

NEWS IN *brief*

**Bhola unit of Awami Jubo League dissolved**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami Jubo League, the youth body of the ruling Awami League (AL), yesterday dissolved its Bhola district unit committee for, what it said, involvement in anti-organisational activities. The decision came at a Jubo League presidium meeting. The meeting also decided to observe its founding anniversary on November 11 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre and hold rallies at district and upazila headquarters on November 8 and 9 respectively. Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to attend the programme as chief guest.

**Salman Khurshid lauds Bangladesh**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India's new External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid appreciated the Bangladesh government for honouring Indians who contributed to Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1972. "By recognising the sacrifices of so many Indians and their commitment to the cause of Bangladesh, you have honoured the people of India," he said replying to felicitations sent by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, said a press release of Indian high commission yesterday. On bilateral relations, Salman Khurshid said, "Over the years, our relations have matured and grown and we now have close cordial relationship, understanding and cooperation."

**Visiting Kenyan team learns about infant, maternal mortality rate**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Kenyan delegation has been on a six-day visit to Bangladesh to gain insights into the latter's progress in reducing infant and maternal mortality, said a press release. The delegation, headed by Permanent Secretary to the Kenyan Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation Mark Bor, held discussions with Bangladeshi health officials during the visit that started on October 28. They also visited Bangladesh's Narsingdi district, where mother and child related health services have significantly improved with the support of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh and technical cooperation of Japan International Cooperation Agency.

**Fugitive held in capital**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday caught an alleged fugitive, accused in several cases including one for murder, from the capital's Mohakhali Sattola slum area with a revolver and six bullets in his possession. The fugitive Rahim alias Panic Rahim, 30, was accused in eight cases, said police. Rahim was involved in drugs and arms smuggling, extortion, mugging and other crimes in the



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over National Youth Award to Rowshan Ara Zaman, recognised as one of the best self-employed youths of 2012, at a programme marking the National Youth Day 2012 in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday. PHOTO: BSS

**PM asks youths to be entrepreneurs**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the country's youths to set goal and philosophy for themselves, their families and for the nation. She also said in order to build a poverty-free Bangladesh, the young folk would have to come forward with their dynamic forces. Hasina was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the National Youth Day 2012 programme in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium. She called upon the youths to make combined efforts for building a self-reliant Bangladesh "turning their hands into the hands of workers." She advised them to be entrepreneurs instead of wasting time looking for jobs and to create opportunities for self-employment. She mentioned the area of agriculture where the young people could

engage themselves for self-employment. "The old mindset should be changed... having some education does not mean that one cannot involve in agricultural activities." Hasina said the demand for food grains would never decrease, given the rising population of the world. "So, if we produce more food, it will benefit the person involved as well as the country." She emphasised using modern food packaging system for the agricultural products to earn foreign currencies. The prime minister said her government wanted to prevent the country's youths from going astray. "Nowadays youths get addicted to drugs so easily. This is very much hurtful for the family. We've to engage the youth in games and cultural activities apart from providing

them with jobs," she said. She emphasised educating the youth on the country's culture and real history of the Liberation War and centuries-old family bond and values. The present government, she said, took adequate measures to involve the unemployed youths in productive activities as well as creating self-employment opportunities for themselves through the Department of Youth Development. The department has so far provided training to over 38.50 lakh youths in various trades, and of them, about 19.56 lakh have become self-reliant along with creating employment opportunities for others, she said. Earlier, the prime minister distributed National Youth awards to 12 successful self-employed youths and three best youth organisers.

**Khalaf murder trial begins**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Trial of Saudi embassy official Khalaf Al Ali murder case began at a Dhaka court yesterday with deposition of the complainant. Gulshan Police Station's Sub-Inspector Mosharraf Hossain, also the case's complainant, gave his statement and was later cross-examined on behalf of the accused. After the cross-examination, Judge Mohammad Motahar Hossain of Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 fixed November 4 for next hearing of the case. The judge also rebuked SI Mosharraf Hossain for not following the existing law's provisions when preparing an inquest report on slain Khalaf Al Ali. On March 6, the SI made an inquest report but in it he did not mention the primary reasons behind Khalaf's death. The same court, earlier on Wednesday, framed charges against five accused in the case. The accused are Mohammad Al Amin, Saiful Islam Mamun, Rafiqul Islam Khokon, Akbar Ali Lulu and Selim Chowdhury. Of them, Selim is on the run while the others are in police custody. Khalaf, an official at the consular section of the Saudi embassy in Dhaka, was shot dead near his Gulshan house in the capital's diplomatic enclave on March 6 this year.

