



Plainclothes police inspect the grave of former president and BNP founder Ziaur Rahman in the capital yesterday after unidentified people partially damaged the structure around it the night before.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Change of mentality must for ending discrimination

Speakers tell Manusher Jonno Foundation, National Human Rights Commission consultation on law likely to be ready for enactment by December

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At the Joypurhat bar canteen, one set of table and crockery were kept separated for an advocate, not out of respect but because he belonged to the Harijan community. At Dhaka University, Purnima Das is looked down upon by her first-year classmates in accounting and information systems because she got admitted under the Dalit quota. Chumki Begum from Sex Worker's Network said she hid her professional identity while renting houses in Dhaka as no landlord wants sex workers as tenants. These are snapshots from a 21st century Bangladesh with a constitution which prohibits the state from discriminating against

any citizen based on religion, community, colour, gender or place of birth. However, the aforementioned three could not ask for any redress as they were discriminated by individuals or private organisations. To address these issues, an anti-discrimination law was drafted by Law Commission last year in association with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Nagorik Uddyog, Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM), and Research and Development Collective (RDC), with inputs from other rights bodies. A national consultation on the draft was

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9 hurt as CU's dissolved BCL factions clash

Journo, train operator attacked

CU CORRESPONDENT

At least eight students and a policeman were injured while a journalist and a train operator assaulted during intermittent clashes between two factions of the now dissolved Bangladesh Chhatra League unit at Chittagong University (CU) yesterday. Mohsin, Mir and Tajul were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital; Jahid, Sajid, Sumon, Masud and Rifat to CU Medical Centre while Inspector Abul Khayer, in-charge of CU Police Outpost, to the police lines hospital. Witnesses said an altercation ensued between activists of shuttle train based group 69 and campus based Banglar Mukh in Zero Point area around 3:00pm, leading to the clashes for around 20 minutes where sticks and sharp weapons were used. Around 4:00pm, Banglar Mukh activists assaulted the train operator, delaying the departure by around 10 minutes, they said.

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Build quake proof structures

PM asks engineers; says 25 polytechnic institutes to be launched

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the country's engineers to make sure that quake-resistant infrastructures and buildings are built in the country following the building code. The prime minister was addressing the inaugural session of the International Conference on Technical and Vocational Education and Training for Sustainable Development in Osmani Memorial Auditorium of the capital. IDEB and CPSC, Manila organised the three-day conference. Hasina urged the engineers, including the diploma ones, to maintain the standard of their works since they are responsible for implementing development works at the field level as nearly 85 percent of development works are implemented through them. "The responsibility of ensuring the quality of works lies at the field level. You'll have to give special attention so that the proper standard of work is ensured," she said. Mentioning the recent earthquake in Nepal, she said, "I came to know that cracks have developed in a number of buildings in our country, too." Hasina said every year nearly 0.1 million hectares of arable land go out of farming due to construction of houses, roads and other establishments in an unplanned way. "We'll have to take immediate measures to prevent unplanned urbanisation as well as give special attention to save farmland." She urged private entrepreneurs to come forward to complement the government efforts in turning the population into human resources through imparting them science and technology-based education. However, it is not possible to carry out such a task with government efforts alone, she added. The prime minister said her government was the first to

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65 Shibir men including president indicted

VEHICLE VANDALISM CASE

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against 65 leaders and activists of pro-Jamaat organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir, including its president, in a case filed for damaging and torching vehicles in the capital's Motijheel on November 5, 2012. Shibir President Delwar Hossain and four others are now in jail while 40 others now on bail and the rest 20 others still at large. Metropolitan Magistrate Tareq Mainul Islam Bhuiyan fixed June 10 to start trial of the case. The case was filed with Motijheel Police Station on charges of damaging and torching vehicles in front of the City Centre from a procession brought out by Shibir activists demanding release of Jamaat leaders facing war crimes trials. They also attacked policemen and the people on the streets that left at least 250 people and 50 policemen injured. Police pressed charges against the Shibir men on November 18 the same year.

Half of councillors freshers in Chittagong city

BNP's Ameer Khasru officially demands re-voting for CCC

ARUN BIKASH DEY and SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

More than half of the new councillors, both in general wards and reserved seats for women, in Chittagong city have been elected for the first time, riding on the alleged failures of the old figures and voters' expectations for change. Meanwhile, BNP leader Ameer Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday

sent a letter to the returning officer of Chittagong, demanding a re-vote in Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) because "massive rigging took place" in the April 28 election. The ruling party goons occupied 80 percent of polling centres by driving out the polling agents of BNP-backed mayor candidate M Manjur Alam within 11:00am and stuffed ballot boxes, the city BNP president said in the letter.

The letter said the people of Chittagong were shocked to see this "unprecedented rigging" with direct or indirect cooperation of law enforcement agencies and the administration involved with election management, in broad daylight. The city elections in Dhaka and Chittagong were a mockery of democracy, it added.

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14 student bodies slam VC for still tolerating blasé DU proctor

PAHELA BAISHAKH MASS MOLESTATION OF FEMALES

Fourteen student bodies, mostly left leaning, of Dhaka University yesterday slammed the vice chancellor for not taking action against Proctor AM Amzad Ali, whose alleged negligence in duty led to an hour-long sexual assault of females on the campus on Pahela Baishakh. "Had the proctor took prompt action, some of the females could be saved from molestation," President of Bangladesh Chhatra Union Hasan Tareq told a rally in front of the Arts Faculty Building. The protesters under the banner of "Progotishil Chhatra Jote and Shamrajyabad Birodhi Chhatra Oikya" also criticised the law enforcers for failing to make headway in the investigation of the sexual assault. "If the proctor had any sense of dignity, he would have resigned of his own accord," said Prof Tanzim Uddin Khan, expressing solidarity with the protesters. Another DU teacher, Afroza Bulbul, suggested that the university administration and police had agreed to save

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JU students demand quick probe into sex assault on female Adivasi peer. Syndicate decides to accommodate CSE, geology, environment sciences depts in new building; opposing CSE teachers threaten to resign en masse while their students start hunger strike

Over 100 Jahangirnagar University (JU) students brought out a procession yesterday noon carrying brooms demanding expediting the investigation against perpetrators who sexually assaulted a female indigenous student, beat up her male friend and snatched their belongings during Pahela Baishakh celebrations.

Holding a rally later at Murni Sharani under the

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