

# 'Will continue our fight for justice'

Citizens march into the streets protesting recent communal violence

STAR REPORT

People of the country's capital and port city stepped into the streets yet again yesterday to question authorities' role in ensuring security and demand an end to the communal attacks.

At a protest rally in the port city, leaders of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad said attempts to uproot Hindus from the country will never work, as such efforts will face heavy resistance.

They demanded punishment for the culprits through a speedy trial tribunal.

"We will resist. Bangladesh will oppose the culprits," said Nirmal Chatterjee, general secretary of the parishad, at the rally, organised by Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Committee's Chattogram city unit, at Anderkilla Intersection.

Nirmal asked why the administration failed to ensure safety for puja mandaps, and

houses and establishments of Hindus, despite its assurance.

Milan Kanti Dutta, president of the parishad, said no trial over such attacks have been completed. "This time, 24,000 were accused in different cases throughout the country. But trials cannot be held for all 24,000."

Milan said one Iqbal Hossain was arrested over the Cumilla incident, but police and administration termed him "mentally ill" and a vagabond, and the media joined in to propagate that.

Hillol Sen Ujjwal, general secretary of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad's Chattogram city unit, spoke among others, with the parishad's city unit president Ashish Bhattacharjee in the chair.

Earlier in the day, several thousands gathered at Anderkilla Intersection, held a procession and shouted slogans, demanding trial and punishment of the culprits.

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Demands, slogans and placards filled the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, as around 500 people and 50 organisations participated in a rally, organised under the banner of "Shampriti Bangladesh", to reiterate their demands for justice centring the recent communal attacks on the Hindu community.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## DHAKA AIRPORT Gold worth over Tk 8cr found in plane

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) seized 12kg of gold, worth around Tk 8.44 crore, from an aircraft at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on Sunday night.

Around 104 gold bars were found wrapped in Scotch tape -- hidden inside three belts made of fabric.

A team of CIID found the belts abandoned at the cargo hold of BG-4148, after it landed from Dubai at the airport around 9:15pm, said CIID Director General Abdur Rofiq at a press briefing at his office yesterday.

The smugglers had planned to dodge taxes and take the gold out of the airport later on, he said, adding none were arrested in this connection.

The matter is being investigated, he said.

## BNP now only exists online

Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday termed BNP as an isolated party and said it is BNP, not Awami League, that is on the brink of bankruptcy, as the party is in fear of elections, and people have no belief in their capacity to hold any demonstration.

"BNP has no existence on the street. It exists only online, including on Facebook," he said.

Ruling out the possibility of a situation like one-eleven recurring in the country, he said BNP is dreaming of another one-eleven, when the army-backed caretaker government declared state of emergency for two years after the BNP regime in 2006.

"BNP is expecting one more one-eleven... but it will not take place again in the country," he said.



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## AL behind recent communal attacks

Alleges Gayeshwar

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leader Gayeshwar Chandra Roy yesterday alleged that the ruling party leaders and activists were directly involved in the recent communal violence as part of a "blueprint of the government".

"We visited some temples that came under attack and talked to eyewitnesses and people concerned. The direct involvement of the leaders and activists of Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League in these attacks can be found through a proper investigation," he said.

Gayeshwar, the chief of the committee formed by BNP to look into the sectarian violence, came up with the remarks at a press conference at BNP's Nayapalton central office. The committee earlier inspected some violence-hit areas.



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## COURT CHRONICLES

ASSAULT ON POLICE

### Arrest warrants issued against 6 BNP leaders

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against six BNP leaders, including Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, in a case filed over assaulting police.

After accepting charges against 18 BNP leaders, including the six, Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka issued the arrest warrants, court sources said.

The judge directed the officer-in-charge of Shabbagh Police Station to submit the reports on execution of the arrest warrants by December 12. Among the accused,

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

### Probe report delayed for 82nd time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to submit by November 24 the probe report of a case filed over the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

With yesterday's date, the investigation officer has so far taken 82 dates to complete the investigation.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shahidul Islam passed the order after Rab's Additional Superintendent Khondoker Shafiqul Alam, also investigation officer of the case, failed to submit the report yesterday, court sources said.

Sagar, news editor at private TV channel Maasranga, and his wife Runi, a senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed in the early hours of February 11, 2012 in their rented flat in the capital's West Razabazar. After Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police and

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### Why Shahed should not be granted bail?

Asks HC

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule to know why Regent group chairman Mohammad Shahed should not be granted bail in a money laundering case.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Sardar Md Mostafizur Rahman issued the rule.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and others concerned have been asked to respond to the rule within four weeks.

Advocate Sagor Hossain Leon appeared for Shahed in the court, while Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan represented ACC.

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### Baul singer Rita Dewan indicted in DSA case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday framed charges against Baul singer Rita Dewan and two others in a case filed for making "derogatory comments" about religion and hurting people's sentiment during a performance.

