

**NEWS IN** *brief*

**Charge framing hearing against Fakhru in blast case deferred**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday for the fifth time deferred till January 29 the hearing on charge framing against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir and 28 others in a blast case. Shahab police filed the case against them for aiding and abetting the bombings inside the Secretariat during the opposition's April 29 hartal last year. The court deferred the hearing as Fakhru was not produced before it. Fakhru is now under police custody in two other cases filed for torching vehicles during the BNP-led 18-party alliance's countrywide road

**Saarc Programming Committee meeting begins tomorrow**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A two-day session of the Saarc Programming Committee Meeting will begin tomorrow at the Saarc Secretariat in Kathmandu to finalise the Calendar of Activities for the year 2013. The activities of the Regional Centres and the status of implementation of the decisions taken earlier will also be reviewed in the meeting, said a press release. The 43rd session will be inaugurated by Saarc Secretary General, Ahmed Saleem, and will bring together, among others, directors general of minis-

**Declaration of Jan 1 as 'National Ethics Day' demanded**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an event yesterday demanded that January 1 be declared as "National Ethics Day" to motivate the country's youths to embrace moral and ethical practices. There has been a degradation of values and morals in today's world, with widespread corruption polluting the nation, they said. Bangladesh Ethics Club organised the event, including a discussion and cultural programme, at TSC in Dhaka University. Dr AK Abdul Momen, permanent representative of Bangladesh to UN, and Dr Ziauddin Ahmed, professor of Drexel University, US, also addressed

**Woman dies as train hits her**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was killed when a train hit her in the capital's Shyampur yesterday. The dead was Roksana Begum, 45, wife of Sajal Miah, of Boroitola slum in the area. Quoting victim's neighbour, Jahurul Islam, police said Roksana was talking with a man standing on the rail tracks near her residence around 2:30pm. As a Kamalapur-bound train was approaching, the man managed to get off the tracks but she could not. She died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Seminar**  
Bangladesh-India Samprity Parishad will organise a seminar on relations between the two countries; Venue: Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University; Time: 4:00pm.

**Discussion**  
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a discussion on the founding anniversary of Rokeya Sadan; Venue:

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Cold wave may continue**

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 and moderate to thick fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said. Mild cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and regions of Tangail, Madaripur, Sandwip, Sitakunda, Comilla, Feni, Hatiya, Srimongal, Jessore, Kushtia and Bhola and it may continue. Night and day temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:24pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am. Country's highest temperature 26.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and lowest 07.5 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	24.6	11.0	84	56
Chittagong	23.5	12.0	86	66
Rajshahi	24.0	08.8	91	72
Rangpur	25.0	09.0	86	70
Khulna	26.5	10.8	88	71
Barisal	25.5	09.4	92	72
Sylhet	24.9	10.4	86	66

**Ecneec approves six dev projects**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved six development projects involving Tk 1,196 crore. The approval was given at an Ecneec meeting held at the NEC conference room with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Of the projects, a project titled "Environmental Sanitation and Water Supply with Piped Network in Thana Sadar and Growth Centre Pourashavas" costing Tk 269 crore would be implemented in 45 pourashavas of seven divisions in the country, a planning ministry statement said. The implementation of the project will start in this fiscal year and end in June 2015, it said. Under the project, 360 tube-wells, 120 water pump houses, 27 water treatment plants, 755 km pipeline, 14,420 house connection and 155 toilets would be constructed. The Ecneec approved another project

titled "Widening and development of roads and footpaths of different areas under Chittagong Metropolitan City". Under the project, 152 km roads in Chittagong city would be widened and developed; and 22 km drain and 8 culverts would be constructed at the cost of Tk 294 crore. A planning ministry official said the project was proposed following a priority list from local lawmakers to upgrade Chittagong Metropolitan City into a complete commercial capital. The other projects approved in the meeting are -- Protection of Bhola District Town Project of Tk 103 crore; Rehabilitation of Meghna Bridge and Gumti Bridge (revised) Project of Tk 437 crore; Mohammadpur Kendriya College, Lalmatia Mohila College and Agargaon Taltala Government Colony School and College Development Project involving Tk 28 crore and Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka Expansion and Modernization Project (second phase) costing Tk 65 crore.

