

NEWS IN *brief***Purdue University awards Food Minister Abdur Razzaque**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Purdue University of USA has conferred Distinguished Agriculture Alumni Award on Food Minister Abdur Razzaque for his outstanding contributions to increasing food production, ensuring food security and enhancing the ability to combat disasters.

He was given the award at a special convocation organised on the university campus on Saturday, said a press release.

Razzaque completed his PhD in Agronomy from the university in 1983.

The university has been rewarding around 10 people from its alumni with the award every year.

**Security guard found dead**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security guard was found dead in the capital's Kamrangir Char area yesterday morning.

The deceased, Abul Kalam, 40, resided in the area.

Police recovered the body, with the throat slit and bearing several stab injuries, from an alley near his house and sent it to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Kalam's wife Yanur Begum filed a murder case against unidentified criminals with Kamrangir Char Police Station. Kalam went to work around 9:00pm on Sunday and people last saw him

**Injured man found at railway tracks dies in capital**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified man found with a critical injury in the head beside the railway tracks near Karwan Bazar level-crossing died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night.

The man, aged around 35, was wearing a pajama and punjabi.

A passerby Delwar Hossain, who took the man to the hospital, said he found the man unconscious while he was crossing the railway tracks after a train passed towards Kamalapur.

The man died around 11:00pm, said Delwar.

It could not be known whether the victim was hit by the train or fell from it.

**Ruet convocation on March 9**

RU CORRESPONDENT

The fourth convocation of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) will be held on March 9, said a Ruet press release yesterday.

The convocation, which was scheduled for March 2, has been postponed due to the ongoing political unrest across the country, said Ruet sources.

Graduates can collect their academic gowns and caps between 9:00am and 9:00pm on March 8.

A total of 1,573 students, from 2003-04 to 2006-07 academic sessions, who completed their honours, masters, MPhil and PhD degrees, will be given certificates.

For details, graduates can visit [www.ruet.ac.bd](http://www.ruet.ac.bd)



Artists perform on the newly built Gonojagoron Mancha at Projonmo Chattar of Shahbagh yesterday demanding capital punishment for all war criminals.

PHOTO: STAR

**Minorities want stop to communal attacks**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The minority community leaders yesterday urged the government to take steps to immediately stop the communal attacks on minorities across the country.

They demanded that the government bring all perpetrators to book and rehabilitate the victims and the damaged worship houses, according to press releases.

The attacks have left four minority people killed and around 1,500 houses and 50 worship centres burned down in the last four days, said the leaders of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Puja Uddapan Parishad.

At a joint conference at Dhakeshwary Mandir, the organisations drew the attention of the UN, foreign diplomats in Bangladesh, and national and international rights organisations over the aggression, fearing further attacks.

They also criticised the local representatives for not visiting crime scenes.

The minorities came under the attack of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir after Delwar Hossain Sayeedee was sentenced to death on February 21 for the crimes he committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

The organisations will stage demonstrations in districts and upazilas tomorrow to protest the attacks.

Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad General Secretary Rana Dasgupta and Bangladesh Puja Uddapan Parishad General Secretary Manindra Kumar Nath read out the keynote papers at the press conference.

**City life almost normal on second day of hartal**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although there was fear of violence, life in the capital and other cities across the country seemed to be fairly normal on the second day of Jamaat-e-Islami's 48-hour hartal.

Majority of the private cars were off the streets, but the number of vehicles, especially public transports, was higher than on Sunday, the first day of hartal.

Train operation was almost normal except a few stray incidents. A good number of markets, shops and offices also remained open.

Md Khairul Bashir, station manager of Kamalapur Railway Station, said all the trains on different routes left on time.

The Upakul Express which was set afire by Jamaat-Shibir men, also left the station except one burned compartment, he said.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports: rail communication on Gaibandha-Santahar route was disrupted till 4:00pm as picketers blockaded the rail track at places.

The pickets also abducted the driver of Lammonirhat bound train Padmarag.

Another train, Dolan Champa Express,

was stuck at Bonarpara for hours as picketers burned the railway slippers near Bogra.

The district administration valued the loss for the three-day hartal at Tk 2.69 crore.

It also said 165 Muslim shops, 55 Hindu shops, four Muslim houses, three Hindu houses, and four temples were damaged during the violence.

Our Rajshahi staff correspondent says: Although people were panicked for the death of two people on Sunday, life was becoming normal from yesterday noon.

