

DHAKA

TODAY

Painting exhibition

A painting exhibition, organised by the Underprivileged Children's Educational Programmes (UCEP)-Bangladesh, will be held. Venue: UCEP head office, Mirpur. Time: From 2.00pm to 6.00pm.

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Boutique show

KANIZ organises its second exclusive boutique exhibition. Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi. Time: From 12.00 noon to 8.00pm daily till November 10.

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Eid fair

Kheya, a creative organisation, arranges a five-day Eid fair with the participation of leading fashion houses. Venue: Muldhara International Centre, House # 15, Road # 7, Dhanmondi. Time: 2.30pm.

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Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Antwone Fisher'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 7.00pm.

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Roundtable

The Bangladesh Parliament Journalist Association organises a roundtable on 'Active committee: effective parliament'. Venue: Hotel Razmoni Isha Kha. Time: 2.00pm.

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Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of Eastern Plus, a shopping complex of Eastern Housing Ltd., will be held. Venue: 145 Shantinagar. Time: 2.30pm.

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IUB seminar

The Population Environment Department of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) will hold a seminar on 'Population issues' to mark the 10th founding anniversary of the university. Venue: IUB campus, Baridhara. Time: 10am.

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Discussion on waste management

The Dhanmondi Environmental Improvement Coalition will hold a discussion on 'hygienic waste management for Dhanmondi'. Venue: Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

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Seminar on industrial policy

A seminar on 'Existing industrial policy and proposed amendment', organised by the Forum of Engineers and

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Architects, will be held. Venue: IEB Auditorium. Time: 2.30pm.

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Poetry Council meeting

The National Poetry Council will hold its executive committee meeting. Venue: TSC of Dhaka University. Time: 4.00pm.

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Islamic Foundation discussion

The Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh organises a discussion to mark the National Revolution and Solidarity Day. Venue: Foundation auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

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Discussion

A discussion on 'The spirit of November 7 and the propaganda by counter-revolutionaries', organised by Colonel Taher Sangsad, will be held. Venue: TSC seminar room of Dhaka University. Time: 3.00pm.

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Meeting

The AMIE engineers will hold a meeting to discuss their problems and solutions. Venue: Eastern Commercial Complex, 73 Kakrail, Room # 7/5, seventh floor. Time: 4.00pm.

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BCS Forum meeting

The 18th BCS Forum will hold a preparatory meeting for its first reunion. Venue: Institution of Engineers. Time: 2.30pm.

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Meeting

The Sylhet Division Development Parishad will hold a meeting of its central committee. Venue: Parishad office, Naya Paltan. Time: 3.00pm.

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Rally

Jatiya Party will organise a rally to protest deteriorating law and order and price hike of essentials. Time: Mukhtangan. Time: 11.00am.

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TOMORROW

Art exhibition

The fourth art exhibition by Charu Panoram will be inaugurated, with Prof. Hamiduzzaman Khan of the Institute of Fine Art as chief guest. Venue: Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm. The exhibition will remain open from 5.00pm to 8.00pm daily (except Saturday) till November 17.

PHOTO: STAR

Pakistan High Commissioner Manzar Shafiq called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

No step taken yet to send ailing Nirmal Sen abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No step has yet been taken to send ailing Nirmal Sen, a veteran politician and journalist, overseas for treatment although two medical boards recommended better treatment for him abroad.

Nirmal Sen, 76, suffered a brain stroke on October 11, leaving him paralysed down his left side and unable to see, talk and eat. His condition has not improved in the past three weeks, doctors said.

He is now undergoing treatment at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

On October 28, the second medical board headed by pro-VC of the university recommended sending Nirmal Sen overseas immediately.

A group of individuals had appealed to the government to send the ailing politician abroad. Even two ministers assured them of looking into the matter, but no step in this regard has yet been taken.

His political colleagues and well-wishers, however, have collected about 20 per cent of the amount needed for the treatment, sources said.

Death in custody 9 policemen sued in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A case was filed in connection with the reported custodial death of sawmill guard Md. Kanchon, 35, here yesterday.

Victim's wife Gulzar Begum filed the case with a metropolitan magistrate's court after a Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) probe report revealed that Kanchon died following torture in police custody.

