

**NEWS IN** *brief*

**Interim govt to hold next polls: Suranjit**  
UNB, Dhaka

As controversy over parliamentary elections rages on, minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta yesterday said the next polls would be held in due time under an interim government.  
"There is no scope to remain in the dark about the next election. All sorts of doubts and confusions have been removed with the amendment to the constitution," he said.  
Suranjit was addressing a reception for the newly elected general secretaries of Bangladesh Krishak League and Swachhasebak League, organised by Dakkhin Bangla Jubo Kalyan Samity, in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity.

**National Earth Olympiad begins**  
METRO DESK

Bangladesh Youth Environmental Initiative (BYEI) for the first time in Bangladesh has organised an environmental and earth sciences Olympiad named National Earth Olympiad 2012 (NEO'12), says a press release.  
The first round in Khulna and Sylhet division has already been held while in Chittagong and Dhaka it will be held on August 3 and August 10 respectively.  
Dhaka and Chittagong students can register online for the first round at www.neo.byei.org. All the required information about the event, including schedule, online registration, and syllabus will be found on the website. For further queries, contact at info.neo@byei.org. The final round will be held on

**Boy dies falling from roof**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolboy died after falling from a roof of a building at Kamrangirchar in the capital yesterday evening.  
The deceased is Arman Hossain, 11, son of Abdus Sattar, and a class IV student of a school at Dakkhin Rasulpur.  
His elder brother Salauddin said they live on the fourth floor of the building having two units. Arman went to the roof of the three-storey unit to play.  
Suddenly some neighbours informed them that Arman fell down from the edge of the roof around 6:30pm.  
He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, on arrival.

**One held with Yaba tablets**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a person and seized 350 pieces of Yaba tablets from his possession in a bus in Chandgaon of Chittagong city yesterday.  
Acting on a tip-off, Chandgaon police raided the bus from Teknaf upazila and seized the tablets from the possession of Mohammad Ayub, 18, and arrested him, said police.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Solidarity rally**  
Dhaka Bishwabiddaloy Shikharthi Odhikar Mancha will hold a solidarity rally; Venue: at the base of Aparajeya Bangla, Dhaka University; Time: 10:45am.

**Discussion**  
Philatelists' Association of Bangladesh will organise a discussion; Venue: Dak Bhaban; Time: 11:00am.

**Seminar**  
Economic Reporters' Forum will organise a seminar; Venue: Brac University, Mohakhali; Time: 11:00am.

**Views exchange meeting**  
Center for Development Dialogue will hold a views exchange meeting; Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 10:30am.

**Discussion**  
Bangladesh Forest Department will organise a discussion; Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium; Time: 9:15am.

**Discussion**  
United Forum Against Tobacco will

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Rain or thundershowers likely**  
UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions till 6:00pm today.  
Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said.  
Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.  
**The sun sets in the capital today at 6:43pm and rises tomorrow at 5:27am.**  
Country's highest temperature 33.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and lowest 24.2 degrees at Teknaf.  
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	27.2	73	76
Chittagong	28.0	25.4	95	93
Rajshahi	32.5	26.6	93	73
Rangpur	32.0	25.2	89	70
Khulna	33.0	26.5	..	92
Barisal	32.0	25.8	85	92

**Indian cabinet okays border pact with Bangladesh**

UNB, Dhaka  
Stalled since September last year, a constitutional amendment to ratify the India-Bangladesh boundary agreement got the nod from the Indian Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Thursday.  
It is likely to be placed before parliament in the monsoon session, reports Times of India.  
Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina had signed the land boundary agreement (LBA) in Dhaka last year. An updated version of the Indira-Mujib agreement of 1974, the accord's ratification will require a constitutional amendment of Article 368.  
While the Indian government looks to concretise the LBA, the political climate in India is fragile enough for uncertainty to

**Poor litigants must also get justice**  
*Says NHRC chief*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The state must ensure that poor litigants are not denied justice on frivolous and baseless causes and should pay for their judicial expenses, the head of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) said yesterday.  
Having ratified most of the UN human rights treaties, Bangladesh must stop "miscarriage of justice," he told a workshop on "Periodic Review on Ratification of UN Human Rights Treaties" at the capital's Brac Centre.  
Prof Mizanur Rahman said that in harmony with human rights conventions, the state should pay adequate, fair and due compensation to a victim if he or she was tortured by law enforcement agencies like Rab or any other forces.  
He also noted that the country had not yet been able to dispel reservations to the UN convention against discrimination against women and had still not ratified the convention against forced disappearance.  
The UN Human Rights Council during its second four-yearly review in next May in Geneva will focus on Bangladesh's development on human rights situation and implementation of the council's recommendations during the first review in 2009.

**MC COLLEGE ARSON Investigation committee gets 10-day extension**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet  
One of the three committees which Sylhet's MC College authority formed to probe the torching of 42 rooms of the college's hostel was given 10 more working days yesterday to submit the investigation report.  
The committee, headed by Vice Principal Md Al-Helal Bhuiyan, was formed on July 9 and initially given 15 working days, said Principal Dhires Chandra Sarker.  
On July 8, the ruling party backed Bangladesh Chhatra League activists torched the rooms after clashing with Jamaat-e-Islami backed Shibir activists, leaving some 20 people injured.  
The second five-member committee, formed on July 10 and headed by Additional District Magistrate Md Shahidul Alam, was initially given 10 working days for the submission and given an extension of 15 working days on July 24.  
The third five-member committee formed on July 16 and headed by deputy commissioner (North) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, Ejaj Ahmed, was given 14 working days for the submission.



