

## NEWS IN *brief*

### DRU new committee demands arrest of Sagar-Runi's killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly elected executive committee of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) yesterday demanded that the government arrest the real killers of journalist couple Sagar-Runi and bring them to trial soon.

They also expressed their commitment to play active role in the ongoing movement demanding trials of killers of all journalists since the country's independence, said a press release.

The executive committee in its first meeting chaired by its President Shahed Chowdhury at DRU made the demand and expressed the com-

### Fire destroys houses, shops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 tin-shed houses and five shops were destroyed in a fire at Duari Para in the capital's Rupnagar area yesterday.

Fire service officials suspected that the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop in the area around 2:30am and spread to the adjacent houses and shops.

Five firefighting units from Mirpur Fire Station managed to douse the fire after an hour-long effort.

Locals said the fire destroyed the houses and the shops along with their furniture and goods.

### RU BCL men beat up sangskritik jote president

RU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men of Rajshahi University unit beat up president of the university's Kendrio Sangskritik Jote on Monday night.

Arif Parve, an MBA student of management department, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

RU sources said a group BCL men, led by RU unit BCL Deputy Library Secretary Nasim Ahmed Setu, beat Arif up at the television room of Bangabandhu Hall around 1:00am.

Nasim Ahmed Setu admitted the incident and told that he just slapped Arif.

The Jote demanded exemplary punishment for

### RMG factory boiler blast hurts 5

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Five female workers sustained burn injuries when a boiler exploded at a garment factory in Panchabati BISIC industrial area of Narayanganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

The injured were admitted to Narayanganj Hospital. The injured workers and police said the incident took place at the factory of NRR Fashion Ltd around 10:00am.



Several hundred passengers on arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka faced sufferings as they did not find any transports due to a countrywide hartal enforced by Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Passengers suffer at airport for hartal

*They criticise country's political culture*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muhammad Swapan, a Bangladeshi expatriate living in Kuwait, came home yesterday after about three years with much enthusiasm but it faded after landing in Dhaka as he was told to wait for about eight hours in the airport before going home.

"I am suffering because of hartal. My relatives could not come to the airport to receive me," said Swapan, hailing from Dohar upazila, adding that his relatives would come after the hartal ends and so he has to wait till evening.

Several hundred people met the same fate as Swapan after arriving at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Visiting the airport, The Daily Star found all passengers sitting or moving about helplessly.

"We have nothing to do but wait. I have several luggage and valuables with me and I do not want to take the risk of mov-

ing on the roads during hartal," said Altaf Hossain, who arrived from Saudi Arabia.

"I know picketers set afire and vandalise vehicles and I may be a victim of such attacks if I start for home during hartal," said Jahangir Alam, who came from Malaysia.

Expressing hatred for the country's political parties, many people at the airport urged politicians to change the culture of politics for the country's advancement.

Bangladesh is only lagging behind only because of such "destructive politics", said Masud Rana, who came from the US.

After waiting for many hours, some people were seen sleeping at the airport, which created a crowded atmosphere.

"A chaotic situation is prevailing here as many passengers have been waiting all day long," said Ujjal Hossain, a staff of the airport.

## ASHULIA FIRE Tazreen's 3 officials denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions of three officials of fire-devastated Tazreen Fashion Ltd and ordered sending them to jail.

The accused officials are Administrative Officer Dulal uddin, Store-in-Charge Hamidul Islam Lablu, and Security Supervisor Mohammad Al Amin.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Washim Sheikh passed the order after Mostafa Kamal, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Ashulia Police Station and investigation officer of the case, produced them before it on completion of their five-day remand.

In the forwarding report placed before the court yesterday, Mostafa said he gathered important information from the three people. The information derived from the three was being verified, he said.

He said he appealed to the court to detain them in jail until the investigation completes.

Earlier on November 28, the IO said all the garment workers were controlled by the three accused.

The investigation reveals that the three accused closed all the collapsible gates soon after the fire broke out, he said.

At least 111 workers died due to their negligence, Mostafa Kamal said, adding that if they took necessary steps, the victims might have escaped the building and such incident could have been avoided.

## Inter-medical college debate contest Dec 14

METRO DESK

The "SK+F 2nd National NDF BD-MMDS Medical College Debate Festival" will take place at Mymensingh Medical College on December 14-15, says a press release.

About 1,000 debaters from different public and private medical colleges are expected to take part in it.

