



Doa mahfil for Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury today

CITY DESK
A doa mahfil for eminent journalist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, former MD of BSS (Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha), will be held today at Gulshan Central mosque (Azad mosque) after Asr prayers. Relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers are requested to attend and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.



Students of the Institute of Health Technology, Barisal boycott classes and continue their demonstration wearing black badges, inset, before their building on the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital premises in Barisal city yesterday to press home the same 10-point demand over recognising their academic skills in professions and seeking an investigation and punishment for members of Barisal Metropolitan Police whose indiscriminate and unrestrained baton charge and manhandling of the agitators, mostly females, on Wednesday left 22 injured.

PHOTO: STAR

COP BRUTALITY ON BARISAL MEDICAL STUDENTS
Condemnations pour in, justice demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Widespread condemnation and demand for an investigation and punishment for members of Barisal Metropolitan Police poured in yesterday over Wednesday's indiscriminate and unrestrained baton charge on agitators, mostly females, before Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Five of the 22 demonstrators who suffered injuries have been released from the hospital while eight are still not out of danger for they are currently immobile on being hit in different joints and head, said Qumud Ranjan Bala, principal of the Institute of Health Technology, Barisal. The institute's students boycotted classes and continued their demonstration wearing black badges under the banner "Bangladesh Diploma Medical Technology and Pharmacy Students Association" before their building on the hospital premises. They were trying to press home the same 10-point demand over recognising their academic skills in professions and seeking the investigation and punishment. Students from the institute's Dhaka unit staged a demonstration on the Central Shaheed Minar premises issuing a 72-hour ultimatum for a judicial inquiry and the punishment "otherwise the administration will be responsible for every eventuality", says a press release. In a statement, Ain o Salish Kendra protested and condemned the police action, stating that it is every citizen's constitutional right to carry out peaceful movements and protests.

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Disparaging remarks by ministers hurt US-Bangla ties

Says Fakhrul; observes Bangladesh facing economic recession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The relation between Bangladesh and the USA has been "affected" due to disparaging remarks by some Bangladeshi ministers, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday. "What benefits they derived from the comments.... There are no friends of Bangladesh in the world. Bangladeshi workers cannot go for job in the Middle East," he told a discussion at Jatiya Press Club in the capital, organised by Bangladesh Kalyan Party to mark its 7th founding anniversary. The BNP spokesperson said that while the businessmen were passing idle days, the country was going through a deep economic recession, but the ruling Awami League had no headache about it. Referring to Khaleda's meetings with US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Desai Biswal, AL general secretary Syed Ashraf Islam remarked on Saturday that these talks would not help. He said the two-time prime minister was seen on TV sitting like a kid in front of Biswal as if the American official would hand her power right away. Ashraf also called Biswal a "two-bit minister".

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Adivasis don't enjoy political right

Santu Larma tells discussion on indigenous people's cultural rights, organised by Kapaeng Foundation and Bangladesh Adivasi Cultural Forum with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The unique culture, tradition, and national identity of any nation cannot be protected without their right to self-determination, indigenous leaders and cultural activists said yesterday. "No other rights can be exercised if there is no political right," said Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council. "Since the indigenous people don't have that right they are oppressed at each and every step." Also known as Santu Larma, the Adivasi leader talked about the link between cultural and political rights and how it affects the economy of a society, at a discussion on indigenous people's cultural rights at Chhayanaut Sangeet Biddiyaton in the capital. Organised by Kapaeng Foundation and Bangladesh Adivasi Cultural Forum with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), the programme also featured cultural performances including Bangla, Marma, Garo songs and dances. In a concept paper, Kapaeng Executive Director Pallab Chakma highlighted how the indigenous culture and tradition in the country was threatened due to a lack of constitutional recognition of the 54 communities as indigenous people, grabbing of their land, and absence of their voice in policies that affect them. The paper called for recognition of their political, economic, social, cultural, and land rights in the constitution, renaming of their cultural academy as "Indigenous Cultural Academy", and full and proper implementation of the CHT Peace Accord. Putting stress on political movement as a means to ensure rights, Sadhona Cultural Circle General Secretary Lubna Marium said, "As a nation that fought for their language and culture, we will surely be by your side in your struggle for language and cultural rights." Referring to the loss of indigenous land, Jagannath University teacher Rajib Mir said, "If there is no land, how can there be a culture?"

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Bomb explodes in N'ganj court toilet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj
A bomb exploded inside a public toilet on the Narayanganj District and Sessions Judge's Court premises around 1:30pm yesterday, creating panic. No casualty was reported. On the floor inside, our Narayanganj correspondent found a shattered ventilator glass, chunks of plaster and numerous coins of denominations Tk 1 and Tk 5. Police arrested for interrogation a female beggar, Champa Begum, saying she was the last one to have used the toilet. Police had been informed of bomb attack threats two lawyers received earlier through SMS, said Shakhawat Hossain, president of the district's advocates' association. Additional police have been deployed while experts were asked to come and examine the scene, said Narayanganj Additional Superintendent of Police Subrata Kumar Howlader.



The Daily Star's founding editor SM Ali's 86th birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the 86th birthday of Syed Mohammad Ali, the founder editor of The Daily Star and a luminary in the journalism of Bangladesh. SM Ali made his way up from a cub reporter to one of the country's most brilliant editors in a career spanning 44 years. He also led the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) as its chairman.

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5 carjackers, 6 muggers held in capital in 4 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Law enforcement agencies arrested five alleged members of a carjacking gang and six muggers in the capital in the last four days. Detectives held the carjackers and seized two stolen private cars from their possession. Nine forged vehicle registration papers, 30 fitness certificates and 206 tax payment receipts were also seized from the carjackers, said Krishna Pada Roy, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (South) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, at a press conference at DMP media centre, yesterday. The carjacking gang including its ring-leader Iqbal Hossain alias Kamal, were held in Hatirpool and Bashundhara on Monday and yesterday. Rapid Action Battalion-1 detained the alleged muggers with a car, a pistol, a gun and a machete in Shewra.

PHOTO: STAR



Members of a carjacking gang arrested by Detective Branch of police from around the capital in the last four days produced at Dhaka Metropolitan Police's media centre yesterday. Behind them are two stolen private cars seized from their possession alongside forged documents, inset, used by the gang to sell stolen vehicles to unsuspecting customers.

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