The two others are Md Shahjahan and Md Iqbal Hossain.

The three accused, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal read out the charges to them, Shamim Al Mamun, bench assistant of the tribunal, told The Daily Star.

Earlier in the day, the judge rejected three petitions submitted for discharging them from the case, he said. The tribunal also set January 27 for starting the trial. During yesterday's hearing, Rita, Shahjahan and Iqbal were present in the court.

On February 2 last year, Advocate Imrul Hasan filed the case against Rita Dewan

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A staffer of Barishal City Corporation sprays insecticide using a fogger machine near the drains on Band Road yesterday, as part of the corporation's precautionary measures to minimise the risks of dengue and malaria.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

### 5 workers burnt in N'ganj steel mill explosion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five workers were burnt after they came in contact with molten metal during an explosion at a steel mill in Narayanganj's Fatullah upazila yesterday afternoon.

The injured were taken to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery with burns from 11 to 52 percent, Aiyub Hossain, resident surgeon of the institute, told The Daily Star.

The injured are: Billal Hossain (25), Arif (27), Abdul Ali (26), Sohail (35) and Liton (36).

The incident happened around 12:15am while they were working at Chakda Steel and Re-rolling Mills Ltd, said Rubel Bhandari, a co-worker.

Rubel said he later took them to the hospital.

### Youth held over fraudulence, identity theft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested a student of Jagannath University from Dhaka's Gandaria area on Sunday on charges of fraudulence and identity theft.

The arrestee, Abu Musa Asari (21), a fourth-year student of film and television department, reportedly impersonated a health department official and promised an admission seeker to get her admitted to a dental college in exchange of money.

Two fake identity cards of the University Grants Commission, several fake NID cards and copies of the admission cards of the students were seized from his possession.

Ashraf Hossain, deputy commissioner of DB's Wari Division told The Daily Star that an admission seeker found Musa Asari on Facebook after the results of the dental college admission test were out, and she had not been selected for admission.

Musa introduced himself as a senior official of the health department and told her that her test results were good enough to get her admitted, but due to some irregularities on the part of some senior officials, someone else was given the chance.

He then promised to get her admitted in exchange of

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### Navy chief in India on 6-day official trip

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Navy Chief Admiral M Shaheen Iqbal is on an official visit to India -- from October 23 to 29.

During his visit, Admiral Iqbal will interact with the chief of Indian naval staff in addition to the chief of defence staff and other high-ranking Indian officials, the Indian Defence Ministry said yesterday.

"During the bilateral interactions, issues relating to joint cooperative

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### Japan to provide \$5m to promote primary education

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Japan yesterday signed an exchange of notes and grant agreement on the "Japanese Grant Aid for the Fourth Primary Education Development Programme".

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki; Fatima Yasmin, secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), and Hayakawa Yuho, chief representative, JICA Bangladesh office, signed the documents.

Ambassador Naoki said Japan has consistently made efforts to promote quality education in Bangladesh since the country's independence in 1971.

"Higher education is important, but for the development of the country, it is essential to extend cooperation at every level of education. Above all, education is the only way for children born into poor families to overcome poverty and empower themselves. Japan will continue its strong involvement in primary education," he said.

Secretary Fatima Yasmin said Japan's cooperation covers a wide range of fields, from infrastructure to education.

RABINDRA UNIVERSITY

### Students confine 30 staffers for 7 hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Palma

Students of Rabindra University confined its registrar, teachers and officials for at least seven hours till early yesterday, demanding termination of teacher Farhana Yeasmin Baten.

The students confined around 30 staffers on Sunday evening to a room when a team went to talk to them to settle the issue.

They released the registrar, teachers and officials when some of them said that they were feeling unwell.

Termining the confinement "inhuman", Md Rawshon Alo, proctor in-charge of the university, said, "The students confined us to a room for seven to eight hours. They unlocked the door when one of the teachers fell sick around 1:30am," Rawshon said.

The students have been continuing protests, demanding

removal of Farhana Yeasmin, former chairman of the department of cultural heritage and Bangladesh studies department, who was accused of forcibly cutting the hair of 14 students.

On September 26, Farhana asked the university employees to cut the hair of the students who had long hair before they entered examination halls. One of the students tried to die by suicide following the incident.

Amid student protests, the university authorities formed a five-member probe committee headed by Laila Fardous, chairman of the Rabindra Studies department, on September 28. The probe body on October 21 submitted its report against Farhana.

On October 23, a section of students started a hunger strike as no decision was made about the termination of Farhana at the

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Shahjalal University of Science and Technology has finally reopened the residential halls yesterday after nearly 19 months. As the campus welcomed its students, a cheerful atmosphere prevailed on its premises with friends getting reunited once again.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR