

Japan garden city

FROM PAGE 1
fire safety measures in place.
He also alleged that the developer which also manages the complex did not check the fire extinguishing equipment on a regular basis.
Asaduzzaman Jamil however claimed that every building has all fire extinguishing equipment which were checked recently by them.
Aharab Ahmed Rochi, a resident, told The Daily Star yesterday that around eight people rushed to the 10th floor, where the fire broke out, with six fire extinguishers but found four of those totally out of order while the other two were working only partially.
Other residents of the complex also alleged that the firefighters reached the spot half an hour after the fire had broken out, which was too long. The delay also allowed the fire to spread and burn for an hour and a half, they claimed.
A fire brigade official said they could not reach the spot any sooner because of a traffic jam on the road.
He also said once they got there they found the approach road to the building is too narrow for fire trucks to enter, because there is a construction going on around the approach road. So they had to go around to get to the building, which caused added delay. Once they got to the building they had to wait for finding a water source, since the building's own hydrants were not working, causing more delay in the

rescue operation.
Meanwhile, the victims first tried to go to the roof of the building but failed as the gate of the roof was locked, and they also could not return downstairs because of heavy smoke and heat, which eventually caused their death, said Abdur Rashid.
The fire brigade officials confirmed yesterday that the fire broke out from an electric short circuit.
Many residents said they could not attempt to put the fire out at the source on the 10th floor because the elevator was not working since power supply was cut off after the fire.
The owner of the flat on the 10th floor, where the fire originated, had been decorating the flat for the last one year using a large amount of wood, and there were also other flammable items stored for the work, said other residents of the building.
Chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) Nurul Huda told The Daily Star yesterday that most real estate developers and individual owners of buildings do not install proper fire safety measures.
Although they show in their plans that they will keep all fire safety measures in place, during construction they do not follow that, he added saying, Rajuk so far could not properly monitor safety compliance of buildings in the city as the agency suffers from a lack of manpower.
Most of the buildings in the city are in violation of Rajuk approved designs, he said.
He also said he already directed his officials to strengthen their compliance monitoring in the city, and those officials will be responsible for violations in respective areas.
"We will take actions against all errant buildings of the city gradually," said the chairman.
As it is also the duty of the Fire Service and Civil Defence authorities to ensure monitoring of high-rise buildings' fire safety measures, they should also take some responsibility, he demanded.
"I already told the Rajuk officer concerned to find out the faults in the Japan Garden City building, and to submit the report by Saturday," he said adding that they will take appropriate actions after getting the report.
The victims were killed in a fire at the multi-storey apartment complex of Japan Garden City in the capital's Mohammadpur area Thursday night.
The fire broke out at 10:15pm on the 10th floor of building-6, and spread to the next floor up. The victims were residing on the 13th floor.
Six of the victims were buried in Azimpur graveyard yesterday while the body of the household help was sent to Rangpur to her home village for burial.
BCL General Secretary Mahfujul Haider Chowdhury Rotan held Islamic Chhatra Shibir responsible for the murder.

2 die

FROM PAGE 16
after his stepping into the manhole, Bhasani entered the drain to save his fellow cleaner and met the same fate.
On information, a team of firefighters rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies around 11:00am.
The bodies were later sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital morgue.

BCL leader

FROM PAGE 1
Star they recovered the body of the BCL leader and sent it to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.
Victim's brother Kamrul Hossain told reporters at DMCH that Faruk went out from his
Manikdi residence around 9:30pm and within half an hour they heard his death news.
"We could not ascertain the reason behind his killing," Kamrul said.
None was arrested in this connection, OC Hosne Ara added.
Home Minister Sahara Khatun went to see the dead body of the BCL leader at DMCH around 11:00pm and told reporters that a vested quarter was trying to destabilise the law and order situation in the country.
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Jute mill fire

FROM PAGE 16
said the sources from Noapara unit fire station.
No loss of life or injury was reported.
The jute mill sources said the fire had damaged most of its important machines.
The Project Coordinator of the mill Abu Sina told The Daily Star that it would take at least 24 hours to figure out the financial loss and extent of damage.
The project coordinator however did not rule out sabotage behind this incident. It would be determined only after forming a probe body, he said.

Plot handover

FROM PAGE 16
"The construction of two out of 11 bridges started earlier and work of the rest started in January," he said.
The project proposal for constructing 22,512 flats on 215 acres of land at sector-18 in third phase is now awaiting the approval from housing and public works ministry. It is scheduled to start in July 2010.
A total of 160 15-storey buildings consisting around 22,512 flats will be built. There will be 118 A-type buildings, 63 B-type and 79 C-type buildings.
The space of each flat of an A-type building will be 1,250 square feet; B-type 1,030sqft and C-type will be 850sqft.
The estimated cost of constructing the buildings is Tk 8,633 crore which will be disbursed from the project fund created by the plot owners' payment, said the project director.

