

# NEWSIN brief

## Garment factory owners urged to pay workers before Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Combined Garment Workers Federation yesterday urged garment factory owners to give workers their salaries, overtime and festival bonuses before Eid-ul Azha to avert any unwanted incident.

In a press statement signed by the federation's president and general secretary, the leaders alleged that the garment factory owners make the workers work on weekly holidays due to Eid vacation but do not allow the workers to enjoy the annual 11-day Eid leave.

## NU 4th year honours exams begin today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The fourth year honours examinations that was scheduled to be held under the National University in 2011 begin today from 9.00am.

A total of 1,03,792 examinee from 205 colleges around the country will sit for the exams in 135 centre.

A control room has been set up on the Gazipur campus to conduct the exam smoothly. For any emergency one can contact at 9291017, 9291039 and fax at 9291044, said a press release yesterday.

## Sreepur residents form human chain demanding train stoppage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Over five hundred inhabitants of Sreepur upazila of Gazipur formed a human chain and held protest rally demanding a stoppage of intercity Jamuna train no 745 and 746 at Sreepur Railway Station yesterday afternoon.

Locals said it will be easy for them to travel between Mymensingh and the capital if the trains, which run on Dhaka-Jamalpur route, stop there.

## Police file murder case over bodies found on Gazipur railway tracks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Kamalapur Railway police on Monday night filed a murder case against unidentified people in connection with the incident where four youths were thrown off a running train by muggers on Joydevpur-Rajshahi route on Sunday.

Three of the youths died and the unidentified bodies were found at different nearby places while Sumon Hossain was rescued in a critical condition.

Sumon's condition is improving at Sharif General Hospital Private Ltd in Konabari, said a doctor.

The bodies are in Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.

## Training course on journalism ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three training courses on journalism conducted by the Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media ended at the institute in the capital on Monday.

The courses were on "Diploma in Journalism (online)", "TV Journalism", and "Basic Course on Print Journalism", said a press release yesterday.

Independent lawmaker Fazlul Azim, also chairman of Azim Group of Companies, was present at the concluding ceremony as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the participants.

## Three die as trains hit them in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people died after trains hit them in separate incidents in the capital yesterday.

Md Kalam, 28, of Jatrabari area, fell on the rail tracks while getting off Agnibina Express and the train ran him over near Kamalapur Railway Station.

Meanwhile near Khilkhet rail gate, a train ran over Sanjay, 30, while he was talking over the cell phone and crossing the rail lines.

Near Nakhalpara, an unidentified man, about 50, was crossing rail lines when a train hit him.

## Book about wartime, post-war govt launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Bangladesh Sharkar 1971-75", a book focusing on the policies and programmes undertaken by the then government to rebuild the war-ravaged nation, was launched yesterday.

Prime minister's public administration affairs adviser HT Imam, the then cabinet secretary, authored the 678-page volume, which was called a valuable addition to the Liberation War history by speakers at the unveiling ceremony.

Addressing the event at the capital's National Museum, Planning Minister AK Khandker said the book was an authentic document of the activities of the 1971-75 government.

"It's a document of the nation's rebuilding from scratch," said eminent historian Prof Muntassir Mamoon.

War crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir believed that the book would constitute an important document at a time when the war crimes trial was going on.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Bangla Academy Director General Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan also spoke on the occasion.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia speaks at a views exchange meeting organised by Bangladesh Byabsayee Parishad at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## MEETING DHAKA CITY'S WATER DEMAND

# Govt approves treatment plant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will set up a new treatment plant at Munshiganj to purify water of the Padma river and supply 450 million litres of water per day (MLD) to Dhaka city where Wasa is currently providing 2,000 MLD against a demand of 2,200 MLD.

The Tk 3,509 crore "Padma (Jashaldia) Water Treatment Plant (Phase-1)" project was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) yesterday. It is expected to be completed by June 2016.

Regarding this project, an agreement was signed in May under which Exim Bank of China will provide Tk 2,413 crore. The credit is payable in 15 years with a 15-year grace period and carries an interest rate of two percent, said a planning ministry official.

In the Ecne meeting, chaired by Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina at the NEC conference room, the "VAT and Supplementary Duty Act 2012 Implementation (VAT Online)" project worth Tk 552 crore, of which Tk 450 crore is foreign fund, was also endorsed.

National Board of Revenue (NBR) officials said the project would introduce a system for VAT, which is similar to that of the online income tax return submission.

Ecne also gave nod to the "Construction of National Complex for the Disabled, Mirpur, Dhaka" at a cost of Tk 84 crore. The complex will comprise a national centre to provide services to the disabled and coordinate such centres at district level.

There will also be a special education centre and school. The complex will provide opportunities for conducting research on disabilities.

Ecne yesterday okayed 12 development projects, including the above three, involving Tk 9,581 crore.



