



Hasina's new book hits book fair today

BSS, Dhaka
 One more book by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hit this year's Amar Ekushey Book Fair beginning at Bangla Academy in the capital today.
 The book comprises Sheikh Hasina's 13 articles published at different times on contemporary politics in Bangladesh.
 The book "Nirbachita Probandha" (selected essays) will be available at pavilion no. 13 from the first day of the book fair.
 Hasina will inaugurate the book fair at a function on the premises of Bangla Academy at 3:00pm.
 Published by Agami Prokashani, the price of the book is TK 350.
 Emeritus Professor Rafiqul Islam has written in the book's introduction, "As a writer, Sheikh Hasina is mainly an essayist. In particular, she is a political narrator. Her 'Nirbachita Probandha' carries the thoughts, mentality and attitudes of Bangladesh's most important political personality. For this reason, the importance of the book is immense."
 Agami Prokashani earlier published 13 collections of articles by Sheikh Hasina. Those include "Sheikh Mujib Amar Pita" (Sheikh Mujib my father) and "Sadakalo" (black-white). Besides, her books "Living in Tears," "People and Democracy," "Democracy Poverty Alleviation and Peace" and "Democracy in Distress Demands Humanity" have been reprinted.



Influential politicians have turned this parking lot meant for visitors of Dhaka Shishu Park into a "paid" parking space for outsiders like medical representatives making visits to nearby hospitals including Birdem and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical Hospital. At a nominal price, the motorcyclists could park their vehicles for all day long. Moreover, hawkers have set up shops, shrinking the space even more. As elsewhere in the country, the commercial use of public space has been going on here for quite a while under the nose of the authorities. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

US working for permanent solution to Rohingya crisis

Says Bernicat while visiting Teknaf

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat yesterday said the USA was working with the international community for a permanent solution to the Rohingya crisis.

She said this to journalists at Leda Rohingya slum after visiting authorised and unauthorised Rohingya settlements in Teknaf upazila.

Many Rohingya people have crossed the Naf River into Bangladesh and built shanties at Leda village after fleeing persecution at their home in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Bernicat directly talked to the Rohingya women. Along with a nine-member team, she visited the persecuted community for two hours at the slum where 45,000 unregistered Rohingyas are staying.

The Rohingyas described in detail their experience of inhumane torture by the Myanmar army.

Bernicat also talked with Rohingya slum management committee president Duda Miah and other leaders.

Saying that the Rohingyas shared with her their experience spontaneously, the ambassador expressed hope that the crisis would be solved.

She also met Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Md Ali Hossain and discussed the Rohingya issue.



Salahuddin to seek Indian court order for better treatment

SUBRATA ACHARJEE, Kolkata

BNP standing committee member Salahuddin Ahmed, who is suffering from kidney disease, will soon apply to a court at Shillong in India's Meghalaya for permitting him to take better treatment.

Talking to our Kolkata correspondent, the senior BNP leader said he has been suffering from pyeloplasty disease of kidneys which has turned acute recently.

Salahuddin has been living at a luxury cottage in Shillong after a local court granted him bail in a case filed by the Indian police for trespassing in May 2015.

Around two months after going missing from Dhaka city, Salahuddin was found in Shillong, the capital of north-



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N'GANJ 7-MURDER Tareque Sayeed challenges death sentence

UNB, Dhaka

Sacked Rab-11 official Lt Col Tareque Sayeed Mohammad and sub-inspector Purnendu Bala, who along with others got death penalty in the Narayanganj seven-murder cases, filed petitions with the High Court yesterday challenging the verdict, court sources said.

Earlier on Monday, Nur Hossain, another condemned convict, filed an appeal with the HC against the death penalty awarded by a Narayanganj court on January 16.

On January 16, a Narayanganj court sentenced 26 people, including Tareque, to death and nine others to different jail terms in the cases.

EVICTED OF GAIBANDHA SANTALS JS caucus suggests action against local admin, cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary caucus on indigenous affairs has recommended that legal action be taken against local administration and police for illegally evicting Santal people at Gobindaganj in Gaibandha in November last year.

Punishment should be awarded to those who were responsible for killing three Santals during an eviction drive in Gaibandha on November 6, suggested the caucus's Coordinator Prof Mesbah Kamal at a views-exchange meeting yesterday.

He came up with the recommendations based on the findings of a delegation that said indigenous people were evicted, their houses were torched and cases were filed against them in collusion with the local administration.

The delegation -- which includes top officials of the caucus, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and different other non-government rights organisations -- found this after visiting the affected area on December 13.

Mesbah Kamal, also a technocrat member of the caucus, presented the findings of the delegation and the caucus's recommendations at the meeting in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

Meanwhile, a judicial magistrate in his investigation has found involvement of three police personnel and some local miscreants in setting fire to Santal houses during the eviction drive, according to news reports.

Referring to the news reports, Mesbah said, "Trial of these three police personnel and some miscreants is not enough. Those,

Charge sheet in Avijit killing case soon

Says DMP commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia yesterday said the charge sheet in the blogger Avijit Roy killing case would be submitted soon.

Prime accused Mukul Rana was already killed in a "shootout" when the Detective Branch (DB) of police conducted a drive in Meradia in the capital's Khilgaon on June 19 last year, he said.

