

## Fear of arrest prompts JCD to cancel rally at Suhrawardy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite getting permission from police, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday backed away from its plan to hold its 36th founding anniversary rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan today, to avoid arrest ahead of BNP's renewed anti-government protest centring about January 5.

BNP leaders think this is a crucial time to wage a tougher movement, and any clashes now would mess things up, JCD leaders told The Daily Star, alleging that the government was planning to make arrests. JCD General Secretary Akramul Hasan however said, "They didn't have enough time to prepare for a successful programme."

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was expected to address the rally. A huge number of JCD men, including its President Rajib Hossain and the general secretary, were sued over Wednesday's Bakshibazar clash.

BNP plans to rally at the capital's Nayapaltan, Suhrawardy Udyan, and Shapla Chattar on Saturday and Monday, to protest the January 5 national vote, which the party boycotted.



Hindus join the fasting and prayer rituals of Rakher Upobash seeking divine protection from ailments, at Baradi in Narayanganj on the evening of August 11, 2014, snapped by the winner in the Festival category of The Daily Star's photo contest inPixel.

PHOTO: ZIAUL HAQUE OISHARJH



## Arms trader held with 3 firearms, 1,000 bullets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives early yesterday arrested an alleged arms trader and hit man and recovered two revolvers, a pistol, and 1,000 bullets from him in the capital's Basabo area.

Saifullah Khan, 40, was hired by some Jubo League activists to kill a central leader of the party over a factional feud, said Jahangir Hossain Matubar, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (east), at a press briefing, but did not disclose any name.

To execute the plan, Saifullah smuggled five firearms and ammunition into the country through Hilly Border in Dinajpur a couple of days ago and already had sold two.

He was arrested at the office of Mobile Servicing Engineers Association of Bangladesh and he was the vice president of the association, Jahangir added.

Detectives are investigating whether the ammunitions have been smuggled to create anarchy during the political programmes centering January 5, the first anniversary of 10th parliamentary election.



## Shawkat Osman's birthday today

CITY DESK

Today is the 98th birth anniversary of novelist and short story writer Shawkat Osman.

On this occasion, Kathashilpi Shawkat Osman Smriti Parishad will organise a memorial programme at National Museum today.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique and Shoumitra Sekhar, professor of Bangla department at DU, are scheduled to attend the programme at 4:00pm.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## HARTAL, COMMENT OVER AZHARUL VERDICT Contempt charges sought against Jamaat

Also against 3 Jamaat, 2 Shibir leaders, counsel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an unprecedented move, the prosecution yesterday filed a petition with the International Crimes Tribunal-1 seeking to initiate contempt of court proceedings against Jamaat-e-Islami, three Jamaat and two Shibir leaders and a lawyer representing war crimes convict ATM Azharul Islam over a hartal and comment centring the verdict.

"Since Jamaat called hartal after the verdict, we have sought contempt rule against the party and five others," said prosecutor Zead Al Malum.

The Jamaat leaders are acting ameer Moqbul Ahmed, acting secretary general Shafiqur Rahman and Nayeb-e-Ameer Mujibur Rahman while those of pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir are President Abdul Jabbar and Secretary General Atiqur Rahman.

"We have sought contempt rule against

(the counsel) Tajul (Islam) for his indecent and unprofessional comments before the media over the verdict," he added.

Malum said they believe Tajul's "derogatory" comment over the verdict was contemptuous and calling a hartal after the verdict was also tantamount to contempt of court.

The three-member tribunal on Tuesday handed down capital punishment on Jamaat leader Azharul, following which Jamaat called a dawn-to-dusk hartal on Wednesday and yesterday.

Tajul on Wednesday told the media that he has always been respectful towards the tribunals and did not mention anything that could malign the tribunal's image.

The tribunals, on several occasions, said calling hartals and engaging in violence could not be a way to react over any decision or verdict of the courts.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

## Ecosystem-based approaches must to save Barind Tract

Workshop told

BSS, Rajshahi

Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation in drought-prone Barind Tract are crucial to protect its major farming system from the adverse impact of climate change, said discussants yesterday.

Climate change has already started posing a serious threat to the vital sectors like agriculture, fisheries, forestry, livestock, health and sanitation in the high Barind tract. So, there is no alternative to adopt effective measures to address the odd situation.

Emphasis should be given on integrated water resource management,

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## Road crashes kill five in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five people were killed in four road accidents in the capital yesterday and Wednesday.

