



The Doctors Association of Bangladesh, a pro-BNP organisation, forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding a "safe return" of Salahuddin Ahmed, a leader of the party who has been missing since March 10, and a stop to extra-judicial killings.

PHOTO: STAR

New citizens' platform urges govt to initiate talks

Sammilito Nagorik Samaj also demands stern action against ongoing political violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilito Nagorik Samaj, a newly formed citizens' platform, yesterday called for dialogue among political forces to restore stability with the ruling party initiating the efforts, and urged the government to go tough on the ongoing acts of terror to protect the lives and properties of the people. Addressing a national convention of the platform, Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad, its convener, said the defeated force of 1971 was carrying out the acts of sabotage, like petrol bomb attacks. "They are not social forces. They are anti-social evil forces. Peace will not come unless the evil forces are quelled," he added. The convention with the slogan "Get united to resist violence, terror and mili-

tancy and to build a secular, democratic and prosperous Bangladesh" took place at the capital's Institution of Engineers Bangladesh. Eminent banker Khondokar Ibrahim Khaled said the Razakars, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani occupation army, made up of local collaborators in 1971, killed people and torched houses during the Liberation War, while the "new Razakars" were burning people to death by firebombing. This new breed of Razakars must be brought to book, he added. Vice President of Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) Abu Osman Chowdhury said the sabotage was aimed at saving the war criminals, and the directives were coming from London.

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Bodies formed to probe N'ganj stampede

Case filed; one woman missing; allegation of mismanagement rife

STAR REPORT

Two investigation committees were formed, an unnatural death case was filed by police and an elderly woman was reported missing yesterday, a day after a stampede triggered by rumours of a bridge collapsing left 10 Hindu devotees dead at a ritual holy dip in Narayanganj. Meanwhile, Dr Mizanur Rahman, chairman of National Human Rights Commission, and locals of Langalbandh and Hindu leaders blamed the state's mismanagement and negligence and inadequate security arrangements of law enforcers for the incident. The committees, a seven-member one of Narayanganj district administration and a five-member one of police, are

scheduled to submit a report in seven working days. Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Zakaria, heading the police committee, said none of the 16 or so CCTV cameras covered the stampede spot, a 50-yard stretch between the bailey bridge and Rajghat, the most revered of the 16 ghats there. Maloti Rani, 60, arriving from Char Batalia in Gaibandha district, was reported missing after her son Swapan Kumar Saha failed finding her at local hospitals. Dr Mizanur was addressing a discussion organised by Minority Rights Forum Bangladesh at Dhaka University's RC Majumder Auditorium. Little was taken into consideration

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Prime minister for two more divs splitting Dhaka, Ctg

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday emphasised the importance of creating two new divisions in the country splitting the existing Dhaka and Chittagong divisions to make it easier for the government to serve people in a greater way. "The country's population has increased...it's our responsibility to serve people, we can provide services to them in a greater way by increasing the number of divisions," she said. The prime minister said this while addressing a Darbar of Rapid Action Battalion at its Kurmitola headquarters in the capital

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BCL leader bites RU student

Beats him for keeping company with activist he was not in good terms with

RU CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader of Rajshahi University unit allegedly in a fit of rage bit a student's middle finger yesterday after battering him with a chair and an iron rod for keeping company with an activist and resident of their hall he was not on good terms with. Aslam Hossain has bruises on his back and bite marks on the left hand's finger, a doctor at the RU medical centre told The Daily Star. Joint General Secretary Muzahidul Islam also known as Himu, in his fourth year in Arabic, carried out the assault after taking the third year political science student to his room, 206, in Sher-e-Bangla Hall around 2:30pm. "I was hit six times before I fell to the floor...he pulled me up," said Aslam, adding that Himu bit him when he made a run for it. A witness in an adjoining room, Momin Sarker, stated of seeing Himu wielding an iron rod while chasing Aslam. Aslam said he got to know both BCL men after starting to live in the hall. Several BCL leaders, requesting anonymity, said the two BCL men had a conflict of interest in the hall.

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Motorists speed past this large drainage opening barely aware of the danger, especially when a bamboo pole is the only thing to warn them, on Tejgaon Link Road in the capital. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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