

# NEWS IN brief

## 42 UP chairmen honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The local government and rural development ministry yesterday gave 42 union parishad chairmen of 12 districts recognition for their contribution in conducting village courts.

As per the Village Court Act, 2006, a village court has to comprise five members headed by the respective union parishad chairmen to settle disputes like family conflicts, theft and realising compensation.

Case backlog is the biggest hurdle to ensuring quality justice in Bangladesh. Village court is a good way to solve this problem, said Pauline Tamesis, UNDP country director, at the award-giving ceremony in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

## Five Jamaat men held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Police detained five Jamaat-e-Islami activists, including two Rukon (members), with 10,000 jihadi books in the capital's Hazaribagh area on Friday night.

The detainees are Rukon -- KM Mojibur Rahman and Enamul Kuddus -- Khairul Alam Khan, Helal Hossain and Ismail.

Acting on a tip off that Jamaat men were hatching a subversive plan, Hazaribagh police arrested them with the books on the first floor of a nine-storey building, said police.

## Youth beaten to death in Tongi

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur  
A mob beat an unidentified youth to death suspecting him as a "mugger" at Tongi Railway Station on Friday night.

Around 9:00pm somebody snatched a handbag from a woman in the area. Two hours later, when the youth was loitering there, locals beat him as they suspected the unfamiliar boy was involved in the snatching, said Tongi police.

He died at Tongi Hospital. Police filed a murder case.

## Workshop held at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT  
Jahangirnagar University unit of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Foundation, Bangladesh and JU Journalists Association (JUJA) jointly organised a workshop on the activities of the foundation yesterday.

Prof Khondoker Md Shariful Huda, the new country director of the foundation and also a teacher of JU, moderated the workshop while Imdad Haque, general secretary of JUJA, presided over it at JUJA office.

JUJA members and JU students of the journalism and media studies participated in the event.

## JSD for referendum on polls-time govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
Leaders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) yesterday at a rally held in Chittagong city urged the government to hold a referendum on an election-time government.

JSD President ASM Abdur Rob said an election under the partisan government will not be accepted.

Aiming to form a third political force, JSD of Chittagong organised the rally on Laldighi Maidan. JSD General Secretary Abdul Malek Ratan and its Organising Secretary Ferdous Chowdhury were also present.

## Rickshaw-puller's body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Police recovered the body of a rickshaw driver early yesterday from the capital's Kafrul area.

The victim, Shoriful Islam, 30, driver of a battery-run rickshaw, was found near 329 no. Tin Shed Colony in Mirpur-13, said Kafrul police, adding criminals might have killed him between Friday night and early yesterday.

The vehicle was missing too, they added. The body bore several hacking and stab marks, said morgue sources.

### DHAKA TODAY

**Citizens' rally**  
Citizens Rights Movement will organise a citizens' rally demanding that the day be declared World Car-free Day; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

**Handicrafts exhibition**  
Saarc Cultural Centre and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs will organise the inaugural ceremony of a six-day "Saarc Handicrafts Exhibition"; Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy; Time: 10:00am.



Garment workers at a rally organised by Garments Sramik Samannay Parishad in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan demanding, among others, fair wages, reinstatement of trade privileges under the Generalised System of Preferences, and ensuring safety of female workers. PHOTO: STAR

## POLITICAL CRISIS Inu urges Ershad to broker talks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushia  
Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday urged Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad to broker dialogue among political parties to solve the present crisis.

"I think he (Ershad) could take an initiative to bring the political parties to dialogue to ensure an atmosphere for a free, fair and impartial election," he said.

Inu was speaking at the prize giving ceremony of the summer sports contest among 42 schools and madrasas of Bheramara upazila in the upazila auditorium.

Though Ershad is a part of the 14-party ruling alliance, he can play an impartial and advocacy role, he said.

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## Mollah won't seek presidential mercy

Son tells The Daily Star  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convicted war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah will not seek presidential mercy, even if the Supreme Court turns down his review petition, expected within a few days, against the death sentence the court passed on him recently for crimes against humanity in 1971.

Hasan Jamil, the eldest son of Quader Mollah, told The Daily Star last night, "My father still believes that he is innocent and he would not appeal to the president for clemency."

Hasan and his family members met him at Kashempur Jail-2 in Gazipur yesterday, for the first time after the SC gave him the death penalty on September 17.

"He [my father] also told us not to take any initiative to seek the presidential clemency," he said. "The physical condition of my father is more or less sound and he asked us to have patience."

Hassan, his two sisters, one cousin and one maternal uncle met Mollah at the visitors' room for half an hour, Jahangir Kabir, senior jail superintendent, told The Daily Star. The jail authority was yet to receive the copy of the SC verdict, and Quader Mollah was still in a general cell, he added.

The SC sentenced the 65-year-old Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General to death, overruling the judgment of International Crimes Tribunal-2, which had given him a life sentence.



## Manjurul Ahsan president, Jalil Bhuyian secy general of BFUJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and Abdul Jalil Bhuyian were elected president and secretary general respectively of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) yesterday.

Three panels contested the BFUJ election 2013 taking place simultaneously in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Bogra, Dinajpur, Jessore, Cox's Bazar, Narayanganj and Mymensingh.

Bulbul, editor-in-chief of Baishakhi Television, SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Constitution duly amended: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated that her government had brought the latest and 15th amendment to the constitution following due legal procedure and enough time.

"Many intentionally try to establish that the government has amended the constitution hastily. It's not correct. We've completed the whole procedure throughout one year. In the past, the constitution was amended many times but never did they take such a long time," she said.

