

## NEWS IN brief

## Malaysia contributes \$2.02 lakh to Islamic University of Technology

STAR REPORT

The Malaysian government has contributed US\$ 202,440 to the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), says a press release.

The assistance was provided as full settlement of the mandatory contribution of Malaysia's government, a member state of the OIC, to the IUT.

Norlin binti Othman, high commissioner of Malaysia in Bangladesh, handed over the cheque to Prof Dr M Imtiaz Hossain, vice chancellor of the IUT, at Malaysian High Commission in Dhaka on

## Cop 'commits suicide' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police constable posted at Public Order Management unit in the capital's Mirpur allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his own rifle yesterday.

Constable Sujon Miah, 20, was alone in an official vehicle when his colleagues got off. Hearing a gun shot, they rushed to the vehicle and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 8:00am.

Officer-in-Charge Abdul Latif of Kafrul Police Station said police learned that Sujon was

## Punishment to culprits of Ctgy flyover tragedy demanded

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) students in a human chain yesterday demanded punishment to the culprits responsible for the Bahaddarhat flyover tragedy and urged politicians not to indulge in 'politics' regarding the issue.

Sadharan Shikkharthi Mancho, a CU student's organisation, formed the human chain at

## Youth dies as train runs him over

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A youth died after a train ran him over in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur yesterday morning.

The deceased was Razob Ali, son of Amir Hossain of Nataram-Schoolpara in the upazila.

Railway police said a Lalmonirhat-bound train crushed Razob while crossing the railway tracks in

## DHAKA TODAY

## Views-exchange meeting

noon.

## Discussion

Bangladesh Scouts will organise a views-exchange meeting of Top Achiever of Bangladesh Scouts and World Scouts; Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre; Time: 5:00pm.

## Film festival

Kewradong will organise a three-day BANFF Mountain Film festival World Tour 2012; Venue: German Cultural Centre; Time: 5:00pm.

## Mourning procession

National Garment Workers Federation will stage a mourning procession over the loss of lives in the recent fire in an Ashulia garment factory; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 12:00

## Reception

Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad will organise a reception for students of the Harijan community who excelled in this year's SSC and HSC exams; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

## Lecture

Centre for Advanced Research in

## WEATHER TODAY

## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours 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 5:10pm and rises tomorrow at 6:23am.

Country's highest temperature 28.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Madaripur and Jessor and lowest 11.3 degrees at 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	28.0	15.0	58	57
Chittagong	27.2	15.7	87	55
Rajshahi	27.8	11.5	80	67
Rangpur	27.6	12.5	79	82
Khulna	28.0	15.0	84	76
Barisal	27.8	13.5	78	87
Sylhet	27.4	16.1	79	80
Cox's Bazar	28.0	17.2	66	59

ASHULIA FACTORY FIRE  
RMG workers block road  
Govt forms probe committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of garment workers yesterday blocked Dhaka-Tangail highway on the capital's outskirts Ashulia demanding punishment for those responsible for Saturday's fire, which killed at least 111 of their fellow workers.

As the protest broke out, most of the garment units in Ashulia were declared closed for yesterday to avoid any untoward incident, police sources said.

Vehicular movement remained suspended for around three hours from 9:00am, said witnesses, as the protesters pelted masonry at some speeding vehicles and police men who put barricade at Bipole on the highway to hold back the workers. But no casualty was reported.

Earlier, the agitating workers staged protest in front of Tazreen Fashion Ltd in Ashulia, where the fire broke out.

Meanwhile, the home ministry formed a four-member committee on Sunday to investigate the incident.

The committee visited the spot yesterday and found that the factory had no emergency exit, which could reduce the

casualties.

Additional Secretary to Home Ministry Main Uddin Khandaker, who is heading the committee, told The Daily Star, "We are investigating whether the fire originated from an electric short circuit or it was an arson."

He said the victims died from suffocation in smoke as they could not move out of the building. The committee will submit its report and recommendations within 15 working days.

Ashulia police suspected the fire to be an arson and a sub-inspector of the police station filed a case on Sunday night against some unidentified persons on charge of setting fire to Tazreen Fashion Ltd. A team of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) along with forensic doctors of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday collected samples from 57 unidentified bodies to find out their identities through DNA tests.

The 57 bodies will be buried at Jurain graveyard in the capital today. Anjuman Mufidul Islam, a voluntary organisation, will arrange the burial.

## Condolences pour in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressed deep shock at the deaths of 111 workers in a devastating fire at a garment factory in Ashulia on November 24.

"I am deeply saddened at the loss of life...On behalf of the government of India, I express our sincerest condolences at this tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families," he said in a statement issued yesterday.

In a condolence message, Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus said, "I implore all factory owners and the government authorities to take appropriate measures immediately to ensure that deaths like these do not happen in the future under any circumstances."

