

NEWSIN
brief

BCL man hacked by pro-AL UP member dies in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A Bangladesh Chhatra League activist died yesterday in a Savar hospital after he was hacked allegedly by a pro-Awami League Union Parishad member at Ashulia's Kaichabari outside the capital Tuesday.

Bappi Miah, 24, was a member of the dissolved committee of Dhamsona union unit of BCL.

Locals said Abdul Halim Chowdhury, member of ward no-8 of the Union Parishad, and his supporters attacked Bappi and one of his fellows over jhut (scraps of fabric of garment factories) trade disputes.

Pakistani held with Indian currency at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials arrested a Pakistani along with one crore Indian rupees at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

Rehan Ali, 28, arrived there around 6:36pm from Dubai by a flight of Emirates Airways.

On information, the officials caught him while he was passing through the green channel, said Kazi Md Ziauddin, joint commissioner of the customs.

The money was concealed in a carton of paper he was carrying, he added.

GCC mayor put on 2-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A Gazipur court yesterday placed Gazipur City Corporation Mayor MA Mannan on a two-day remand in an arson case filed in January.

Mannan, also an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, was detained at his residence in the capital's Baridhara on Wednesday.

Three cases were filed against him with Joydevpur Police Station on different charges. Earlier, he secured bail in two other cases.

Dhaka urges Bangkok for quick deal on worker recruitment

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has urged Bangkok for expediting the signing of a deal between Bangladesh and Thailand for recruitment of Bangladeshi sea fishery and construction workers in Thai industries.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand Saida Muna Tasneem made the request when she called on Thai Minister for Labour Surasak Karnjanarat on February 10, said a foreign ministry press release.

The Bangladesh envoy underlined expediting the process of concluding the proposed memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two governments on "Cooperation in Employment of Sea Fishery and Construction Workers".

Aminul new SC registrar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syed Aminul Islam, a district and session judge and director of National Legal Aid Services Organisation under the law ministry, was appointed new registrar of the Supreme Court.

Outgoing SC Registrar Farid Ahmed Shibli was appointed as an additional judge of the High Court while special district judge of Comilla Zabid Hossain as additional registrar of the HC.

The law ministry issued two gazette notifications on the appointments yesterday.

US Embassy closed on Sunday

CITY DESK

The American Embassy, including its Consular Section, will be closed on Sunday to celebrate President's Day, an American holiday.

The American Center with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the Student Advising Center will also remain closed, said a press release.

Emergency services for American citizens will be available. Please call 55662000 and ask for the duty officer.

Woman's body found in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police recovered the body of a woman, stashed in a sack, from the roof of a tin-shed house in Fatullah area outside Narayanganj city on Wednesday night.

The deceased Hadisa Akter Josna, 37, a resident of Shibu Market area, went to the house in the afternoon to take money from one Sanwar to whom she earlier lent it, said a relative of Josna. Police arrested Sanwar and his accomplice Nuruzzaman and were trying to nab another Rajon. Josna might have been strangled after rape, said police.

Ctg Jamaat naye-e-ameer's movable property seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday confiscated all household goods and furniture of the residence of Jamaat-e-Islami Chittagong city unit Naye-e-Ameer Ahsan Ullah following an order of a Chittagong court.

Police said Ahsan Ullah is the prime accused in a case filed over vandalism and attack on police on November 9, 2012. As he remains absconding for a long time, the court directed to seize his moveable property, police added.

2 more BRUR hunger strikers hospitalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Two staff of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) were hospitalised while they were observing a fast-unto-death for the fifth consecutive day on the campus yesterday demanding removal of the vice chancellor.

Security guard Md Abdul Wahab, and lab attendant Md Abdul Malek Mian were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. One student taking part in the strike was hospitalised on Tuesday.

Small arms racket using child transporters

Say police after catching six, including three boys, seizing four foreign pistols, eight bullets, seven magazines in N'ganj, capital's Merul Badda

STAR REPORT

An illegal small arms racket where children were being used as transporters has allegedly been unearthed following the arrest of three men, detention of three boys and seizure of four foreign pistols, eight bullets and seven magazines in Narayanganj and the capital's Merul Badda on Wednesday and yesterday.

The children, aged around 12 and students of class VII, have been sent to National Juvenile Development Centre in Tongi, Gazipur. Police say the children informed of working for the men on being promised music systems but could not state for how long.

Meanwhile, Imran, 22, has been taken on a one-day remand in an arms case Fatullah police filed while Bashir, 25, and Md Masud, 28, on a two-day remand in another arms case filed by Badda cops. All six reside in Merul Badda.

Police first caught Imran and two of the children and found one pistol and five bullets inside a schoolbag they were carrying on Wednesday afternoon after being informed by locals of Aliganj in Fatullah who became suspicious of their movement, Fatullah Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Asaduzzaman told The Daily Star.

Information provided by them led to the rest being gathered from different houses in Merul Badda around 3:00am yesterday, said Badda Police Station OC Abdul Jalil.

Khaleda was wrong to snub Hasina's call for talks

Says ex-president Badruddoza Chowdhury; urges PM to invite BNP chief again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia made a political mistake by declining Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's invitation to a dialogue ahead of the last parliamentary election.

However, since Hasina is the prime minister, she should call her up again for talks because it is the "only way out of the national crisis", he told a discussion on the prevailing turmoil at the capital's Supreme Court Bar Association.

The programme was hosted by Bangladesh Sammilita Peshajibi Parishad, a platform of BNP-led 20-party alliance affiliated professionals.

Hasina is very intelligent, and she knows very well how to overcome the problem, added the president of Bikalpadhara Bangladesh.

