

## NEWS IN *brief*

### 100 BNP men join AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 100 leaders and activists of the main opposition BNP of Modhukhali upazila in Faridpur yesterday joined the Awami League. The BNP men joined the AL under the leadership of Qamrul Ahsan and Yakub Hossain. AL lawmaker Abdur Rahman told The Daily Star that they were unhappy with the BNP's "chaotic" politics. Qamrul said they joined the AL considering the active role of the AL lawmaker in development

### Ruet admission test on Nov 19

RU CORRESPONDENT

Admission test for the first year honours programmes at Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) will be held on November 19. Ruet authority has published the list of students selected to sit for the test on a notice board at the university's administration building. The list is also available on the university website

### Cuet admission test results published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The first year admission test results of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) were published yesterday. It's available on the university website, www.cuet.ac.bd.

The admission tests were held on November 10. Results of 3,580 admission seekers under Ka unit, including all engineering departments along with City and Area Planning, and 100 aspirants under Kha unit, including architecture department only, were published yesterday. A total of 600 students would be admitted under Ka unit and 30 under Kha unit. Besides, 11 aspirants would get admission

### 1970 cyclone victims remembered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The victims of 1970 cyclone were commemorated in Chittagong city yesterday through various activities. As part of a week-long Climate Justice Week-2012 observation started on November 11, a symbolic display of the victims of Gorky, the cyclone occurred on November 12 in 1970, human chain and rally were held on Chittagong Press Club premises. Speakers at the rally demanded proper distribution of climate fund by the United Nations, and providing more fund for the countries at high risk of climate change. The programme was organised by some NGOs,



Plastic bags and a barrel, used in carrying toxic chemicals, are being washed on the second channel of Buriganga River near the capital's Hazaribagh yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

### HALL-MARK LOAN SCAM

## ACC calls 14 Janata officials for interrogation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) asked 14 Janata Bank officials, including its general manager (GM) and assistant general manager (AGM), to appear before it next week to be interrogated over the Hall-Mark loan scam.

The interrogations would be over the loan's non-funded portion, said ACC Commissioner Mohammad Shahabuddin yesterday.

Non-funded loans are in the form of guarantee against letter of credits (LCs) while funded loans are taken in cash. Shahabuddin said inquiry into the non-funded loan, amounting to Tk 1,118 crore and involving 26 banks including Sonali and Janata, was almost complete.

According to a Bangladesh Bank report, Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch disbursed Tk 3,547 crore in loan to

Hall-Mark Group and five other companies defying banking rules. Hall-Mark alone took Tk2,686 crore.

A high official of ACC said seven of them will be quizzed on November 18 and the rest the following day.

The 14 include GM Aminul Islam, Deputy General Manager (DGM) Joynal Abedin, AGM Ruhul Amin Khan, Manager Export Alauddin Akand and Expert in Charge Abdul Gafur of Motijheel branch and DGM Sheikh Haider Hossain and AGM Mizanur Rahman of Foreign Trade Corporate branch.

The rest are senior executive officers AK Azad and MM Soebul Kabir and AGM Mostak Ahmed Khan of Elephant Road branch; GM Abdus Salam Azad and DGM SM Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal of Bhaban Corporate branch; and DGM Mizanur Rahman and AGM Kazi Rois Uddin Ahmed of Ramna Corporate branch.

### INCREASING FOREIGN TRADE

## More missions being opened abroad

Says president

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday said the government is opening new missions in those countries that have potentials to increase trade with Bangladesh as well as to recruit skilled and unskilled manpower from it.

"The new missions in different countries of Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America will help the country increase export as well as get Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)," he said while newly appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Portugal Intiaz Ahmed met him at Bangabhaban in the capital.

The government is going to open Bangladesh Embassy in Portugal for the first time considering potentials for expansion of relations and trade volume between Bangladesh and Portugal.

During the meeting, the president asked the new Bangladesh envoy to materialise the objective of the government. Zillur Rahman asked the ambassador to take diplomatic efforts for increasing Bangladesh's exports to Portugal and encouraging Portuguese entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh.

## JU to admit less students this year

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities have reduced the number of fresh student intake for the 2012-13 academic session to 2,026.

The intake for the previous session was 2,420 students.

The decision to reduce student intake came at a meeting of JU central admission committee held recently, considering availability of accommodation facilities at the university's halls and departments and need for proper educational atmosphere on the campus, said JU Deputy Registrar Mohammad Ali.

The departments of journalism and media studies; archeology; statistics; biotechnology and genetics engineering and the faculty of business studies reduced their seat availability by a big mark.

The meeting also decided that viva voce for admission seekers to the first year honours programmes of JU for 2012-13 academic session will be held from December 3 to 6.

Viva voce and practical test for admission seekers to the departments of drama and dramatics; and fine arts will be held from December 1 to 6.

Besides, aspirants from different quotas, who have passed the admission test, must submit applications seeking admission along with relevant documents within the quota from Dec 1 to 6.



Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad brings out a procession on the road in front of Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday demanding steps to expedite trial of war criminals.

