

# NEWS IN *brief*

## Seminar on 'Arab Spring' held at Asian University for Women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A seminar on "Arab Spring" was held on the Asian University for Women (AUW) campus in Chittagong yesterday.

Alliance Française de Chittagong and AUW jointly organised the seminar styled "Cross Perspectives".

Tunisian-born French-language scholar, novelist and cultural critic Abdelwahab Meddeb addressed the event as the keynote speaker on the theme "Muslim Secularism versus Islamism in the context of the Arab Spring".

Director of Alliance Française de Chittagong Dr Samuel Berthet, and Assistant Professor of Sociology of AUW Dr Sara Amin, among others,

## BYLC distributes certificates among workshop participants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Participants of a three-day workshop on leadership development programme were awarded certificates at a ceremony at Canadian High Commissioner's official residence in the capital yesterday, says a press release.

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC) trained 33 third and final year university students in leadership, teamwork and group dynamics, career planning, ethics, goal setting, self-development, communication and problem solving at the workshop held at the BYLC headquarters on November 22-24.

The workshop was supported by the Canadian

## Hizb ut-Tahrir man detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested an alleged member of the banned militant outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir in Chittagong city while he was putting up posters of the organisation.

The arrestee, Arif Mahmud, is an LLM student at Chittagong University.

AKM Mohiuddin Selim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said Arif along with two others were pasting anti-state and anti-prime minister posters on the walls in front of Almas Cinema.

## Schoolgirl 'commits suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A schoolgirl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan in her house at Khulshi of Chittagong yesterday.

Rinki Barua, 14, daughter of SK Barua, appeared in the JSC (Junior School Certificate) examination this year.

Family members rushed Rinki to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where doctors declared her dead, said Zahir, sub-inspector of CMCH police outpost.

She hanged herself after having a quarrel with her mother, he added.

The body was sent to the CMCH morgue for an



Unabated encroachment on the Turag river in Amin Bazar of the capital by sand traders changes the river's course, reduces its width and adversely affects the environment. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# PM asks scouts to help develop country

BSS, Dhaka

Terming youths the future of the nation, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the scouts to be prepared to shoulder the responsibility of developing the country.

"Get yourselves ready...I want to see that you replace seniors soon by learning how they are carrying out their duties," she told the inaugural ceremony of the two-day 24th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

The prime minister asked the scouts to play an important role in graduating Bangladesh into a middle income country.

"Our aim is to turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021. We have been working to establish Bangladesh as the most peaceful nation in South Asia, and the scouts will have to serve an important role in this regard."

Mentioning her fondness for scouting, the prime minister said it helped young boys and girls grow up as self-reliant and with a spirit to serve the distressed

humanity.

At present there are nearly 11.64 lakh scout members in the country, the prime minister said, and the number will be raised to 15 lakh by the next year.

Sheikh Hasina said her government was patronising scouting's expansion through three projects--Scouts Expansion at Primary Schools, Human Resource Development through Scouting and the 24th Asia-Pacific Scouts Conference.

Alongside modernisation of the Scouts Centre at Mouchak, the government has allocated land for another training centre in the northern region, she said.

She assured of extending all cooperation for the development and expansion of Bangladesh Scouts, Asia-Pacific Regional Scouts and World Scouts.

Earlier, Hasina released a postage stamp on the occasion of the 24th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference.

A statement of Filipino Vice President and Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Scouts Jejomar C Binay was read out at the function.

## Cops won't tolerate Jamaat-Shibir attack anymore

Says Dhaka DIG

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A top police official yesterday said police would no longer remain silent to the attacks of Jamaat and Shibir men and face them off strongly.

"Police will build resistance against Jamaat-Shibir attacks, and nobody will be spared," Deputy Inspector General (DIG) SM Mahfuzul Haque Nuruzzaman said while attending a police parade at Narayanganj Police Lines.

He also asked the well-wishers of Jamaat, if there were any, within the police department, to leave his range. "I will not tolerate any supporters of Jamaat-Shibir. We want to get rid of those who want to unite with any anti-liberation forces," said the DIG, who is in charge of Dhaka range.

He asked the police members to love the country and root out the forces of Jamaat-Shibir. If the pro-liberation forces do not return to the power, the country will turn into an Afghanistan or Pakistan, he cautioned.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir men recently made a string of attacks on policemen across the country, over their demand for release of their detained leaders.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the inauguration of the 24th Asia Pacific Regional Scout Conference 2012 in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

# Blind but mostly treatable

## Researchers say 37,000 visually impaired in country

UNB, Dhaka

Of the 1.4 million visually impaired people in the world, one million live in Asia, including 37,000 in Bangladesh, say researchers.

They came up with the figures at a 16-day international training workshop on visual impairment that concluded at a city hotel on Thursday, said a press release.

About two lakh children are blind in the world due to cataract, which is treatable. Most of these cataract-affected children live in Asia and they fall to different eye-related diseases as most of them do not consult doctors, they said.

Apart from host Bangladesh, researchers from India, Indonesia, Thailand, Afghanistan and China took part in the workshop organised by Child Sight Foundation.

Dr Mohammad Muhit, a Bangladeshi ophthalmologist of international repute, was the chief trainer at the programme. Key Informant Method (KIM), invented by Dr Muhit, earned appreciation at the programme.

The KIM has ushered in a new era in the field of childhood visual impairment research as it has successfully been used in 12 countries for disability-related researches.

# Make anti-communalism convention a success

## Sujan urges citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sushasoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan), a civil society platform working for good governance, yesterday urged all citizens and organisations believing in the ideology of the Liberation War to make the national convention against communalism, slated for December 8, successful.

A group of eminent citizens convened the convention in Dhaka to launch a movement against communalism, fundamentalism and militancy, said a press release.

The evil forces are the major barriers to the establishment of a non-communal democratic state and the national development. Liberal people have to fight together against the communal forces, added the release.

All negative provisions should be scrapped from the constitution in order to make it the transparent document of a secular country, the release read.

### Discussion

Warbe Development Foundation will organise a discussion marking International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

### Views exchange meeting

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain will express views with 40 organisations of garment workers; Venue: Gonoforum office; Time: 11:15am.

### Sit-in

Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council will organise a sit-in demanding that the government places the amended Labour Act-2006 in the current 15th session of parliament; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

### Human chain

Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation will form a human chain marking International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women; Venue: before Jatiya Press

## WEATHER TODAY

### No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

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

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:21am.**

Country's highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.6 degrees at Srimangal.

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	27.2	15.3	58	54
Chittagong	26.8	16.5	77	62
Rajshahi	27.0	12.5	90	73
Rangpur	28.0	14.2	77	79
Khulna	28.5	17.0	80	77
Barisal	28.0	15.5	84	89