

NEWS IN *brief*

College student hit by train dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student died after a running train hit him at Tejkunipara Boubazar in the capital yesterday. The deceased was Towhidul Haque, 20, son of Mofizul Haque. He was a student of the city's Ideal Commerce College.

Witnesses said the incident occurred around 1:30pm when Towhidul was busy talking on his mobile phone while crossing the railway tracks in the area.

He was immediately rushed to Al-Razi Hospital in Farmgate. Later, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared

Warehouse, shops gutted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A warehouse and some tin-shed shops were gutted in two separate incidents of fire in Chittagong city yesterday.

In the city's Pathar Ghata area, a fire gutted the warehouse of tarpaulin, ropes and threads located in "Mostafiz Sawdagar's Building".

The fire originated from a stove of an adjoining apartment, said sources.

Meanwhile, valuables of 12 tin-shed shops were gutted in Salt Gola Crossing area.

Sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit from one of the shops and soon spread to the adjoining ones.

Housewife's body found in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The decomposed body of a housewife was recovered from a room at Fayedabad Dakkhin Khan in the capital on Monday night.

The dead is Meena, 26, wife of Hafiz. The couple rented the room on the fourth floor of the building last year.

Sub-inspector Asaduzzaman of Dakkhin Khan Police Station said when odour was coming out of the room, the landlord opened its room using a duplicate key and found the body on their bed. Later, the landlord informed police of the matter.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. Victim's husband Hafiz went

Passing out parade of navy held

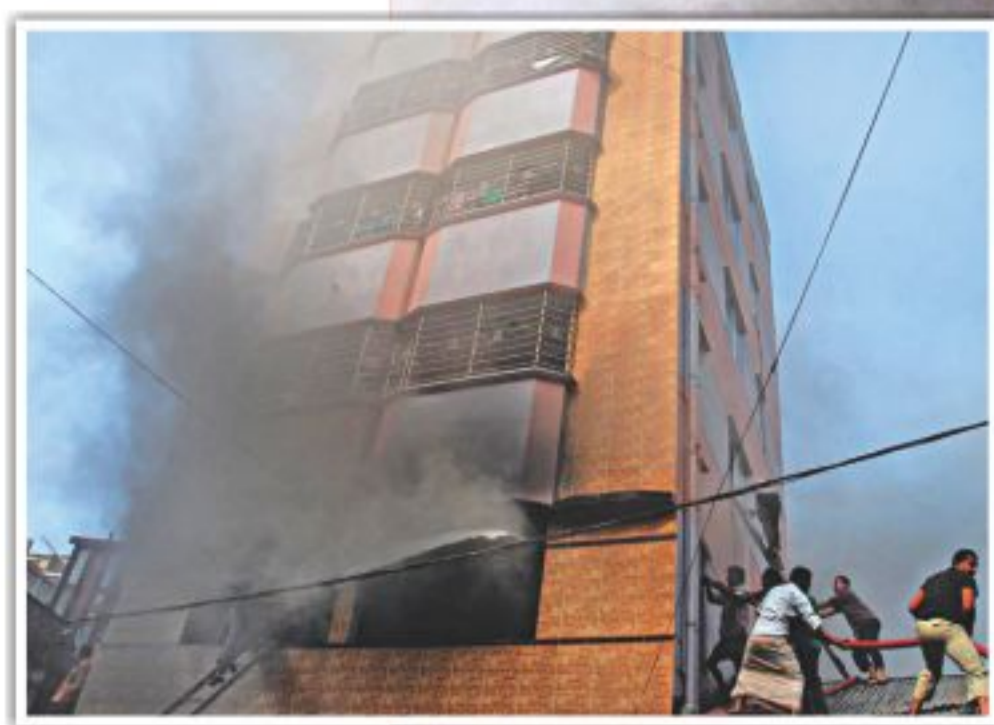
A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The passing out parade marking the induction of the Bitu Batch 2012 of new entry sailors of Bangladesh Navy was held in Khulna yesterday.

Assistant Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Aworangzeb Chowdhury attended as chief guest the ceremony at BNS Titumir parade ground.

