



'NO LENIENCY'

Lebanon vows as troops fight jihadists near Syria

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KISHORE, FOREVER YOUNG

The inimitable style of the versatile singer never becomes outdated

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ANOTHER LAUNCH DISASTER IN PADMA

More than 100 feared dead

Only 2 deaths confirmed; many trapped in sunken overcrowded vessel

PANKAJ KARMAKAR, WASIM BIN HABIB and FARHANA MIRZA

More than a hundred people are feared dead as an overcrowded launch, buffeted by strong waves in the Padma river, sank near Lauhajang upazila of Munshiganj yesterday.

Double-decker Pinak-6 with around 200 people on board was on its way to Mawa Ghat from Kawrakandi terminal, and sank in the middle of the mighty river around 11:00am.

Rescuers found it hard to carry out the salvage operation due to strong currents.

The disaster struck less than two and a half months after a launch capsized in the Meghna river in Munshiganj, leaving at least 55 people dead.

The information centre set up by the district administration at Mawa Ghat told The Daily Star last night that at least 120

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Capacity 85, Salvage operation passengers over 200 a big challenge

TAWFIQUE ALI

The ill-fated vessel MV Pinak-6 was overcrowded far beyond its capacity of 85 people. There was no effective safety watch either at Kawrakandi ferry terminal in Madaripur.

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PINAKI ROY

Many have seen on TV where motor launch Pinak-6 had rolled over and sunk in the Padma near Mawa yesterday. But locating the vessel under the water has become a daunting task.

Armed with just a sonar boat-side scanner of the navy, rescuers of the coastguard, fire service and navy last night and early today were still looking for the vessel, which they fear has drifted away significantly in the strong current.

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Relatives weep for Ifa, 13, Miraj, 9, and 17-month-old Ibrahim, who went missing after an overloaded launch they were in capsized in the River Padma yesterday. The three children were on board the vessel with their mother. She made it to shore but not with her children.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

29 missing as boat sinks in Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Twenty-nine people went missing as a Malaysia-bound motorboat sank during a storm near Shamtipara area in the Bay of Bengal yesterday morning.

The boat had set sail with 30 passengers from Bakkhalir Mohona area on Saturday evening to go to the neighbouring country illegally.

Shaheen, who hails from Narsingdi, was the only lucky man who could be rescued by the locals. He was being treated at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

The 35-year-old said they were illegally going to Malaysia with the help of some brokers but could not name anyone.

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Strict monitoring, plenty of scope for misuse

Cabinet okays draft national broadcast policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the National Broadcast Policy-2014, keeping much scope for the government to misuse the policy in the name of maintaining standard of news, programmes and advertisements in the electronic media.

Once in force, all contents of radio and television will come under strict government monitoring.

False, discriminatory and misleading information and statistics must be avoided in news and programmes, according to the draft policy.

Media professionals and experts oppose any policy that may curb the independence of the mass media.

"We expected a cooperative broadcasting policy, not a regulatory one," said Monjurul

Ahsan Bulbul, chief editor of Boishakhi television, when asked about the draft.

Some main features of the policy include upholding the spirit of the Liberation War, protecting the country's language, culture and values as well as broadcasting news related to the development.

Briefing reporters, Cabinet Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan claimed the policy was made to ensure freedom of speech, free flow of information, social responsibility of the media and have independent and responsible mass media flourish.

DON'TS FOR THE MEDIA

The policy will restrict the airing of programmes that satirise national ideals, undermine people and harm the unity and solidarity of the country.

It also aims to prohibit broadcast of programmes that may spark separatism

and unrest and create hatred among different castes, creeds and religions.

The policy will restrict airing news or programmes that intrude on privacy, impede state security and hurt religious values and non-communal spirit. It will not allow any news or programmes in favour of any country, which in turn proves harmful to other countries and thus affects relations with friendly nations.

Under the policy, news that can encourage mutiny, anarchy and violent activities and inspire corruption directly or indirectly will have to be avoided. It also prohibits advertisements demeaning or ridiculing the armed forces and law enforcement agencies.

