

PM provides financial assistance to arson victims

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday provided financial assistance to seven victims of arson and bomb attacks during the nationwide blockade enforced by BNP-led 20-party alliance.

She handed over cheques to five of the victims and the families of two others -- Minhazul Islam Anik and Shariar Hridoy -- at her office.

The five victims are Assistant Commissioner (land) Abdul Qadir Miah of Tejgaon Circle in Dhaka, Giasuddin Ahmed of Sreepur in Gazipur, Liton Miah of Shaikakupa in Jhenidah, Syed Md Abdul Matin of Madhya Paikpara and Selim Hossain Selim of Bangshal in the city.

Of them, Tk 5 lakh were given to Matin and Selim each while others received Tk 10 lakh each.

Earlier, the prime minister took the responsibility for the treatment of Anik, Hridoy and Qadir.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over a cheque to a victim of arson and bomb attacks at a ceremony at her office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

JU suspends eleven BCL activists

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University syndicate has suspended 11 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) for alleged involvement in anti-disciplinary activities and admission fraud.

The authorities also cancelled studentship of a master's student and fined three others for using unfair means in exams.

The syndicate took the decisions in its January 30 meeting, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam, following recommendations from the university disciplinary board, Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique told The Daily Star yesterday.

The nine BCL men who "violated" discipline were Jahid Hasan Shihab of philosophy, Yasin of geography and environment, Mizanur Rahman of archaeology, Istiak Ahmed of zoology, Dibyandu Biswas of mathematics, and Jahurul Haque, SM Enamuzzaman, Ashikur Rahman, and Saidu Islam of economics. All are resident students of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall.

A five-member committee will investigate the allegation and submit a report within 15 days. The syndicate did not specify how the BCL men violated discipline but they were locked in several clashes on the campus on January 10.

The two other activists -- SM Sharif Ahmed of international relations and Nazmul Huda of mathematics -- allegedly tried to get candidates admitted to the university through dubious means in the 2016-17 session.

A separate investigation committee was asked to submit a report within 30 days. The 11 students cannot take part in academic activities and stay in halls during the period of suspension.

For cheating in exams, Zahidul Islam of anthropology lost studentship and Soyeb Akhter of geological sciences, Shamim Ahmed of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), and Nazmus Sakib of pharmacy were fined Tk 10,000 each.

Mitu's SIM card recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



The mobile SIM card used by slain Mahmuda Khanam Mitu was recovered from a rickshaw-puller in Lalmojan upazila of Bhola on Tuesday, said police yesterday.

Detectives, however, could not recover Mitu's mobile, said Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Kamruzzaman of the Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

The man found the SIM card on a road in Chittagong city's Bakalia several months ago, Kamruzzaman, also investigation officer of the Mitu murder case, quoted him as saying. Later, he left the city, added the IO.

Mitu, wife of a former SP Babul Akhter, was hacked and shot dead near the port city's GEC intersection on June 5 last year.

4 shown arrested over war crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four persons of Naogaon, Joypurhat and Mymensingh were shown arrested by the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday in two separate cases filed for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

The tribunal passed the order following two petitions moved by Prosecutors Abul Kalam and Rezia Sultana Chaman.

Rezaul Karim Mantu, 68, Ishaq Ali, 66, and Shahid Mandol are accused in one case. All the accused are originally from Badalgachi upazila of Naogaon.

Rezaul Karim is currently living in Joypurhat and is a former ameer of Jamaat-e-Islam of Joypurhat district, according to the prosecution.

The special court also issued arrest warrant against another accused in the case. He is also from Naogaon but police could not arrest him till filing the report at 5:20pm.

Moving the petition, Abul Kalam said investigation in the case began on October 18 last year and investigation officer of the case has already found their involvement in crimes committed during the Liberation War.

Of the four, one accused is still on the loose while three others, now in jail in connection with other cases, have been shown arrested in war crimes case, the prosecutor said.

Abul Kalam and investigation officer Helal Uddin told The Daily Star that the four were members of Razakar Bahini during the Liberation War.

Of the three accused, Rezaul and Ishaq were arrested on February 11 while Shahid was arrested the following day.

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GULISTAN CLASH 2 ex-BCL men shown arrested in another case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two expelled Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders, who brandished firearms during a clash between Dhaka South City Corporation staff and hawkers in the capital's Gulistan on October 27 last year, were shown arrested yesterday in a ransacking case.

Police also submitted a five-day remand prayer to a Dhaka court for quizzing them to gather information about the ransacking of Gulistan Hawkers' Market on that day after Md Sabbir Hossain and Md Ashiqur Rahman, former general secretaries of BCL Dhaka south and Wari thana units, were produced before it.

However, the court rejected the remand prayer and also bail prayer sought by the defence.

They were sent to jail.

Anti-discrimination act being drafted

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The law ministry has started drafting an anti-discrimination law in order to protect the rights and ensure benefits of underprivileged people.

Law Minister Anisul Huq on Tuesday told The Daily Star that, "The drafting wing of the law ministry is now working for formulating the anti-discrimination law in line with the suggestions from the Law Commission."

