

## NEWS IN *brief*

### Petition filed for scrapping Hall-Mark chairman's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A petition was filed with the High Court yesterday for scrapping a lower court order that granted bail to Hall-Mark Group Chairman Jasmine Islam in 11 corruption cases.

Journalist Nazim Ahmed filed the petition with the HC, seeking its directives on the authorities to recover the swindled money from the Group.

On February 7, Judge Md Zahirul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court, Dhaka, granted bail for one and a half months to Jasmine under the condition that she and her company would repay

### Jamaat leader arrested in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday arrested a Jamaat leader in Sylhet on charge of attacking police during a clash with law enforcers last December.

They arrested Abdul Quddus, ameer of Dakshin Surma upazila Jamaat-e-Islami unit, and produced him before a judicial magistrate's court, which sent him to jail.

Ebad Ullah, sub-inspector of Dakshin Surma Police Station, filed the case against 120 Jamaat and Shibir men after they clashed with police in Kodomtoli area during hartal in the division on

### Trust Bank 7th NDF BD debate festival on March 2-3

METRO DESK

The two-day Trust Bank 7th NDF BD National Debate Festival 2013 will be held in Buet's central auditorium in the capital on March 2-3.

Around 2,500 students of different schools, colleges, madrasas, medical colleges, and universities of the country are expected to participate in it, says a press release.

National Debate Federation Bangladesh (NDF BD) will host the festival in association with Buet Debating Club.

"Jucktipotro", a debate dictionary edited by AKM Shoaib and Fahamida Yesmin, will be launched at the inaugural ceremony.

Participants will have to register by contacting on 01711541566, 01911319950, 01819816367,

### Seminars on GBC held in capital

METRO DESK

CIMA Bangladesh yesterday organised seminars to announce its activities on Global Business Challenge 2013, an international business management competition for full time undergraduate business students.

The seminars were held at United International University (UIU) and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) in the capital.

This year, teams from 25 countries will participate in the competition. The champion team from Bangladesh will be sent to South Africa to compete with other 24 regions. Interested students can register for the competition at [www.cimaglobal](http://www.cimaglobal).

### Reunion of Management Alliance on Feb 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second reunion of Management Alliance, an association of former BBA students who studied Management Studies at Dhaka University, will be held at TSC on February 15.

Various programmes, including inauguration of their official website and concert, will be held to mark the association's fourth anniversary.

The alliance members are requested to contact



Some of the 300 expatriate Bangladeshis who gathered by the statue "Angel" near Federation Square in Melbourne, Australia yesterday to express solidarity with the Shahbagh demonstrators demanding capital punishment for war criminals, including Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Anti-war criminal demos continue in Ctg, Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Spirits neither dwindled nor were dampened as country-wide demonstrations continued yesterday demanding death penalty for all war criminals, including Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: Demonstrations continued in Chittagong city for the fifth consecutive day as thousands, mostly youths, women and school students, congregated before Chittagong Press Club premises.

Chittagong Mass Upsurge Platform announced a six-point demand, with death for war criminals topping the list.

"I could not stay home watching the mass movement in TV and felt it my duty to join my countrymen," said a young woman, Jannatul Ferdous.

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports: Several hundred school girls held rallies at Court Shaheed Minar premises. "Amra Puthia Bashi" organised a sit-in at Puthia Trimohini intersection, and "Upazila Nagorik Committee" and "Nagorik Shomaj" held demonstrations at Godagari and Charghat upazila headquarters respectively.

"Ekattur Mancha", set up at Alupotty intersection in Rajshahi city, was abuzz especially with children. Artists of different cultural organisation, including Udichi Shilpi Gosthi and Joy Bangla Shangskritik Parishad, rendered songs, recited poems and chanted slogans over the demand.

Our Rajshahi University correspondent reports: The youths declared a second independence war against Razakars to free their motherland, Awami League leader Mohammad Nasim told a RU demonstration.

RU teachers, students and staff continued demonstrations on Tukitaki Chattar.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a heated marathon discussion in parliament yesterday 32 ruling Awami League-led lawmakers demanded a ban on Jamaat-e-Islami and religion-based organisations.

Blasting BNP for maintaining relations with Jamaat, they demanded legal action against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and those hatching conspiracy to foil the war crimes trial and demanding the scrapping of the international crimes tribunals.

Some also demanded that the House passes a resolution expressing solidarity with the Shahbagh demonstrators in the capital demanding death penalty for war criminals and send a delegation to Shahbagh.

In the around three-hour unscheduled discussion, lone independent lawmaker: Fazlul Azim, amid absence of BNP-Jamaat-led opposition MPs, walked out for not being allowed to speak.

Terming Shahbagh's sit-in as people's movement, Azim, without naming ruling AL, said there was no reason for a special political party to show much enthusiasm for the agitation.

Amid protests of MPs, Azim continued, "We need to think why the verdict was questioned." Azim's microphone was

then switched off.

BNP leader Khandaker Mahbub Hossain on Saturday demanded scrapping of the tribunals. Earlier Khaleda made the same demand and demanded release of detained war criminals, said Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, piloting the discussion.

"Do not try further to save war criminals. Still there is time, shun the wrong path, otherwise you will not find a way to escape. Youths will try you for protecting war criminals," he said.

Matia Chowdhury said Khaleda and Mahbub tried to make an exit for Jamaat leaders. "You (Khaleda) are saying that Ghulam Azam, Nizami are not war criminals. Then who are war criminals. Are you alone the war criminal? Then take the responsibility," Matia said.

