NEWS

One of the families that have lost loved ones in yesterday's train crash.

Trains collide, kill 14

9:45pm.

window.

rescue efforts at around accident.

the scene, it became difficult for

the rescuers to do their job

charge baton to disperse the

passenger of Godhuli who is

now at DMCH, told The Daily

Star that after the collision he

got trapped in his coach, which

was just behind the locomotive.

After a while, he noticed grills of

one of the windows bent and

broken. He pulled himself out of

the wreckage through that

soon after the accident, a fire

brigade crane was called in, but

it failed to lift the heavy coaches.

Sumon, an eyewitness, said

Parliament last night passed

Humayun Kabir Jewel, 22, a

As a huge crowd gathered at Zia has also expressed condo-

Joy pulls

FROM PAGE 1 transport and investment and

boost the country's nearly \$100 billion economy.

"We'll gain financially. We will get fees for transit of all goods through our land."

Aside from connectivity with India, the country will have road links with Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia through the Asian Highway allowing easy access of our goods to those countries, he observed.

In addition, as China will be linked with the Asian Highway, bilateral trade between Bangladesh and China will shoot up.

"Ultimately, it'll benefit us," said Sajeeb, an IT professional with graduation from Texas University at Arlington,

He, however, could not say whether the AL-led government has conducted any study as to how much Bangladesh will gain for providing connectivity to other countries.

But he cited a report unveiled at the meeting on the prospect of gains of enhanced trade, investment and economic activities and said 'Many studies were done internationally. You will get it if you go through them."

The report, published by Washington-based Asia Advisory Committee, observed that Bangladesh's

location could provide it with numerous advantages and opportunities over the next 10 to 20 years, if it develops its economic environment and connecting infrastructure.

"It is connectivity. Transit is an aspect. India will get transit and we will get a fee. We must get a fee. Why not," said Sajeeb, who is believed to provide policy advice to realise AL's promise for a Digital Bangladesh by 2021. The government has

almost finalised the agreement with India and taken different steps to improve its rail and road network and other infrastructures including telecommunication.

On the impact of confrontational politics on business, Sajeeb said the business climate has been affected for lack of "political capability" of a political party.

According to him, the "only way" to ensure economic growth, political stability and sustainable democracy in the country is to keep AL in power.

He has recently become a member of the party.

Asked whether it is good for politics if one party stays in power for long, he said: "It's not bad for politics. Malaysia and Singapore have made progress because of one party. They did not advance by changing parties."

last year, as analysts warned

many times that the soaring

market was dangerously

sands of fresh investors with

crores of taka in hands into the

market, increasing the

demand for shares and mak-

month directed dozens of

state-owned companies to

offload their shares in the

stock market in a bid to create

new supply; yet most have yet

2 construction

Shah Jalal Garden City with

three bullets in his chest and

labourer Tula Miah, 45, with a

bullet in his left hand were

rushed to Dhaka Medical

staff of the housing project,

said two unknown youths

asked Sekandar about engi-

neer Mainul Islam of the

project. As Sekandar tried to

resist them, the youths fired at

workers chased the gang but

the criminals escaped the

scene exploding at least six

homemade bombs, he also

Sarwar of Dakshin Khan police

station said the incident might

have occurred due to a conflict

over ownership of the land.

Last chance

check rising temperatures at

two degrees Celsius compared

need to acknowledge and

commit to close that," said

Alden Meyer of the Union of

Concerned Scientists, an

unlikely to approve any

restrictions on carbon emis-

sions after the Republican

Party's victory. President

Barack Obama's administra-

tion, however, has pledged to

meet its Copenhagen target of

cutting emissions by 17 per-

cent by 2020 from 2005 levels.

also making progress on how

rich nations can help reduce

emissions from deforestation

in developing nations --

known to negotiators as

The Cancun conference is

The US Congress looks

environmental group.

"There is a giant gap. We

with pre-industrial levels.

FROM PAGE 16

Sub-inspector Golam

At one stage, at least 30

least 15 shots, he added.

Witness Shahin Khan, a

College Hospital (DMCH).

to come into the market.

FROM PAGE 1

The government last

ing the stocks overvalued.

The "bull run" lured thou-

overheated.

Investors burn

FROM PAGE 1

government high officials and big market players might have a hand in the directive.

One angry investor said: "The big fish knew very well that the directive would take the market down, and they could cash in on the consequent volatility.'