A law ministry official told this correspondent that the process for formulating the anti-discrimination law is now at the initial stage and it cannot be said specifically how much time it will take.

After the ministry finalises the draft, the ministry will place it before the cabinet for approval. If the cabinet approves, then a bill on the law will be placed in the House for its passage, he added.

The Law Commission sent a report to the law ministry on April 29, 2014 suggesting making the

law titled "Anti-discrimination Act, 2014" incorporating a rule of 10 years' imprisonment or a fine of Tk 10 lakh as the highest punishment for committing discriminations.

It said there are around 70 lakh underprivileged people such as hijras (hermaphrodites), sweepers, tea-gardeners, doms (morgue assistants), sex-workers, barbers, washer-men, cleaners, indigenous community, mentally disabled people and Dalit community.

Though those people are engaged in some very necessary professions, they become victims of multiple discriminations and adverse behaviours, the three-member Law Commission led by former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque said.

The commission said those underprivileged people cannot enjoy their rights due to various social, religious, financial, historical, educational and cultural reasons among others.

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HALDA IN PERIL Bela serves legal notice on 20 govt bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela) served a legal notice to take effective steps for saving the Halda river, the lone natural breeding ground for carps in the country.

The notice was served Sunday after The Daily Star ran a story titled "Halda in peril" on February 4, showing how man-made hazards were polluting the river, taking a toll on the breeding of the carps.

The mayor of Chittagong City Corporation, secretaries of land, fisheries and livestock, environment and forest, water resources and LGRD ministries; chairman of national river conservation commission; Chittagong Development Authority; director generals of Department of Environment and Bangladesh Water Development Board; divisional commissioner of Chittagong; managing director of Chittagong Wasa; and deputy commissioners of Chittagong and Khagrachhari, among others, were served the notice.

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Street vendors running their business occupying the historic Amtala area near the emergency gate of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, thanks to the negligence of the authorities concerned. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

This week's spotlight discusses the current situation of children's literature, and why and how it needs a drastic change for the young minds to be well-nourished with proper words and verses. We also have a heritage piece that talks about the dilapidated condition of Dhaka Gate and it's forgotten history. Don't forget to grab your copy of the Star Weekend, tomorrow, Friday!

STAR WEEKEND
in other news
February 17, 2017

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG

The Ekashay Book media is a little more fun on the weekends when families and children crowd the popular stalls, not to mention the series of colourful book stores specially designed for children. A walk along these children's bookstores bring back many memories from childhood when visiting the annual Star Ekashay Graminamela with family and friends was an absolute treat! While children across the country cannot wait to get their hands on the new books, what are the children users up to this? But never to come to this huge pond of young readers! So learn more, read this week's spotlight on page 7, and 8.

FAYEZA TAREEN SIDDIQA
PHOTO: PEARL DAS

4 PICTURES IN FRAMES
Taha Chowdhury's new book 'The Forgotten History of Dhaka Gate' is a special collection of his photographs of the old Dhaka Gate. It is a beautiful collection of his photographs of the old Dhaka Gate. It is a beautiful collection of his photographs of the old Dhaka Gate.

11 A CONVERSATION WITH WENDY SOPHIA
A special interview with Wendy Sophia, the CEO of Back for All, about her journey. Wendy Sophia is the CEO of Back for All, about her journey.

13 THE FORGOTTEN HISTORY OF DHAKA GATE
A beautiful collection of his photographs of the old Dhaka Gate. It is a beautiful collection of his photographs of the old Dhaka Gate.

15 APRIL THE HISTORY OF

Recognise genocide of '71

Nirmul Committee urges govt, int'l community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes trial campaigner Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday renewed its demand that Bangladesh officially recognise the genocide of 1971 and call for international recognition for the crime committed by the Pakistani occupation forces.

The call came from a discussion the Nirmul Committee organised at the capital's Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh, marking the 94th birth anniversary of Prof Kabir Chowdhury.

On the occasion, Liberation War Museum trustee Mofidul Haque delivered a memorial lecture titled "Recognition of Bangladesh Genocide: At Home and Abroad".

Different quarters try to demean the war crime trial, but they never dare deny the genocide, he said. "It is high time the country brings recognition for the genocide."

The Committee president, Shahriar Kabir, said Armenia, Mexico and Guatemala recognised the genocides com-

mitted in the countries, and they also observed "genocide day".

Bangladesh needs a law, recognising the 1971 genocide, he added.

Speaking as chief guest, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said March 25 could be declared "genocide day" and he would convey the demand to the prime minister.

Historian Prof Muntassir Mamoon said, "It is disgraceful that the country observes a day for hand washing, while it is yet to dedicate a day for the genocide victims."

British social activist Julian Francis, who earned recognition by the Bangladesh government for his contribution to the Liberation War, said a concerted effort of non-resident Bangladeshis and eminent citizens living in the country was required to fulfil the demand.

Justice Golam Rabbani, Nirmul Committee member Meghna Guhathakurta, and American jurist William Sloan also spoke at the discussion.



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