PHOTO: STAR

## ACC sues two Rajuk officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued three people, including two Rajuk Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) officials, for giving approval to construct buildings in a water-body ignoring Detailed Area Plan (DAP).

SM Shahidur Rahman, a deputy director of the ACC, filed the case with Motijheel Police Station.

The accused are Abu Hasan Mortuza, deputy urban planner of Rajuk, Anisur Rahman Sarker, its designer; and Saiful Bari Khan Tutul, a resident of Ahmedabad in the capital's Sabujbagh.

According to the case statement, Tutul on behalf of twelve other landowners on May 26 in 2011, sought permission from Rajuk to construct buildings in 38.8 kathas of land in the water-body under the DAP at Ahmedabad.

The accused in league with each other on August 14 in 2011 obtained the Rajuk clearance certificate for developing the low-lying land showing it as a residential area, the statement said.

### AMINBAZAR KILLING

## Two more accused on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed two more accused on a two-day remand for their alleged involvement in the killing of six students in Aminbazar on the outskirts of the capital in July last year.

The accused are Mohammad Razzab Ali alias Sohag, 39, and Abu Sayeed, 49. They are residents of Baradeshi village at Aminbazar.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Wasim Sheikh passed the order after Sharif Uddin Ahmed, additional superintendent of police of Rab, also the investigation officer of the case, produced the accused before the court with a 10-day remand prayer.

In the remand prayer, Sharif said the accused are directly involved in the death of the six students. Moreover, five other

accused, in their confessional statements, involved Razzab and Sayeed in the killings.

Police has so far arrested 15 others for their alleged involvement in the killings, but 11 of them have been granted bail from different courts on different dates.

Three other accused -- Nihar alias Jamsheer Ali, Alam Hossain and Selim -- are now in jail custody while another, Saiful Islam, is absconding after getting bail.

The six students are -- Tipu Sultan of Tejgaon College, Towhidur Rahman Palash, Kamruzzaman Kanto and Ibrahim Khalil of Mirpur Bangla College, Shams Rahim Shamam of Maple Leaf International School and Sitaf Jabi Munif of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (Buet).

## Nasim urges Muhith to talk less

UNB, Dhaka

Senior Awami League leader Mohammad Nasim yesterday urged Finance Minister AMA Muhith to talk less as true "leadership involves talking less and listening more".

"You (finance minister) are our senior. We'll be happy if you talk less," he said.

Nasim, also a former home minister, told a discussion organised by Bangabandhu Academy at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Muhith's recent remarks on Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus sparked off widespread criticisms.

Quoting Indian Nobel laureate Dr Amartya Sen, Muhith on Thursday said many good things are taking place in the country, but those are hardly highlighted at the global stage because of Prof Yunus.

Three days after his remark on Yunus quoting Indian Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, Muhith on Saturday made a sharp U-turn saying it was his personal comment, not of Sen's.

Awami League Dhaka city unit joint secretary Mohammad Selim and Krishak League Vice-President MA Karim also spoke at the event with Bangabandhu Academy leader Mujibur Rahman in

### KHALAF MURDER

## Three more prosecution witnesses give statements

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Three more prosecution witnesses gave their statements before a Dhaka court yesterday regarding the killing of Saudi embassy official Khalaf Al Ali.

On March 6, Khalaf, an official at the consular section of the embassy in Dhaka, was shot dead near his Gulshan house in the capital's diplomatic enclave.

The prosecution witnesses are Sub-Inspector Rafiqul Haque of Gulshan Police Station; Rezaul Karim, a caretaker of Khalaf's residence; and Abu Taleb, a security guard of another house near the occurrence spot.

Later, defendant's lawyers cross-examined them.

Judge Motahar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 recorded their statements and fixed November 14 for the next hearing.

Earlier on four dates, twelve prosecution witnesses gave their statements in the case.

## DHAKA TODAY

**Workers' rally**  
40 Garments Sramik Federation will organise a workers' rally demanding arrears of the labourers of Hall-Mark Group; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:15am.

**Discussion**  
Janatar Prottasha will hold a discussion on current politics; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

**Roundtable**  
Bhasani Study Circle will arrange a roundtable on democracy; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

**Human chain**  
Bangladesh Prathomik Shikkhak Samity will form a human chain to press home its 12-point demand; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

**Roundtable**  
Moulik Bangla will organise a roundtable on youth, culture and state; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

**Discussion**  
Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal will hold a discussion on National

## WEATHER TODAY

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basin of the country during late night till morning, Met Offices said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The lowest minimum temperature is likely to be 16-17 degrees Celsius and highest maximum temperature may be 30-31 degrees Celsius.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:13pm and rises tomorrow at 6:13am.

Country's highest temperature 30.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 15.5 degrees at Syedpur and Dinajpur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.1	17.6	56	74
Chittagong	27.6	19.0	81	68
Rajshahi	29.2	16.1	82	86
Rangpur	28.4	17.0	72	78
Khulna	29.5	18.5	81	81
Barisal	29.5	17.2	74	89