



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star
the STAR
 stories behind the news



THREE MORE YEARS

Russia extends Snowden's stay amid tensions with the US

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Crackdown on Tuba workers

Cops drive them away from protest site, force them to take partial salaries

SOHEL PARVEZ, AKRAM HOSEN and JAMIL MAHMUD

Police yesterday clamped down on Tuba Group workers, forcing them to break an 11-day hunger strike and take a portion of their outstanding salaries.

Around noon, the law enforcers drove several hundred workers away from the protest site by using teargas and pepper spray inside the garment maker's 12-storey factory building in North Badda in the capital.

Nearly 1,500 workers had been staging protests -- around 300 of them on hunger strike -- in the building since July 28, the day before Eid-ul-Fitr. The arrears were for the months of May, June and July, including overtime bills and Eid bonuses.

Dejected, hundreds of workers, including the injured ones, went to the BGMEA office in the afternoon to receive two months' salaries offered by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) earlier.

Meanwhile, Tuba Group Shramik Sangram Committee, a temporary platform of labour rights organisations, called strike in garment factories across the country tomorrow.

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Shohid, a Tuba Group employee who had been injured during police action on workers' demonstrations, is seen collecting two months' wages at the BGMEA Bhaban in the capital yesterday. They had been demanding three months' pay and Eid bonuses.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Anger grows over rescue failure

Death toll in Padma launch disaster reaches 36

PANKAJ KARMAKAR, WASIM BIN HABIB with FARHANA MIRZA

Grief has given way to anger at Mawa on the Padma river.

Four agonising days into the Pinak-6 launch disaster, family members of those missing are now accusing the government of putting in poor rescue efforts.

As of 12:30am today, 36 people are confirmed dead. Scores more missing are presumed dead. The sunken double-decker is yet to be traced.

Locals of Madaripur blocked Dhaka-Khulna highway for nearly three hours yesterday, demanding removal of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) chairman and other officials for what they said was negligence in duties.

Ferry and launch services were also disrupted, putting passengers in trouble. Family members of the victims have been waiting on the banks of the

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Broadcast policy takes effect

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The information ministry yesterday published a gazette on the National Broadcast Policy 2014 for television and radio, ignoring worries about a possible misuse of some of its provisions.

With this move, the policy comes into force and the ministry can now enforce it to regulate the contents of the electronic media, including news, talk shows and advertisements.

The cabinet on Monday approved the policy, which imposes some restrictions on news, talk shows and advertisements. According to the policy, no one can provide false or misleading information or statistics on talk shows, discussions and news.

Media professionals said the gazette has placed them in an uncomfortable

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A retrogressive policy

It will throttle media, stymie democracy and damage the govt

MAHFUZ ANAM

In any conflict between free media and government, the latter wins in the short run while the former wins in the end. But a lot of valuable nation building time is lost in the intervening period.

Government wins initially because it has all the fund and coercive machinery of state at its disposal to cajole, bribe, intimidate, threaten and intern people and force its way. Freedom and free media win in the end because people rally behind them -- which is necessarily a time consuming process. This lesson of history our government does not seem to have learnt.

If we look at the relative development of countries a co-relation

COMMENTARY

between free media and prosperity immediately emerges. In fact, a reverse co-relation also comes forth that countries that do not permit a free media have all stagnated far below their national potential.

The whole of present day Africa and much of Latin America of the '70s bear testimony to this. Those African countries that are now showing promise -- Ghana, Botswana, Burundi, Angola, Tanzania, South Africa, to mention a few of them -- without exception have a media scene that is marked by gradual expansion of freedom. Even in China, the reporting on corruption in the China Daily, including that of

Communist party officials, was something unimaginable in the recent past.

There are obviously numerous reasons why the Soviet experiment failed. However, an important one, in our view, was the absence of a free media. Constantly flattered by compliant journalists under threat of banishment to Siberia (for example) the leaders just did not know when the ground was shifting from underneath their feet until one day literally the sky fell on their heads. The state with its entire coercive edifice collapsed, leaving their own people and the world wondering what could have been and what these megalomaniac leaders had done to some worthy ideals.

