

NEWS IN *brief*

## Uni-Route MD sent on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mobarok Hossain, the managing director of the controversial multilevel marketing (MLM) company, Uni-Route Finance and Commerce, on a five-day remand in a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

In the case, Mobarok is accused of misappropriating investors' money amounting to Tk 16 crore. He collected Tk 33 crore from depositors through his 42 countrywide branches between 2009 and 2012.

The ACC arrested at his Purana Paltan office in the capital around 1:00pm on Monday.

## Top achiever scouts get together

METRO DESK

Top achiever scouts from home and abroad shared their views and experiences with their fellows and friends at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

During the 24th Asia Pacific Regional Scout Conference in Bangladesh, about 700 president's scout, president's rover scouts and top achiever scouts gathered at the celebrity hall of the conference centre, said a press release.

On behalf of the Bangladesh Scouts, Bangladesh Association of Top Achiever Scouts organised the get-together.

## Two robbers held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals caught two robbers with a fire arm while their gang was committing robbery at a union parishad member's residence in the capital's Turag yesterday.

They gave the robbers -- Jafar and Anwar -- a good beating and handed them over to the police.

Quoting locals, Sub-Inspector Abu Sayeed of Turag Police Station said a gang of some seven robbers entered the house around 3:00am and beat up Delwar at gunpoint for keys of an Almirah.

Hearing his family members' cry for help locals came forward when the other robbers escaped.

During a primary interrogation the caught robbers said a local gang of robbers hired them a week back.

## Japanese company recruits nine workers from Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

STG Corporation, an organisation of Japan, will appoint nine workers from Bangladesh who have successfully completed a course on Japanese language recently, said a press release.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday distributed the certificates among the workers in the conference room of the education ministry after they had completed Japanese language course arranged by the education ministry under a programme on teaching the overseas job seekers foreign language.

The organisation will also recruit more workers from the country gradually, the release said.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fourth death anniversary of Advocate AKM Khalilur Rahman, former vice-president of Dhaka Bar Association, will be observed today.

On the occasion, different programmes including a doa and milad mahfil, and Qurankhwani will be held at his Dhaka and Shariatpur residences, said a press release.

Khalilur Rahman is the father of Zillur Rahman, host of Channel-i popular talk show titled "Grameen Phone Tritio Matra".

## WEATHER TODAY

## Slight fall in night 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 north and north eastern part of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:10pm and rises tomorrow at 6:23am.

Country's highest temperature 28.58 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.0 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	27.0	14.8	53	50
Chittagong	27.2	14.8	85	58
Rajshahi	27.4	11.8	86	68
Rangpur	26.3	12.3	85	83
Khulna	28.0	15.0	71	80
Barisal	27.6	13.5	70	83



Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation brings out a procession from the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, mourning the deaths of 111 garment workers in Saturday's fire at Tazreen Fashions Ltd in Ashulia.

PHOTO: STAR

## Citizens demand justice for deaths in Ashulia fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outraged citizens in a protest programme yesterday demanded justice for the unwarranted deaths of garment workers of Tazreen Fashion, who died in a devastating fire at the factory on November 24.

Citing the incident as murder, speakers addressed the inhumane and unsafe work conditions of the workers at the factory.

They demanded factory owners to be held accountable for defying labour laws and minimum safety standards, and also the state for failing to ensure and implement existing laws.

Government is trying to shirk their responsibilities by giving conspiracy theories, they added.

The programme was organised in front of the National Museum in the capital.

Moshrefa Mishu, labour activist and president of Garment Workers Unity Forum, said factory authorities should be penalised for their deliberate negligence.

"The owners must be arrested without delay," she said.

"Investigation findings of similar incidents since the 1990s have not been pub-

lished as of yet," said Prof Anu Mohammad, eminent economist and member secretary of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports.

The recent probe committee formed by the government will also prove to be ineffective, Prof Anu said.

"The human rights commission should have taken the initiative to conduct a fair investigation," he added.

Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Jonayed Saki, coordinator of Gonotantrik Baam Morcha, Saiful Haq, president of Biplobi Workers Party, Professor Nasim Akhtar Hossain of Jahangirnagar University spoke among others.

Biplobi Workers Party, Karmojibi Nari, Garment Workers Trade Union Centre and Bangladesh Jatiya Sromik Jote organised protest rallies in the city while Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council and Bangladesh Jatiya Garments Sromik Kormochari League held a memorial service for those who died in the fire in Ashulia.

Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association organised a milad mahfil.

## Badruddoza, Dr Kamal slam govt for negligence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday blasted the government especially Labour Minister Raziuddin Ahmed for his ministry's "negligence" in overseeing garment factories safety standards.

They also called upon the country's "good politicians and fair forces" to be united to get rid of the government's misrule and corruption.

They were addressing a discussion titled "Prof B Chowdhury and Dr Kamal Hossain's call for national unity against corruption and crime - thoughts of non-resident Bangladeshi" in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity organised by Bikolpodhara Bangladesh.

B Chowdhury, BDB president demanded trial of those persons in the government for whose negligence over 100 garment workers died at Tazreen Fashions Ltd on Saturday.

It was the labour minister and his ministry's duty to check whether the factory has fire extinguishing system, but they did not check. So, the minister should resign within a minute, he added.

Badruddoza lamented, "What is this nonsense! A family of a deceased has been given Tk 1 lakh while an injured Tk 20,000."

Dr Kamal also called on people to judge the government on their activities during its tenure, of which four years has already been passed, before casting votes in the next polls.



A total of 133 meritorious students from Harijan families, who passed the SSC and HSC examinations this year, were accorded reception at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad and FAIR, a local NGO, in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation, hosted the programme. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

## Govt fires seven sub-registrars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday dismissed seven sub-registrars from their service for falsely claiming themselves to be the staff of Mujibnagar government to get appointments under the law ministry.

The present government has so far fired 32 sub-registrars, including yesterday's seven for the same offence, and nine have already gone to voluntary retirement, a law ministry press release said.

The sub-registrars, who were dismissed yesterday, are Obayed Ullah of Feni's Matiganj, Shafi Hasan of Naogaon's Badalgachhi, Muktiwara Khatun of Bogra's Nandigram, Ram Jiban Kundu of Dinajpur's Chiribandar, Firoz Alam of Bagerhat's Rampal, Rafiqul Islam of Pirojpur's Vandaria, and Nazma Sultana Babli of Munshiganj's Tangbari. The ministry of law dismissed them as per Government Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules 1985, according to the press release.

## Awareness about adolescent reproductive health stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proper knowledge of adolescent reproductive health issues helps female children to be aware of various social problems including child marriage and stalking, claimed a study of Plan Bangladesh.

The findings were shared at a dissemination meeting at its office in the capital yesterday.

The international humanitarian, child-centered development organisation carried out the evaluation study after implementing a five-year project titled "Strengthening Adolescent Reproductive Health (SARH)," said a press release.

With funding from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the organisation implemented

## Condolences continue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local EU heads of missions, the prime minister of Singapore and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in separate statements yesterday expressed deep shock at the loss of lives in a fire that killed 111 workers of a garment factory in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital on Saturday night.

The Singapore prime minister also condoled the collapse of the under-construction Bahaddarhat flyover in Chittagong.

"The EU has always been very clear about the need to improve working standards and safety in the sector," said the statement. "We stand ready to support all efforts by Bangladesh to raise standards in the industry," it added.

In a separate statement addressed to the prime minister of Bangladesh, the Singaporean prime minister said, "On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Singapore and all Singaporeans, I extend my deepest condolences to you and the people of Bangladesh for the tragic loss of lives arising from the Ashulia garment factory and the Chittagong flyover collapse."

The ILO reiterates the need for improving the working conditions in workplaces, in particular fire safety.

"On a long-term basis, the ILO is exploring the possibility of launching the Better Work Programme in Bangladesh that will address labour compliance issues in the garment sector," said a statement.

Dhaka Chambers of Commerce and Industry also offered their condolences. Desh Rakha Andolon, Sromobikash Kendra, Step Towards Development and Karmajibi Nari registered shock and demanded that all workers' safety be ensured immediately.

the project to raise awareness of adolescent reproductive health issues among female adolescent children in six districts of the country.

Tahmina Mirza, manager of the project, said the study's findings also show a declining trend in the incidence of child marriage and stalking in the project area.

Peggy Thorpe, first secretary of Canadian High Commission in Dhaka, said, "Lack of knowledge about sexuality or reproductive health issues are evident among adolescents and their parents."

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), reproductive health is a state of physical, mental, and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system at all stages of life.