**College student killed as train hits him**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student was killed as a train hit him while he was walking along the railway tracks in the capital's Karwan Bazar area yesterday. The deceased was Mehedi Hasan, 22, a student of Tongi College. Rozibul Islam, sub-inspector (SI) of Tejgaon Police Station, said a train coming from Kamalapur Railway Station hit Mehedi around 11:00pm, leaving him spot dead. He was returning home from his cousin's residence, said police. Police recovered the body with a mobile phone in his pocket and informed the victim's family, said the SI. Tejgaon police later handed over the body to Government Railway Police. Death anniversary METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Rahima Khatun (Bely), wife of Dr Nehal Karim, professor of sociology department at Dhaka University. She died of renal cancer at Saint Luke's Cancer Hospital in USA. She was buried at a graveyard of Islamic Center at Kansas City, Missouri, in USA. All her relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



Celebrating the Independence Day of Chile and 40 years of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and the South American country, Asif A Chowdhury, honorary consul of Chile in Bangladesh, left, and Cristian Barros, Chilean ambassador to Bangladesh, cuts a cake at Hotel Radisson in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

**ETV chairman indicted for tax evasion**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charge against Ekushey Television Ltd (ETV) Chairman Abdus Salam in connection with a tax evasion case. Judge Md Zahirul Haque of Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka also fixed November 29 for starting trial on the case. Bazlur Rahman Khan, deputy tax commissioner of National Board of Revenue, on August 12 filed the case against Salam for allegedly evading tax upon his income of Tk 17.64 crore in 2006-2007 and 2009-2010 fiscal years. Earlier yesterday, the court rejected a petition filed by the defense lawyer for discharging Salam from the tax evasion charge. Salam, who got bail in the case on September 9, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after the charge was read out to him. The court also summoned Bazlur to appear before it on the next scheduled date. Earlier on March 25, the ETV chairman and its MD Ashraf Alam got bail in another case filed against them for not submitting their tax returns within a stipulated time.

**Workers demand govt open Hall-Mark factories**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A platform of garment workers yesterday demanded that the government open all the factories of Hall-Mark Group in Savar and start operating those under its supervision to secure the workers' job. Garments Sramik Sangram Parishad also demanded disbursement of all arrears among the 17,000 workers, saying that their job had been thrown into uncertainty with the unexpected closure of the factories. The factory workers should not be victimised for the Hall-Mark owners' fraudulence, the platform leaders told a press conference at its office in the capital. All the Hall-Mark factories in Savar, including garment units, were mysteriously announced closed for an indefinite period through notices pasted on the factory entrances Friday. Savar police

could not confirm if the Hall-Mark authorities or a government committee formed to run the factories slapped the notices. The uncertainty among the workers arose as Hall-Mark's top brass, including the managing director and the chairman, have been arrested after the group was found to have embezzled Tk 2,686 crore on loan from Sonali Bank. The factories went on Eid-ul-Azha vacation on October 26 and were supposed to reopen tomorrow. The platform leaders will submit memorandums to several ministries, including labour and employment, and other offices on November 4 and stage a demonstration before Jatiya Press Club on November 5. Advocate Mahbubur Rahman Ismail, coordinator of the platform, read out a written speech at the conference.

**DHAKA TODAY**

Discussion 11:00am.  
Amra Muktijoddhar Santan will organise a discussion on the jail killing case; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 11:00am.  
Memorial meeting National Poetry Council will organise a memorial meeting marking the demise of poet Sunil Gangopadhyay;

**WEATHER TODAY**

Light rain or drizzle likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:19pm and rises tomorrow at 6:06am.

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and lowest 17.2 degrees at Dinajpur.

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	32.3	22.8	64	67
Chittagong	31.6	25.0	87	80
Rajshahi	31.2	19.4	72	77
Rangpur	29.7	19.4	61	80
Khulna	32.3	22.4	80	76
Barisal	32.2	22.5	80	91
Sylhet	32.2	21.0	59	78