

RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE CID submits two progress reports on investigation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday submitted progress reports on investigation of the two cases filed over Rana Plaza collapse and said they had completed the investigation.

But they could not submit the probe report to the court as they were yet to get any approval from the public administration ministry and Rajuk to include the names of three government officials as accused in two cases.

Earlier on September 18, a Dhaka court asked the ministry and Rajuk to immediately approve the names of Md Kabir Hossain, former Savar upazila nirbahi officer; and Uttam Kumar Roy, chief executive officer; and Awlad Hossain, building inspector of Savar Municipality.

Rajuk filed a case against
SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Boga Lake in Bandarban on a December morning in 2009. The photographer, who is a banker in profession, won The Daily Star's photo contest for its readers, inPixel, with the theme 'Beautiful Bangladesh'.

PHOTO:
PINU RAHMAN



Protesters end hunger strike at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Coaxed by seven Dhaka University teachers, a group of college graduates yesterday ended their hunger strike four days after initiating it protesting the university authority's recent decision to discontinue admission test retakes from next year.

Expressing solidarity with the demand, the teachers, including assistant professors Md Tanzimuddin Khan of international relations and Samina Lutfa of sociology, fed the 12 protesters juice and water on the capital's Central Shaheed Minar premises.

Initially 40 students had joined the demonstration but most quit after falling sick.

Tanzimuddin said they submitted at the vice chancellor's office a memorandum containing signatures of 24 teachers urging the authorities to reconsider the "hasty decision".

Such a major decision should be taken following consultation with all concerned, he added.

NEWS IN brief

Conference of BGB-BSF starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A four-day regional conference of senior officials of BGB and BSF started at Tamabil Simanta Sammelon Kendra on Sylhet Meghalaya frontier yesterday.

At the meeting the BGB officials led by Brigadier-General Latiful Haider raised killing of Bangladesh nationals and other trans-border issues.

The officials will join a programme in the capital today.

Businessman beaten, mugged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Snatchers allegedly took away Tk 4.75 lakh from a businessman after beating him with iron rods in the capital's Matuail yesterday.

Victim Hafizur Rahman, 34, who was undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said some 10-12 persons obstructed him while he was returning to his shop in the area after collecting the money from customers.

Police, however, said they learnt that it happened following previous enmity.

65 Bangladeshi students awarded Australian scholarships

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Australian government has awarded 65 Bangladeshi students scholarships to pursue postgraduate studies from 2015 in Australia.

Of the award receivers 50 percent are women and 17 candidates belong to ethnic minority groups, says a press release.

While congratulating the students at a ceremony yesterday, Australian High Commission's Counsellor for Development Cooperation Priya Powell said the scholarships would strengthen Bangladesh's capacity in key sectors.

Self-study website for BCS exam opens

CITY DESK

StudyPress, an automated learning site for aspirants of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) and bank jobs, has been launched with an aim to help candidates prepare for the competitive tests online.

Using the email address or Facebook account, anyone can sign up at studypress.org.

The self-learning and evaluation platform was launched on October 2.

UU convocation tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 3rd convocation of Uttara University will be held tomorrow at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital, said a press release yesterday.

President and the university's chancellor Abdul Hamid will preside over the programme.

Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, adviser to the prime minister for power, energy and mineral resources affairs; and The University Grants Commission Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury are scheduled to attend there.

CHILDREN'S DAY Jaago to hold daylong campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jaago Foundation has organised a daylong campaign across the country on Thursday to create awareness about children's right to education.

The NGO arranged the campaign in observance of Universal Children's Day.

Around 10,000 volunteers across the country would participate in the event, said Korvi Rakshand, founder and chairman of the organisation, at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

The campaign will be launched in 28 districts with the theme "Invest in Education".

More than 500 street children will be taken to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

COMBATING RIGHTS VIOLATIONS South Asia requires common platform

Inauguration of two-day int'l seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Celebrating coexistence of diverse ethnic cultures, South Asia requires a common platform to combat cross-border and domestic human rights violations, the region's rights leaders told the inauguration of a two-day international seminar yesterday.

They said the countries were fighting similar kinds of rights violations like poverty, sectarianism and gender violence and human trafficking.

"Although the economy in the region has grown up over the last few decades, the question remains whether we have advanced in human development," said Justice KG Balakrishnan, chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India.

He shared his disappointment over the region's position at the bottom part of the global Human Development Index.

NHRC, Bangladesh organised the semi-

nar, "Towards a South Asian Human Rights Mechanism: Prospects and Challenges", at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University.

Over 100 rights activists, including 16 from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, are participating at the seminar, divided into seven sessions.

Chairing the session, NHRC, Bangladesh Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman opined that regionalism was sometimes put forward as an alternative to globalism to make it easier to address the similar national problems.

"...the reason why we are here is to find a common strategy to address the common human rights problems of the South Asian region," he said.

Addressing as chief guest, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said South Asian countries need co-operation to enhance sharing of common interests.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Minorities' rights violations in secular state condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a national consultation yesterday condemned the fact that Bangladesh was experiencing rights violations of minority communities of different ethnicities and religions and of the third gender despite being constitutionally secular.