Police have also arrested eight of the suspected killers and drive to arrest five other identified suspects is underway, said the DMP commissioner while addressing a briefing on security measures taken for month-long Amar Ekushey book fair beginning today at Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan.

Earlier on February 26, 2015, US-born Bangladeshi writer and blogger Avijit was hacked to death and his wife Rafida Ahmed Bonya was critically injured in an attack near TSC on the Dhaka University campus.

Regarding security of book fair, the DMP commissioner said they have already taken a multi-layer security measures at and around the venue to ensure a safe book fair.

The total book fair venue brought under surveillance of CCTV and it would be monitored from three different control room by a group of expert officials for 24 hours, he said.

Although there will be metal detectors and archway on three entry points of Suhrawardy Udyan and two entry points of Bangla Academy, the visitors would also face a security check up

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Three cyclists on a global tour to save environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the world already experiencing impacts of global warming, different countries and national and international organisations are taking numbers of measures to tackle the challenges related to the climatic change. But three Nepalese youths chose a different path to promote green practices.

They left their homes with bicycles on a world tour, to raise awareness about environment conservation. During the tour, they are also spreading the message of peace when the world is experiencing violence in different forms.

"Actually we are guests in the planet for 80 to 90 years. During this period, if we could do something for a better society, country, for the Mother Earth, our lives would be meaningful," Anish Dhakal, the team's leader, told The Daily Star on Saturday.

Anish, an environment activist, and social workers Dilip Chhetri and Nirmal Baral, started their world tour from Mahendranagar near the India-Nepal bor-

"With the thought of doing something for the Mother Earth, we started our world tour to give a message to the people everywhere. We set out of our home in November and completed cycling across our country," he said.

Asked how this tour will serve their purpose, he said, "We just want to connect with the media. If only one gets motivated [getting information from media], we would be content. Because, one can change 10 others like a domino effect."

Anish continued, "We take food, shelter, and everything from the environment. We're only taking, but not giving anything. Since we are not giving back, we thought why not work for its protection?"

"No one is immortal, and a man will ultimately die, so why don't we start loving instead of hating people?" he said, explaining his urgency for world peace.

Nirmal, a father of two, said their families were giving full support to their endeavour. "Actually our families encour-



Speeding, loaded trucks take the wrong lane on Dhaka-Aricha Highway for a short cut from the roadside brick kilns, creating risks of accidents, a major killer in the country. The photo was taken in Kaliarpur of Savar yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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From left, Nepalese youths Anish Dhakal, Dilip Chhetri, and Nirmal Baral, who are on a global bicycle tour for environmental protection, pose in front of The Daily Star Centre Saturday. After finishing their Bangladesh leg, they leave for Sri Lanka today. PHOTO: STAR

der on December 30 last year.
 With the banner, "Wold Bicycle Tour for Environmental Protection and World Peace", the trio has cycled their way through Uttar Pradesh to reach New Delhi on January 4. Then, they came to the Benapole border in Jessore on January 21 through Kolkata and then to Dhaka.

From Dhaka, they left for Sylhet on Sunday. During their stay in Bangladesh, they got cooperation of BDCyclists, the biggest cyclists' group in the country.

Anish, 21, and Dilip, 22, are students of Bachelor of Business Studies (BSS) in a college in Kathmandu while Nirmal Baral, 38, is a BSS graduate involved with several voluntary organisations. All of them are members of a local youth organisation Dynamic Hands.

aged us [for the tour]," he said.
 While pedalling their ways across the countries, all that the three have often had to eat was chocolate bars, said Dilip Chhetri with a broad smile.

Today they leave for their next destination, Sri Lanka. "We will go there by air as it is an island," said Nirmal.

He added that government officials in Nepal were providing them with administrative support through their missions in other countries. "But we did not get any sponsor," he added.

From Sri Lanka, they will head to Myanmar and then to Thailand.

"We have planned a five-year tour. We will continue our tour for two years without a break," he said. "And finally, we have a plan to write a book about it."

Nahid assures of checking question leak

Ahead of SSC exam that starts tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With 17,86,613 students sitting for the SSC and equivalent examinations tomorrow, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has insisted that the government has taken all-out preparations to check question paper leak.

"There is no possibility for the original question paper of being leaked... I am urging all the examinees and guardians not to go after fake question paper," he told a press briefing at his ministry in the secretariat.

Those who were earlier arrested told law enforcers that they could not leak original question papers and rather sold out the fake ones from Tk 5,000 to Tk 3 lakh, he said, adding that they did so "to do business" and "demean the ministry."

Nahid said no student and teacher will be allowed in examination centres to take cellphones or electronic devices.

His comments came against the backdrop of allegations of question leak before and during the public examinations.

The written part of the SSC exams will be held from February 2 to March 2, while the practical ones from March 4 to March 11.

The education minister said this year the number of examinees rose by 1,35,090 than previous year's. He said some 9.10 lakh boys and 8.76 lakh girls will attend SSC and its equivalent exams at 3,236 centres under 10 education boards.

Of the total, more than 14.25 lakh candidates will sit for the SSC exams under eight general boards while some 2.56 lakh ones will appear in Dakhil (secondary level of madrasa) and around 1.04 lakh in SSC vocational exams, he said.

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A total of 446 overseas students will sit for the exams in eight overseas centres.