Another directive on Monday also stung the market this week. The rule on executing buy orders only after cashing an investor's cheque contributed to a 332-point loss in the prior two days.

Md Zahurul Alam, chief operating officer of the Dhaka bourse, said: "We talked to some of the angry investors, and it seems that the SEC's two directives cast negative

repercussion on the market."

Yesterday's protests and market crash -- greater even than 1996 crash -- prompted the SEC to postpone both directives; one at 12:26pm and another at 1:01pm.

Once the news was posted on the trading servers, the market recovered most of its osses from the first half of the trading. At the close of trading, the benchmark DSE General Index closed only 134 points lower, at 8,451.

"It's an unprecedented and untoward incident," said Ziaul Haque Khondker, chairman of the SEC, who vowed to look into the matter.

"It is natural that there will be ups and downs in the market. But we, as the regulator, never want a drastic intra-day fall in the market."

A big correction in share prices was widely predicted

Govt to start

FROM PAGE 1

Chuadanga, Meherpur, Kushtia, Jessore, Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Jhenidah, Magura, Pabna and some other adjacent districts, said home ministry officials.

The drive will be conducted to arrest outlaws of different parties and groups to prevent them from influencing the election in favour of any particular candidate.

"We will conduct a massive drive in the south-western region to nab the outlawed party men and recover their arms and ammunition so that they can't influence the upcoming municipality polls," Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder told The Daily Star yesterday.

to the government high-ups,

said the ministry sources.

country, the secretary added.

mation that a good number of

outlaws in the south-western

region are returning to their

localities to work for many

candidates in the forthcoming

They are regrouping under

the shelter of their 'political

godfathers' ahead of the polls to

manipulate it by muscle power,

local body election.

divisions.

REDD. Different law enforcement The loss of trees accounts and intelligence agencies have for 12 to 25 percent of the already prepared a list in this carbon emissions each year. regard and handed over the list

Activists and negotiators from several Latin American The government will provide nations have pressed against a all out assistance to the election deal out of suspicion over calls commission to ensure a free to set up a market, in which and fair election across the nations would offer forest aid in return for credit to meet The government has infortheir climate goals.

> Thousands of activists and Mexican peasants, holding rainbow flags and playing drums and flutes, marched in central Cancun, many of them to reject the REDD deal.

> "REDD is a false solution because you are creating a market on our forests, you are not protecting our Mother Earth," said US activist Kari

and to be respected," she said.

government sources said. The municipality elections are scheduled for January 12, 13, Fulton. "We are standing here to 17 and 18 next year in 269 municipalities of 310 in seven say that we want protection

Haikkar canal

FROM PAGE 1

Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain also issued a rule upon the government to explain within three weeks as to why the government should not be directed to take necessary steps to protect and restore Haikkar Khal.

The Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) yesterday filed the writ petition as public interest litigation following a news published in The Daily Star on December 6 titled "Haikkar Khal disappearing as encroachment goes unabated".

The Secretary to LGRD ministry, Dhaka City Corporation mayor, DG of LRD, DC of Dhaka, DMP commissioner, MD of Dhaka Wasa, and OC of Mohammadpur police station have been made respondents to the rule.

Advocate Manzill Murshid appeared for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain and Assistant Attorney General Purabi Saha represented the government in the HCyesterday.

Govt mulls

FROM PAGE 1

following farcical trial during the rule of general Ziaur Rahman, who illegally grabbed the state power. The matter is under the government's consideration.' The PM said this in

response to a scripted query from ruling Awami League lawmaker Chayan Islam. Major general Ziaui

Rahman, who was the chief of army staff, illegally assumed the office of the president amid a volatile situation both in the armed forces and in political arena after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

At that time, over one and half a dozen coups and counter-coups took place in the armed forces. Over 1,000 officers of the forces

were hanged through controversial trial in court martial.

Ziaur Rahman formed the BNPwhich won a landslide victory in the second parliamentary election in 1979. The parliament then passed the fifth amendment to the constitution that indemnified all activities of the martial law regime in between August 15, 1975 and April 9, 1979.

The fifth amendment now stands cancelled.

Govt asked

FROM PAGE 1

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At least

FROM PAGE 16

with a population of 1,900 inmates at the prison built for

Chile's firefighters said in an official statement that they were alerted to the fire by a call from a cell phone inside the prison. The release didn't say whether it was a prisoner or guard who called.

Authorities have not said why so many inmates died or how long it took firefighters to enter the part of the prison where the blaze began, on the third floor of Tower 5.

