

NEWS IN *brief*

Mohiuddin urges youths to stand against plot to foil war crimes trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former Chittagong city mayor and senior Awami League leader ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday said the activists of 14-party would not go back home till the completion of the war crimes trial and execution of the verdicts.

He also urged the youths to remain on guard against the conspiracy of Jamaat-Shibir to foil the trial.

Mohiuddin made the call at a rally at Chittagong Central Shaheed Minar, which was followed by a mass procession brought out by the 14-party alliance as part of a centrally declared

Man dies as train runs him over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified man, aged around 40, died after a train ran him over in Joar Shahara railgate area near Dhaka Cantonment rail station yesterday.

Quoting locals, Kamalapur police sources said the accident occurred around 4:00pm when the man was crossing the rail lines even though people around him said aloud that a train was

Bangladesh Student Council gives warm clothes to poor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Student Council, an organisation run by students, yesterday distributed more than 2,000 pieces of warm clothes and 100 blankets to the deprived people in different areas in the capital.

Activists of the non-profit organisation under its Warm Clothes Distribution Project also distributed warm clothing among many winter affected poor people in Chittagong Railway Station and

Management Net to celebrate 15th anniversary on Dec 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Management Net will be celebrating its 15th anniversary with a reunion at Teacher-Student Centre on Dhaka University (DU) campus on December 28, says a press release.

The organisation, which comprises of former students of the Department of Management Studies of DU, will hold various programmes, including food distribution among the destitute and blood donation, on the occasion.

All members of Management Net are requested to contact at 41/2 Purana Paltan, Suit E-4, Dhaka-1000 or call at 7161730 or 01819216652 for further



Bumper-to-bumper tailbacks choke the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue around 3:00pm yesterday due to a procession of Jatiya Shonchalon Parishad moving from Manik Mia Avenue to Suhrawardy Udyan. The parishad was holding the procession demanding that the government expedite the war crimes trial.

PHOTO: STAR

DEEP-SEA PORT CONSTRUCTION

China reiterates willingness to help

BSS, Dhaka

Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Li Jun yesterday reiterated his country's willingness to help construct a deep-sea port in Bangladesh and enhance connectivity with his country while Bangladeshi experts suggested Beijing's engagement in exploration and providing security in the Bay.

"Our government will provide its all supports especially in infrastructure, trade and investment for the benefit of both the countries," he said.

He was addressing a seminar, "Bangladesh-China cooperation and the security dimension of the Bay of Bengal", organised by Centre for East Asia Foundation in the capital's Cirdap Auditorium.

Li Jun said Beijing was ready to extend cooperation in constructing the deep-sea port and the direct road link through Myanmar to "accelerate economic progress of the region".

"Bangladesh is an important neighbouring country for China. As both Bangladesh and China are developing

countries, there are enormous prospects of the existing ties between the two nations," he said.

Presenting a keynote, Bangladesh Political Science Association President Prof Dr Aatur Rahman said Bangladesh-China relations had strategically assumed a new level of significance.

This was due to Bangladesh's location in the Bay and the growing importance of the seas for security and development of both countries, he said.

The experts said Bangladesh could be a lucrative investment destination for China, the world's second largest economic power, due to its cheap labour costs and urged both governments to take long-term policy approaches to reduce trade gaps.

Former Bangladesh Bank governor Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed moderated the seminar. Former adviser to a caretaker government Dr Iftexhar Ahmed Chowdhury, former army chief Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman and former ambassador Munshir Faiz Ahmed were present.

TUBERCULOSIS AMONG CHILDREN

Better medical facilities sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday stressed that the country needs better medical facilities and human resources to detect and treat tuberculosis (TB) among children.

In order to lower child mortality rate, focus must be put on the treatment of child TB, they added.

Brac, National Tuberculosis Control Programme, Department of Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the daily Jugantar jointly organised the roundtable discussion at Brac Centre in the capital.

Ten percent of all TB patients in the world are children while 3 percent of all TB patients in Bangladesh are children, said Dr Mujibur Rahman, national programme consultant of National Tuberculosis Control Programme, while presenting the keynote presentation.

He said detecting TB among children is harder than detecting TB among grownups, as child TB does not show any specific symptoms.

Moreover, the medical officials concerned lack adequate training or skills to detect or treat TB patients.

The speakers said lack of adequate diagnostic facilities in the country is another hurdle in detecting child TB.

