

# NEWS IN *brief*

## HSC examinees against hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

HSC candidates yesterday urged political parties to refrain from any violent programme that hinder their exam schedule.

Speaking at a human chain on Chittagong Press Club premises, several hundred candidates said yesterday's English exam had been rescheduled on Saturday due to hartal. Also, there is uncertainty regarding tomorrow's exam as hartal has been called again for that day. Such incidents hamper their exam preparation. They remain panicked about reaching the centres during shutdowns.

They also urged the government not to reschedule the postponed exams within April 30.

## State-run BDBL donates Tk 1 lakh to RU student

RU CORRESPONDENT

The state owned Bangladesh Development Bank Ltd (BDBL) has donated Tk 1 lakh to a Rajshahi University student for her single-handed battle against poverty in pursuing higher studies.

Ayesha Siddiqua, daughter of a tea shop owner in a far-off place of Nilphamari district, is a first year student of the philosophy department.

She received the cheque from RU Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin at his office yesterday, said a press release.

The BDBL donation, which came from the bank's corporate social responsibility (CSR) fund, aims at helping the girl continue her studies.

## Fire breaks out at DB's bomb disposal unit office in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at the office of the Bomb Disposal unit of the Detective Branch (DB) of police on Minto Road in the capital yesterday.

Sanwar Hossain, chief of the unit of DB, said the fire originated from an electronic short circuit. None suffered injuries, but some official documents were burned down.

Deputy Commissioner (Media) Masudur Rahman said the fire erupted around 2:15pm in one of the rooms of the office.

Fire fighters and Dhaka Wasa staff extinguished the flames in about half-an-hour efforts.

## Urs of Sayyad Shah Ershad Ali held

METRO DESK

The urs sharif of Sayyad Shah Ershad Ali Al-Quaderi Al-Baghdadi, a saint of the Quaderia Order in Bengal and the 22nd direct descendant of Ghaus-UI-Azam Bare Peer Sahab Sheikh Abdul Quader Jilani, was held recently at Khanqah-e-Quaderia in the capital's Kalyanpur.

Anjuman-E-Quaderia, Bangladesh organised the programme, says a press release.

The shrine of the saint is situated in Midnapore town of West Bengal. The urs was attended by Peerzada Sayyad Shah Yasooob Ali Al-Quaderi Al-Baghdadi and a large number of devotees.



### Human chain

Bangabandhu Sangskriti Jote will form a human chain protesting the hartal called by the BNP-led 18-party alliance; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

### Procession

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad will bring out a procession in protest

against the "undemocratic" hartal; Starting venue: Muktagong; Time: 11:00am.

### Meeting

Steps Towards Development will hold a meeting on the 57th session of the UN's women affairs commission; Venue: Chhayanaout Sangskriti Bhaban; Time: 3:00pm.



## WEATHER TODAY

## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Having chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Sylhet division, Met Office said.

Severe heat wave is sweeping over the region of Rajshahi, Pabna and Chuadanga and mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Dhaka, Tangail Faridpur, Madaripur, Maizidi Court, Srimangal, Barisal and Patuakhali and the rest of Khulna division and it may continue. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:18pm and rises tomorrow at 5:41am.

Country's highest temperature 41.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 21.5 degrees at Rajshahi.

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	37.0	26.0	71	53
Chittagong	32.0	24.0	78	78
Rajshahi	40.8	21.5	64	31
Rangpur	33.0	22.6	69	67
Khulna	38.8	25.8	75	63
Barisal	36.2	25.8	75	63
Sylhet	35.5	22.7	65	59
Cox's Bazar	33.5	24.5	69	76



Boatloads of watermelons are arriving at Waise Ghat in the capital every day. But the fruits are accumulating and rotting there as they could not be transported to markets in Dhaka and adjacent areas due to hartals. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## No scope for doubting education policy

Says Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said there is no scope for questioning the education policy introduced by the present government as all quarters, including Islamist groups and madrasas, were consulted before its implementation.

The minister was addressing a public gathering after inaugurating the academic building of Ghungadia-Noagaon Govt Primary School in Beanibazar upazila of Sylhet yesterday afternoon.

He said the new policy has the capacity to meet demands of modern learning. The present government also brought qualitative changes to the education system in madrasas after consulting religious intellectuals, he added.

"Some people are questioning the education policy to create confusion but we should remain alert about them," Nahid said.

Activists of Hefajat-e Islam are creating confusion regarding issues that have already been settled, he said, adding that the activists are now protecting Jamaat-e-Islami.

He further said the main opposition along with Jamaat is creating anarchy in the country in vain to foil the war crimes trial.

## Attacks on journos condemned

METRO DESK

The journalists of Rangpur and Rajshahi both from print and electronic media yesterday slammed the attacks on journalists, including Nadia Sharmin, during Hefajat-e Islam's rally in the capital on April 6.

They also demanded an immediate arrest of the attackers and an exemplary punishment for them.

Our Rangpur correspondent reports, journalists formed a human chain in front of Rangpur Press Club yesterday noon.

Bangladesh would turn into a Taliban state if Hefajat's 13-point demand was met, they said.