Accused killer

FROM PAGE 16
Babul yet as he is hiding," the OC said.
The post-mortem of Lipi's body was completed at Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue on Wednesday but police were yet to get the report, the OC added.
After autopsy, the body was brought to her father's house at Ditarail village under Shivalaya upazila in the district and laid to rest at the family graveyard.
Lipi's father Harej Dewan, a farmer in the village, and mother Lailee Begum have two sons, Swapan Dewan, 16, and Sujon Dewan, 13.
A pall of gloom has descended on the family members after the death of their dearest Lipi.

Bird lovers

FROM PAGE 1
Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Muniruzzaman, Prof Farhad Hossain, fair organising committee chairman Prof Mofizul Kabir, zoology department chairman Prof Abdus Salam, among others, spoke in the inaugural session.
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An influential group filled this portion of Gulshan Lake with rubbles after fencing it with corrugated tin on Road 23 of Gulshan-1 in the city Thursday night. They also cut down a number of trees planted on the walkways by the lake.

Gulshan lake

FROM PAGE 1
Star correspondent found a gang guarding the place and allowing no-one inside.
During the last caretaker government rule, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) knocked down illegal structures in this part of the lakeside. They also paved a walkway and planted trees demarcating the area.
In response to a writ petition filed by barrister Omar Sadat, a High Court bench in 2006 ruled against lake-filling.
The grabbers however did not bother to abide by the directive. They continued encroaching on the lake, which was designated an "ecologically critical area" in 2001.
The final hearing on the petition by Omar, a Gulshan resident, will be held on February 17.
"They are desperate to fill up a significant part of the lake before the final hearing," said Omar.
"Today, someone named Amir left a phone number (0171-594591) to the security guard of my house. He asked him to tell me that I better contact him for negotiations and not continue the litigation," Omar told The Daily Star yesterday.
Later, this correspondent called the number several times, but found it switched off.
Meanwhile, several dwellers of Korail slums yesterday said the encroachers have hired some 50 labourers to work at night on the weekends to fill lake.
"They have hired so many workers that it seems they want to fence in and fill up more area," said one of them who did not want his name to be published.
On coming to power in January last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on several occasions announced her government's stance against encroachment of rivers, lakes and wetlands.
She also directed officials concerned to take drastic actions against grabbers.
But unabated encroachment, waste-dumping and commercial fish farming—all keep contributing to render the lake ecologically dead.

RU violence

FROM PAGE 1
With the 11, the number of arrestees in Rajshahi following the RU incident has reached 46.
Meanwhile, two injured BCL workers, Rahedul Islam Rahi and Ruhul Amin, earlier admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, lodged two more cases against some 90 Shibir leaders and activists with Motihar Police Station yesterday.
Rahi accused 34 Shibir men, including RU Shibir president Shamsul Alam Golap and general secretary Mobarak Hossain, and 25 other unknown persons. Ruhul accused 31 Shibir men.
The complainants said the accused persons had attacked them during the overnight clash between BCL and Shibir on RU campus.
Including these two cases, a total of five cases have been filed against 700 persons for their alleged involvement in the RU violence.
An unprecedented number of police and Rab members were deployed at different points of the city, especially the Shibir strongholds and mosques, to prevent Shibir from staging protest programmes.
Shibir men have fled the city locking up their messes at Meherchand, Budpara, Binodpur and several other places. Police raided some of the dens last night.

US govt back

FROM PAGE 16
It snapped air and rail links across much of the region, and left roads too dangerous to navigate. But the "snow days" holiday was over for most people Friday.
"Employees should plan to arrive for work no more than two hours later than they would normally arrive," the US Office of Personnel Management warned in a statement.
But it added that "employees who cannot report for work may take unscheduled leave."
Washington's public transportation system was also getting back to normal service after days of cancelled train and bus schedules.
Only six of the system's 86 stations remained closed as crews dig out the snow-clogged tracks, the Metro company said, with more than 600 buses on more than 300 routes operating Friday morning.
Most schools in the Washington-Baltimore area however are not expected to reopen until after Monday's President's Day holiday.
Unusual winter storm warnings were meanwhile posted for

