

NEWS IN *brief*

**Railway gate man shot in capital**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gate man at Kuril Biswa Road Rail Gate was shot by miscreants early yesterday.  
The victim was Mohammad Hanif, 24.  
With injuries in his left leg, he was first admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, and later shifted to Kamalapur Railway Hospital.  
Government Railway Police (GRP) of Kamalapur Sub-Inspector Anwar Kamal said Hanif kept the gate close as a train was approaching around 3:00am.  
The miscreants opened fire at Hanif as he did not lift the gate bar following their request.

**Trust Bank-NDF BD debate festival on March 2-3**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The seventh national debate festival titled "Trust Bank-NDF BD Debate Festival-2013" will be held on March 2-3 in the capital.  
National Debate Federation (NDF) Bangladesh will organise the two-day festival in the auditorium of Dhaka Residential Model College, said a press release.  
Around 2,000 debaters and representatives from different schools, colleges, medical colleges and universities would participate in the festival.  
For registration, interested debaters can contact at: 01716588708, 01823392469, 01754343333 and 01682840602. They can also visit www.ndfbd.com for detail information.

**Sri Lanka observes Amar Ekushey**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Mother Language Day was observed in the Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo in collaboration with the Department of Official Languages of Sri Lanka on February 21.  
The programme was hosted by the Minister of National Languages and Social Integration of Sri Lanka Vasudeva Nanayakkara and Bangladesh High Commissioner in Colombo Mohammad Sufur Rahman.  
Marking the day, a countrywide essay competition in Sinhala and Tamil languages was held by the Department of Official Languages along

**Two die as train hits truck**

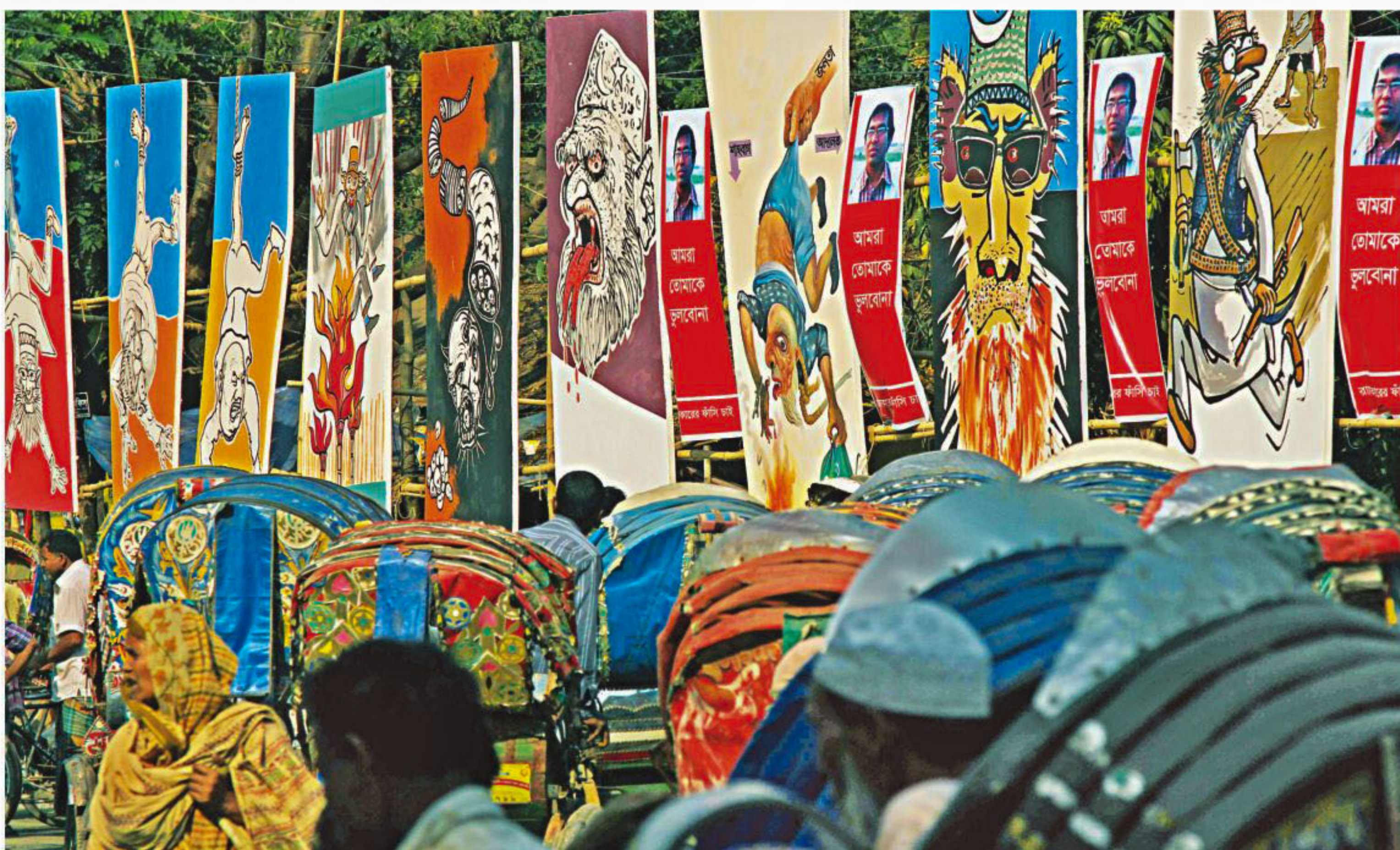
OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Two workers died and five others were injured as the truck they were in was hit by a commuter train in Jugnipasha rail crossing of Khulna yesterday.  
The dead are brick kiln workers Sushanta Mondol, 40, and Jamal, 35, both from Jessore district.  
Police said the truck was on the rail crossing, which had no gate, at about 8:00am when the benapole bound train slammed into it leaving Sushanta dead and six others injured.  
The injured were taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital where Jamal succumbed to his injuries.