The journalists said Hefajat was just trying to establish Jamaat agenda.

The press club President AKM Fazlul Haque said, "The Hefajat activists even attacked Ekushey TV Staff Reporter Nadia Sharmin just because she is a female journalist."

General Secretary Mahbubur Rahman Haba, among others, spoke.

In Rajshahi, leaders of Rajshahi Union of Journalists (RUJ) brought out a procession in the city around 11:00am.

They called upon the people to come forward to resist the religious fundamentalists.

A human chain was also formed. Senior journalist Mustafijur Rahman Khan, and RUJ President Hasan Millat, among others, spoke at the event.

## Politics hinders safety net programmes: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political interferences in the implementation of the Social Safety Net Programmes (SSNPs) influence the beneficiary selection process, which often results in leaving out genuine candidates, says a review study of the research body Shamunnay.

The study further said effective implementation of projects under SSNPs was being hindered due to a lack of government's proper monitoring mechanisms.

The findings were shared at "National Budget Hearing on Social Safety Net Programmes: Implications for Budget 2013-14", organised by Shamunnay with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Shamunnay Coordinator Dilruba Yasmin Chowdhury said the SSNP guidelines to ensure participation of the marginalised in the project implementation processes were not properly followed.

Their effective participation is necessary for transparency and accountability, she said.

She also recommended formulation of

the "National Social Safety Net Policy" to bring all the SSNPs under it to ensure success in the poverty reduction initiative.

Dr Mohammad Mahfuz Kabir, senior research fellow of the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), called for strengthening inter-ministry initiatives for effective implementation. The ministries and divisions concerned with SSNPs should share their findings and work together to ensure that the SSNPs reach the poorest section, he said.

The country will never progress if other initiatives, apart from relief programmes and donations, are not taken to support the poor, viewed ABM Anowarul Houque, chairman of the parliamentary body on the disaster management and relief ministry.

"Educational and vocational institutions need to be established according to the job market demands to permanently alleviate poverty," he said.

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Abul Hasan Mahmood Ali assured that Shamunnay's recommendations would be seriously considered.



Speakers at a discussion on "National Budget Hearing on Social Safety Net Programmes: Implications for Budget 2013-2014" in the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## JAMAAT'S REGISTRATION Hearing on legality deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday deferred till tomorrow the hearing on a rule over the legality of Jamaat-e-Islami's registration as a political party.

The court came with the deferment order as the lawyers for the Election Commission and Jamaat did not attend the court due to the 36-hour ongoing hartal enforced by 18-party opposition alliance.

A three-member HC bench was scheduled to hear the rule yesterday.

The HC on January 27, 2009 issued the rule asking the Election Commission and the Jamaat ameer and secretary general to explain why the party's registration with the EC should not be declared illegal.

It had issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Tariqat Federation Secretary General Rezaul Haque Chandpuri and 24 others challenging the registration of Jamaat-e-Islami with the EC.

Petitioners' lawyer Tania Amir was present in the court for placing argument on the petition.

## 34th BCS preliminary test to be held May 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The preliminary test of the 34th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations under the Public Service Commission will be held on May 24, a press release said yesterday.

The one-hour test will begin at 10:00am in Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barisal and Khulna simultaneously.

Details on seat arrangements and other instructions will be made available in newspapers later.

## 3m female RMG workers to lose jobs if Hefajat's demands met: Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three million women who work in different garment factories of the country would have to leave their jobs if the demands of Hefajat-e-Islam are met, said Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu yesterday.

"We have not come across incidents of rape or harassment of female garment workers at their workplace or on the way to their workplace from home and back," he said.

Inu was addressing a meeting with 10 foreign journalists at the conference room of his ministry yesterday.

The journalists are visiting Bangladesh from April 8 to 14 under "Visit Bangladesh", a programme of the foreign ministry that invites foreign journalists to the country to make them familiar with Bangladesh's culture and society.

One of the 13-point demand of Hefajat-e-Islam is banning all foreign culture including free-mixing of men and women and candlelight vigil.

PAHELA BAISHAKH

## Govt to ensure foolproof security Says Tuku

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid ongoing political turmoil in the country, the government has taken measures to ensure foolproof security during Pahela Baishakh celebration on April 14.

Every celebration venue of Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla year, and diplomatic zones will be brought under tight security coverage, said State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku yesterday.

The venues will be smoking free and festival goers will be barred from carrying lighter on security grounds, he said after a meeting with the chiefs of law enforcement agencies and other authorities concerned at the home ministry in the capital.

"We are considering every possible threat, but there will be no change in the traditional celebration," he said.

The traditional "Mongal Shovajatra", a colorful procession, will be brought out from Dhaka University campus, he added.

All deputy commissioners and superintendents of police have been directed to hold meetings with officials concerned to ensure security at district and upazila levels during the celebration, Tuku said.

Meeting sources said law enforcers will cordon off every venue well ahead of the celebration and install close circuit cameras at important venues to avert any untoward incident.

Rab chief Mokhlesur Rahman told the reporters that their two helicopters will be kept ready to move any part of the country if necessary.