

‘Withdraw sedition case’

Hindu leaders allege police tried to bar people from attending Ctg rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Leaders of Sanatan Jagaran Mancha yesterday alleged that law enforcers in Chattogram created obstacles to bar people from joining its rally at the Cheragi Pahar intersection.

Swatantra Gouranga Das Brahmachari, a coordinator of Sanatan Jagaran Mancha, at the rally said, “Members of law enforcement agencies are obstructing people coming to the rally in different spots including Jamal Khan, Nandan Kanan, Anderkilla and Surson Road.”

“If they are not allowing the people of Sanatani community to come to the rally, we will go to the spots to bring them here,” he added.

The rally was organised

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Sanatan Jagaran Mancha held a rally at the Cheragi Pahar intersection in the port city yesterday demanding that the government withdraws the sedition case filed against 19 people including ISKCON Chattogram divisional organising secretary.

PHOTO: STAR

A guiding light for culture and consciousness

Say speakers on Abul Hasnat



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Hasnat, editor of Kali O Kalom, always worked towards building a nation of rich cultural and literary legacy, said speakers at an event yesterday.

The remarks were made at the third instalment of “Abul Hasnat Memorial Lecture”, organised by Bengal Foundation in the capital’s Bengal Shilpalaya. At the event, speakers recalled the life, work and achievements of Hasnat.

Hasnat, who passed away on November 1, 2020 at the age of 75, was best recognised as the editor of Kali O Kalom, a revered monthly literary magazine.

He was also a poet, essayist, art critic, litterateur and cultural personality.

Eminent academic Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam said Hasnat was someone who dedicated his life to guiding others in their own journeys in life. He was well known for his deep connection to human sensibilities.

“His death has left a void in the cultural arena, we still do not know how to fill this,” he added.

Reflecting on the post-1971 era, Islam remarked, “We believed that the path of literature would flourish further. Sadly, we did not see the growth we had anticipated.”

Hasnat highlighted the growing question about the trajectory of literature, he added.

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Youth will lead the country

Says Nahid

BSS, Dhaka

Adviser of the interim government for posts, telecommunications and information technology Md Nahid Islam yesterday said the young people who dreamt of building new Bangladesh through July mass-uprising are taking preparation to lead all sectors including economy, politics, business and society.

“Young people have shown Bangladesh a new way... they will lead Bangladesh in all aspects,” Nahid, also adviser for information and broadcasting, said while addressing as special guest at an event marking National Youth Day-2024 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka, according to a ministry press release.

“Bangladeshi young generation has shown the world a new path through the July mass uprising, and the whole world is now waiting to see where this people will take Bangladesh,” he said.

“All took to the streets during the July mass uprising, with patriotism on one side and death



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Keep judiciary free from political interference

Speakers tell UPL discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The judiciary must be kept free from political interference in order to ensure its proper independence, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The discussion, titled “Independence of the Judiciary: Overall Reforms of the State,” was organised by the University Press Limited (UPL) at its office in the capital on the 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court verdict in the Masdar

Many lower court judges had refused to grant bail to many prominent persons but they are still in good positions, said Barrister Hossain, also the honorary director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST).

Some judges had to think about a lot of factors to grant bail to prominent persons like Prof Muhammad Yunus in cases against him, she said.

Dr Ridwanul Haque, a former teacher of Law at Dhaka University, said

The judiciary must be independent not only institutionally but also professionally. The appointments and removal of judges must be done based on specific rules or criteria for the sake of transparency.

BARRISTER SARA HOSSAIN
Senior SC Lawyer

The lower judiciary was completely subservient for the last 15 years as it was controlled by the then government. Many people involved in that government have earned crores of taka using the lower judiciary.

DR RIDWANUL HAQUE
Former Law Teacher at DU

Hossain (judiciary separation) Case and 17th anniversary of implementation of the directives.

Speaking at the event, Barrister Sara Hossain, senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, said, “The judiciary must be independent not only institutionally but also professionally. The appointments and removal of judges must be done based on specific rules or criteria for the sake of transparency.”

the judiciary must be recognised as an institution.

“The lower judiciary was completely subservient for the last 15 years as it was controlled by the then government. Many people involved in that government have earned crores of taka using the lower judiciary,” he said.

Former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque had a big role in scrapping the

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Dengue death toll rises to 300 as 3 more die

HELEMUL ALAM

With three new dengue deaths yesterday, the total number of deaths has risen to 300 this year, depicting a grim picture of how losing lives to the mosquito-borne disease has become a regular scenario over recent years.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, 1,705 dengue deaths occurred in 2023, marking the highest annual death toll to date. In comparison, there were 281 deaths in 2022 and 179 in 2019.