**Journalists stage a sit-in in front of the Gate No 2 of Bangladesh Secretariat in the capital yesterday demanding arrest of the killers of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi by January 19.**

PHOTO: STAR



**Road crashes kill three**

METRO DESK

Three people were killed and another injured in separate road accidents in Bogra and Chittagong yesterday and Monday. Our Bogra correspondent reports, two people were killed instantly in separate road accidents in Bogra yesterday and on Monday. In Bogra's Shahjahanpur upazila, a motorcyclist died while his friend was injured when a Dhaka-bound bus hit the motorbike on Sherpur road around 12:30am yesterday. Deceased, Jobayer Hasan Liton, 40, hailed from the upazila. Injured, Shipon Mia, 34, of the same area, was first rushed to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and later to a hospital in the capital. In Sherpur upazila, Rezaul Karim, 35, mason, of Sirajganj, was killed as a bus hit him while crossing Bogra-Dhaka highway in Mirzapur Bazar area around 7:30pm on Monday. Protesting the accident, locals blocked the highway for an hour. They freed the road after UNO promised to build three speed breakers on the road within seven days. Our Chittagong correspondent reports, a driver of a covered van died on the spot when a Dhaka-bound rice-laden truck rammed the vehicle on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Sitakunda in Chittagong around 3:00am yesterday. Muzammel Hossain, 27, hailed from Chandpur.

**STOPPING LAND GRABBING Govt not fulfilling poll pledges: Dr Kamal**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is not implementing its election promise of protecting people's land from encroachment, although it came to power with their mandate through the 2008 parliamentary elections, Dr Kamal Hossain said yesterday. Land grabbers are encroaching lands of poor people including the slum dwellers through forged documents, but no effective measures are taken against such offenses, he said. He told a discussion organised by Khilkhet Nagorik Samaj (KNS), a social organisation of people of Khilkhet area in Dhaka, at BMA auditorium in the capital. It organised the programme demanding the government stop its acquisition of land at Barua Mouja in Khilkhet area on behalf of Police Officials Multipurpose Cooperatives (POMC). Dr Kamal said the Awami League led grand alliance in its election manifesto had promised to execute the constitutional provisions of protecting the peoples' lands and habitations, but the government is not executing this promise on behalf of poor people. Mahmudur Rahman Manna, convener of Nagorik Oikya, also spoke.

**High Court benches reconstituted**

*Justice Nizamul given no charge*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday reconstituted the powers of 25 High Court (HC) benches without giving any judicial power to Justice Md Nizamul Huq, former chairman of International Crimes Tribunal (ICT)-1. SC Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam said Justice Nizamul was not assigned to conduct any bench for discharging judicial functions, as he (Nizamul) was now on leave. The registrar could not say when and why Justice Nizamul took leave from the chief justice and when he will join the office. He said the powers of 20 division benches and five single benches were reconstituted as the court reopened today after a two-week winter vacation. Justice Nizamul, an HC judge, resigned as ICT-1 chief on December 11 amid controversy over his Skype conversations with an expatriate Bangladeshi legal expert about the tribunal matters. He was appointed ICT-1 chairman on March 25, 2010 and returned to the office of the HC judge after his resignation from the tribunal. On Sunday, pro-BNP-Jamaat lawyers urged the chief justice not to constitute any HC bench with Justice Nizamul and demanded his removal from the office of the HC judge. Usually all HC judges, except the ones on leave, are tasked with judicial functions at different benches.