The two-contest will be co-hosted by the central organisation of Bangladesh debate movement, "National Debate Federation Bangladesh (NDF BD)", and Mymensingh Medical College Debating Society (MMDS).

Prospective debaters have been requested to contact the following numbers for registration: 01711541566, 01719166106, 01745806703, 01716588708 and asked to visit www.ndfbd.com for further detail.

## Valerie Amos praises Dhaka's disaster preparedness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A senior UN official has said Bangladesh has set an example in disaster preparedness and other countries can learn from its successes.

"In the past 20 years, it's estimated that 135 million people have been affected in Bangladesh by disasters. But the government is addressing this challenge head-on by investing in its local communities," said UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos.

She said, "Bangladesh has trained 50,000 community volunteers to be the first-line of response after a storm or flood. It's cost effective and it saves lives."

Valerie Amos has recently visited Dhaka and discussed the challenges in improving disaster management, said a press release issued from New York on December 3.

The release said in 1991, a cyclone killed more than 1.4 lakh people in Bangladesh but in 2007, when another major cyclone struck, many volunteers helped evacuate thousands of people, saving countless lives. The death toll from that tragedy was 1,071, it said.



Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) Vice President Toshiyuki Kyroyanagi meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## 18 Rohingyas sent back to Myanmar

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday sent back 18 Rohingyas to Myanmar who were detained from different points of Ukhia upazila in Cox's Bazar.

BGB personnel held the Rohingyas from Bhalukhali, Ghumghum and Tambru of Naynkha Chari point early hours yesterday, said Lt Col Khalequazzaman, commanding officer of BGB 17 Battalion.

Meanwhile, Ukhia police detained 17 other Rohingyas, including women and children, from a passenger bus at Kotbazar station area of Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway in the afternoon.

Police said they held the Rohingyas while checking a Cox's Bazar-bound passenger bus around noon.

The Rohingyas were spreading out from the Rohingya slum in Kutubpal to different parts of Bangladesh in search of livelihood, police added.

## Woman killed as train hits her

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

An unidentified woman was killed as a train ran her over at DakatTala Crossing in Kotchandpur upazila of Jhenaidah yesterday.

Quoting locals, Kotchandpur Railway Station Master Anisur Rahman said the accident took place around 7:30am.

Khulna Government Railway Police (GRP) recovered the body around 1:00pm, and sent it to Khulna Sadar Hospital for an autopsy.

A case was filed with the GRP Police Station in this regard.

## Probe team visits Bahaddarhat flyover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A technical body of the Ministry of Housing & Public Works, formed to probe Bahaddarhat flyover collapse, visited the spot in Chittagong for the second time yesterday.

Nurul Huda, chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), led the four-member team.

During the visit, he told reporters that they came to the spot to verify different technical issues.

Another team of Buet teachers will visit the spot soon to collect technical samples and will submit a report to the probe body after examining them, Nurul Huda said.

Chittagong Development Authority sources told The Daily Star that the body would work to recommend on how the next stage of construction of the flyover should proceed.

On November 24, three girders of the Bahaddarhat flyover collapsed in Chittagong city, killing at least 12 people and injuring 50 others.

### DHAKA TODAY

**Dialogue**  
The Daily Star, the UN Volunteers (UNV) programme, and the UNDP Bangladesh will hold a dialogue on "Be the Change You Want to See: Youth Voices in Policy"; Venue: Conference Room (Level-3), The Daily Star Centre, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue; Time: 11:30am.

**Seminar**  
Unnayan Shammannay and Unicef Bangladesh will arrange a seminar on "Children and National Budget"; Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 3:00pm.

**Views exchange meeting**  
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will

organise a views exchange meeting on International Human Rights Day; Venue: Sufia Kamal Bhaban Auditorium; Time: 3:00pm.

**Discussion**  
Bangladesh Gono Sangskriti Dal will hold a discussion on the celebration of

### WEATHER TODAY

**Light fog likely**  
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 basins of the country during late night till morning, said Met Office.

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

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:28am.**

Country's highest temperature 30.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 10.8 degrees at Chuadanga.

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	27.6	15.8	56	59
Chittagong	26.6	16.4	80	84
Rajshahi	27.5	11.7	84	71
Rangpur	27.0	12.7	84	77
Khulna	27.6	13.6	77	80
Barisal	28.5	13.0	93	88
Sylhet	28.5	16.1	72	70