Firefighters had to work with police to avoid problems with prisoners all around them. While more than 200 inmates were moved to other areas of the prison, there were 147 others in the immediate area of the blaze, and many died of asphyxiation, the firefighters' statement said.

Manalich said that in addition to the dead, 14 others were so badly burned that

their fate is uncertain. Two firefighters and three guards were less seriously hurt, according to Manalich and

firefighters. Injured prisoners were taken to various hospitals in the region, firefighters said. generating it which makes

The Daily Star, "Our train was supposed to run on track-2. I don't understand why it was directed to track-1." Meanwhile, locals said the

Mohammad Mostafa, an elec-

trician of Chattola Express, told

FROM PAGE 1

11:00pm.

employees of the station disappeared soon after the accident. Rail communications between the capital and major cities remained suspended till

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep shock over the accident and directed all concerned to do their best in rescue operation and treatment of the injured.

Military personnel were working with police, Rab, firefighters and locals to pull passengers out of the wreckage. Divisional Rail Manager

Habibur Rahman said a relief

Witnesses said around 3,000

basic wages at the previous

rates, suspension of seven

senior officials who were in the

wages review committee and

Injured Line-in-Charge

Jamal Hossain said the workers

got reduced wages since the

factory management

decreased their basic wages

General Manager SM Abdur

Rashid admitted that basic

wages of the workers have been

the workers, they agreed to

join duty today (Thursday), he

were deployed at the site.

Following negotiations with

Police and Rab personnel

In the DPEZ in Savar, a

section of workers of Hi-

Tech Sportswear Limited

resorted to abstention from

work yesterday morning,

causing suspenstion of pro-

Asked about this, a high

official of the factory said those

who have been working for a

long time started the demon-

stration as comparatively new

workers are getting more bene-

fits than them (old workers) as

per the new pay scale imple-

they are demanding a "bal-

anced payment" based on their

long experience, and cancella-

tion of grading system in pay-

Seeking anonymity, he said

mented last month.

reduced.

duction.

When contacted, CEPZ

under the new pay structure.

increased food allowance.

demanding payment of

workers demonstrated

Unrest at EPZs

ment of their wages.

"The management is continuing negotiations with the workers so that the factory could be reopened today [Thursday]," the official said. At least 9,000 workers are

employed in the factory, he mentioned. The workers began agitation on Tuesday and did not

join work yesterday morning. Savar Circle Assistant Superintendent of Police Monwar Hossain said the workers stopped work due to dissatisfaction over payment. No case was filed in this con-

DU dismisses

FROM PAGE 16

nection, he added.

The decision came at a meeting of DU syndicate last night after evaluation of the recommendations made by the university's standing committee on December 1.

"The DU authorities warned them several times in accordance with the university rules but they didn't respond. Finally the syndicate has taken the decision," DU Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, also chairman of the syndicate, told The Daily Star.

DU sources said the syndicate first collected information on their breaking agreement with the university and then forwarded it to the standing committee for verifying the allegations against the teachers.

Electricity

FROM PAGE 16 December 2011, bringing relief

to the public."

"By 2013, we hope to strike a balance between the demand and supply of power," Muhith

Currently, the capacity of power generation is 6000 MW, but only 4,300 MW is generated because of old machines, which are being overhauled, he

"We are also opting for renewable energy sources like solar and wind power, but the technology to produce it is very expensive," the minister said.

At present, only 35 MW come from renewable sources, he noted. There is also a shortage of

gas which leaves us with no alternative but to use coal for power generation, said the minister. He also asked the ministry

concerned to ensure that the rural areas are not deprived of electricity.

Prime Minister's Adviser on energy Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury said Bangladesh is going through a crisis in meeting the demand for power, but this could be overcome if the plans are implemented.

He said saving an unit of electricity is much easier than conservation so crucial.

Rural Electrification Board Chairman Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam said Bangladesh could reach a new height of development if the demand for power

given in various categories

Kabir also addressed the func-

tion chaired by Power Division

Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

Sakhawat Hossain, Home To create awareness about Secretary Abdus Sobhan the optimum use of electricity, Sikdar, Principal Staff Officer the power division is organisof Armed Forces Division Lt ing discussions, exhibitions of Gen Abdul Wadud, Inspector energy saving tools and will General of Police Hasan distribute leaflets at national Mahmud Khandaker among and regional levels. It will also others were present at the inspire the customers to pay meeting presided over by the electricity bills on time and CEC. discourage illegal connections. Hartal called A total of 49 awards were

including: Best Employee in till December 25 from today. Power Sector, Best Power Unit, The declaration came in Best Project Director, Best protest against the secular Customer, Reporters from education policy passed in the Print and Electronic Media, House on Tuesday on voice among others. vote. They also demanded The country will observe removal of director general of Electricity Day on December 7 Islamic Foundation.