Abdul Matin Khasru said the Shahbagh protest gave politicians a strong message and none could succeed by committing wrongdoings. "I salute the youths."

Chief Whip Abdus Shahid said it was not possible to pass a resolution. "But a consensus was reached that we want death penalty for war criminals."

Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Shaheda Tarek Dipti, Rashed Khan Menon, Tofail Ahmed, Mujibul Haque and Murad Hasan also addressed the discussion.



Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, addresses a press conference organised at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday to announce the February 14 countrywide protests against violence against women. "Uddomey Uttoroney Shotokoti", the Bangladesh chapter of a global movement called One Billion Rising, will organise the protest. On her right are Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori; and Fawzia Khondker Eva, women's rights activist; and on her left are Habibun Nessa, president of Naripokkho; and Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid.

PHOTO: STAR

### VBD volunteers setting example Says Ann Stock

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The youths who are participating in voluntary social works through the Volunteer for Bangladesh (VBD) project are doing exemplary work for the country, said visiting US Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs Ann Stock yesterday.

"I am awed to see the vibrancy of the young volunteers working for the society in Bangladesh," she told the volunteers at the capital's MIDAS Centre. VBD is a project of Jaago Foundation, and a recipient of US Department of State Grant.

## Diganta TV shunned in Sreemangal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Diganta Television, known as a pro-Jamaat-e-Islami TV channel, is no longer on air in Sreemangal upazila.

The cable operators of the upazila have stopped broadcasting the private television channel to express their solidarity with the ongoing movement for death penalty for all war criminals, most of whom are involved in Jamaat politics.

A cable operator of Kulaura upazila of the district also stopped airing the television channel for the same reasons.

The broadcasting of the private television channel was stopped in Sreemangal around 6:30pm on February 7, said the control room sources of Sreemangal Cable System, a platform of the upazila cable operators.

Kamrul Hasan Dolan, a director of the

cable system, told The Daily Star that they stopped the operation of the television channel to uphold the team spirit of the movement that was launched after Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah was given life term imprisonment instead of death sentence for committing crimes against humanity during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

Pranab Chowdhury Santu, another director of the cable system, said they would hold a meeting on February 15 to decide whether the broadcasting of the channel would be resumed. In Kulaura upazila, RB Cable TV Network stopped the broadcasting of Diganta TV. Talking to The Daily Star, MA Hamid, owner of the cable network, said he could not take part in the Liberation War of the country in 1971. But now, to pay tributes to the freedom fighters, he stopped broadcasting the channel.



## Tawfiq Aziz Khan's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan, former executive editor of The Daily Star, sports writer and commentator.

He joined The Daily Star in 1990 as its founding managing editor.

Back in 1958, he joined the then Pakistan Observer as a reporter.

He also served Dainik Bangla and Bichitra.

The first English sports commentator of the country, Tawfiq Aziz worked with different broadcast media since 1958.

He was the resident editor of Cricketer Asia of Hong Kong and Sports Times of Lahore.

He was the founder editor of the fortnightly Sports World (Krira Jagat).

He also worked with the erstwhile East Pakistan Industries Development Corporation (EPIDC) and Titas Gas Corporation between 1968 and 1975.

A permanent member of Jatiya Press Club, Tawfiq Aziz was elected as the president of Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association several times.

He was also a national committee member of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA).

He was the president of the country's first group theatre "Drama Circle."

He served the Rotary Club of Dhaka North-West as its president for two years from 1999.

Tawfiq Aziz died of lung cancer at the age of 64 on this day in 2001.

## ONE BILLION RISING CAMPAIGN Protest against violence on women urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Uddomey Uttoroney Shotokoti", the Bangladesh chapter of a global movement called One Billion Rising (OBR), urged men and women from all walks of life in Bangladesh to rise in protest against violence against women along with the rest of the world on February 14.

Almost 200 countries and states have pledged their solidarity to the movement initiated by an activist organisation called V-Day.

In Bangladesh, the campaign will be carried out in collaboration with different stakeholders including rights-based organisations, government and educational institutions, media and corporate houses, cultural groups, activists and individuals. Around 184 organisations have pledged their support.

In a press conference held in Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday, representatives from different organisations announced the countrywide activities of the campaign for February 14.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid, Habibun Nessa, president of Naripokkho, Fawzia Khondker Eva, women's rights activist, Rokeya Rafique Baby, executive director of Karmojibi Nari, spoke at the conference.

Fawzia Khondker Eva said everyone will rise to protest from 1:00pm to 1:30pm in 39 locations in Dhaka city as well as in all 64 districts of the country.

Shaheen Anam said, "Our objective is very clear -- we want to break the silence and inaction about violence against women and we want to do it now!"

Khushi Kabir emphasised the necessity to connect crimes committed against women in 1971 and the continued rapes of women in Bangladesh.

Farah Kabir said, "I hope the young generation that is rising in Shahbagh also sees the movement to end violence against women as their own movement."

The goal of OBR is to have one billion women and men rise for change all over the world. The name was chosen because, according to UN statistics, at least a billion women worldwide will experience sexual or physical violence in her lifetime.



### Little change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country till 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Srimangal and it may continue.

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:51pm and rises tomorrow at 6:34am.

Country's highest temperature 31.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 8.4 degree Celsius at Chuadanga.

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	27.5	15.8	54	35
Chittagong	27.7	15.5	49	43
Rajshahi	27.4	11.8	63	55
Rangpur	27.8	11.5	76	45
Khulna	28.0	13.0	60	57
Barisal	27.3	12.0	63	67