

## Amartya

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more. There is a 95 per cent immunisation rate. In absolute every respect, Bangladesh has overtaken India," Sen said during an interaction at a Cancer Foundation of India programme in Kolkata.

Sen's Pratichi Trust, which he set up with his Nobel Prize money, works in both India and Bangladesh in the sectors of health and education.

Pointing out that education has brought about a dramatic change in the lives of women in Bangladesh, Sen said they are now playing an important role in the country's economy and society.

## Burnt Amena

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burnt," said Hajera, adding, nobody could tell how it happened.

Amena's husband, Abdul Quader, and her father-in-law and mother-in-law went missing after the incident. The three were at home when Hajera went to visit her daughter that morning.

Family members said they never heard of any dispute between Amena and her in-laws.

Amena was married to Quader, a day labourer, six months ago. On the wedding day, her family gave Quader Tk 30,000 as dowry, said Amena's father Abul Kalam.

"We found nobody at her in-laws' house when we took her to the hospital," he said, "we could not talk to any neighbour either as we had to rush her to hospital."

Amena was initially taken to Ramgar Sadar Hospital from where she was shifted to CMCH.

Fazlur Rahman, in-charge of CMCH police outpost, termed the incident mysterious. He said police would investigate the matter.

Amena's family members said they would file a case against her in-laws.

## Gloomy

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weather. The cyclone formed in the Bay of Bengal last week.

"It is neither a cold wave nor a depression. The situation will improve today (Tuesday) as the cyclone has passed over," an official at the Met office said yesterday evening.

But the temperature might fall one or two degrees Celsius today. The lowest temperature in the capital yesterday was 18 degrees.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to lower signals.

In a forecast, the Met office said drizzles are likely today at some places in Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions.

Earlier, the Met office had forecast that one or two mild to moderate cold waves may sweep the northern and central regions of the country this month.

The first spell of cold wave sweeping the country a week ago left many children and elderly people from poor families dead.

## AL leader

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of the 1971 Liberation War in the district, passed away in his sleep around 5:00am. He was 80.

Also a former joint general secretary of the AL central committee, Shahjahan left behind his wife, one son and six daughters.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of the veteran AL leader. In separate messages, they said since his student life Shahjahan had played a strong role against colonial rule and played an important role during the Liberation War.

The people will recall his heroic contribution during the war with great honour, the prime minister said. She prayed for the salvation of his soul and conveyed her heart-felt sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Textiles and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui and Jatiya Party (JP) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam also condoled the death of Shahjahan.

# 2 more parties

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the caretaker government issue that has led to a political standoff in the country. Since he [Zillur Rahman] is the country's guardian, we urged him to take steps to settle the issue by restoring the caretaker government system,"

IAB Secretary General Younus Ahmed told this correspondent after the talks.

The president said he has absolute authority to form the election commission but has no jurisdiction over the caretaker government issue, Andaleeve Rahman, chairman of the BJP, a component of the BNP-led four-party alliance, quoted the president assaying.

Earlier, Liberal Democratic Party, Gonoforum, Communist Party of Bangladesh and Islamic Front Bangladesh also called upon the president to take steps to restore the caretaker government system.

However, Jatiya Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Workers Party and Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal -- all partners of the ruling grand alliance -- put focus on formation of new election commission as the tenure of the existing one expires in February.

BNP and IOJ, partners of the four-party alliance, are scheduled to have talks with the president today and January 11.

The two parties will also

request the president to make moves to restore the caretaker government system, said sources.

The caretaker government system was scrapped on May 30 last year through an amendment to the constitution that resulted in a political standoff. The main opposition BNP and its partners have been demonstrating since then demanding its restoration.

BJP Chief Andaleeve, who led a nine-member delegation at the talks, said, "I told the president that he does not have absolute authority to form the Election Commission since he has to do it on the prime minister's advice."

Andaleeve told the president that they welcome his initiative to hold dialogue with all political parties.

