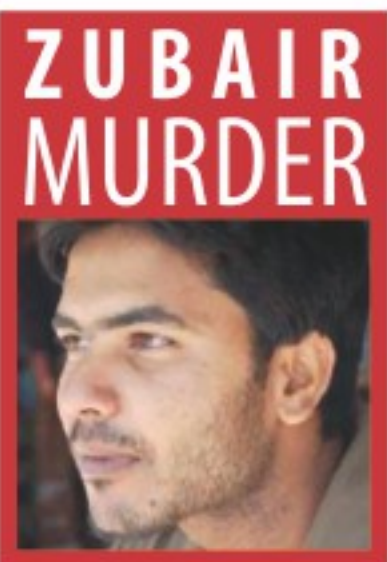
Bringing the allegation, "Shontrasher Biruddhe Jahangirnagar", a platform demanding justice over the murder, also claimed that six of the 13, out on bail, beat up two of its activists, also Zubair's friends, outside Dhaka District Judge's Court after a hearing on January 18.

Over two years past the murder, the JU probe report is yet to be made public although it was scheduled to be published on January 10.

Zubair Ahmed, an honours final year student of English and a BCL activist, was tortured and stabbed allegedly by the accused 13 on January 8, 2012. He succumbed to his injuries in a Dhaka hospital the next day.

Under the syndicate's January 30, 2012 decision, the 13, seven expelled and six suspended for two years, cannot

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The Daily Star

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