The premier was delivering the welcome speech at a views exchange meeting with her party's grassroots leaders of five districts-- Dhaka, Panchagarh, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, and Rangamati.

The meeting aimed to intensify organisational activities and pile up information about the prospective candidates in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Criticising the BNP, Hasina called the last BNP-Jamaat tenure a regime of militancy, terrorism and killings. "BNP's lone characteristic is to nurture and patron killers."

About BNP's claim that a fair and free

election is not possible under the AL government, she said if it was true, how their candidates won the five city corporation elections.

"They (BNP-Jamaat) are skilled at propaganda. They claimed 2,500 people were killed and 1.5 lakh bullets were fired at Shapla Chattar on May 5 (during Hefajat-e-Islam's rally). If that number of bullets were shot in a place, how do establishments of the area stay undamaged?"

Now, they have engaged women in a door-to-door smear campaign using religion, she said.

"During the last army-backed caretaker government, I as well as she (Khaleda) was under pressure to move abroad. But I stood up for her. Otherwise, she (Khaleda) had to leave the country."

The AL president asked party men to circulate the message of the government's development activities. "As we've carried out huge developments, we've the right to beg vote," she said.

AL presidium members Kazi Zafarullah, Nooh-ul-Alam Lenin and Joint General Secretary Mahbulul Alam Hanif, among others, attended the meeting.



Finance Minister AMA Muhith hands over one of the letters of scholarship, awarded by Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd to 4,057 underprivileged, meritorious students who achieved GPA 5 in this year's SSC exam, in the capital's Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY

## DBBL awards scholarship to 4,057 students

CITY DESK

Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd yesterday awarded scholarships to 4,057 underprivileged, meritorious students who achieved GPA 5 in the SSC examinations this year.

For the next two years of their higher secondary education, the awardees will get Tk 2,000 each month and a lump sum of Tk 11,000 for buying study materials among other things.

As chief guest, Finance Minister AMA Muhith handed over the scholarship award letters to the recipients at Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in the capital, says a press release.

The minister congratulated the students and lauded the DBBL initiative on the occasion. It is the seventh phase of the scholarship programme under the bank's corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Sayem Ahmed, chairman of the Executive SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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## NEXT ELECTION Canadian envoy hopes for consensus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Heather Cruden at a discussion yesterday expressed hope that the political parties will reach an agreement soon on the "question of holding the next election in an acceptable procedure".

The discussion was organised by Commonwealth Society of Bangladesh in the capital's Brac Centre Inn marking the International Day of Peace, observed yesterday.

Former chief adviser to a caretaker government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman thanked the commonwealth countries for keeping their heads on the Syria issue.

Former Bangladesh ambassador to the UN Barrister Harun ur Rashid delivered the keynote speech.

## Rab-12 headquarters opens in Sirajganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The headquarters of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) - 12 was inaugurated on a land of more than 10 acres by Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir in Hati Kumrul of Sirajganj yesterday afternoon.

The around 62.14 crore project will include an office building, barracks, an officers' mess and armoury. Mokhesur Rahman, director general of Rab, had laid the foundation of the headquarters on July 17, 2011.

Speaking at the inauguration, the home minister said, "As it is a democratic environment, if an individual or group thinks that they will not vote, we will not have any problems with it."

He was responding to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's remarks that the election will be resisted.

Terming the caretaker government as a monster, State Minister for Home Shamsul Huq Tuku said, "Begum Khaleda Zia has launched a movement to bring back this monster. She does not want a constitutionally approved election."

HT Imam, adviser to the prime minister, and Hassan Mahmood Khandker, inspector general of police, among others, were present at the ceremony.

Among the 12 Rab units, five have headquarters in the capital and the rest in different parts of the country.

Before, Rab-12 used to operate from a rented premise in Sirajganj Sadar.

## QAWMI EDUCATION LAW Hefajat to submit memo to PM Sept 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hefajat-e-Islam yesterday declared seven programmes, including submitting a memorandum to the prime minister on September 25, to resist passage of the proposed law on Qawmi madrasa education.

They will organise district-level Shan-e-Resalat Sammelan and division-level rallies from November 13 to 30 to build support for their 13-point demand placed earlier.

They were addressing an Olama-Mashayekh conference in Babunagar Madrasa auditorium in Fatikchhari upazila in Chittagong.

A 201-member Majlis Shura committee and a 25-member executive council were formed with Shah Ahmed Shafi as its head at the conference.

## PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES DMP boss deplores unused condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is very surprising how pedestrian bridges are left unused, deplored Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Benazir Ahmed at a human chain held under one before Balaka Cinema Hall in the capital's New Market yesterday.

"There are still people running across the road, in the path of oncoming traffic, putting their lives at risk even when there is a pedestrian bridge nearby," he told the programme organised by We Demand Safe Road, a citizens' platform.

There are nevertheless many intersections without a pedestrian crossing, he said. "If there are pedestrians who have difficulty climbing stairs, we can think of installing escalators," said Benazir, also recommending construction of low-cost underpasses of low heights.

Benazir blamed hawkers for obstructing footpaths, forcing pedestrians onto the roads. "A large portion of our low-income population depends on the hawkers for cheap products. An eviction drive will deprive them of a market they need. However, we can plan makeshift thrift stores for a few hours each day on roads which are less busy," he recommended.

However, if such measures are taken, citizens too must be aware to refrain from buying from shops occupying streets, he added.

Noted film artist Ilias Kanchon, chairperson of the platform, also criticised the practice of talking on cellphones while crossing roads.

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