In Bhatara, Abul Hasnat Sohag, 28, a joint-secretary of Titumir College, and his friend Mirajul Islam died as a truck hit their motorcycle.

Sohag, also a Master's student of the college, died on the spot while his friend Mirajul, a business man, was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after an hour.

In Kamrangir Char Lohar Pool area, Mohammad Dulal, 20, a factory worker, died when a truck ran him over after it hit his bicycle and he fell on the road on Wednesday.

Doctors at DMCH declared him dead around 1:00am yesterday.

In Darussalam, trader Amir Hossain Babu, 48, was run over by another truck yesterday while he was crossing the road. He died on the spot.

In Motijheel Shapla Chattar, private company employee Ranjan Debnath, 40, a resident of Dania, Jatrabari, was hit by a bus while crossing the road around 7:00pm and declared dead at DMCH shortly after.

## REMARKS ON KHALEDA Defamation suit against Chumki dismissed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday dismissed a case hours after it was filed against State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki for branding BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia "a worthless leader" and her son Tarique Rahman, "an impudent person."

Advocate Sabina Yasmin Chowdhury Bina, a leader of BNP's women wing Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, filed the case with the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

In the complaint, Yasmin alleged that Chumki made the derogatory remarks against the BNP chief and its senior vice-chairman at a discussion in Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur on Tuesday.

## Law Commission boss exits press conference

Disagrees with member over recommendation implementation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaving journalists baffled at the scene, Law Commission Chairman Justice ABM Khairul Haque yesterday abruptly left a press conference following a disagreement with Member Prof M Shah Alam over whether the government was implementing the commission's recommendations and giving feedbacks.

Members Shah Alam and Justice ATM Fazle Kabir also left the place after a few minutes without saying anything.

The briefing was organised by the commission at its conference room in the Judicial Administration Training Institute building in the capital's College Road to reveal its performance last year and plans for the current year.

After Khairul described the commission's performance and future

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS IN 2014 165 construction workers killed

Reveals OSHE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of safety at the workplace led to death of at least 165 construction workers last year, revealed Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) yesterday.

Most of the victims either fell from under-construction buildings, it said, adding that some workers were electrocuted.

The total number of people who died due to workplace accidents in 2014 is 465, said the organisation.

The findings were disclosed at a press conference on occupational hazard organised by OSHE at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

OSHE monitored 16 national newspapers throughout the year to keep an account of occupational deaths, said the organisations Programme Manager Omar Faruq.

He said more than 440 workers were injured in workplace accidents.

"The actual number of casualties could be much higher, as some of the incidents may have been missed by newspapers," he added.



A bicycle and a rickshaw pass through a police barrier put at the capital's Dhanmondi 8 to stop vehicles from turning right as part of the efforts to reduce traffic congestion, on Wednesday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Participants of a discussion on the recent oil spill in the Sundarbans organised by Bangla daily Prothom Alo when some members of the UN-Bangladesh Sundarbans oil spill response team visited the newspaper's office yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## India, Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 3

The pact will be signed between NIO and DU. "It will be the first time in history of NIO that we will be able to get into those parts of the ocean where we had never been. That is the advantage that we will get. We will carry out joint work with Bangladesh," Naqvi told reporters.

Naqvi said a workshop will be organised in Bangladesh on February 10-12, which will discuss details of programmes.

"We have already identified programmes like climate, the material brought by rivers and number of others that the partners are interested in working towards," the director said.

Naqvi also expressed the need for researchers in the region to work in unison.

"Unless we have regional collaboration we are not going to come up with complete understanding of what is happening," he said.

## Jan 1 sought as Morality Campaign Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ajachak Ashram, a social organisation, has demanded that the state recognise January 1 as Morality Campaign Day to raise awareness on morality and ethics among the public.

The organisation made the demand at a procession to mark the 101 anniversary of the Morality Campaign Day initiated by Swami Swarupnanda, said a press release.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the procession yesterday which began at the Central Shaheed Minar and ended at Jatiya Press Club.

## 4,500 women, children

FROM PAGE 3

increase from 64 in 2013 to 93 in 2014.

Reports of police torture also went up with 53 incidents in 2014 compared to 37 in 2013.

Out of the 55 women and children who faced acid attacks last year, four died.

The release particularly cited 277 incidents of minority repression including arson and loot.