Zillur seeks Turkish help

FROM PAGE 1
"We cannot approach our desired targets through a trade mechanism based on just a few items," he said.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, cabinet members, political leaders, ambassadors, businessmen, and high civil and military officials attended the banquet.
At the joint press briefing, Gül said he was being accompanied by about 100 businessmen and investors as well as members of Turkish parliament, which manifests the importance of his visit to Bangladesh.
"We also have very good relations in the political front, also we support each other in the international platforms. Our cooperation in military field as well as our cooperation culturally is very strong. But I believe we can further grow and strengthen those existing good relations," said Gül.
He said he would soon direct the Turkish airlines to link Dhaka with Turkey with direct flights.
Describing Turkey's relations with Bangladesh as historic having the same values and culture, Gül recalled that many people in Bangladesh knew the name of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.
Welcoming the Turkish president and his delegation, Zillur mentioned that the bilateral relation between the two countries is excellent and Gül's visit would further strengthen and deepen that relation.
"We share common history, values, traditions, faith and culture. Both of our people are freedom-loving and have deep commitment towards democracy and other liberal ethos," Zillur told the briefing.
He said during their talks they emphasised trade and investment. "Turkish importers and investors have been invited to explore different sectors in textile and apparel, energy, ship-building heavy machineries, telecommunications, petrochemical, tourism and agro-based industries, pharmaceutical and ICT."
The Bangladesh president said the bilateral trade volume between the countries in August 2009 was \$517 million. "I believe this volume would be increased if our trade is promoted," he added.
"Our country is the most vulnerable in the world as we have an adverse impacts of

global warming. We need support and cooperation from Turkey in this regard," Zillur said and added, "I look forward to working with Turkey to expand our bilateral relation for the well-being and prosperity of the two countries and their people."
Earlier, a red carpet reception was accorded to Abdullah Gül as he arrived at the Zia International Airport around 2:30pm by a special aircraft of Turkish Airlines on a two-day state visit.
President Zillur Rahman welcomed the Turkish president and his spouse Hayriyem Gül at the airport.
A smartly turned out contingent comprising members of army, navy and air force gave a guard of honour to the visiting president. From the airport, the Turkish president went to Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel where he was going to stay.
Gül paid homage to 1971 Liberation War martyrs at the National Mausoleum in the afternoon. He stood in solemn silence for some time and placed a wreath at the mausoleum.
He planted a Bakul sapling on the mausoleum premises and signed the visitor's book.
Gül is visiting Dhaka at the invitation of Zillur Rahman. This is the first trip of any head of states to Bangladesh since the Awami League-led government assumed power in January 2009.
Gül is accompanied by a 180-member delegation comprising several ministers, parliamentarians, mayors and business people.
He is scheduled to attend a breakfast meeting today to be hosted by Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FCCI) president Annisul Huq at Hotel Sonargaon.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will hold separate meetings with the Turkish president at his hotel suit today. The premier will host a lunch in his honour at Hotel Sonargaon.
He will attend a special convocation arranged at Nawab Ali Senate Hall of Dhaka University, where the university will award him an honorary Doctorate of Laws. He is scheduled to leave Dhaka at 6:00pm today.

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Iran accused

FROM PAGE 16
International Telecommunication Union that prohibits signal interference and we look to the international regulatory community to take a firmer stance on this deliberate act of jamming."
The broadcasters called on satellite operators and regulators to take "urgent action to put pressure on Iran to stop this activity."
"The Iranian authorities are using the same satellite services to broadcast freely around the world including broadcasts in English and Arabic; at the same time they are denying their own people programmes coming from the same satellites from the rest of the world," they added.
BBC Persian, the corporation's London-based Farsi-language TV channel, has angered Iranian authorities by broadcasting interviews and comment from opposition supporters.
The contested re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in June sparked the most serious unrest in Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.
CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan and Unicef Resident Representative in Bangladesh Carel de Rooy will be present at the press conference with Prof Sen.
Prof Sen will leave Dhaka tomorrow.

Seven held

FROM PAGE 1
Muhannul Islam, 18.
Police said a bomb exploded with a big bang at room no. 302 of hostel number three of the residential school and college around 11:30pm Thursday.
Police rushed to the spot shortly after the explosion and recovered some broken glass of windows. They also picked up the seven persons in this connection.
Meanwhile, teacher Mofizul, guard Atiqur and Roman were taken on a two-day remand yesterday. The Judicial Magistrate Court in Brahmanbaria granted the remand when police sought a three-day remand for them.
The court also ordered the jail authorities to arrange SSC examination of the four students inside the jail.
Police suspect that the bomb was kept in the room by them or others.
A case was filed with Brahmanbaria sadar police in this regard.
When contacted, Brahmanbaria Superintendent of Police Md Mukhlesur Rahman said a special operation will be launched from today to strengthen security to stop recurrence of such incidents.

