

Bangabandhu’s contribution was erased: Hasina

PM slams moves to ‘undermine’ his role in Language Movement

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday denounced attempts to “undermine” the contribution of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the Language Movement.

“Bangabandhu was jailed for waging the Language Movement. Why was he in jail, if he had no contribution?” she asked after conferring the Ekushey Padak to 19 eminent personalities and two organisations at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka.

Hasina said the “Joy Bangla” slogan, which inspired the freedom fighters to make the ultimate sacrifice, and the historic March 7 speech were banned after the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975.

“Actually, his name was obliterated from history. Not only that, his contribution to the Language Movement was erased,” she said.

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Families that lost their loved ones in the Churihatta fire in February 2019 claim they barely got anything promised by the government. An association of the victim families pressed forward seven demands from an event near Hazi Wahed Mansion, inset, yesterday, where the fire first started from a chemical factory on the ground floor.

PHOTO: STAR

GULSHAN FIRE

Anwar never got to see his child’s face

SHAHEEN MOLLAH with ABU BAKKAR SIDDIQUE

He was excited to see the face of his first baby and had planned to visit home to be with his wife in early March.

But his wish could not come true.

Thirty year old Anwar Hossain, who was the caretaker of a flat of the 13-storey residential building that was engulfed in a fire on Sunday night, succumbed to his injuries.

While firefighters were desperately trying to douse the blaze at the capital’s Gulshan, Anwar jumped off the 11th floor to save himself around 8:30pm. He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he died at around 1:00am.

Anwar’s niece Rabeya Aktar said her uncle lived in Bhola’s Borhanuddin upazila and got married about three years ago.

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FOUR YEARS OF CHURIHATTA FIRE

Victim families still await fair compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was like hell on earth for people living inside Hazi Wahed Mansion in Churihatta area of Old Dhaka. The fire started in a chemical warehouse on the ground floor of the five-story building and quickly spread to three other nearby buildings, including a community centre.

Seventy one people were burnt to ashes on that night on February 20, 2019, while dozens were injured. Even commuters and pedestrians were killed, demonstrating the magnitude of the incident and how dangerous chemical warehouses can be inside residential premises.

For a year, the walls of the building remained scorched black, a thin film of soot covered the burnt-out pillars and roofs and a smell of burnt remnants wafted through the air around it.

But, four years later, looking at the Wahed Mansion, it’s impossible to tell that 71 people were killed by a chemical-fed fire in this very building.

Visiting the place yesterday, this correspondent saw no burn marks on the entire building. The establishment looked somewhat new as there was a fresh layer on the building’s wall. Several private banks rented the second floor of the building to conduct their operations. The ground floor of the building was occupied by various businesses, while the third and fourth floors were being prepared for rent.

So while it’s business as usual

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SSC exams to start April 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year’s Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent exams will start from April 30, about two months later than the usual time, due to the fallout of Covid-19 pandemic.

Usually, during the pre-Covid period, SSC exams began in the first week of February.

Chairman of Dhaka Education Board Tapan Kumar Sarkar yesterday said the exams will be held on all subjects with full 100 marks but on curtailed syllabuses.

The decision to shorten the syllabuses was

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CASE AGAINST DR YUNUS

No hearing till March 27: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday said the labour court cannot hold hearing on the charge framing in a case filed against Nobel laureate and Grameen Telecom Chairperson Dr Muhammad Yunus over violating labour law till March 27.

The apex court asked Khurshid Alam Khan, the lawyer for the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, not to place argument before the labour court concerned on the charge framing till that day.

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HC bars screening of ‘Faraaz’ on TV, online platform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take necessary steps immediately to stop screening and streaming of Indian movie “Faraaz” on online platforms and televisions.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have been asked to take steps in this connection.

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