"I told him that he should take similar initiative to resolve the caretaker government issue."

IAB Secretary General Younus said, "We told him [the president] that all political parties including BNP have responded to his invitation. The president should do something to address the caretaker government issue as all parties will listen to his direction."

B a n g l a d e s h e r Samajtantrik Dal and Bikalpadhara Bangladesh are scheduled to hold talks with the president tomorrow.

# Kuet shut

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went to place the agitating students, were also injured.

Following the incidents, the university authorities ordered resident students to vacate all the six dormitories by 6:00pm as a measure of averting further violence.

Our staff correspondent, Khulna, reports that all the halls were vacated by 9:30pm and a huge contingent of police was deployed on the campus.

The injured police officer is Mostafa Kamal, deputy commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police, while the teachers are Director of Student Welfare Affairs Prof Shibendra Shekhar Shikder, Rafiqul Islam and Elias Inam Koel of the electrical engineering department and Md Masud and Abdur Noor Tushar of the mechanical department.

Eight of the injured were undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital.

The troubles were sparked off at midnight on Sunday when students of Amar Ekushey Hall protested over the distribution of low quality food at the annual feast on the day, campus sources said.

At this, members of the feast organising committee, all leaders and workers of BCL, swooped on the students with lethal weapons and brickbats. They beat up several students for raising their voices against the food.

Students said they had each paid Tk 885 for the feast but they were served very low quality food.

The aggrieved students tried to raise the issue with the hall provost that night but the BCL cadres waylaid them and foiled their attempt. The students then chased the BCL men out of the hall and locked all of its gates.

The situation calmed down when the VC went to the dormitory at around 3:00am yesterday and made a written pledge to take action against the members of the feast organising committee within 24 hours. He also assured them of taking full responsibility should any student be attacked by the BCL activists.

But the BCL cadres backed by outsiders entered the Amar Ekushey Hall around 1:00pm yesterday and beat up the students indiscriminately for half an hour, sources said.

The attackers, lead by BCL cadres Abir, Kajal, Arin, Himu, Jubayer, Sumon, Mukul, Nihar, Nayan and Sohan, ransacked a number of rooms of the hall and kept all its entry points locked from inside, sources added.

The students alleged that police had looked on as the BCL men continued to assault their classmates.

Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Khanjahan Ali Police Station, said late last night the police were preparing to file a case in this connection.

Contacted, BCL President Badiuzzaman Shohag told The Daily Star last night that his organisation had no committee at Kuet. Therefore, responsibility for the violence did not fall on it.

He added that he had information that the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami student bodies, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir, under the banner of general students had caused the violence.

## Arrest order

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order in the afternoon after the defendants' lawyer Sanaullah Miah submitted a petition.

The petition said that the defendants had earlier got an ad interim bail for two months in the case but they failed to submit the bail on time due to unavoidable circumstances.

Earlier that day, the same court issued arrest warrants against them and ordered the police to confiscate their movable properties.

The 17 defendants include Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal president Moazzem Hossain Alal, its general secretary Saiful Alam Nirob, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) president Sultan Salauddin Tuku, JCD general secretary Amirul Islam Khan Alim, Jatiyatabadi Swechhahasebak Dal president Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel and its general secretary Sarafat Ali Safu.

A total of 58 people were accused in the case filed for damaging vehicles, halting traffic, causing anarchy and preventing police from discharging their duties.

Muktar Hossain, sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station and investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the 58.

It mentioned the 17 including Alal, Tuku and Sohel as fugitives, although several of them got ad-interim bail from the High Court. The remaining 41 who were arrested earlier are now in jail custody.

Earlier on December 18, several homemade bombs went off in the capital's downtown as hundreds of BNP-Jamaat activists clashed with police and vandalised and torched around a dozen vehicles.

A 24-year-old man, Arifuzzaman Arif, was killed when a bomb exploded in Motijheel area.