MD Humayun Kabir, senior secretary to Health and Family Welfare Ministry, while addressing as chief guest, said the government is planning to set up a hospital in the capital to treat Multi Drug Resistant TB.

Two teens confess killing woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two teenage boys confessed before a Dhaka court on Friday to killing a woman by slitting her throat in the capital's Pallabi on December 8.

Police arrested Abdul Wadud, and his friend Arman Mollah on Thursday.

The victim was Tahura Bibi, 42.

In his confessional statements, Wadud said they planned to extract money from the house of one of their acquaintances Tahura, whose husband is an expatriate in Saudi Arabia.

"The boys came to the flat around 2:30pm when she was home alone. They spent few hours there, chatted with the lady and had food. At one stage, they killed her," said Shah Iftexhar Ahmed, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, quoting their confessional statements.

Later, they fled the scene. When Isra, Tahura's adopted daughter and a class VI student, came home she found the door locked. Police broke the door around 9:00pm, he added.

Wadud told the police that they only took Tk 2,000 from the house.

Hygienic latrines must for improving health in rural areas

Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hygienic latrines not only improve the general health of the masses but also save huge government resources spent in curing diseases caused due to open defecation, opined speakers at a seminar in the capital yesterday.

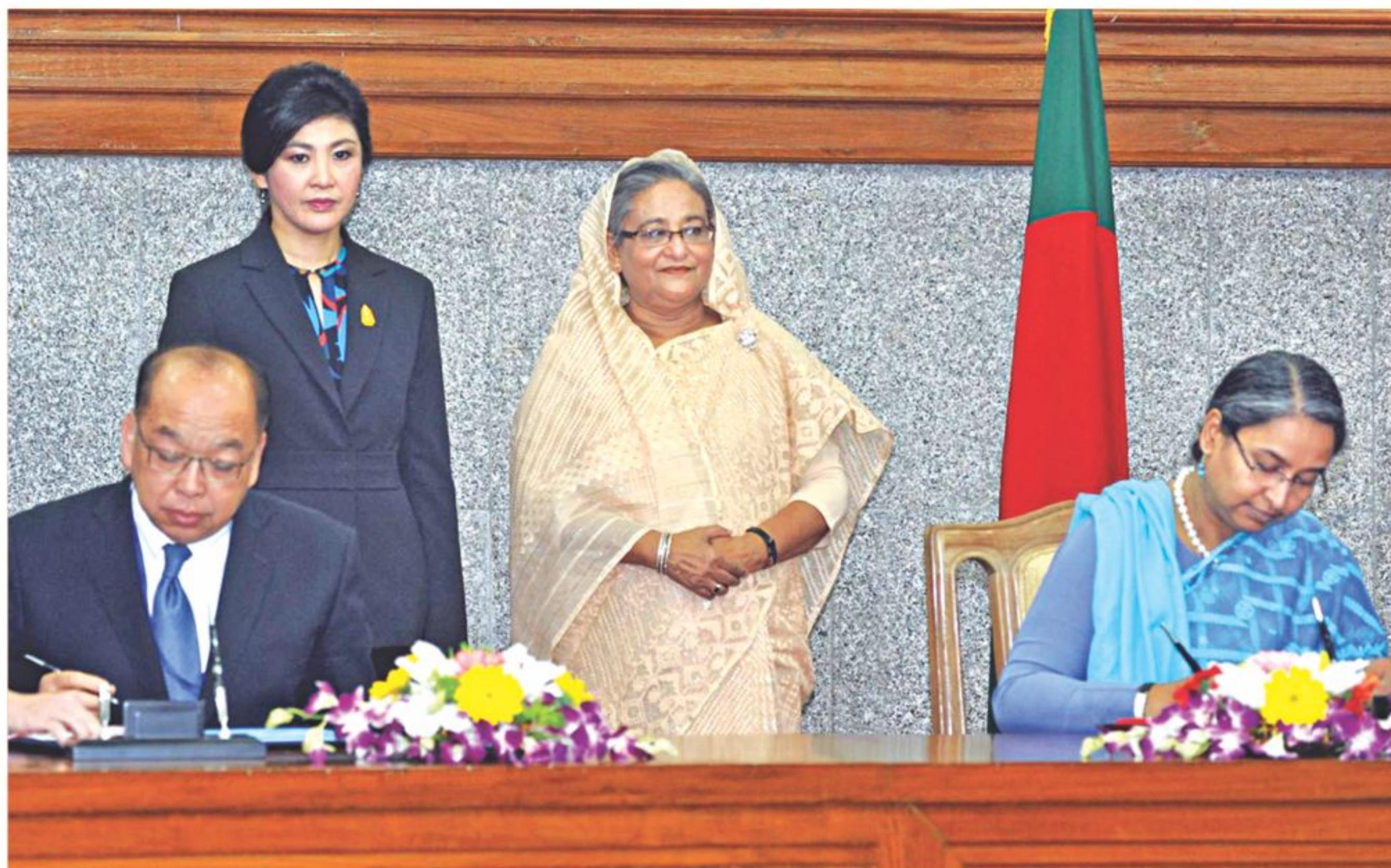
The seminar titled "Lessons Learnt: Local Government Led Total Sanitation" was held at the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) auditorium, says a press release.

