

NEWS IN *brief*

Tremor jolts Sylhet, Rangpur

METRO DESK
A tremor measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted Sylhet and Rangpur regions yesterday. The earthquake was felt at 7:30am. However, no casualty or damage has been reported. Our Sylhet correspondent reports, the quake jolted Sylhet twice within few seconds. While it jolted Rangpur and its nearby areas for once, adds our Rangpur correspondent. The epicentre of the quake was in Bangladesh-India border, inside Karimganj of Assam, some 195km north-east of Dhaka, said Met office sources.

Two boys drown in pond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Two schoolboys drowned in a pond while they were bathing in it at Bangshal in the old part of the capital yesterday afternoon. The victims identified as Faisal Ahmed, 16, and Mohammad Shaon, 15, were class X students of Nababpur Government High School. A team of divers from fire service recovered the bodies from the pond around 3:15pm yesterday. The family members of the deceased took them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors pronounced them dead.

Sangram reporter held for hartal violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat
A journalist also a Jamaat leader was arrested at Kashiram Balapara village in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat yesterday on charge of vandalism during hartal on Thursday. The arrested man Hasan Abdul Maleque, 55, of Tusvandar village, former treasurer of Kaliganj upazila Jamaat unit, is an upazila correspondent of the daily Sangram. A magistrate's court ordered to send him to jail when he was produced before it. Kaliganj police Officer-in-Charge Amiruzzaman claimed that Maleque worked for Jamaat in the name of journalism.

College student killed in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia
A college student was killed and another was injured by some criminals at Uzirpur village in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga on Friday night. The deceased was Ibrahim Hossain, 22, a student at Chuadanga Government College. Injured Sohel Hasan, 24, is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Police said a group of seven to eight people stabbed Ibrahim following an altercation at an Islami Jalsha (religious discussion) at Uzirpur Kasemul Ulum Kawmia Madrasa around 11:30pm. Police arrested two people suspecting their involvement in the incident. The incident might have occurred following a



BNP VIOLENCE IN CAPITAL

1) BNP activists temporarily disperse after police fired teargas canisters in their midst in the capital's Shantinagar yesterday. 2) Explosive substances burn on a street in Fakirapool. Jamaat-Shibir activists had hurled those at police from a procession. 3) A firefighter tries to douse the flames on a car set alight by BNP activists before Viqarunnisa Noon School and College on Bailey Road. 4) The shattered windshield of a microbus in Mouchak following an attack by BNP men.



PHOTO: STAR

STRANDED TOURISTS 150 flown to capital from Cox's Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
One hundred and fifty tourists, who were stranded in Cox's Bazar due to the ongoing unrest across Bangladesh, returned to the capital in three special flights yesterday night, said Md Ruhul Amin, deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar. Also a passenger ship, Bay Cruise, with 250 passengers would sail for Chittagong city from Cox's Bazar today, the DC added. Meanwhile, around 1,000 tourists, who were returning home by buses under police protection yesterday afternoon, got stuck at Chakaria due to the clashes between Jamaat-Shibir men and law enforcers in Satkania, sources in the DC office said. At present, around 5,000 tourists are at Cox's Bazar while 2,500 of them want to return, said the DC. Tourists, who want to leave Cox's Bazar, have been asked to contact the control room at the DC office.

Reactionary forces attacking minorities as in 1971

Journalists told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
The country's minorities have been the target of attack of the reactionary forces after Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee was sentenced to death Thursday for war crimes in the Liberation War, minority leaders said yesterday. Following the trend of the 1971 atrocities, nearly a thousand minority houses and around 50 worship centres were attacked in the last two days, said Advocate Rana Das Gupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad. Houses and businesses of the minority people were burnt in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Noakhali, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Sylhet, Thakurgaon, Bagerhat and Chapainawabganj, he told journalists at Chittagong Press Club. Rana accused Jamaat and Islami Chhatra Shibir of the atrocities. He mentioned that Rejaul Karim, chairman of Choroti Union Parishad, was involved in the attacks in Satkania and municipality councillors Abu and Amir in Banshkhali. "Besides, Aminur Rahman Chowdhury, an accused in the 2003 Banshkhali carnage case for burning 11 of a Hindu family to death at Shilpara has planned the attacks in Banshkhali," he added. The organisation urged all to resist such atrocities and demanded that the government immediately arrest and try the culprits and rehabilitate the victims and the houses of worship.

