

NEWS IN *brief*

Dipu Moni leaves for Cairo to attend OIC summit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday left from Dhaka for Cairo to represent Bangladesh in the 12th Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit scheduled from February 6 to 7. The summit is titled "The Islamic World: New Challenges and Growing Opportunities". The foreign minister will also attend the OIC's foreign ministerial meeting from February 4 to 5, said official sources.

DoE fines power plant Tk 20 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined an under-construction power plant Tk 20.5 lakh for continuing its construction work in Patenga area of Chittagong without having environmental and site clearances. Construction of Baraka Patenga Power Plant is seventy percent complete although it has no clearance from DoE, said sources in the department. MK Safi Chowdhury, project director of the plant, said they got the government's permission to construct the plant in October last year.

Three CU students suspended

CU CORRESPONDENT
The authorities of Chittagong University (CU) yesterday suspended its three students in connection with an attack on CU unit Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Aminul Islam Towhid on November 15 last year. The suspended students are Rokibuddin Chowdhury of oriental language department; Salahuddin Mahmud of computer science and engineering department; and Ruhl Amin of history department.

'Robber' lynched in Gazipur

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur
An alleged robber was killed in a mass beating in Kaliganj upazila early yesterday. The deceased was Faruk Hossain, 27. Police said a gang of 14 to 15 robbers were taking preparation to commit robbery in the area. Sensing presence of the gang, locals cordoned the area and managed to catch Faruk after a long chase. Later, the angry mob gave Faruk a good beating, leaving him dead on the spot. Police sent the body to a local hospital morgue for autopsy.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a public rally at Kamrangirchar in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS



'KILLING COPS TO SAVE WAR CRIMINALS'
Khaleida, her people to be tried: PM

BSS, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the trial of Opposition Leader Khaleida Zia and her "cadres and cohorts" will also be held in the country for killing people in the name of movement to save war criminals. "Whatever movement you stage and whatever people you kill, you could not stop the trial of war criminals as it is a demand of the nation and the people. Rather, the trial of you and your cadres and cohorts will be held on the soil of the country Insha Allah for killing people and policemen by firing shot and pouring petrol," she added. The prime minister was addressing a mammoth public rally at Kamrangirchar in the capital. Dhaka-2 (Keraniganj, Savar and Kamrangirchar) constituency of city Awami League arranged the rally on the occasion of inauguration of a number of development projects. Hasina said the country was turned into a paradise of terrorism, militancy and corruption during rule of BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

The people at that time witnessed unbridled terrorism, militancy, corruption, bomb blasts and extortion, she said. Reiterating her firm commitment to complete the trial of the 1971 culprits who committed the crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation in 1971, she said, "We have already got a verdict in this regard and the trial of the remaining war criminals would be completed InshaAllah to free the nation from 42-year-long stigma." Earlier, she inaugurated boundary wall of a 31-bed hospital; laid the foundation stones of a secondary school; and six government colleges in Dhaka metropolis area; a community center and three primary schools. She also handed over keys of two vehicles to Kamrangirchar thana police. With State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Qamrul Islam in the chair, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, Dhaka City AL President MA Aziz and General Secretary Moafazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya also addressed the rally.

Govt to enact law to control formalin
GM Quader tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government has moved to formulate a new law to impose stringent restrictions on import of formalin and control its misuse to save the nation from the growing menace, Commerce Minister GM Quader told the House yesterday. He said the government had also planned to procure highly expensive kits to detect formalin in food items for all divisional and district offices of the National Consumers Rights Protection Department to strengthen the fight against formalin misuse. The minister said even his ministry would prepare a mega plan in coordination with the ministries of industries, LGRD, food and health to introduce formalin detector machines at all markets across the country. Quader came up with the government plans after a number of MPs had expressed concerns over the health hazard caused by unregulated use of formalin in food items. Indiscriminate use of formalin and other allied chemicals to foodstuffs has already caused havoc, especially in the kitchen markets all over the country. As a sure formula to prolong the decaying process and keep up the freshness of fish, fruits and vegetables, the use of formalin as well as the allied chemicals has been rampant for long. On the new law, the commerce minister said his ministry had taken the step to control import, supply and misuse of formalin and other poisonous chemicals. "A committee headed by a joint secretary has already drafted the law which will be finalised soon," Quader said.