**Ruta polls schedule changed**

RU CORRESPONDENT

The election to Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (Ruta) will be held tomorrow instead of today.  
The election has been postponed due to the countrywide dawn to dusk hartal called for today by several Islamist parties, said Prof Ruhul Amin, election commissioner.  
According to RU administration sources, pro-Awami League teachers, including RU Progressive Teachers Society, will contest under yellow panel while pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers will contest under white panel. Besides, a faction of BNP teachers will compete under golden panel.



Caricatures of war criminals as depicted by artists of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University hang opposite the faculty, a stone's throw from Shahbagh where the demonstrations continued yesterday demanding that the war criminals be hanged.

**PM opens tourist spot on Keokradong**

BSS, Bandarban

First tourist spot of the country on the highest altitude has been inaugurated yesterday adding a new vista in the panoramic beauty of Chittagong Hill Tracts.  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the tourist spot on the country's highest mountain Keokradong located at the altitude of 3172 ft in Ruma upazila on Bangladesh and Myanmar border.  
Eighteenth Engineering Battalion of Bangladesh Army constructed the tourism facilities under the supervision of 24 Infantry Division.  
On the occasion, Hasina unveiled a memorial plaque designed by artiste M Yakub Ali.  
Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Faruk Khan, Minister for Primary and Mass Education Dr Afsarul Amin, and State Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Dipankar Talukder were present.  
PM's Advisor Major General (ret'd) Tareq Siddiqui, PM's Principal Secretary Sheikh M Wahid Uz Zaman and Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were also present.  
Earlier, the prime minister visited Sajek camp of Bangladesh Army in Rangamati.  
On her arrival at the camp, Army Chief General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan and General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Chittagong Major General Sabbir Ahmed received the prime minister.  
At Sajek, Hasina visited Rului para and house of a local headman near Sajek Camp. She also enjoyed a cultural programme performed by tribal artistes.

**FRIDAY'S VIOLENCE BY JAMAAT-SHIBIR, ALLIES**  
**28 cases filed countrywide, 48,350 accused**

STAR REPORT

A total of 28 cases were filed in 11 districts, including Dhaka, accusing over 48,350 activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its allies of arson and vandalism and for attacking police and preventing them from discharging duties on Friday.  
In Dhaka, 11 cases were filed following 11 complaints lodged by police between midnight of Friday and 9:00am on Saturday accusing at least 4,000 people.  
Four cases were filed each in Shahbagh and Paltan police stations and one each in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Wari and Ramna police stations, said police.  
Naming 58 accused, the plaintiffs accused them of attacking police, vandalising and setting fire

to their vehicles and creating panic among people by using explosive substances.  
**CHITTAGONG**  
Kotwali police filed two separate cases against 3,500 people, naming 25 activists of Jamaat, Shibir and other Islamist organisations, early Saturday. Of those named, 23 were arrested earlier on Friday.  
Radical Islamist activists vandalised the Gonojagoron Mancha on Jamal Khan Road, injuring at least four policemen.  
**KHULNA**  
Police filed one case with Kotwali and another with Sonadanga Model police stations against over 6,000 people Friday night for the mayhem in the district that left at least 30 people, including five policemen, injured.