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IMAGE: INDEPENDENT TELEVISION GRAB

Abul Khair Chowdhury, complainant of two cases against BCI Bangladesh for adulterating drugs, being escorted out of a courtroom. The Dhaka Drug Court yesterday sent him to jail.

Keep him in prison till testimony ends

Court passes rare order on defiant complainant in toxic syrup case

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRAN HOSSAIN

Abul Khair Chowdhury, the complainant in the two cases filed over the deaths of 76 children from consumption of adulterated paracetamol syrup two decades back, landed in jail yesterday for defying 18 consecutive court orders to give testimony.

"You will stay in jail until you finish giving testimony in both the cases," said Dhaka Drug Court Judge Abdur Rashid, pointing at Khair, who is assistant director of the Directorate

General of Drug Administration.

The Drug Court couldn't begin trials in the cases owing to Khair's not testifying, though the High Court in February 2011 withdrew its order that stayed the case proceedings from 1994.

Khair finally appeared before the court yesterday and gave testimony.

The court order came after Khair completed his hour-long deposition from 11:15am in one of the two cases filed over the deaths of 76 children. The kids died of renal failure after consuming adulterated paracetamol syrup in early 1990s.

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GAZA STRIKES UK national of Bangladeshi origin killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A UK national of Bangladeshi origin was killed in an Israeli attack on Gaza on Eid day.

The victim, Hamidur Rahman, 21, was killed in an air attack, said family sources.

Hamidur, son of Abdul Hannan, who has been living in the UK for decades, along with some of his friends left his house at Portsmouth in the UK for Gaza about two months ago without informing his family, said Abdul Monaf, an uncle of the deceased who lives in Mirer Chak of Biswanath upazila.

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Israel, Hamas at odds over truce

Obama questions Gaza blockade

APP, Gaza City

A three-day ceasefire in Gaza that has brought relief to millions entered its final stretch yesterday with Israel ready to extend the calm but Hamas hedging its bets.

And US President Barack Obama put pressure on intensive ceasefire negotiations in Cairo by saying Gaza could not remain cut off from the world forever.

Britain, France and Germany have put forward an initiative that could bring EU representatives to the Gaza border, a diplomatic source said.

Four weeks of bloodshed between Israel and Hamas killed 1,886 Palestinians and 67 on the Israeli side. Figures released by UNICEF, the UN children's fund, indicate that 73 percent of the victims - or 1,354 people - were civilians.

Of that number, at least 429 were children - around 30 percent of the civilian casualties.

With the ceasefire due to end at 0500 GMT today, Egypt's intelligence chief Mohamed Farid Tohamy was holding a new round of talks with the parties on Thursday

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First day at college ends in tragedy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was with boundless hopes that Shorufa Akhter Nila started out from home to attend her first day at college yesterday morning. Little did she know about the fatality that the illegal three-wheeler brought about on the way, bringing a catastrophic end to her dreams of a different life.

As the battery-run easy bike she boarded moved past Lalbagh fort,

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Shorufa Akhter Nila

Information Seminar on Canadian High School/Pre-university Program

As of August, 2013, **Canadian International School** accredited by the Ministry of Education, Manitoba, Canada is authorized to conduct the Canadian High School/Pre-University Program in Bangladesh.

After obtaining the Canadian High School Certificate, our students are eligible to apply for direct entry to the Universities of Canada, USA or other prestigious Universities around the globe.

Mr. Errol Harris - **High School/Pre-University Program Expert** from Canada is scheduled to conduct information seminars on August 12 and 13 at 6:00pm. Parents and students of grades 9, 10 & 11 will greatly benefit from these seminars and they are strongly recommended to attend any of these seminars at the CIS multipurpose hall on August 12 or 13.

For free registration 01841461000

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