With the 382 new cases, the total number of dengue cases rose to 62,199 this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, 1,705 dengue deaths occurred in 2023, marking the highest annual death toll to date. In comparison, there were 281 deaths in 2022 and 179 in 2019.



Experts attribute the high mortality rate this year to factors including late hospitalisation, quick onset of shock syndrome, inaccurate test results, and recurrent dengue infections.

“We are mostly seeing Den-2 (serotype-2) cases this year, similar to last year,” said Prof Tahmina Shirin, director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) recently.

Dr Shirin said being infected with Den-2 does not necessarily spell danger.

“However, cross-infections involving different serotypes can lead to severe complications, especially if patients are not hospitalised in time. Delayed hospitalisation is one of the key factors behind worsening patient conditions and higher mortality rates,” she added.

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THURSDAY’S CLASH 9 held, 1,000 workers sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least nine people were arrested over clashes between police, army personnel, and demonstrating RMG workers in the capital’s Kachukhet and Mirpur-14 areas on Thursday.

Six persons were arrested on Thursday, said Faisal Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Bhasantek Police Station. They were produced before a Dhaka court yesterday.

Meanwhile, army handed over three more arrestees to police yesterday, said an ISPR press release.

Two cases -- one with Bhasantek and another with Kafrul police stations -- were filed accusing 1,000 unnamed workers.

On Thursday, the clashes left two workers with gunshot wounds and several others injured. A police truck and an army pickup were set on fire, said OC Kazi Golam Mostafa of Kafrul Police Station.

Police said the workers of Creative Designers Ltd took to the streets around 8:30am after their factory was suddenly closed by the managers. Their number grew rapidly as employees from other factories joined.

Clashes began around 45 minutes later as police tried to clear the roads.

Meanwhile, the ISPR press release said the operation of Bangladesh Army will continue against miscreants who deliberately set fire to army vehicles, create panic in the public mind and destroy government assets.

GOURIPUR LODGE IN MYMENSINGH

Once a cultural beacon, now a neglected landmark



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Gouripur Lodge, a century-old iconic architectural landmark, once used to stand in all its glory in the Jubilee Road area of Mymensingh city.

But now the historic landmark, which bears the rich history of the zamindar dynasty of the region, lies in a neglected state.

In a show of utter disregard for the historic and cultural value of this landmark,

the lodge is being used to house guest rooms, store rooms, etc, by a government-owned bank.

Meanwhile, the house has not even been registered yet as a historic landmark in the city by the Department of Archaeology.

Brajendra Kishore Roy Chowdhury, the zamindar (feudal lord) of Gouripur, established the two-storey, intricately designed Gouripur Lodge in 1828, as per estimation, on the bank of the Old Brahmaputra.

After partition in 1947, the house was used as a branch of the National Bank of Pakistan between 1949 and 1971.

After independence, Sonali Bank used it as a branch office till 1985, before abandoning the house, said sources at the bank.

The house has glass doors, wooden walls, and a corrugated iron roof. The construction was reportedly done by workers from China, with the glasses imported from abroad.

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No one has right to grab canals, rivers

Says Rizwana; nationwide cleaning drive launched

BSS, Dhaka

Canals and rivers are national assets and no one has the right to grab and pollute those, said Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Water Resources Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday.

She said a canal cleaning campaign is being implemented in all 64 districts as part of the ongoing effort to make the country’s waterways free from pollution.

“Although the campaign will officially run till November 15, efforts to keep these waterways clean will continue. There will have a local committee for each canal to prevent pollution,” she added.

Rizwana was speaking as the chief guest at the national launch of the canal cleaning drive across 64 districts, held at Tri-Mohini Eidgah ground at Rampura, Dhaka.

Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiain officially inaugurated the canal cleaning campaign at Rampura-Zirani canal, marking the National Youth Day 2024.

Rizwana urged the volunteers and the youth to take on the national responsibility of keeping the canals free from pollution.

She said presenting the future generations with pollution-free canals and rivers will be one of the major successes of the Youth Day.



JULY UPRISING Families of martyrs to get financial aid from today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The July Shaheed Smriti Foundation will start providing financial assistance from today to the families of those who were martyred or injured during the July uprising.

Initially, the families of the deceased will get Tk 5 lakh each, while the injured will get Tk 1 lakh each.

Each week, 200 families will get the assistance, and the disbursement programme will be completed in four phases.

Sarjis Alam, general secretary of the foundation, shared the information at a press conference held at the foundation’s office in Shabbagh yesterday.

Sarjis said the first disbursement of funds will take place at the DSCC city hall for the families from the Dhaka division. “Not all martyr families will come tomorrow [today]; those who will receive the assistance have already been contacted,” he said.