**CHANDPUR**  
Two cases were filed against 1,200 people on charge of desecrating the national flag, vandalising Gonojagoron Mancha and attacking police in the town, injuring eight. Police said the attackers were Hefazat-e-Islami Bangladesh activists.  
Police detained at least 48 BNP leaders and activists raiding different parts of the town till Saturday morning.  
**BOGRA**  
Bogra Sadar police filed a case accusing at least 15,000 people, naming 36 activists of Jamaat and likeminded Islamist organisations, on charge of vandalising and torching Gonojagoron Mancha and preventing police from discharging their duties.

**RAJSHAHI**  
A total of 5,000 Jamaat-Shibir activists, including 100 named, were accused in one case filed with Boalia Police Station while another 500 were accused in another case filed with Rajpara Police Station.  
**SYLHET**  
Kotwali police filed two cases accusing 5,000 activists of Jamaat, Shibir and their allies, naming 70, for Friday's vandalism at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar and other parts of the district. A total of 56 persons were arrested in this connection.  
Meanwhile, 4,500 persons were sued in three cases filed in Gaibandha; 2,000 in one case in Kurigram; 1,400 in one case in Noakhali; and 250 in one case in Moulvibazar.

**Declare Feb 25 nat'l mourning day**

*Discussion on BDR mutiny demands*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

February 25 should be declared a national mourning day to commemorate the barbaric killing of 57 brilliant army officers at the then BDR headquarters in Pilkhana in the capital, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.  
A section of the then Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) staged a mutiny in Pilkhana on February 25-26 in 2009 and brutally killed 74 people, including the 57 officers.  
National People's Party organised the discussion at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.  
The officers were killed with a motive to destabilise the national security and the nation should observe the day as a national mourning day, said Shafiul Alam Prodhman, president of Jatiya Gonoatantrik Party.  
Maj Gen (ret'd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim, chairman of Kalyan Party, said the perpetrators did not stop after killing the officers as they carried out barbaric torture on their families.  
Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu, president of National People's Party, chairing the discussion, made the same demand.  
Jubo Dal President Moajjem Hossain Alal and National Democratic Party Chairman Khondker Golam Mortuza spoke at the discussion among others.



Book enthusiasts check out new arrivals at a stall in Amar Ekushey Boi Mela on the Bangla Academy premises in the capital yesterday.



Thirteen explorers and Danish Ambassador Svend Olling, third from left, at Chakaria Shaheed Minar on International Mother Language Day. The explorers are part of a team of 20 adventurers who are cycling more than 400 kilometres on rickshaws to raise awareness about the need for protecting endangered Bengal Tigers and the Sundarbans.

**Rickshaw trek on to save Bengal Tigers**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty adventurers from all over the world are currently cycling more than 400 kilometres on rickshaws through Bangladesh to raise awareness about the need for protecting endangered Bengal Tigers and their home, the Sundarbans.  
The 10-day journey began in Teknaf on February 17 and the participants were journeying through Barisal yesterday, said a press release.  
"Six days of cycling the rickshaw has left our bodies bruised but our spirits are glowing," participant Mikey Leung said in the official blog of Wild Team, event organiser and nature conservation organisation.  
From Teknaf, the riders went to Cox's Bazar and then to Chittagong. They will now travel to Pirojpur then Bagerhat and finally the adventurers are expected to reach the Sundarbans on February 26.  
The rickshaw crew has been gathering a lot of onlookers during their journey and the participants are trying to spread the message of the Sundarbans and the tigers among the spectators, added the press release of the organisation.  
The team consisting of participants from seven countries is also raising funds through sponsorships to support Wild Team.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Dry weather likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.  
Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged and day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.  
The sun sets in the capital today at 5:58pm and rises tomorrow at 6:24am.  
Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 11.8 degrees at Srirongal.  
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	31.6	19.0	65	36
Chittagong	30.6	16.6	63	56
Rajshahi	31.0	14.5	76	53
Rangpur	31.0	15.2	76	53
Khulna	31.5	15.3	78	66
Barisal	31.5	15.0	68	66
Sylhet	34.5	17.1	57	42