Lt Col (ret'd) Abdul Khaleque, chairman of Barguna Sadar upazila, said they were able to achieve nearly 90 percent of hygienic latrines in the upazila as they were successful in making common people understand the importance of hygiene.

Elena Ahmed, deputy country director of Plan Bangladesh, also addressed the seminar.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Deputy Prime Minister also Foreign Minister of Thailand Surapong Tovichakchikul sign two memorandums of understanding while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and visiting Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra look on in the Prime Minister's Office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS



Scrap ship catches fire in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A scrap ship caught fire in a ship breaking yard in Chittagong yesterday morning.

Didarul Alam, an officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence, told The Daily Star that they rushed to SN Corporation around 11:45am and doused the flame at 2:00pm.

No casualty was reported.

Mizanur Rahman, an office assistant of the ship breaking yard, said the ship caught the fire while it was being cut.

Corruption still prevalent in govt's upper layer: Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said corruption was still prevalent in the upper layer of the government but it was seeing a downward trend.

Corruption had gripped the last regime of the BNP-led alliance, when family members and lawmakers of the ruling parties had plundered huge amounts of public money, he said.

Corruption must come to a stop so that the country can move forward, he told an extended meeting of Sylhet sadar upazila unit Awami

League at a hotel in Sylhet city.

Addressing as chief guest, Muhith claimed that there had been no corruption in the Padma bridge project. However, there were initially some corruption conspiracies and the government had foiled those, he said.

The next parliamentary election will be held on time, in the coming year's December, under an interim government, formed after political parties reach a consensus on it, as per the constitution, he said.

Calling upon the party men to prepare for the election, he said the AL would join the polls with a better

manifesto. Muhith also informed that there might be some changes in the party's constitution at its December 29 council.

The AL-led alliance already implemented most of its election pledges, like initiating the war crimes trial, holding the trial of Bangabandhu's killers and making progress in education, health, agriculture and industry sectors, he said.

Lawmaker Shofiqur Rahman Chowdhury, the district AL President Abduj Jahir Chowdhury Sufian and the sadar upazila parishad Chairman Ashfaq Ahmed were present in the meeting.

DHAKA TODAY

Anti-communal convention

Fifteen eminent citizens will organise an "Anti-communal National Convention-2012"; Venue: Mohanagar Natyamancha; Time: 10:00am.

Memorial meeting

Coalition of Local NGOs, Bangladesh will hold a meeting in memory of the 15 Bangladeshi peacekeepers who died in a plane crash in Benin in 2003; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Research and Development Collective will hold a seminar on ensuring the human rights of, among others, garment workers, Dalits, indigenous communities and religious minorities; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 3:00pm.

Hunger strike

Journalist's organisations will observe a mass hunger strike demanding, among others, arrest of the killers of journalist couple Sagar-Runi; Venue: Jatiya Press Club

WEATHER TODAY

Dense fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Thick fog may occur over the river basins and moderate to thick fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till noon, Met Office said.

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Ishurdi, Jessore and Chuadanga, it may continue and spread over more parts of the country.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:18pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am.

Country's highest temperature 26.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Kutubdia and lowest 09.2 degrees at Ishurdi.

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	20.2	12.3	91	87
Chittagong	23.4	12.0	76	70
Rajshahi	15.4	09.6	100	95
Rangpur	20.0	11.2	99	91
Khulna	23.7	12.0	78	82
Barisal	23.0	10.2	89	78