Following the incidents, police filed 18 cases against 7,000 leaders and activists of the opposition parties for going on the rampage.

Police also detained 289 BNP-Jamaat activists from the capital and interrogated 120 of them for six days in connection with the cases.

## Shajahan backs

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organised by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in cooperation with Dhaka Metropolitan Police and Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Malik-Sramik Oikkyo Parishad at the capital's Sayedabad bus terminal.

Speaking as the chief guest, Obaidul Quader said his ministry will give road safety the top most priority.

Repairs of 22 dangerous curves on Dhaka-Aricha highway is in progress and road dividers will be constructed on the highway, he said.

"A weigh station will also be set on the highway to check overloaded vehicles," he added.

Speaking about the recent bus fare hike, the minister directed bus owners to be vigilant so that no extra is charged over the government-set fare. He also urged them not to increase fare in Dhaka and Chittagong until the government make any announcement.

The government will introduce ferry services on Meghna and Gomuti rivers to reduce load on Meghna and Meghna-Gomati Bridges on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, as both bridges are vulnerable, Obaidul Quader said.

He reiterated that his ministry will focus on repairing existing roads and bridges instead of constructing new ones to ensure road safety and relieve passengers' suffering.

Shajahan Khan stressed the need for arranging training for drivers in every district and to strengthen BRTA and the traffic system.

DMP Commissioner Benazir Ahmed said under-construction flyovers will intensify the city's traffic jam instead of resolving the crisis.

B R T A C h a i r m a n M o h a m m a d A y u b u r Rahman and leaders of transport owners and workers association also spoke at the programme.

## 4 killed

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A Jubo League worker.

Sources said the microbus was one of the vehicles in the motorcade of Abdul Hye, the newly appointed district administrator of Narayanganj. Along with his supporters, Hye was going to Tungipara of Gopalganj in the morning for offering prayers at the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The microbus caught fire with a bang after it was hit by a bus from behind in Nimtola area around 8:40am, said Mehedi Hassan, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Sirajdikhan Police Station.

Nine passengers including Tofazzal managed to come out of the burning microbus. The charred bodies of Russell, Jabbar and the driver were recovered from the vehicle later, the OC said.

Tofazzal succumbed to his injuries after he was admitted to a hospital in Sreenagar upazila of the district, he added.

Of the injured, Awami League activist Shamsul Haque, 50, was admitted to the burns unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Injured Momen Bhuiyan, 28, Md Golam Mawla, 40, Md Sultan Bhuiyan, 48, Nasir Uddin, 42, Hafizuddin Bhuiyan Sabu, 40, Samiruddin, 45, and Komol Bhuiyan, 45, were rushed to another hospital in the capital.

Abdul Hye, who was unhurt, said the Tungipara programme has been postponed.

Police initially suspected that there was a gas cylinder explosion. But later it was confirmed that the fire started due to a technical fault, said Munshiganj Police Superintendent Md Shafiqul Islam.

On information, Gazi Dastogir, Awami League lawmaker from Rupganj constituency, rushed to the spot.

Vehicular movement on the highway remained suspended for around 50 minutes till 9:30am following the explosion, causing severe traffic congestion.

Police seized the bus but its driver managed to escape, ASP Saiful Islam said. The bodies were handed over to relatives.

# Suspect held in city

FROM PAGE 1

Action Battalion (Rab) officials claimed that the three abductees, including two leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), had been members of a criminal gang and were killed over internal feud.

On November 29 last year, Shamim Hasan Sohel alias Max Sohel, culture and research secretary of Dhaka University's Surya Sen Hall unit JCD, Ismail Hossain alias Al Amin, JCD president of Ward-50, and Masum Hossain were picked up in a white microbus from Hatirpool area by some unidentified people. Ten days after the incident the body of Ismail was found in Dhaleshwari River in Munshiganj.

Victims' families alleged that the three youths had been kidnapped by Rab personnel and that Ismail was killed by the law

enforcers.

Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan, director of Rab's intelligence wing, yesterday told The Daily Star that the three abducted were members of a gang led by top listed fugitive Dilip alias Binash, who controls at least eight local criminal groups from Malaysia. These gangs kill people for money.

According to Ziaul Ahsan, all the abductees might have been killed after their disappearance. He, however, could not confirm that. He said the abduction and the "killing of the victims" took place over sharing money, control over the gang, and disloyalty.

Commander M Sohail, Rab's media and legal wing director, claimed that the youths had been kidnapped by other members

of the gang. The criminals used Rab's identity to mislead law enforcers, he added.

Meanwhile, detained Rahim was produced before the media at Rab headquarters yesterday afternoon. Rahim told journalists that deceased Ismail was a drug peddler while Shamim and Masum were close associates of Dilip.

Replying to a query, Rahim said he had never demanded money from the victims' families; rather he tried to help find the missing as he was their close friend.

However, Ismail's maternal uncle Abdul Khalek claimed that Rahim demanded Tk 7 lakh for the release of the abductees, and also took him to Tolarbagh area in the capital to talk to a Rab official over the issue.

# 2 BCL men expelled

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department.

Several hundred students had been agitating on the campus since Saturday afternoon following an attack on Tousif Ahmed Eshan, a 2006 batch student of the computer science and engineering department, by several Chhatra League activists.

The assault followed an altercation between senior and junior students during a concert on Wednesday.

In the attack, the left hand of Tousif was broken while he suffered injuries to his leg and other parts of the body.

The students besieged Buet's administrative building and staged sit-ins till 3:15pm yesterday, demanding the expulsion of Sujit, Saifullah and another student, Arif Raihan.

Vice-Chancellor Prof SM Nazrul Islam told The Daily Star after the meeting that the probe committee report submitted to the university high-ups yesterday morning found Sujit and Saifullah guilty of assaulting Tousif.

Arif was cleared of the charge as the probe body did not find him involved in the incident, said Prof SM Nazrul.

On Sunday, the Buet authorities suspended Sujit, Saifullah and Arif for six

months but the action failed to calm the agitators. The authorities also put a halt to academic activities at the institution until further notice.

As the issue had been resolved, academic activities would now go on as usual, VC Prof Nazrul said.

The protesters expressed dissatisfaction over a part of the disciplinary committee's decision. They claimed there was scope for the expelled students to appeal before the university academic council within the next 15 days to reconsider their punishment.

They hoped the academic council would uphold the disciplinary committee decision.

Yesterday, a large number of police were deployed on the campus as the students continued their protests for the third consecutive day.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Shahbagh Police Station, said as many as 200 policemen were on the campus all day.

The agitators left the administrative building premises in the afternoon at the request of officials ahead of the disciplinary committee meeting there.

After leaving the spot, students held a press brief-

ing at the Buet cafeteria where they reiterated their demands.

"We will return to our dormitories once we get a written copy of the decision," Joy, one of the protesters, told The Daily Star yesterday last night.

**TOUSIF'S FATHER ON HIS SON'S STANCE**  
Md Siddiqur Rahman, father of the victim, in a letter has clarified his son's position in Wednesday's incident and protested a portion of a report published in The Daily Star yesterday.

He said no fight or scuffle had occurred between his son and the accused attackers on the day. It was rather limited to an exchange of words.

The report reads: Tousif and several senior students got into a fight with some junior students, including the three, who were trying to occupy some chairs reserved for seniors at a concert at the university auditorium, said sources.

## 6,000 women

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of torture across the country. Also, 68 women were tortured in the name of fatwa (religious edict), and 75 fell victim to child marriage.

# Last moment campaign

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votes for his party backed candidate Air Ahmed Selim.

All the candidates along with their party leaders attended a number of meetings at different points of the city yesterday. They all pledged to make the city free from drugs and resolve the water-logging problem if they are elected.