SSC, equivalent examinations rescheduled

UNB, Dhaka
The SSC and its equivalent examinations slated for today and Tuesday (March 5) have been rescheduled for March 9 and March 6 respectively due to a three-day country-wide hartal called by Jamaat-e-Islami and opposition BNP. Prof Abdus Salam Hawlader, acting chairman of Dhaka Education Board and head of Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee, told the news agency that the examinations slated for today will be held on March 9. The examination slated for Tuesday will be held on Wednesday. The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and its equivalent Dakhil and SSC vocational examinations simultaneously began across the country on February 3.

Police have right to defend themselves

Says Tuku
UNB, DHAKA
Defending the action of the law-enforcers in the face of countrywide violence by Jamaat-Shibir activists in the last couple of days, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku yesterday claimed that police opened fire in self-defence. He also warned that the law-enforcers will contain the terrorist activities of Jamaat and BNP with all their force. "The police have the right to defend in case of violent attacks on them, as the activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir did on them on Thursday and Friday leading to the deaths of 10 cops," Tuku said. He said BNP and Jamaat are unleashing a reign of terror in the country to save the war criminals. "As part of that plot, Jamaat-Shibir, backed by the BNP, are attacking police stations, opening fire on police, hurling bombs at the law-enforcers and killing them in the name of staging demonstration." About the 72-hour countrywide hartal separately called by Jamaat and BNP, Tuku said as long as they will continue to call hartal, unleash reign of terror and kill people, the police will not be sitting idle.

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain
Sammilito Awami Samarthak Jote will form a human chain in protest against hartals called by BNP-Jamaat; Venue: In front of Awami League office, Bangabandhu Avenue; Time: 9:00am.

Meeting
Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will organise a meeting to protest conspiracy against war crimes trial; Venue: Before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Rally
Jatiya Mukti Council will stage a rally protesting Indian President Pranab Mukherjee's visit to Dhaka; Venue: In

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely
UNB, Dhaka
Weather is likely to remain dry over the country till 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall lightly over the country, Met Office said. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:02pm and rises tomorrow at 6:18am.** Country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and Rangamati and lowest 11.5 degree Celsius at Sreemangal and Ishwardi. Highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.3	16.7	46	31
Chittagong	30.5	18.0	51	44
Rajshahi	29.0	12.5	57	56
Rangpur	29.5	14.6	78	55
Khulna	30.2	15.0	60	45
Barisal	29.4	14.0	55	58
Sylhet	33.5	15.9	63	53



One of two seminars, held in Northern University, Khulna and Khulna University, on February 25 where students were given information and instruction about the competition "The 2013 CIMA Global Business Challenge". Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) Bangladesh organised the seminars. CIMA GBC 2013, which is being held in partnership with Barclays, is an international case competition open to full time business undergraduate students. CIMA Bangladesh will send the champion team to South Africa, bearing all international transportation and accommodation costs, to compete with teams from another 24 countries. Log on to www.cimaglobal.com/gbc2013 for more information.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT Effectiveness not ensured due to limitation

Say legal experts
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Although the enactment of Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010 is a "milestone" to protect women from domestic violence in the country, effective use of the law has not been ensured due to some limitations in it, said legal experts and rights activists yesterday. Necessary rules have not been formulated to enforce it properly, although it was enacted in 2010, they said. They were speaking at the opening session of a national workshop titled "Towards Safe and Secured Life: Two Year of the Implementation of Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act-2010." Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) jointly organised the daylong programme at LGED auditorium in the capital. BLAST Assistant Director (Law) Barkat Ali said litigants were facing problems as necessary rules yet to be enacted. Even law enforcers including police have lack of knowledge about the law, he said. BLAST Honorary Director Sara Hossain, and its Assistant Coordinator (Mediation) Taposhi Rabeya also spoke the first session of the event, with Justice Krishna Debnath in the chair.

PHOTO: COURTESY