**Humayun Azad murder trial begins**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial of Prof Humayun Azad murder case began at a Dhaka court yesterday with deposition of the complainant in the case. Judge AHM Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan of Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court recorded the statement of Monjur Kabir, younger brother of Humayun Azad. Later, state appointed lawyers cross-examined the witness. In his statement, Monjur said at about 9:00pm on February 27, 2004 he came to know from his another brother Sajjad Kabir that his elder brother was attacked by some unknown assailants in front of Bangla Academy in the capital. On that day, JMB activists stabbed the 56-year-old linguist Azad while he was trying to catch a rickshaw home from Ekushey Boi Mela at the Bangla Academy, said the witness. Azad was treated at Combined Military Hospital for 26 days. Then the government sent him to Bangkok for better treatment from where he returned home on recovery after over 47 days. Azad went to Germany on August 8 of 2004 to join a conference, Kabir continued. On August 12 the same year, the witness came to know that his brother Humayun Azad died in Germany. Before his departure for Germany, Azad told him and his family members that some unknown militants gave him death threat over telephone for writing a book "Pak Sar Jamin Sad Bad", said Kabir.

**Journos demand arrest of Sagar-Runi killers by Jan 19**

*Threaten tougher movement otherwise*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists' leaders yesterday threatened to launch tougher movement if the killers of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi were not arrested by January 19. "We will declare tougher agitation programme from a grand rally on January 20 if the law enforcement agencies failed to arrest the killers by the deadline," said Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, president of a faction of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ). He was addressing a rally of several hundred journalists who staged a sit-in in front of the Secretariat for around two-hour. No visitor or staff was allowed in or out of the Secretariat as the authorities sealed all entrances during the protest. The BFUJ, the Dhaka Union of Journalists, Jatiya Press Club, and Dhaka Reporters Unity jointly organised the programme. Criticising the home minister's recent comments that no one can create pressure on him by besieging the ministry, Ruhul Amin Gazi, president of the other faction of the BFUJ, said the home minister would feel the pressure of journalists on January 20. Boishakhi Television CEO Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul said the verdict on the Saudi Embassy official Khalaf murder case came within a short time for the Saudi authorities' demand. He wondered if the journalists would seek Saudi's assistance for the trial of Sagar-Runi killing. Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, secretary general of a faction of the BFUJ, said the journalists' movement would continue until Sagar and Runi's killers were arrested and brought to trial. Sagar Sarowar, a news editor of Maasranga TV, and his wife Meherun Runi, a senior reporter of ATN Bangla, were killed on February 11, 2011.

**Number of diabetic children on rise: Doctors**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than four lakh children suffering from type-1 diabetes in the country are dependent on supplemental insulin, and the number is increasing every year, said doctors and experts at a programme on Monday. They made the remarks at a day-long New Year celebration programme organised by Bangladesh Diabetic Samity (BADAS), Novo Nordisk and World Diabetes Foundation (WDF) at an amusement park in Ashulia. Some 70 children with diabetes under Changing Diabetes in Children Programme (CDiC) attended the programme. Talking to The Daily Star, Prof AK Azad Khan, president of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, said many families even cannot imagine that a baby can be born with the disease. So they do not get their

blood tested for glucose. At the programme, the children participated in, besides counselling and education sessions, different indoor and outdoor sports, game shows, music and dance. They also celebrated and welcomed 2013 by different activities while doctors and parents shared experiences of tackling the type-1 diabetes in the programme. Twelve-year-old Fazle Rabbi's mother Aleya Begum said, "Everyday he needs to take insulin twice. It's so tough to make children maintain a regular diet and physical exercise. We always have to keep an eye on him." Around 1,523 diabetic children have already been registered under the CDiC programme, which started in 2010 to provide free care including insulin, syringes, glucometer & strip to diabetic children.

**RISING Stars**

New year's is usually about making resolutions. We do it differently. This issue, we look forward while remembering all the things that changed us over 2012. There are movies, games and gadgets to look forward to, so the geeks and techies better start planning out 2013. Comic fans ended the year in style at Dhaka's first ever Comicon, and RS was there. All this and a lot more.

SEE THIS WEEK'S RISING STARS.