Md. Kanchon, died on Friday (October 31) morning within 24 hours of his arrest by police from his house at Maddhyam Shahid Nagar under Bayezid thana in the city.

After hearing the case, the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Monwarul Islam directed the Deputy Commissioner (north) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) to investigate the incident and inform the court about the probe report.

The case was filed accusing nine persons including Sub-Inspector Tozammel Haq of Bayezid police station, his four colleagues and police source Giasuddin.

Kotwali thana BSEHR provided legal assistance to the victim's wife.

Police arrested Md. Kanchon, son of Shamsul Haq, from his house at 3.00

am on Thursday and produced him before the court at around noon.

He was admitted to jail hospital the same day. Later, Kanchon was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead in the early hours of Friday.

Earlier, Kanchon's wife Gulzar Begum alleged that police arrested her husband and beat up him mercilessly.

When the body was returned it was bruised all over with blood coming out from the ears and mouth. His left eye was also seriously damaged, she alleged.

SACEP meet begins in Colombo

UNB, Dhaka

A two-day meeting of the Focal Points of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) began in Colombo yesterday.

High officials of the member states of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives attended the meeting.

Inadequate relief, diarrhoea cripple people in N-region

Khetmajur Samity leaders say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lives of the people in the northern region where a famine-like situation has been prevailing are under threat, Bangladesh Khetmajur Samity leaders said yesterday after a visit to the region.

The monga (famine-like situation) and outbreak of diarrhoea have left over 1,000 people dead and triggered a mass migration of starving people, they said at a press conference in the city.

The seasonal monga has assumed its extreme form in about 100 upazilas of Nilphamari, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, and Naogaon districts.

The farm labourers have been jobless for long and they are passing their days in starvation as there is no food-for-work and test relief programmes, the leaders said.

"The food crisis in the region this year is acute," said the Samity General Secretary Saiful Huq.

According to media reports, more than 1,000 people died of starvation and diarrhoea in the northern districts in the past three months -- Bhadra, Ashwin, and Kartik, said the leaders.

Hundreds of people are being affected with diarrhoea everyday as they are forced to take inedible food day after day, they said.

"The people are too poor to afford even an oral saline to cure diarrhoea," Saiful Huq said while reading out a written statement.

"Men, women and children are dying everyday due to lack of treatment and medication at the upazila health complexes."

Moreover, skyrocketing prices of essentials have worsened the situation for the marginalised and low-income people, he added.

To cope with the situation, the labourers are selling their labour in advance at Tk 25 to 30 per day instead of usual Tk 70 to 80 and the farmers are selling their paddy harvest in advance at a rate of Tk 150 to 180 per mound when the market price is Tk 250 to 300.

"More than 50 per cent students of my school have been suffering from starvation," said Samity Vice-President Anwar Hossain quoting Mamtaj Uddin, a teacher of Jhunagachha Safani Dimukhi High School in Dimla Upazila of Nilphamari.

"During the visit, we came across a gathering of about 300 people at Kanchipara, Gaibandha, who were waiting for the UP chairman in the hope of getting some food," said Shibliul Bari, a leader of the Samity.

The leaders criticised the government for not taking adequate relief programmes for the affected people.

The Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards are also not being allocated as required, they said.

Some UNO officials and union parishad chairmen also blamed inadequate relief grants and local politicians' interference in relief distribution for the situation, the leaders said.

PHOTO: STAR

Supreme Court Human Rights Cell staged a sit-in on the High Court premises yesterday demanding judicial investigation into deaths of Sumon, Saiful and Ripon in police custody.

PHOTO: STAR

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon addresses a meeting in observance of the Jail Killing Day at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Shaheed M Monsur Ali Smriti Sangsad organised the function.

WEATHER

TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and the lowest 19.7 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:19pm today and rises at 6:06am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	25.0	70	47
Chittagong	33.0	24.0	74	69
Rajshahi	31.6	22.4	82	88
Khulna	33.0	23.8	75	71
Barisal	32.5	23.5	80	90
Sylhet	30.8	21.6	77	85
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.0	77	64

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Consumers' Society formed a human chain in front of the Shantinagar Bazar yesterday protesting price spiral of essentials.