"I was shocked and saddened...On behalf of Her Majesty's Government, I extend our heartfelt sympathy to the people of Bangladesh," said UK's Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Baroness Warsi in a statement, reports our UK correspondent.

The US Ambassador in Dhaka Dan Mozena and foreign diplomats also expressed condolence.

Manusher Jonno Foundation, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Workers Party, Bangladesh Socialist Party, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, Ain o Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, Federation of Garment Workers, Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce, and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association demanded proper compensation for the victims' families.



Forty organisations of garment workers stage a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital on Sunday protesting the deaths of 111 workers in a devastating fire at a garment factory, Tazreen Fashions Ltd, in Nischintapur of Ashulia, near Dhaka Export Processing Zone, on November 24.

PHOTO: STAR

## PRIMARY TERMINAL EXAM

## Probe body finds no leakage of question paper

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The probe committee formed to investigate the allegation of a question paper of primary terminal examinations 2012 to have been leaked did not find the allegation to be true.

The committee submitted its report to the Primary and Mass Education Secretary (in-charge) MM Neazuddin yesterday.

The ministry on November 22 formed the three-member committee headed by its Joint Secretary Gias Uddin Ahmed following reports of two newspapers that question paper for Bangla was leaked out in some areas of the capital.

Talking to journalists, Gias said some questions made by coaching centres in their model tests matched the main question paper partially and that is quite usual, he said.

The committee suggested formulating several sets of question papers and setting up a separate unit in the Bangladesh Government Press for printing the question paper.

The examination, considered the largest public exam in the country, began on November 21 with some 29 lakh students registering to sit for the exams.

The examination will end on November 29.

## EC believes in complete transparency

## CEC says at inaugural of electoral talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday said the current Election Commission believes in complete transparency and wants to conduct parliamentary elections with cooperation from all political parties.

He was speaking at the inaugural of electoral talks with political parties in the capital's National Economic Council.

"The election commission wants to hold free and fair elections abiding by all laws as it will strengthen the country's democracy further," he said.

The country's political parties did not get much time to strengthen democracy as undemocratic forces hampered the democratic process many times. "There-

fore, the country's democracy shall be taken forward through talks with political parties for fair elections," he said.

Four out of six political parties -- Islamic Front Bangladesh, Islami Andolok Bangladesh, Krishak Sramik Janata League and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal -- joined the talks separately.

Islami Oikya Jote, a component of BNP-led opposition alliance, and Oikyabodhha Nagar Andolok did not join.

The political leaders spoke for deploying army in parliamentary polls and expediting the bifurcated Dhaka city corporation polls while some opposed using of electronic voting machines in parliamentary elections.

The EC will sit with another six registered political parties today.

## MLM company boss arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday arrested the managing director of Uni-Route Finance and Commerce, a multilevel marketing (MLM) company, on charge of misappropriating investors' money amounting to around Tk 16 crore.

Mobarok Hossain was arrested from his Purana Paltan office around 1:00pm, said ACC Deputy Director Munayem Hossain.

Mobarok collected Tk 33 crore from people through 42 countrywide branches of his controversial MLM company between 2009 and 2012, saying the depositors would get a huge return.

Bangladesh Bank, in its 2010 preliminary enquiry, found the company involved in illegal banking practices. Later, an ACC enquiry found the company to have no proper statement of around Tk 16 crore from the Tk 33 crore it collected, he said.

ACC filed a case against Mobarok with Paltan Police Station on February 1 in this connection.



Members of the Shia community bring out processions in the capital's Azimpur on Sunday marking holy Ashura, recalling the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain ibn Ali (RA), a grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), at the battle of Karbala in the Hijri year of 61.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

RAILWAYGATE SCANDAL  
ACC charges Suranjit's ex-APS

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday charged Omar Faruq Talukder, sacked assistant personal secretary (APS) to minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta, with illegally amassing wealth of Tk 1.47 crore. Meantime, Omar Faruq

yesterday morning surrendered before the two Dhaka courts of Metropolitan Magistrate Amit Kumar Dey and Metropolitan Sessions Judge (in charge) Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman for securing bail in the case, but he withdrew his bail petitions apprehending that the courts could reject his petitions and send him to jail.

SM Rashedur Rahman Reza, an ACC assistant director and investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka.

In his charge sheet, the IO said Faruq also concealed the information of Tk 3,04,980 in his wealth statement submitted to the ACC.

The anti-graft watchdog filed the case against the key figure in the railwaygate scandal Omar Faruq on August 14, 2012.

According to the official of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Omar Faruq was sued on charge of earning around Tk 1.04 crore illegally.

On April 9, border guards arrested Omar Faruq and Yusuf Ali Mridha, the suspended general manager of Bangladesh Railway (eastern zone), at Pilkhana along with railway's Dhaka Divisional Security Commandant Enamul Huq and Ali Azam, driver of the microbus that was allegedly carrying Tk 70 lakh to Suranjit's Dhamondi residence in the capital.