Photos or videos that hurt people's feelings, such as murder, bodies of victims

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NATIONAL BROADCAST POLICY - SEE ONLINE

KEY POINTS

Military, civil and public information that may compromise state security can't be broadcast

Anything demeaning armed forces, law enforcement agencies and government officials who can punish people for criminal offences can't be broadcast

Addresses of the head of the government and the state, health and weather messages must be broadcast properly

Mutiny, chaos, violent incidents which may affect public interests can't be aired

US supports trial for war crimes: Rapp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US supports the ongoing war crimes trial in Bangladesh, said visiting US ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues Stephen Rapp yesterday.

After a courtesy meeting with the judges of the International Crimes Tribunal at the Old High Court building in the capital, Rapp lauded them for being able to discharge their jobs "without pressure, without politics, without threats".

"... the best way in the world to find the truth is the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Truce collapses in six minutes

Killing child, Israel resumes Gaza strikes; Hamas tunnel network 'almost destroyed'; death toll 1,865

AGENCIES

A Gaza ceasefire collapsed in just six minutes yesterday morning after an Israeli F16 jet destroyed a house in a beach-side refugee camp, killing an eight-year-old girl and wounding dozens.

Witnesses and several journalists based at a nearby hotel, reported hearing the whistle of a missile fired from an F16 warplane before it crashed into a three-story house wedged between two tall buildings inside the beachfront Shati refugee camp.

An AFP correspondent said the strike hit at 0706 GMT - just six minutes into the ceasefire. An Israeli military spokeswoman said she was checking the refugee camp attack and said four rockets had been fired from Gaza since the truce started and two had crashed inside Israel.

With only a narrow alley leading to the house, it was not possible to get rescue equipment to the scene, with a long line of people passing out chunks of rubble by hand.

After about half an hour, they managed to pull the body of a young girl wearing pyjamas out of the rubble - her spine appeared to be broke in several places.

"Just after 10am, an F16 fired at the houses. There is no truce. How could there be a truce, they are liars, they don't even respect their own commitments," raged Ayman Mahmud, who lives in the neighbourhood.

At least 20 Gazans were killed yesterday, Palestinian officials said, including two in an Israeli airstrike next to a desalination plant.

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Life in the chaos of death: A little girl holds her new sister, who was born at a UN school in Gaza over the weekend. The baby has been named Gaza Tqawem Nedal Hojelai.

PHOTO: MAIL ONLINE

NEWS ANALYSIS

TUBA GROUP CRISIS

Did BGMEA play its due role?

REEYAT ULLAH MIRDHA

The painful saga of the Tuba Group workers' agitation over a payment of dues has been quite revealing of the questionable role played by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) in the crisis. And that has been despite the fact that the association was tasked to streamline its member factories.

The BGMEA staged the payment drama at such a time when the whole world has been focusing on Bangladesh's garment sector, particularly over safety and labour standards in the workplace.

The BGMEA was also supposed to monitor such compliance factors as timely payment of wages and safety and security measures for workers of its affiliated member factories. Sadly, though, that role was conspicuous by its absence.

The laidback role of the BGMEA has, it appears, only encouraged member factories in perpetuating their bad practices. Their misdeeds touched the peaks.

The ramifications of the BGMEA's laxity in monitoring the factories are all out there: there has been a collapse in safety and security measures in the garment units.

Memories are yet fresh in the public mind about the callousness which caused two of the deadliest disasters in the nation's garments sector. The Tazreen Fashions fire and the Rana Plaza building collapse occurred within a space of six months between 2012 and 2013.

It was the nation that paid the price when the US went for the harsh move of suspending trade privileges under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) on June 27 last year.

It is not too hard to see that the Tuba Group's sister

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Tuba workers to stage demo before BGMEA office today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The agitating workers of Tuba Group will lay siege to the office of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) today.

Their demonstration in front of the BGMEA Bhaban in the capital's Karwan Bazar area will begin around 11:00am, workers said.

A majority of 1,600 workers from five Tuba factories have been on hunger strike since July 28, a day before Eid-ul-Fitr, for three months' arrears and festival bonus.

On Sunday, the garment makers' association in a statement asked the workers to receive two months' salaries from its office on Wednesday (tomorrow), and said the Tuba Group will pay Eid bonus and the rest of the salaries later.

"We don't agree with the BGMEA," Khokon Mia, a senior operator of the group, said yesterday. "We want the full payment of

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