He congratulated the newly inducted sailors for choosing a profession related to national security and prosperity.

Earlier, the assistant navy chief reviewed the smartly turned out contingent and took salute at the march past.



Residents of a building being rescued after a fire broke out at a warehouse located on the 1st floor of the six-storey building at Pathar Ghata in Chittagong city yesterday. Inset, locals and fire fighters trying to douse the fire.

PHOTO: STAR



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Students to get free textbooks on time

Says primary and mass education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary school students across the country will receive textbooks in due time as all primary textbooks have already reached upazila level for free distribution, said Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen yesterday.

"Some 10.78 crore copies of textbooks, written on the basis of the new curriculum, were printed for an estimated 2.31 crore students from class I to class V. We have sent the textbooks to all upazilas for free distribution," he said at a press briefing at his ministry's conference room at the secretariat.

He said the textbooks would be handed over to the students on January 1.

The minister said standard papers and four colours were being used in textbooks to make those more attractive. It costs Tk 326.68 crore for printing the books. The total cost including service charges of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) is Tk 340 crore, he added.

Ameen said they have reduced the num-

ber of pages of the new text books by 544 to 3,226 pages from the existing 3,770 pages to reduce the carrying burden of students.

He said of the total textbooks, 1.62 crore copies of books were printed for class I, 1.52 crore copies for class II, 2.86 crore copies for class III, 2.63 crore copies for class IV, and 2.14 crore copies for class V.

Besides, the ministry reserved more than 50 lakh copies as buffer stock in 64 districts.

He urged media to inform his ministry if the textbooks are seen being sold anywhere. "We'll take actions as per law against those involved in illegal business of selling the textbooks."

MM Neazuddin, secretary (in-charge) of the ministry, said the textbooks were printed in the new curriculum and if any error is found they will amend those.

Motahar Hossain, state minister for primary and mass education, Shyamal Kanti Ghosh, director general of Directorate of Primary Education, and Prof Mostofa Kamal Uddin, chairman of NCTB, were also present.

Tasneem, Mollah's wife on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Tasneem Alam, central publicity secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami, on a three-day remand in a case filed against him for possessing anti-government leaflets and booklets. Tasneem was detained at his Uttara residence on Monday.

Protesting the detention of Tasneem, Rajshahi city unit of Jamaat announced an eight-hour hartal in Rajshahi division for today.

The court passed the order after the investigation officer of the case produced him before it seeking a seven-day remand.

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court yesterday placed 21 female activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its women students' wing, Islami Chhatri Sangstha, including Sanowar Jahan, wife of Abdul Quader Mollah, on a two-day remand in a case filed for their suspected link to "subversive activities".

Quader Mollah, Jamaat's assistant secretary general, is facing a trial on charge of committing crimes against humanity.

Police arrested the 21 activists at the Islami Chhatri Sangstha office in Moghbazar on Monday.

The court passed the order after Mashiur Rahman, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Ramna Police Station and the investigation officer of the case, produced them before it seeking a 10-day remand.

The court sent Habiba Nasrin, another accused, to jail as she is six-month pregnant.

Defence lawyer, however, submitted separate bail petitions saying the accused are studying in different educational institutions including Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka University and Eden Girls' College and are not involved in such activities.

First polls to Rangpur City Corporation tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Voters will pick their representatives in the maiden election to Rangpur City Corporation (RCC) tomorrow.

The electioneering ended at midnight yesterday. A total of 3, 57,742 voters will elect a mayor and 44 councillors to the corporation. Among the councillor posts, 11 are reserved for women.

Twelve candidates are contesting for the mayoral post, while 418 are vying to become councillors in 33 wards.

The leading mayoral hopefuls are former organising secretary of Jatiya Party (JP) central committee AKM Abdur Rauf Manik and former Rangpur Sadar upazila chairman Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa. Manik was also a mayor of the erstwhile Rangpur Municipality.

The JP had initially picked former lawmaker Moshir Rahman Ranga as its mayoral favourite.