Parishad Chairman every year, as Bangladesh got Muhiuddin Khan announced its first power connection in the programme at a press Dhaka in 1901 on that day. briefing at the Jatiya Press Club State Minister for Power claiming the religion loving Mohammad Enamul Haque people of the country have and Power Development Board Chairman ASM Alamgir

later.

rejected the education policy. Earlier on December 6, the parishad declared hartal for December 26 but retrieved

Five-year-old thrown from train in Mumbai

PHOTO: STAR

BNP Chairperson Khaleda

who have died and demanded

formed a four-member com-

mittee to probe the accident.

Headed by Railway's Chief

Engineer Yusuf Ali Mridha, the

committee has been asked to

come up with a report within

so far in three major train acci-

train accidents were recorded in

the country between 2000 and

2009. At least 60 people died in

around 1,000 accidents last year

Army watch

the current law and order.

EC Secretariat that reviewed

army deployment on a limited

scale apprehending deteriora-

tion of law and order in some

large municipalities like

Tangail, Mymensingh and

Savar," CEC Huda told the

palities will be disclosed in a

couple of days where the army

Three tier security mea-

The main opposition BNP

had demanded EC's move to

deploy the army to hold the

municipality polls in a free

and fair manner. But the ruling

Awami League had opposed

The CEC, however, said the

The law enforcement

law and order situation is now

agencies will continue their

routine work to maintain law

and order and there is no need

for special drive at this

appointment of deputy com-

missioners as appellate

authorities to settle disputes

as the EC has shortage of

manpower, so it is not possible

to appoint the EC's own offi-

hension that the government

He refuted BNP's appre-

Two election commission-

ers Muhammed Sohul

Hussein and Brig Gen (retd) M

cials as appellate authorities.

In defence, CEC Huda said

Earlier, BNP objected to the

sures will be taken to ensure

security of the polling stations,

18 in seven divisions.

the polling day.

he added.

the proposal.

under control.

moment, he added.

over candidacies.

the polls.

He said a list of the munici-

"The commission opted for

At least 21 people have died

According to railway, 5,050

the next 48 hours.

dents this year.

out of a moving train in Mumbai during an argument between her family and another passenger over sharing a seat, police said yesterday.

The girl suffered head injuries when she landed on the tracks in an eastern suburb of the city after the train had left the main Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus.

"A scuffle broke out over train with a medical van a condolence motion for the AFP. reached the scene to help the ones who have died in the

> and recovering. She was very lucky not to have been hit by another train." Chavan added that a 19-

lences to the families of those properly. Law enforcers had to proper investigation into the Bangladesh Railway has up after the incident.

was a maniac, I would have

Chinese group goes for rebel 'peace prize'

yesterday it planned to award a rival version of the Nobel Peace Prize as Beijing ramps up efforts to discredit the Nobel's choice of jailed dissident Liu Xiaobo.

A shadowy Chinese group said

The "Confucius Peace Committee.

will be deployed during the polls on January 12, 13, 17 and The EC chief said a mobile government.

force consisting of Rab, police and BDR will patrol the streets to maintain law and order on website.

figure in Tibetan Buddhism.

rejected by the committee.

3:00am, locals said. As the family members cried out for help, people from neighbourhood rushed to the spot and

death while the other gang members fled the scene.

Ullah of Rajbari Sadar Police Station confirmed the incident.

Police recovered one knife and a machete from a nearby field after the incident.

Crew still

FROM PAGE 1

Jahan Moni expects the pirates to contact them or make ransom demands once it reaches the coast. They have not been able to make contact of any sort with the crew or the pirates since the hijack.

Management, the operating company of the ship, said they are tracking the ship via satel The ship was about 600

nautical miles from the Somali coast yesterday afternoon. Somali pirates took over the ship in the Arabian Sea Sunday.

contact with anyone on board and now we just have to wait and see," Rahmat Ullah said. The ship has 25

its chief engineer on board. The government has established contact with all authori-

ties concerned around the world to ensure security and release of the 26 hostages, a top official of foreign ministry said Tuesday. "We have even talked to

bution is as glittering as stars." Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) lawmaker Mayeen

Haque said, "Hasina's contri-

Uddin Khan Badal said "Leaders like Nelson Mandela and Sheikh Hasina are born rarely in the world. They have no materialistic desire and they sacrifice their lives for the betterment of people."