All vehicles, except the inter-district buses, ran in Rajshahi. Offices, banks, and educational institutions kept open. No untoward incident was reported.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports: Presence of vehicles on the city's streets was thin in the morning but increased gradually as the day progressed.

Meanwhile, road communication of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban with the rest of the country remained suspended for the fourth straight day yesterday as Jamaat-Shibir men continued blockading the highways at different points.

BLOGER RAJIB KILLING  
Parents of two suspects deny their sons' role  
NSU expels five

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parents of two of the five North South University (NSU) students, arrested for allegedly murdering blogger Ahmed Rajib Haidar, claimed that their sons were innocent and they had been staying elsewhere when Rajib was hacked to death in the capital's Pallabi on February 15.

Meanwhile, the NSU authorities yesterday expelled all the five for their suspected role in the killing.

Talking to The Daily Star, the mother of Faisal bin Nayeem alias Dwip said when Rajib was killed, her son was with her at the capital's Jatrabari. "My son is not involved in any killing. He is a brilliant student. When Rajib was killed, my son accompanied me in a bridal party to Jatrabari," she said, declining to disclose her name.

She denied Dwip's link to any political organisation like Islami Chhatra Shibir or Hizb-ut-Tahrir.

Abdul Aziz, father of another murder suspect Maksudul Hassan Anik, claimed that on February 15, Anik went out of the house only for offering namaj in the daytime and had been staying home since the evening.

He said his son had no political affiliation and they never knew the four other suspects.

The detectives arrested the two with Ehsan Reza Rumman, Naim Sikder Irad, and Nafis Imtiaz Friday night. Police said the five admitted their involvement and narrated how and why they killed Rajib.



Graduating students cheering at the 47th convocation of Dhaka University yesterday.

**JAMAAT-SHIBIR VIOLENCE  
PM to address JS**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Home Minister Muhuiddin Khan Alamgir are likely to address the parliament today or tomorrow over Jamaat-Shibir's country-wide violence.

The premier might speak in parliament tomorrow, a senior minister told The Daily Star yesterday while home ministry sources said a speech for Muhuiddin was being readied.

Sources said Hasina will outline details about the violence and give some guidelines to people while Muhuiddin will inform about steps the government took to prevent the violence.

The addresses will come against the backdrop of a sense of panic and insecurity developing among the public mind, added the sources.

The government has kept mum over the violence by Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir since last Thursday that left over 60 people dead. Only a few leaders and ministers expressed their views on it.

**TRAIN IMPORTED FROM INDIA  
Inauguration today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian President Pranab Mukherjee will jointly inaugurate today a freight train procured under the \$1 billion Indian credit.

The broad gauge train is the first to have been imported from India under the credit. It will be inaugurated at the Dhaka cantonment station at 9:15am.

"Initially, there was no plan to inaugurate any train. But we have arranged it hurriedly following the desire of the higher authorities of the two countries," a senior official of Bangladesh Railway told The Daily Star yesterday.

The train comprising a locomotive, 20 tank wagons, and one brake van will be transporting oil in the country's northern region.

The railway is implementing 11 projects with an estimated cost of \$630 million to procure rail vehicles and improve railway infrastructure.

Under the arrangements, 26 locomotives, 220 flat wagons, 246 tank wagons, 70 air-conditioned coaches, and five six-coach passenger trains will be bought from India, said the railway director general, Abu Taher.

The infrastructure projects include constructions of Khulna-Monga track, second Bhairab and Titas rail bridges, and 3rd and 4th lines between Kamalapur and Tongi, among others.

## DHAKA TODAY

**Human chain**

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will form a human chain demanding trial of those rehabilitate war criminals; Venue: In front of Shikha Chirantan; Before Awami League office, Bangabandhu Avenue; Time: 10:30am.

**Rally**

Sammilito Awami Samarthak Jote will stage a rally protesting attacks on minority community; Venue: Before Awami League office, Bangabandhu Avenue; Time:

**WEATHER TODAY****Weather likely to remain dry**

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 rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 6:03pm and rises tomorrow at 6:16am.**

Country's highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 12.5 degree Celsius at Sreemangal.

Highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity percentage		
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	18.4	58	36
Chittagong	31.5	16.3	72	49
Rajshahi	31.3	14.1	76	47
Rangpur	31.3	16.7	78	55
Khulna	32.5	16.4	69	58
Barisal	32.3	15.8	68	58
Sylhet	34.6	16.7	44	42