The decision triggered an intra-party rift, which led to the withdrawal of candidature by Moshir.

Party Chairman HM Ershad later expelled its leaders Manik and Mostafa from the party and decided not to back any candidate for the mayoral post.

The ruling Awami League has not named any mayoral favourite, while the main opposition BNP and its key ally Jamaat-e-Islami have not backed any candidate in the election.

Md Monirul Islam, returning officer of the RCC polls, said 1,070 polling booths will be set up at 178 polling centres in the city.

Electronic voting machines will be used in four polling centres of ward no 11, he added.

DHAKA TODAY

Reception
Jatiya Mohila Sangstha will accord a reception to female freedom fighters; Venue: Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Auditorium, 145 New Baily Road; Time: 3:30pm.

National conference
Bangladesh Tairiqat Federation will organise its national conference; Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad will hold a discussion demanding cancellation of the party registration of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami; Venue:



(From left) Grace Mozena, wife of the US ambassador in Dhaka; Md Yunus Ali, chief conservator of forest; Dr Hasan Mahmud, minister for environment and forests; Prof Md Anwarul Islam, chief executive of WildTeam; Dan Mozena, ambassador of the US; Enayetullah Khan, chairman of WildTeam; Svend Olling, ambassador of Royal Danish Embassy; and Mark, son of the US ambassador, at a function in the capital marking the launching of WildTeam, formerly known as Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB), on Thursday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Bangabandhu corner opens at DSHE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A corner for Bangabandhu and Liberation War, and a library have been launched at the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) in the capital.

The corner showcases important photographs of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and on different aspects of the Liberation War in 1971. While, various books on the war and Bangabandhu will be available at library.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu inaugurated the corner and library at a ceremony yesterday.

A book titled "Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education: Past and Present" was also launched at the programme.

Speaking at the programme, Nahid said the directorate was at the top of corruption and irregularities when the present government took over and now its image has been changed significantly towards positive direction.

Terming DSHE a nerve centre for education sector, he urged the officials and employees of DSHE to work efficiently and with transparency.

The DSHE looks after over 35 educational institutions across the country.

Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and DSHE Director General Prof Noman-ur-Rashid also spoke.

SHELTERING BANGLADESHIS

2 Tunisian NGO staff awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday awarded two officials of a non-government organisation of Tunisia for their contributions to providing shelter to Bangladeshi workers at the borders of Egypt and Tunisia during the political uprising in Libya last year.

The awardees are Narges Ben Mlouka, chief of mission, Secours Islamique France Company, Choucha of Tunisia; and her associate Lutfi Jaziri, admin coordinator, Pakistan of the organisation.

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment conferred the award on them at a programme on the

second day of its three-day long programme to celebrate "International Migrants Day" in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith handed over crests to the awardees as chief guest. The awardees assisted the Bangladeshi workers in Libya with providing foods, medicines and shelter, said the ministry.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain was also present in the function.

POSSIBILITIES UNBOUND FOR THE GOLDEN FIBER

Announcement

Rescheduling of the "Buyer- Seller Meet 2012"

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the earlier announced date for Buyer- Seller Meet, has been rescheduled from 20th December to **22nd December 2012**.

This event of international standard can help you foster connections with businesses within the Jute Industry. Explore the fine quality jute products available in our country & contribute to the growth of the Golden Fiber.

Contact for queries: 01742368000
Venue: IJSG Bhaban, Monipuripara, Dhaka-1215
Time: 11:00am - 7:00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Thick 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.

Thick fog may occur over the river basins of the country, and Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and moderate fog elsewhere over the country during night till noon, said Met Office.

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:16pm and rises tomorrow at 6:36am.

Country's highest temperature 27.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.6 degrees at Iswardi.

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	25.3	15.0	93	89
Chittagong	19.0	14.9	85	72
Rajshahi	23.7	12.4	..	89
Rangpur	25.8	13.0	97	75
Khulna	24.0	14.8	95	86
Barisal	24.5	13.5	99	90
Sylhet	26.2	14.5	87	89
Cox's Bazar	27.3	17.0	75	80