

NEWSIN brief

DRU slams attacks on journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday slammed attacks on media persons and offices over the last two days. On Saturday, an Ekattor TV journalist and a videographer were injured in a blast; an unexploded cocktail was located near the offices of Desh TV and Bhorer Kagoj; miscreants also blasted crude bombs in front of ATN Bangla and My TV offices, according to a statement. Pro-hartal activists hurled brick chips at the vehicles of Channel 24 and ATN News while those were carrying newspersons during hartal hours yesterday, the statement adds. DRU President Shahed Chowdhury and acting general secretary Ilias Hossain demanded exemplary punishment for the culprits.

Mahila Parishad condemns violence unleashed by Jamaat-Shibir

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday strongly condemned the ongoing violence unleashed by what it said Jamaat-Shibir men across the country under the banner of BNP. In a statement, the parishad said, "We've observed with deep concern that as soon as the BNP-led 18-party alliance announced 60-hour hartal, leaders, activists and organisers of Jamaat-Shibir launched destructive activities across the country under the banner of the nationalist party." It urged BNP chief Khaleda Zia to take steps to stop the violence and to take initiatives for a dialogue to resolve the ongoing political standoff.

Robbery at businessman's house in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Robbers looted gold ornaments and cash from a businessman's house in Rajashon area of Savar municipality, on the outskirts of the capital, early yesterday. The house owner Bashar Miah, a local real estate businessman, said a gang of around 12 robbers entered this house by breaking open the drawing room window around 2:30am. Later, they snatched Tk 30,000, 20 tolas of gold ornaments and other valuables at gunpoint, he said. Following the incident, Savar police visited the spot.

JU admission test rescheduled

JU CORRESPONDENT

Admission test of Jahangirnagar University for the first year honours programme under 2013-2014 academic session has been rescheduled and it will be held from December 17 to 29. The registration will continue till November 5. The decision came at a meeting of JU central admission committee chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain, says a JU press release. Earlier, the time schedule was between November 2 and 9 while the registration deadline was October 15 to 28.

College girl suffers burns in explosion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college girl suffered serious burns in an explosion at her residence at the capital's Azimpur early yesterday. Umme Sadia Atika alias Lamia, 20, a first year honours student of Dhaka City College, is admitted to the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Lalbagh police Officer-in-Charge Nurul Muttakin said they suspect that gas had accumulated in the room and there was a spark when someone inserted the plug of a cellphone charger into a socket, causing the explosion.

World Occupation Therapy Day observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Occupational therapy department of the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) and Bangladesh Occupational Therapy Association observed World Occupational Therapy Day-2013 yesterday. A rally and several seminars were organised at CRP in Savar to observe the day with the theme "Global Reach, Local Touch". Occupational Therapy (OT) is a health care profession for care of neurological, psychiatric, cardiac, pediatric and musculoskeletal conditions through different therapeutic medium.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA, STAR

Despite a ban on political gatherings in the capital, Jubo League stages a rally in front of Awami League office on Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday. *Inset left*, Foreign Minister and AL leader Dipu Moni addresses the rally in protest against the countrywide bomb attacks. *Inset right*, a motorcycle procession of AL in front of Jatiya Press Club protesting the hartal of the BNP-led 18-party alliance. Dhaka Metropolitan Police imposed the ban on political meetings, rallies, human chains, demonstrations, sit-ins and processions in the capital from October 20.

Ruling, opposition parties defy ban on gatherings in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling and opposition parties yesterday brought out processions in protest and in favour respectively of the 60-hour countrywide shutdown enforced by the BNP-led 18-party alliance, defying a ban on political gatherings in the capital. Dhaka Metropolitan Police imposed the ban on political meetings, rallies, human chains, demonstrations, sit-ins and processions in the capital from October 20. Even ministers and opposition lawmakers are defying the ban by attending rallies and processions. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni spoke at a protest rally organised by Dhaka city (south) unit of Jubo League on Bangabandhu Avenue while main opposition lawmakers brought out a procession and chanted slogans against the government at the South Plaza of the parliamentary building. The ban is still ongoing, but DMP seems to be following the double standard principle as law enforcers are detaining pickets but not interfering in the processions of the ruling parties. Contacted, a DMP official, preferring anonymity, said police have been vigilant yesterday. "Pro-hartal activists went berserk and we resisted them but processions of the ruling party and their wings were peaceful, so we did not interfere in those," he said. Pro-hartal activists brought out processions, vandalised and torched vehicles and exploded cocktails in many places, including Gabtoli, Shanir Akhra and Nabisco, throughout yesterday.

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PLANTATION JOBS IN MALAYSIA 100 more to leave today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One hundred more Bangladeshi workers will leave Dhaka today to join plantation jobs in Malaysia under state arrangements. They will leave Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 12:40pm by a Malaysian airline, said Zahidul Islam, assistant director (immigration) of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) yesterday. On Friday, 77 others left the country for such jobs in Malaysia, he told The Daily Star over phone. The BMET official said 450 more job seekers are likely to reach Kuala Lumpur by this week for the jobs. BMET Director General Begum Shamsun Nahar said the regular flight will be running as they have recently received around 1,000 workers' visa from the Malaysian employers. A total of 520 Bangladeshi will get chance for such jobs in Malaysia. The BMET finalised a list of 20,000 out of over 1.4 million registered job seekers to send Malaysia, the officials said.

