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1. People heading for Dhaka are stunned to find Chandpur launch terminal closed.
2. Cops search passengers of a microbus at Gabtoli.
3. Over 400 vehicles requisitioned by police for "carrying forces to be deployed during the upcoming political rallies" are parked at Rajarbagh Police Lines.
4. BNP could not put up a stage before its central office in Nayapaltan last evening since permission to do so was not forthcoming from the police.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN/RASHED SHUMON

## Rehana gives back Dhanmondi house to govt

UNB, Dhaka

Sheikh Rehana, younger daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, yesterday returned to the government the Dhanmondi house she was allotted in 2001. She handed over the related papers to Jasmine Pervin, a senior assistant secretary at the housing and public works ministry, during a ceremony at the

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## UNDER-CONSTRUCTION SITE Power plant roof collapses, 13 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The roof of an under-construction pump house at a proposed power plant site in Rajshahi collapsed yesterday afternoon, leaving at least nine workers injured. Fire service officials said they did not find any worker trapped under the debris of the building. The nine injured, admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, were rescued from the rubble of the broken down roof.

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Two of them were in critical condition. Four others took first aid. The 50MW power plant at Katakhal under Poba upazila is being implemented by the Power Development Board (PDB) at a cost of Tk 317 crore. It was supposed to begin production in April as almost 80 percent work was done, officials have said. The incident took place at 4:00pm when the construction workers were carrying out casting work of the roof with

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## DHAKA-SUNAMGANJ Extortionists rule river route

M RAHMAN

Idhan Mia has been operating a trawler carrying construction materials from Sunamganj to Dhaka for the last five years. But now he gets scared each time he is hired to navigate a vessel on this river route because of wholesale extortion allegedly by police and local goons. "On the waterway from Jamalganj in Sunamganj to Kanchpur in Narayanganj, we now often fall victim to extortionists," Idhan told The Daily Star on board his trawler as he watched his workers unloading pebbles. The extortionists are comprised of

a section of police and goons of different lessees of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authorities (BIWTA), claimed the 25-year-old trawler crew. His claim was seconded by an association representing the trawler owners. Idhan said he faced extortionists in the past, but those were stray incidents. What is happening now is a systematic way to rob pebble traders, he added. He went on to say the extortionists travel by boats at different points of the waterways, cling to boats carrying commercial materials, forcibly

climb up on board and start hurling abusive words wielding locally made weapons to collect tolls. A refusal can be fatal for the crew members. Besides, they also have to pay different amount to police at different points, he added. The range of total amount for a trip varies, but on average they have to pay Tk 5,000, Idhan said. This is happening to all 3,000-plus trawlers carrying construction materials and coals from Sylhet, Chhatak and Tahirpur in Sunamganj and Jamalpur to Dhaka and other parts of

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## CLIMATE REFUGE Pacific nation plans to buy Fiji land

AP

Fearing that climate change could wipe out their entire Pacific archipelago, the leaders of Kiribati are considering an unusual backup plan: moving the populace to Fiji. Kiribati President Anote Tong told The Associated Press on Friday that his Cabinet this week endorsed a plan to buy nearly 6,000 acres on Fiji's main island, Viti Levu. He said the fertile land, being sold by a church

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An aerial view of Tarawa atoll, Kiribati. Fearing that climate change could wipe out their entire Pacific archipelago, the leaders of Kiribati are considering an unusual backup plan: moving the populace to Fiji.

## EMBASSY OFFICIAL'S DEATH Saudi govt asks for quick probe

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Abdul Aziz has called on the Bangladesh government for a prompt investigation into the murder of its official Khalaf Al-Ali to bring the perpetrators to justice. He was speaking at the burial ceremony of Khalaf in Riyadh on Friday, reported Saudi newspaper Arab News. An officer at the Saudi mission in Dhaka, Khalaf, 45, was shot dead near his residence on Tuesday. Prince Aziz thanked the president and the government of Bangladesh for showing their interest in pursuing the investigations to track down the killers. A special team will be in Dhaka to assist the investigators, he added. Meanwhile, police are yet to establish the motive for the murder.

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## Man shot over petty matter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals shot a private car driver over a trifling matter in front of his employer's house at Khilgaon in the capital yesterday afternoon. The victim, Mohammad Shah Alam,

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PRAYER TIMING		March 11
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-12	6-15
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Home Minister Shahara Khatun that BNP is trying to carry out subversive acts centring its March 12 rally?

Yes (12.8%)  
No (84.0%)  
No Comments (3.2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 437

TODAY'S POLL

What will happen on March 12 in the capital?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)  
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

## Voter enrollment gets underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission began updating the voter list yesterday. It will make a complete voter list by December, this year, covering the whole country in four phases. Enumerators yesterday started visiting from door to door in 64 upazilas, one from each districts of the country. Opening the task at Savar University College, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed urged field level officials to do the job with utmost sincerity. Enumerators and supervisors have to work hard to ensure that all eligible voters are on the list, the CEC said. "Your [EC officials] negligence in duty may tarnish

the image of the Election Commission," he noted. He also sought voters' cooperation in making a flawless updated list. People, who are aged 18 or above now, and those, who will be 18 by January 1 next year, will be registered as voters. Enumerators will give prospective voters the dates for visiting nearby registration centres to have their photographs and fingerprints taken for the voter list. While updating the list, they will also collect information about people who have died since the last time the voter list was updated in 2010. In the capital, the voter list updating will begin in October. Meanwhile, the EC

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Dhaka English Medium Schools Cultural Programme 2012

will be telecast on: CHANNEL 7

on Monday, 12th March, 2012, at 11:30 am.

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