VANDALISM CASE
Fakhrul seeks bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Acting BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday filed a petition with the High Court, seeking bail in a vandalism case. Police filed the case on December 9 last year on charge of vandalising vehicles and preventing the police from discharging duties during the countrywide road blockade enforced by BNP-led 18-party alliance. Fakhrul is now in jail. Yesterday, an HC bench fixed today for hearing of the bail petition. Sagir Hossain Leon, a lawyer for Fakhrul, told The Daily Star that the BNP leader secured bail in five cases out of six, filed in connection with December 9 road blockade.

VEHICLE TORCHING CASE
BNP leader Salauddin's bail denied

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions and sent former BNP lawmaker Dr Dewan Salauddin Babu and 12 others to jail in connection with a vehicle torching case. But the court granted bail to BNP leader Aman Ullah Aman in the same case. The court passed the order after Salauddin and others appeared before it and sought bail. According to the prosecution, a group of BNP-led 18 party alliance leaders and activists led by Aman and Salauddin brought out a procession on Dhaka-Aricha high way during a road blockade on December 9 last year. At one stage, they torched a CNG-run three wheeler at Tetuljora College intersection and injured driver of the vehicle.

DHAKA TODAY

- Human chain**
Grihasramik Odhikar Protistha Network will form a human chain demanding trial into the murder of a nine-year-old girl domestic help; Venue: before House 6, where she was murdered, Road 4, Sector 7, Uttara; Time: 11:30am.
- Rally**
Shamajik Protirodh Committee will organise a rally to protest against all forms of violence against women; Venue: Manik Mia Avenue; Time: 2:30pm.
- Discussion**
Bangladesh Cancer Society and Bangladesh Cancer Hospital & Welfare Home will jointly organise a procession marking World Cancer Day; Venue: from Bangladesh
- Memorandum**
Bharatia Oikya Parishad will organise a procession to hand over a memorandum demanding that the government bring house renting business under taxation; Venue: from Jatiya Press Club to National Board of Revenue; Time: 10:45am.
- Human chain**
Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students' Council will form a human chain demanding, among others, implementation of the CHT peace accord; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