William Hague, first secretary of state and secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in London yesterday. PHOTO: PMO

**Robbers loot house in capital**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Robbers looted around 100 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 6 lakh in cash and a licenced revolver from the house of a former ward councillor of Dhaka City Corporation in the capital's Kuril area early yesterday.  
The robbers entered the house of ex-councillor Kazi Hazrat Ali by cutting open the iron grilles of a window at the back of the building.  
Ali, also president of BNP's Badda unit, resides on the first two floors of a four-storey building at Kazibari in Kuril.  
Family members said a group of five or six entered the home around 3:45am and tied up all family members at gun point.  
Syed Ziauzzaman, officer-in-charge of Bhatara Police Station, told The Daily Star that there were security guards at the entrance to the building but the robbers managed to dodge them.  
Quoting details from Ali's statement the OC said, "Robbers looted 100 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 6 lakh in cash and a licenced revolver with six bullets from the house. They left around 6:00am."  
A case has been filed against four unidentified criminals.  
No one was arrested or any recovery was made as of filing this report at 8:00pm.

**10 killed, 19 hurt in road crashes**

METRO DESK  
Ten people were killed and nineteen others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Jhalakathi, Chittagong, Sirajganj, Dinajpur and Narail on Friday and yesterday.  
Staff correspondent reports, a woman died as a bus ran over her in front of BAF Shaheen College on Airport Road in the capital yesterday noon.  
She was identified as Farida Begum, wife of Shahid Ahmed of Jamalpur.  
In Jhalakathi, three motorcycle riders died as the vehicle, after losing control, hit a bridge on Jhalakathi-Pirojpur highway in Gabkhansatu area yesterday.  
They are Shamsul Alam, 65, Jhalakathi district commander of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, his elder brother Shah Alam, 70, and Ilias Ali, who was riding the bike.  
Shamsul died instantly while the others at a Barisal hospital.  
In Chittagong, bicyclist Mosharraf Hossain died as a vehicle hit his cycle at Balur Tal in the city yesterday.  
Meanwhile, Badal Mollah died when a truck crushed him in Moyler Matha area of the city yesterday.  
In Sirajganj, two people were killed instantly and five others injured as a truck overturned on Hatikumrul-Bonpara highway in Mohishluti area yesterday.  
The deceased are Zel Haque, 35, and Bishnu Mandal, 40.  
The injured were admitted to sadar hospital.  
In Dinajpur, BRTC bus driver Munna, 45, died and over 14 people were injured when the bus collided head-on with another bus on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway near Baserhat in the sadar upazila yesterday.  
The injured were taken to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.  
In Narail, motorbike rider Iqbal Hossain died as a Nosimon hit his bike at Alinagar in the sadar upazila on Friday.

**Dalit women face double discrimination**  
*Conference told*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Gender and caste discrimination within the Dalit community and society has left its women deprived of social justice and human rights, academics and activists opined at a conference yesterday.  
It remains a matter of debate whether to abolish caste-based jobs to reform the Dalit professions or to complement the jobs with proper amenities and facilities to establish rights, the discussants also observed.  
Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Women's Federation along with Nagorik Uddyog organised the conference on Dalit women in the capital's Chayanot Sangskriti Bhaban.  
According to a Nagorik Uddyog report, as many as 55 lakh Dalit people and 10 lakh tea workers are being discriminated in society, said the discussants.  
Around 350 Dalit women of 10 associations across the country attended the seminar where 25 meritorious young women were awarded for their progress in higher studies.  
Information Commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim, Blast Honorary Director Sara Hossain, Jahangirnagar University's Prof Farzana Islam and urban planner Salma A Shafi also addressed the conference.



Leaving very little room for pedestrians, makeshift shops have sprung up on the footpaths in GPO area of the capital's Gulistan. As one section of people suffers, another section is happy buying clothes from these shops on the occasion of the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr. The photo was taken on Friday. PHOTO: STAR

**Hepatitis major cause of liver diseases: Experts**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Hepatitis is a major cause of the liver diseases in Bangladesh that eventually lead to liver cirrhosis and cancer, said speakers yesterday.  
They were speaking at a press conference on "Safe food, safe liver, safe health" organised by Hepatology Society, Dhaka, Bangladesh in the capital's Jatiya Press Club marking the World Hepatitis Day yesterday.  
Dr Md Shahinul Alam, associate professor of Hepatology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said Hepatitis A and E viruses spread through contaminated food and water.  
Consumption of adulterated fruits, foods and spices and also food prepared in unhygienic conditions should be avoided, he added.  
Speakers also said Hepatitis B and C viruses are transmitted through the use of unsterilised blood, unsterilised syringes and unsafe sex practices.  
Other sources of these viruses could be use of the same razor blade on multiple customers at saloon shops, use of unsterilised equipments by dentists, and circumcision done in rural areas with used equipments, they said, adding that professional blood donors may be another source.  
The speakers also emphasised collecting blood only from reliable institutions like the Red Crescent Society and Quantum blood banks.