AFP, Mumbai

A five-year-old girl was thrown

seating and the little girl was thrown out of the door. It happened in just a few seconds," Mumbai railway police chief Tukaram Chavan told "She's receiving treatment

arrested. Indian newspapers said other passengers in the crowded train had beaten him "Had I known that the man

AFP, Beijing

Prize" will be awarded on Thursday to former Taiwan vice president Lien Chan, one of its organisers, Tan Changliu, told AFP, just one day before the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo to honour Liu and comes as China has stepped up already fierce criticism of the Nobel

Tan denied that his group had any link with China's

The award was announced on a Chinese Buddhist

It said other candidates included South African democracy icon and Nobel peace laureate Nelson Mandela, software tycoon Bill Gates and the Panchen Lama, the second-highest ranking

On Tuesday, a Chinese government spokeswoman referred to members of the committee as "clowns" and said most of the world opposed Liu's award -- a claim

3 'robbers'

FROM PAGE 1

caught three of the robbers.

The mob beat them to Officer-in-Charge Sarafat

officials might favour the ruling party's candidates in

Technical Manager Rahmat Ullah of Brave Royal Ship

"We could not make any

crewmembers and the wife of

people in Somalia who in the

official added.

past had successfully negotiated release of captives," the

the Hindustan Times. "My wife, my brother and I ran after him but before we could stop him, he flung my daughter out of the train. My mind stopped working and was numb. My brother acted quickly and pulled the (emergency) chain." Mumbai's suburban trains carry an estimated seven million people every day and are a lifeline in an overcrowded city with traffic-

given him the seat instead of

putting my daughter's life in

danger," the girl's father told

clogged, potholed roads. Train doors are normally open to the elements to combat high temperatures and humidity, with many travellers also hanging out of carriages or perching between them. In 2008, an average of 17

people died every day on Mumbai's suburban rail year-old man had been network, according to government figures. Most deaths were trespassers on the tracks. INDO-PAK STALLED TALKS

Sushma Swaraj

takes on Musharraf PTI, New Delhi Joining issue with Pervez Musharraf who has blamed a

top External Ministry official

for failure of the Indo-Pak talks

in Agra, BJP leader Sushma

Swaraj said the former Pakistan

President was responsible for the collapse of the summit. In a twitter message, she said the Agra summit collapsed as Indian political leadership did not accept Musharraf's effort to bring Kashmir as 'core

issue' and no mention of

'cross-border terrorism' in the agreed statement. "Musharraf is wrong to blame Vivek Katju (who is now Secretary, West) for failure of Agra talks. Katju was then Jt. Secy in MEA," said the Leader of Opposition in Lok

Sabha. "The truth is that Musharraf wanted Kashmir as 'core issue' and no mention of 'crossborder terrorism' in the agreed statement. This was not acceptable to the political leadership then. This is not acceptable even today," Swaraj

While referring to the summit meeting, Musharraf, in an interview to an Indian TV channel, had said that things were progressing fine during his talks with the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

till Katju intervened. "There was someone from the Foreign Ministry sitting there named Katju. He may still be there, he created a lot of

hurdles," he had said. Katju, who is now Secretary (West), yesterday dismissed Musharraf's claim that he

created a "lot of hurdles" during the Agra peace talks. Katju, a 1974 batch IFS officer, was then joint secretary

in-charge of Pakistani division in the External Affairs Ministry. Vajpayee and Musharraf met in Agra on July 15 and 16, 2001 to resolve outstanding issues between India and

Pakistan. But the summit collapsed as the two sides couldn't arrive at any agreement, despite five one-to-one rounds between the two leaders and hours of discussion between the two

delegations. JS prays

Zunaid Ahmed Palak and Monjur Quader Quraishi said the Nobel Committee might someday nominate Sheikh

"Sheikh Hasina's government ratified the historic CHT peace treaty. Many countries followed it to establish peace in their states. We are now

waiting for the Nobel Peace

Hasina for the Nobel Peace

Prize for Sheikh Hasina," Palak AL lawmaker Tofail Ahmed said Hasina received UNESCO peace prize for the CHT treaty. "She will transform

Bangladesh into a modern

country by materialising the dreams of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," he said. AL lawmaker Sayadul