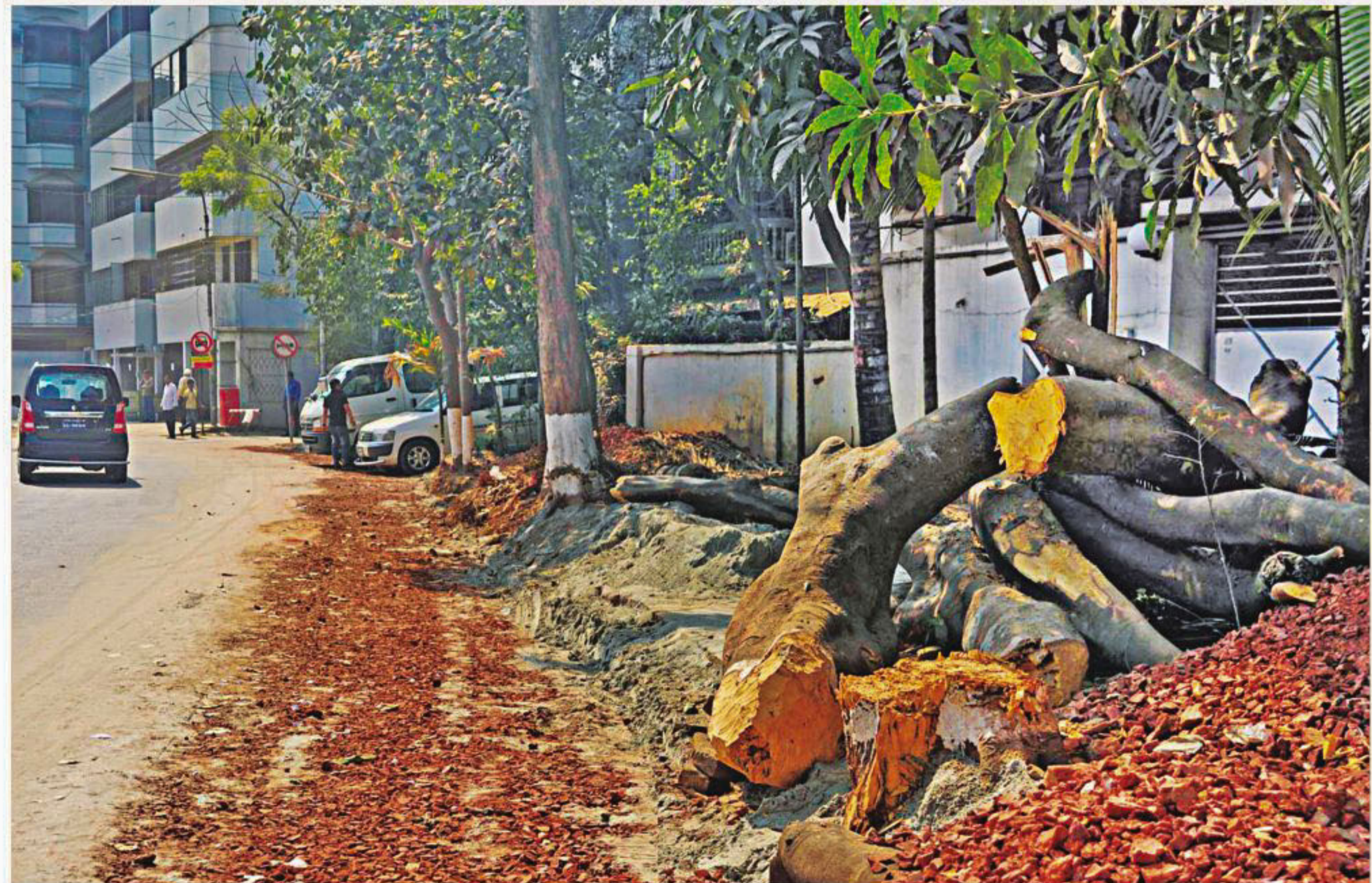
WEATHER TODAY

Moderate 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. Moderate fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, said Met Office. Night day temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:47pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am.** Country's highest temperature 29.9 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 12.5 degrees at Ishuri. 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	28.3	17.3	55	44
Chittagong	27.4	15.0	84	68
Rajshahi	28.0	14.3	76	60
Rangpur	26.6	13.2	84	63
Khulna	29.5	15.4	77	62
Barisal	28.5	15.0	73	72
Sylhet	29.5	16.4	71	57
Cox's Bazar	29.5	15.6	69	60

VESTED PROPERTY OWNERSHIP
More time for application demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Rights activists and civil society members yesterday once again demanded an increase in the time frame for filing applications with tribunals or with district committees regarding claiming ownership of any vested property. The existing rule keeps the provision of filing applications within 300 days of publishing gazette at every district level. The gazettes contain the list of vested properties of the districts. The time frame should be extended by 180 days so that the victims can get justice, they demanded at a press conference. Eight different non-government organisations including Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and Ain O Salish Kendra jointly organised the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity. It is difficult to file applications within 300 days of gazette notification because victims fail to collect necessary documents within the short time, said Shamsul Huda, executive director of ALRD, reading out a statement. Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, also spoke.



Some of the around 100 trees that have been recently chopped down to expand roads in Mohakhali New DOHS in the capital. The photo was taken from Road 21 yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

End culture of silence
Confce on domestic violence against women told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The culture of silence regarding domestic violence against women needs to end to ensure that women enjoy the same rights as men, urged speakers at a conference yesterday. If more people, particularly men, volunteer as "change makers" to raise awareness then the issue of this form of violence will get more importance, they said. The conference, "Experience of We Can Approach to End Domestic Violence", was organised by the national committee of We Can Bangladesh at Spectra Convention Centre in the capital's Gulshan. "Women are usually taught to stay mum when their husbands are violent towards them," stated Sultana Kamal, chairperson of We Can Bangladesh. "Domestic violence against women is acceptable in our society and unless we do something to change this attitude, the situation will not change," she said. Sultana Kamal also blamed the state and law enforcement agencies for lack of initiatives to ensure protection of women. "Even though a domestic violence act was passed in 2010, the rules for its effective implementation are yet to be laid down," she added. Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh Ragne Birte Lund and Ella de Voogd, first secretary, SRHR, Education and Gender of Netherlands, also spoke at the event.

ASSAULT ON COPS IN N'GANJ
100 Jamaat-Shibir men sued, 30 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj
Police yesterday filed two cases against 100 activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir on charge of assaulting the law enforcers in Narayanganj city on Saturday. Narayanganj sadar police filed the cases against them naming 22, including the president and general secretary of the city unit Shibir, said Officer-in-Charge Manjur Quader. Following the cases, law enforcers detained at least 30 Jamaat-Shibir activists until 2:00pm, Manjur said. On Saturday, Jamaat-Shibir activists went on rampage in the city demanding withdrawal of war crimes cases against their top leaders. During the mayhem, they blasted cocktails and assaulted police, injuring at least 15 cops.