The prime minister phoned Khaleda on October 26, 2013 and invited her to discuss an all-party election-time administration at Gono Bhavan on October 28, but it did not work out eventually, as the then opposition leader refused to withdraw a 60-hour hartal scheduled to end on October 29 upon the Awami League chief's request.

Badruddoza said Hasina talked to then deputy assistant director of erstwhile BDR Touhidul Islam, the man responsible for the deaths of dozens of army officers in the 2009 mutiny, but why could not she talk to Khaleda now?

Speaking on the ongoing violence, Badruddoza urged the chief justice to form a committee to track down the masterminds responsible for murdering civilians through petrol bomb attacks.

A mahogany tree in Thakurgaon district town before it was chopped down by President of Thakurgaon Municipality Awami League Nazrul Islam on Wednesday. The ruling party leader also felled four other roadside trees of the same species in Goalpara last week, claiming that he owned those. However, the district administration said it owned all the five trees, worth Tk 3 lakh, because they were on government land. At least four administrative officials tried to resist the move, to no avail.

PHOTO: STAR

ARSON CASE

Dudu of BNP sent back to jail after 5-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Shamsuzzaman Dudu, an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, back to jail after a four-day remand in connection with an arson case.

His lawyer did not file any petition seeking bail for him. Police picked up Dudu, from Mirpur-2 on January 11 in the case filed for instigating destructive activities across the country.

Holding of multiple posts by ministers challenged at SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer, Eunus Ali Akond, yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court, seeking its directive on the government to formulate a code of conduct for ministers including the prime minister so that they cannot hold any other post simultaneously.

As a public interest litigation, he also challenged the legality of Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon's being the minister, the president of the Workers Party of Bangladesh, and the chairman of the governing bodies of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, Motijheel Ideal School and College, and Wills Little Flower School and College in Dhaka.

Violence harming children's growth

Nahid tells inauguration of Education UK Exhibition in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National progress of Bangladesh will be severely affected in future if children grow amid panic prevailing across the country, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

"It affects their psychological growth. We will have to pay for it for 30 to 40 years," he told the inauguration of the two-day Education UK Exhibition 2015 at a hotel in the capital as chief guest.

An atmosphere must be created so that the children can grow up with confidence, he said.

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert W Gibson and British Council Bangladesh Country Director Barbara Wickham, among others, attended the function.

A total of 38 higher education institutions of the UK are participating in the exhibition that remains open for all from 12:00pm to 6:00pm at Sonargoan hotel, Dhaka.

In Chittagong, it will remain open at The Peninsula on Sunday and at the Rose View Hotel in Sylhet on Wednesday during the same hours. The entry fee is Tk 50.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Altaf Hossain Khan, a retired government official. A Qurankhwani, a doa, and a milad mahfil will be held today in his village home in Bakhunda of Faridpur, says a press release.

94th birthday

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Swadesh Chinta Shangha on February 24, his 16th death anniversary, at the university's business studies faculty at 4:00pm. Litterateur Somiron Majumder of Kolkata will deliver it, and language veteran Protiva Mutshuddi and Nurul Haq Mehdi will receive the commemorative award.

Bangalee youth was killed

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beaten up, he said.

"The people responsible for Shohag's death should be prosecuted. But those who attacked and rampaged through the village should not be spared," said Prof Mesbah.

Speaking on the occasion, Oikya NAP President Pankaj Bhattacharya said the local administration often played an implicit role in the atrocities against indigenous people. "If we want to make the country safe for Adivasis, those officials should be brought to justice too."

Stating that most of the atrocities are centred on land issues, other speakers stressed the need for a land commission for plain land indigenous people and a new land dispute resolution law.

Convener of the caucus on indigenous affairs Fazle Hossain Badsha said the repeated attacks on the minorities proved that the values of liberation had been lost.

Meanwhile, Pankaj Bhattacharya slammed the recent government order banning Bangladeshi and foreign individuals or organisations meeting and talking unsupervised with indigenous people of the three hill districts.

"We have not seen such orders even in the pre-Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord era," he said.

Amidst public outcry, State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan told BBC Bangla Radio yesterday that the government might "reconsider the order." But he did not specify when.

Bangla Academy for children at book fair

FROM PAGE 3

BOOKS TO LOOK FOR

MEGHNA O PAKHI BONDHU
Author: Faridur Reza Sagar
Publisher: Ananya
BDT 100

DATI VANGA CHASMA RAFID
Author: Sumanto Aslam
Publisher: Kakoli Prokashoni
BDT 160

EKATTORER ROBIN HOOD
Author: Ahmed Riaz
Publisher: Ittadi Grantho Prokash
BDT 125

The fair so far. Sharier Khan, creator of the popular comic strip Babu, said many writers in the world became famous after writing for children. He cited examples from Mark Twain to JK Rowling and of Bangladesh's popular science fiction writer Muhammad Zafar Iqbal.

According to Khan, young readers are the true readers and sometimes even adults enjoy reading children's books.

However, very few writers want to identify themselves as creators of literature enjoyed by children. But not Ahmed Riaz.

Awarded for children's literature in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2014, Riaz is proud to say that he enjoys writing for children. This year eight of his books were published for the fair.

"I have also written books for children without 'jukto borno' (conjunct letters) which are available at Ittadi," said the writer who started writing for children in the 80s.

Yesterday Dainik Samakal journalist SM Munna Miah was given an accolade by Utsho Prokashon at the Media Centre on the Bangla Academy premises in the afternoon for the best coverage of the fair.

State Minister for Finance MA Mannan presented the certificate, award and Tk 25,000-worth cheque which Munna dedicated to the memory of Bhorer Kagoj journalist Kishore Kumar who passed away last year.

Meanwhile, 100 new books arrived at the fair and four were launched.