Detectives collect samples from the scene at Jamiatul Ulum Al Islamia Madrasa in Chittagong city yesterday where a blast left a student dead and six others wounded the day before. Law enforcers are trying to identify the explosives. The Islamic education centre is run by a Hefajat-e Islam leader.

PHOTO: STAR

## Barisal mayor takes office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahsan Habib Kamal, former Barisal city and district BNP president, took office as mayor of Barisal City Corporation yesterday with the corporation in a debt of Tk 143 crore.

BNP leader Altaf Mahmud Sikdar, who was the acting mayor, handed over the mayoral duties to Kamal in a special ceremony in the city's Nagor Bhaban.

Kamal, addressing a press briefing after the ceremony, said he took office with a debt of Tk 143.18 crore.

The corporation has to pay Tk 6 crore to its employees as salaries, Tk 17 crore for taking loans from reserve funds, Tk 106.2 crore for development works, Tk 9 crore as electricity bill, Tk 3.98 for miscellaneous items and Tk 1 crore for fuel of vehicles, he said.

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## NGOs should oppose unelected govt

Says Gowher Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to the prime minister, yesterday urged NGOs to oppose any unelected and undemocratic government for the country's development.

"Sometime a party may grab state power through other means, but NGOs should not assist them," he said addressing a views-exchange meeting, Role of NGOs in Development, organised by NGO Affairs Bureau in the capital's Biam auditorium.

Rizvi, addressing as the chief guest, said NGOs also should not work with a democratic government if it does not believe in the spirit of the Liberation War.

The government and the NGOs are not competitors rather they are cooperative partners, he said, adding that NGOs must ensure good governance in their activities.

Address as the special guest, Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra and a former adviser to a caretaker government, said NGOs have to assist that government that will protect democracy, human rights and spirit of the Liberation War.

"We do not work for any political party rather we work for the country's people. So, any political party which will come to power in the next election must be committed in ensuring good governance and development," she added.

Rokeya Kabir, member secretary of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha, among others, spoke at the programme which was chaired by Md Nurun Nabi Talukder, director general of NGO Affairs Bureau.

## SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

# Arrest killers by Nov 11 or face tougher movement

Say journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist leaders yesterday threatened the government with a tougher movement if the killers of journalist couple Sagar-Runi were not arrested by November 11.

"We will hold a rally at the Jatiya Press Club on that day demanding the arrest and will announce nonstop agitation if the government fails to do so," said Shahed Chowdhury, president of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) at a rally before the DRU.

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## WAR CRIMES VERDICTS DU teachers

# want execution before Dec 16

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Dhaka University teachers at a human chain demanded execution of war crimes verdicts before December 16 to celebrate the victory day with great enthusiasm.

They also demanded a ban on all communal and anti-liberation organisations, including Jamaat-e-Islami.

The human chain was

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## NEXT NATIONAL ELECTION

# 65pc voters for army deployment: EWG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 65 percent voters of the country believe that a free, fair and credible national election is not possible without deployment of army, said a report of Election Working Group (EWG) yesterday.

In addition, 46.5 percent voters think that other types of security forces would not be able to play an impartial role if the election is held under political government, it added.

The EWG, a network of 29 civil society organisations, revealed the report titled "Eye on Election" at a discussion at a hotel in the capital.

The report was prepared on the basis of interview of voters, observation of pre-election environment and data collection. All of these were done by EWG's own observers at 118 constituencies of 55 districts across the country from June to August this year.

The findings on army deployment and other security forces came after interviewing 1,628 voters.

This issue came to discussion after IGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam on July 24 at a meeting asked deputy commissioners to prepare for the next parliamentary election without deployment of army.

The EWG's report also found that the series of meetings of Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina with her party's grassroots level leaders and electoral campaign of MPs and ministers with government expenses would bar to create level-playing field.

Besides, the registered political parties do not maintain internal democratic practices as they are not transparent in collecting and spending fund at local level, do not take opinion of grass roots level leaders in giving nomination for national election.

Moreover, the parties do not arrange direct election in forming grassroots level committees and do not increase representation of women in the committees.

The report also found around 50 percent equipment of district and upazila level offices were in poor condition or in out of order and around 42 percent post in district level and 32 percent in upazila level remain vacant.

Around 5 percent people believe that the latest delimitation of constituencies for the next election was done to provide privilege to a particular party.

Meanwhile, Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told

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## C & A Sourcing



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### Seminar

Institute of Governance Studies, and Brac University will hold a seminar on "China's Look South and Bangladesh's Look East Policy: Convergences and Constraints; Venue: AS Mahmud Seminar Hall, The Daily Star Centre; Time: 9:30am.

### Discussion

Atish Dipankar Gobeshana Parishad will hold a discussion on communal harmony; Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Public Library; Time: 4:00pm.

### Workshop

The agencies under cultural affairs ministry and two other organisations will start a three-day workshop on archives in Bangladesh; Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum; Time: 3:00pm.