

# NEWS IN *brief*

## NU postpones today's exams

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
All the examinations scheduled for today under National University (NU) as well as different schools across the country have been postponed due to eight-hour hartal called by BNP-led 18-party alliance. The new date and time for the examinations would be notified soon through daily newspapers and the website of the university (www.nu.edu.bd). However, other exams will be held according to the earlier schedule, said a NU press release yesterday. This is the third time when the ongoing school

## BGB-Nasaka flag meeting held

**A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar**  
A sector commander-level flag meeting between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Myanmar's border security force, Nasaka, was held at Maungdaw in Myanmar yesterday. The two forces discussed issues such as trans-border crimes, release of Bangladesh nationals detained in Myanmar jails and illegal intrusion, and also agreed to maintain peace and order on the borders. Lt Col Zahid Hasan, BGB sector commander in Chittagong, said Nasaka members handed over 15 Bangladeshi people, who were in the jail for the

## Probir, Saikat Bangladesh Chhatra Federation president, GS

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Probir Saha and Saikat Mollik have been elected as the president and general secretary respectively of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation at the 10th central council of the leftist student organisation. The council was held from December 8 to 10, said official press release. The 10th Central Executive Committee, consisting of 27 elected members, was also formed at the council. The three-day long programme was inaugurated by Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, convener of the National Committee to Protect Oil,

## Amini laid to rest

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Fazlul Haque Amini, chairman of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote, was buried at the graveyard at Lalbagh Shahi Jame Masjid after a namaz-e-janaza held at the National Eidgah in the capital. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Bangladesh Islami Oikkyo Jote, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Party, Bangladesh Jatiya Party, NAP, Bangladesh Masjid Mission, Bangladesh Muslim League, Khademul Islam Jamayat Bangladesh, Islamic Solidarity Movement, Islami Andolon Bangladesh and Bikalpadhara Bangladesh conduced the death of Amini. He died of cardiac arrest in Ibn Sina Hospital



As the winter gets colder, city dwellers rush to buy warm clothes from the makeshift clothing shops that have sprung up on the footpaths in the capital's Farmgate area. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Bangladeshi FFs invited to India

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The relationship between Bangladesh and India is an extraordinary one, for it was achieved at the cost of sacrifice, said Captain (ret'd) AB Tajul Islam, state minister for liberation war affairs, at an event in the capital yesterday. He hoped that India would continue to foster its remarkable relationship with Bangladesh. The High Commission of India organised the reception programme at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre to honour the Bangladeshi freedom fighters who have been invited by India to Kolkata to partake in celebrations marking Bangladesh's victory day at Fort Williams on December 16. On the occasion, the High Commission also presented 20 scholarships to children of freedom fighters, including ten high school and ten undergraduate students. Addressing the programme, Pankaj Saran, high commissioner of India to Bangladesh, thanked the government and the people of Bangladesh for acknowledging the international friends who helped Bangladesh during its Liberation War in 1971. Tajul Islam appreciated India's initiatives of giving scholarships and inviting freedom fighters and thanked India for its continuing support and hospitality. India will provide scholarships to a total of 1,595 direct descendants of freedom fighters of Bangladesh this year. The freedom fighters left for Kolkata yesterday following the event.

## 15pc under-9 children at risk of disabilities: Survey

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
More than fifteen percent of the country's children below nine years of age are at risk of different forms of disabilities, a survey report claimed yesterday. It said these at-risk children were being abused more than the non-risk ones. Around 34 percent of the at-risk children fall victims to different forms of abuses, while 28 percent of the non-risk face the problems, it added. The survey report, which was launched during a discussion at the capital's Jatiya Press Club, identified family members, relatives, and neighbours as the abusers. The findings are based on the interviews of 3,005 under-nine children. Save the Children and Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation (BPF) jointly conducted the survey across six divisions of Bangladesh between December 2011 and November 2012. Forty-nine percent of the respondents were female children while 51 percent were male. Titled "Replication of Mini-Model of BPF in Six Divisions", the study suggested that children in Sylhet, Chittagong and Rangpur divisions were at higher risk of disabilities. The report said more than 40 percent of the children at risk of disabilities shared how they faced physical tortures. On the other hand, 23 percent of non-risk children shared the same stories, it said. The report mentioned that parents of the at-risk children expressed their frustration about the negative social attitude and stigma against their children. Participating in the discussion on the survey findings, speakers laid emphasis on proper steps for the children's safety in their own houses and shelter homes. They also highlighted the need for the guardians' active role in the safety measures. The speakers proposed to include disability issue in the syllabus of medical students and called for a standard child protection policy and involvement of the civil society for mainstreaming the physically challenged children. Kristine Zeuthen Jeppesen, programme manager of Save the Children in Asia and West Africa, and Dr Shamim Ferdous, executive director of BPF, among others, spoke on the occasion.