The Comilla City Corporation election will be held on Thursday using electronic voting machines in all the 65 centres. Nine mayoral

aspirants and 287 councillor candidates are contesting the polls.

A total of 1,69,273 voters, including 86,074 females, will exercise their mandate to elect a mayor and 36 ward councillors. Nine of the councillor posts are reserved for women.

**Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda** during his recent visit to Comilla pledged that the commission will hold a "model" poll by all means.

# Deep-sea port still far away

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authority, appointment of a design consultant and negotiation with the interested investors will get momentum once the draft is signed into a law," he told The Daily Star.

Earlier, a Japanese firm conducted Techno-Economic Feasibility Study on the proposed port at a cost Tk 14 crore. The study, submitted to the shipping ministry in July 2009, recommended forming a deep-sea port authority and passing the Deep-Sea Port Act immediately.

The study outlined a three-phase construction plan and assessed a huge financial potential. It also mentioned how the port can be built under public-private partnership.

The first phase was supposed to start at the end 2011 and complete by 2015 at a cost of Tk 13,000 crore. As per the study, the port can go into operation in 2016 if the suggested work is done in time.

The second phase should be completed in 2035 at a cost of Tk 26,000

crore. The country would get a full-fledged international port with completion of the final phase by 2055 spending Tk 1,100 crore.

The major challenge for the government is updating the feasibility study. Many data might become outdated as the government is failing to act promptly.

"Everything is outlined in the study, but the progress is very disappointing," said KM Ahmed, who was involved with the study.

He said the port will have a huge positive impact on economy since the study estimated about two percent GDP growth following the construction. The port will generate massive employment, boost export and import and massively increase the country's capacity to handle cargoes.

There is no alternative to a deep-sea port as capacity of the Chittagong Port will be totally exhausted by 2015. Bangladesh will face serious problem without a deep-sea port once transit

is allowed to India, Nepal and Bhutan, said experts.

Bangladesh has sought assistance from various donors, including Japan and China, for the project.

A Japanese team visiting Bangladesh recently offered to be a co-financer. The government is not interested about the proposal as it is looking for a single financer.

Also, a Chinese delegation came here in May last year as China is keen to invest.

Briefing journalists after the cabinet meeting, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said large ships 188 metres in length or more cannot anchor in the Chittagong Port due to shallow navigability of the channel and the turn of the Karnaphuli River.

He said the ships anchor near Kutubdia and Moheshkhali anchorages, shooting up the cost of loading and unloading of cargoes.

"The government decided to construct a deep-sea port considering the situation," he added.

## Robbers kill night guard

One of the gang beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Angry villagers beat a robber to death in Chungapara village of Pirojpur early yesterday after he killed the night guard of the village while fleeing.

The robber was identified as Sakhawat Gazi and the night guard as Wadud.

Heno Ara, Sakhawat's wife and Moyazzem Hossain, Wadud's assistant were also injured in the incident.

Akram Hossain, acting police superintendent of Pirojpur, told The Daily Star that three robbers around 1:30am broke into the house of one Jalil Akan.

The robbers attacked the night guard and his assistant after they challenged the trio, Akram said, adding that locals rushed to the scene after hearing screams and formed a ring around the robbers.

In a desperate bid to flee, robbers hit Wadud on the head and he fell to the ground dead, said Akram.

Incensed, locals caught Sakhawat and his wife and gave them a beating, he said.

The other robber, Rubel, managed to flee the scene.

Heno was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital while Sakhawat succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital.

## Khaleda

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Gulshan office.

The BNP chief said they had already proved it by launching road march where lakhs of people took part in a peaceful way.

She said they would build up leadership among the youth community to give them responsibility of the country.

Khaleda said the country was now sliding towards a crisis and people want change of this situation.

**FAKHRUL TALKS TO QUADER**

In a good gesture BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir last night phoned to Communication Minister Obaidul Quader over a way-side meeting in Comilla during the January 8-9 road march to Chittagong, BNP sources said.