President leaves for London to join Islamic forum

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid left here for London yesterday night on a four-day official visit to attend the 9th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) to be held on October 29-31 there. This is his first official overseas visit since he assumed in office on April 24 this year. Earlier, he visited Singapore twice but those were for medical check up. The president is accompanying a 33-member delegation, which includes three family members, right officials from his office, five officials from the foreign ministry, 12-member security team and five-member official media to attend the forum at ExCel London. The president is expected to address the

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Furniture market, slum gutted in fire in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A furniture market and an adjoining slum were gutted in a fire in Ashkar Dighir Par area of Chittagong yesterday morning. Md Jasimuddin, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, told The Daily Star that 12 furniture shops, one stationary shop and 16 shanties of a slum were gutted in the fire. Witnesses said the three-storied market caught fire at 6:00am and the fire soon spread to the adjoining slum. Fire fighting units from eight fire stations rushed to the spot and doused the flames at around 10:20am, they added. The fire originated from a short circuit that occurred in one of the furniture shops, said fire service officials. Md Naser, owner of the New Ayesha Furniture, claimed that the fire originated from an adjoining shop, Madina Furniture. "Earlier, I warned the owner of the shop (Madina Furniture) to be careful when welding furniture," he said. Syed ASM Nuruddin, president of Furniture Owners' Association of the market, claimed the damage was worth Tk 20 crore although fire service initially estimated the damage to be around Tk 90 lakh. About 30 carpenters per shop have lost jobs, said one of the furniture shop owners. No casualty was reported.



PHOTO: STAR

Fire fighters trying to douse a blaze that broke out at a furniture market and its adjoining slum in Ashkar Dighir Par of Chittagong city yesterday. The fire gutted 13 shops and 16 shanties.

RMG workers demonstrate after rumour about torture of colleagues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Workers of a garment factory demonstrated on the factory grounds and beat up two of its managers in Gazipur yesterday after hearing a rumour that the factory authorities held two workers in confinement and tortured them. Workers of Rubub Fashions Limited in Kunia Boardbazar area vandalised the factory and beat up managers Md Shohel Rana (administration) and Md Mamun Mia (production). Inspector Md Selim Mia of Gazipur Industrial Police said the rumour spread in the

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CONDEMNED FOR WAR CRIMES SQ Chowdhury likely to file appeal with SC today

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

War crimes convict Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, condemned to die, is likely to file an appeal with the Supreme Court today challenging the convictions. "We have already prepared the around 1,000-page appeal and it will be submitted tomorrow," his principal counsel, Khandker Mahbub Hossain, told The Daily Star yesterday. On October 1, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 found the 64-year-old BNP lawmaker guilty on nine of 23 charges of crimes against humanity and genocide committed during the 1971 Liberation War. As per International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973, appeals against verdicts can be made in 30 days from the judgement delivery. Citing from the appeal, Khandker said the death sentence was based on hearsay statements of prosecution witnesses, who themselves had not heard of the offences directly from eyewitnesses, and this is not at all acceptable. Salauddin was given capital punishment on four crimes, three of which took place on April 13 and the remaining on April 17 of 1971, said Khandker. But Salauddin was in West Pakistan studying at Punjab

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Namaz-e-janaza

CITY DESK



The namaz-e-janaza of Prof Syed Moqsd Ali will be held at Gulshan

Jame Mosque in the capital after Zohr prayers today. Later, he will be buried at Gazipur City Corporation graveyard, says a press release. Prof Ali died of old age ailments at Cure Medical Hospital in the capital Saturday night. His qulkhwani will be held at his Gulshan residence after Asr prayers Friday. He left behind his sons Prof Syed Saad Andaleeb and Zia Sayeed Arastu; daughters Sadya A Mallick and Nazia Jabeen; and grandchildren.

KHALEDA'S GRAFT CASES Charge framing hearing again deferred

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred until December 8 the hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and eight others in two graft cases. Judge Md Motahar Hossain of the Special Judge Court-3 passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Masud Ahmed Talukder submitted two petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing. In the petitions, Masud said Khaleda could not appear before it as the parliament session was going on and she was busy with national important activities as the opposition chief. Public Prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain Kajol

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MONEY LAUNDERING CASE Mamun claims innocence

Dhaka court fixes Oct 31 to record 8 defence witnesses' statements

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Giasuddin Al Mamun, a close friend of Tarique Rahman, yesterday claimed himself innocent after a Dhaka court read out the charges citing statements of 13 prosecution witnesses of a money laundering case. Afterwards, the court fixed October 31 to allow eight of the 24 people, mostly employees and associates of his companies, he proposed as defence witnesses to give statements to prove his innocence. The charges could not be read out to fugitive accused Tarique, the BNP senior vice-chairman and elder

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Manitoba Ministry of Education, Canada signs a MoU with Canadian International School, Bangladesh in a hotel in the capital on Saturday in presence of Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, secretary to the Ministry of Education in Bangladesh. Darryl Gervais, director of Manitoba Ministry of Education; and Mohammed Kamaliddin, chairman of Canadian International School signed the MoU on behalf of their respective sides. Debra Parker, liaison officer for International Schools; Daniel Loutfi, head of Political Section at Canadian High Commission; KM Khaled, president of Canada Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Mahfuzur Rahman, chairman and managing director of Multimedia Production Co Ltd (ATN Bangla); and Ambassador Munshi Faiz Ahmad, chairman of Board of Governors of BIIS were also present.