## JAIL KILLING CASE SC adjourns hearing till January 15

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Supreme Court yesterday adjourned till January 15 the hearing on an appeal filed against a High Court verdict that acquitted six former army personnel in the jail killing case. The court passed the order during hearing on a petition filed on December 11 by the government to exempt it from issuing notice to Dafadar (dismissed) Marfat Ali Shah and Dafadar (dismissed) Abdul Hashem Mridha to face the trial. Last year, the government filed the appeal with the apex court challenging the HC verdict in the case filed for killing four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, AHM Quamruzzaman and Captain Mansur Ali -- inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975. In November this year, it submitted a statement to the SC, praying for upholding the lower court verdict that gave death penalty to three former army personnel and life term imprisonment to 12 others. In 2004, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka sentenced to death Risalder (ret'd) Muslemuddin, Dafadar (dismissed) Marfat Ali Shah and Dafadar (dismissed) Abdul Hashem Mridha. On August 28, 2008, the HC upheld the capital punishment of Muslemuddin and acquitted Marfat and Hashem. It also acquitted Farooq, Shahriar, Mohiuddin and Bazlul Huda. On January 27, 2010, Farooq, Shahriar, Mohiuddin and Bazlul Huda were executed in the Bangabandhu assassination case.

## CASE AGAINST LIMON Hearing deferred till Feb 13

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**  
A Jhalakathi court yesterday deferred for the fourth time the hearing on accepting the charge sheet against college student Limon Hossain, who was maimed by Rab, in one of the two cases filed by the elite force for alleged obstruction to performing their duties. The court also deferred third time the date of delivering an order on the "no-confidence" plea lodged by Limon's mother Henoara Begum against a police report that declared six Rab members innocent. Surendranath Das, inspector of Jhalakathi senior judicial magistrate's court, on behalf of the state, appealed to the court that since the previous magistrate of the court was transferred recently, so it needed time for hearing the two appeals. Advocate Nasimul Hasan and Manik Acharya stood for Limon and his mother. After hearing from both sides, Shahidul Islam, magistrate of the court, fixed February 13, 2013 for delivering order in both the cases. Limon, who was shot on March 23, 2011, took treatment from Dhaka last week since he was facing hearing problems.



Speakers at a discussion on a survey report titled "Replication of Mini-Model of Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation (BPF) in Six Divisions". Save the Children and BPF jointly conducted the survey and organised the discussion at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Inauguration**  
Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS) will organise the inaugural ceremony of a regional public health conference. Time: 9:00am. Venue: BIHS main campus.

**Anti-Communalism Conference**  
Fifteen eminent citizens will organise a national anti-communalism conference. Time: 10:00am. Venue: Mahanagar Natyamancha.

**Discussion**  
Peshajibi Samonnoy Parishad will organise a discussion on war crimes trial and recent violence of Jamaat-Shibir. Time: 11:00am. Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

**Lecture**  
Liberation War Museum will host a lecture on the testimonies of the

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Moderate fog likely**  
UNB, Dhaka

Light rain may occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till noon, said Met Office. Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5:13pm and rises tomorrow at 6:33am.**

Country's highest temperature 29.1 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 14.0 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	25.5	16.2	87	79
Chittagong	25.0	16.5	84	73
Rajshahi	20.4	16.3	97	93
Rangpur	23.2	16.0	98	88
Khulna	26.8	17.4	98	91
Barisal	26.5	17.6	98	98

## RAJSHAHI BOMB BLAST IN 2005 JMB man gets 10 years' jail

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**  
A Rajshahi court yesterday sentenced an activist of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for a series of bomb blasts in Rajshahi in 2005. The convict, Abdur Rahim alias Nasim, was also fined Tk 2,000, in default, to suffer one more year in jail. Four other charge-sheeted accused in the case were acquitted as they were punished earlier for similar charges, said public prosecutor Entajul Haque. Judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal Ekramul Haque Chowdhury delivered the verdict in presence of the accused. On August 17, 2005, a series of bomb

## Bangladeshi chased by BSF drowns

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**  
A Bangladeshi man drowned in the Padma river after being chased by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Tuesday afternoon. The dead is Babar Ali of Natore, said Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) officials quoting his relatives. Babar along with some Bangladeshis was returning from India on a boat through Yousufpur border in Rajshahi when BSF troops of Babnabaz camp in India, on a speedboat, chased them, said Subedar Hossain Ali, BGB company commander in Charghat. After being chased, all of them on board, including Babar, jumped into the river. But only Babar could not swim ashore and drowned. Later, BSF recovered the body and took it to Raninagar Police Station in Murshidabad, he added. The victim's brother-in-law Alauddin said Babar went to India for job purpose. A process is underway for bringing back the body, Hossain added.