UN forms

FROM PAGE 16
Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which provides a planetary arena for tackling climate change.
In December, a 194-nation UN-led summit in Copenhagen pledged to limit global warming to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (two Celsius), along with billions of dollars in financing. It gave countries until January 31 to sign on.
Cobbled together at the 11th hour by leaders from a handful of nations led by the United States and China, the controversial Copenhagen agreement fell well short of the binding and comprehensive climate treaty once hoped for.
And rich nations have yet to say when and how they will deliver emergency funds to help poor ones begin to green their economies and cope with climate impacts.

Indo-Pak talks

FROM PAGE 16
instability on their border, in the divided Himalayan territory of Kashmir and in Afghanistan.
India's overture was interpreted as a result of pressure from the United States, which is keen to keep South Asia trouble-free while deploying tens of thousands more troops into battle against the Taliban in Afghanistan.
Ending the war in Afghanistan is considered impossible without help from Pakistan, which the West still accuses of supporting the Taliban and other al-Qaeda-linked militants.
Pakistan announced the date of the talks after US national security adviser James Jones was in Islamabad for meetings with senior officials.
India broke off the Composite Dialogue, which began in 2004 and helped to ease tensions significantly, after blaming the Mumbai carnage that killed 166 people on Lashkar-e-Taiba and "official" agencies.
It has conditioned a return to peace talks on Pakistan bringing the perpetrators to justice and dismantling militant groups.
An Indian government source said earlier this week that while Pakistan had taken the "few small steps" needed for talks to resume, it had not

15 judges

FROM PAGE 16
pending with the HC while about 5,000 cases with the Appellate Division. There are now a total of 11 posts of judges for the Appellate Division and 77 for the HC.
The present government last year reappointed 10 HC judges whose jobs were not confirmed during the rule of BNP-Jamaat government. They were appointed as per the SC guidelines.
Md Bazlur Rahman Chhana, a former additional judge of the HC, whose job was not confirmed by the previous BNP-led four-party alliance government, was reappointed as a regular judge to the HC in May last year.
Besides, the government on June 23 last year appointed nine additional judges to the HC.

Jamaat, Shibir men

FROM PAGE 1
Uttara zone Deputy Commissioner Nisharul Arif told The Daily Star that they held 50 people from a four-storey building at Uttara sector-14. Later, they showed 31 arrested for their connection with Shibir and destabilising law and order.
He said the arrestees are students of different private universities and Islamic educational institutions.
According to police Shibir leaders and activists carry out their activities staying in different messes and coaching centres around DU campus.
Paltan police said they arrested nine Shibir cadres after the rampage in front of the national mosque and attack on police after Juma prayers.
Witnesses said the Shibir men damaged several vehicles during the clash.
Our Sylhet correspondent reports: Police detained 18 Jamaat-Shibir adherents on charge of attacking law enforcers.
Witnesses said Jamaat men pelted bricks on police prompting the law enforcers to charge batons. At least five photojournalist and two policemen were hurt in the clash.
Jamaat-Shibir men attacked police from a procession brought out after juma prayers in the city's Kudrat Ullah Jame mosque area claiming deceased CU student Masum their party man.
They paraded on streets, held a brief rally at Chouhatta point to end the programme and exploded three firecrackers.
Our Chandpur correspondent adds: Police arrested nine Shibir activists from Hajiganj upazila for clashing with Chhatra League and destabilising law and order.
Meanwhile, BCL activists vandalised Jamaat office.
Our Pabna correspondent reports: law enforcers arrested an accused in RU Chhatra League leader Faruk murder case at the remote village of Faridpur upazila yesterday around 2:00pm.
Arrestee Ramjan Ali, son of Nazim Uddin of village Par, is a student of Islamic Studies at RU and a Shibir activist. He fled from the university after the killing incident.
According to our Pabna, Rangpur and Tangail correspondents police raided different dormitories and messes to nab the Shibir activists who fled from RU campus and took shelter outside.
Meanwhile, police held seven alleged Shibir cadres from Residential School and College dormitory in Brahmanbaria Thursday night following a bomb explosion, reports UNB.
Police said they arrested the seven in connection with the explosion.

Huge crowd

FROM PAGE 16
to the fair yesterday.
The new titles included -- Sangshad Bitorka by Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Rumir Aloukik Bagan by Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, Hansa Undersener Khoje by Muntasar Mamun, Lincolner Bishonna Mukh by Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Valobashar Dine by Syed Shamsul Haque, Nam Najana Bhor and Sorbonasher Ashay by Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, Jubora Poribanu O Cyberer Galpo and Biswa Sahityer Noy Ratno by Kabir Chowdhury.

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Amartya Sen

FROM PAGE 16
held as well at 5:30pm briefing the media on the dialogue at the same venue.
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