State religion cannot exist in parallel with secularism in the constitution, they told the event titled "Human Rights Situation of Minority People" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Human Rights Alliance Bangladesh, an alliance of 14 minority communities' organisations, organised the event with assistance from Global Human Rights Defence.

Writer Syed Abul Maksud said peace, without being ensured for minority communities, cannot be gained in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Unity Council General Secretary Rana Dasgupta said the state and politics were responsible for the communal violence.

It results from a "crisis of wealth" and is caused in Bangladesh for the tendency to grab wealth of the minority communities, said daily Amader Orthoneeti Editor Nayeemul Islam Khan.

Associate Prof Robaet Ferdous of Dhaka University's mass communication and journalism said nowadays there was little tolerance for unconventional thoughts and ideas.

The recent murder of a Rajshahi University teacher and past ones including that of eminent writer Humayun Azad were a sequel to the communal violence perpetrated by intolerant extremists, he added.



From left, Wasfia Nazreen, a mountaineer; Korvi Rakshand, founder and chairman of Jaago Foundation; Calvin Hayes, cultural affairs officer at the US embassy in Dhaka; and Akku Chowdhury, a freedom fighter and a trustee at Liberation War Museum, at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday marking Universal Children's Day.

PHOTO:
STAR

DU student assaulted for 'harassing music peers'

DU CORRESPONDENT

A fourth year Urdu student was assaulted and handed over to the Dhaka University acting proctor yesterday over allegations that he and his two classmates harassed and passed lewd comments on three female students of music.

Nahid will be suspended today while a decision on Arif and Selim will soon be taken, said Prof Amzad Ali.

The victims filed a complaint stating that the harassment started inside the arts building's lift and continued till they reached nearby photocopy shops.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

MURDER OF ANWARA IN OCTOBER Son frustrated at cops' inefficiency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The son of a woman who was murdered last month expressed his frustration as police have not unearthed any clue about the incident yet.

Sohel Rana's mother Anwara Begum Moni, 50, was hacked to death at her flat in the capital's Kadamtali area on October 19.

"Police were active in their investigation after the incident, but as time went on their work became sluggish," Sohel claimed at a press conference at the office of Crime Reporters' Multipurpose Cooperative Society in the capital.

He was in the United Kingdom when the incident took place. After Sohel's father Jainal Abedin filed a case, police arrested Khokhon Bhandari, the security guard of the building.

Sub-Inspector Salah Ahammed, the investigation officer of the case, denied Sohel's allegation saying they are verifying information provided by the security guard.

Youth held

FROM PAGE 3
Hathazari Police Station.

Asked about this, Officer-in-Charge Md Ismail said, "We would find out whether he did it by himself or someone else did it. The decision on suing him would be taken after investigation."

Hefazat denied Amran's involvement with the organisation.

Higher

FROM PAGE 3
relatively less urbanisation.

Land management and ownership, which implies source of power, is the most fundamental challenge in urbanisation in a city like Dhaka, said Dr Sultan Hafeez Rahman, executive director of the Institute of Governance and Development at Brac University.

Strong govt, recruiter, employer

FROM PAGE 3

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the sending country must negotiate with the receiving country to protect migrants from exploitation.

"It is a matter of national interest that the migrants be protected as, at the end of the day, they are contributing to the country's economy," he added.

As migrants, particularly females, become victims of cultural shock, it is of immense importance to address the issues including security and safety, he said.

"The female migrants should have facilities to get assistance from one-stop service centres. If the government can address their issues through establishing a systematic or institutional way, the migrants will be more benefited," Iftekharuzzaman observed.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJE, said migrants can not be only considered as

remittance machines.

The workplace abuse and exploitation female migrants have to face need to be dealt with importance each and every time they occur, she added.

RMMRU founder chair Prof Tasneem Siddiqui said the government should set up shelter houses at Bangladesh missions so that victimised female migrants can seek immediate assistance.

Addressing as chief guest, lawmaker Israfil Alam said the number of people unemployed in Bangladesh was some 26 or 27 lakh.

So there is no scope to deny the need of foreign employment. But it is the government and private sector's collective initiative which is essential to ensure safe migration, he added.

Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training Director General Begum Shamsun Nahar and International Organization for Migration Bangladesh chief Sarat Dash also spoke.

Anti-child labour campaign

FROM PAGE 3

Divisional Primary Education Office, and Md Samsul Alam Khan, deputy inspector

general of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments in Rangpur, were present on the occasion.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Bank Bima Shilpo Digest will organise a discussion on "Countries trajectory of economics." Venue: La Vita Hall, Lakeshore Hotel, Gulshan-2, Time: 9:30am.

Lecture
Centre for Policy Dialogue will organise a lecture on "Recent fiscal and labour market adjustment experiences in Europe: Lessons for the low income countries." Venue: La Vita Hall, Lakeshore Hotel, Gulshan-2, Time: 9:30am.

Festival
Bhawaiya Academy will organise a "Bhawaiya Festival." Venue: Public Library, Time: 6:00pm