

## BFUJ, DUJ concerned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday expressed concern as reporters were denied access to Bangabhaban and were not formally briefed of Bangabhaban affairs.

Journalist leaders also called upon all to ensure journalists' access everywhere including the Election Commission (EC) and Bangabhaban so that they can collect news without hassle.

BFUJ President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, General Secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, DUJ President Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Omar Faruk in a joint statement said barring journalists from entering the EC amounts to obstructing the flow of information.

The journalist leaders also said journalists were forced to collect news standing on the streets as they were denied access to Bangabhaban.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

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

Highest temperature 31.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 15.1 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5.11pm today and rises at 6:18am tomorrow.**

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.7	18.6	64	61
Chittagong	31.3	20.0	72	70
Rajshahi	29.3	16.0	83	80
Khulna	29.7	18.0	80	79
Barisal	30.0	17.4	87	89
Sylhet	30.6	18.9	75	72
Cox's Bazar	30.8	20.3	72	65

## Obituary



Veteran journalist Rahmat Ali passed away due to old age complications at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the city on Saturday at the age of 73, says a press release.

Rahmat, also founding member of National Press Club, left behind his wife, four sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He started his career in 1960 at The Statesman, published from Kolkata, as the then Pakistan Staff Correspondent. He also worked at Morning News and Bangladesh Times from 1966 to 1978. He retired after working with the New Nation as an Associate Editor.

His quikhani will be held at his residence at Block-79, Road No-4, Niketon, Gulshan in the city after Asr prayers on Friday.

## Dr Upendra Lal Shil

Dr Upendra Lal Shil, a communist leader of Cox's Bazar and a social worker, passed away at his residence at Kayarbill on November 12 at the age of 96, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, five sons and eight daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimal Biswas in a statement expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

## Zarina Begum

Zarina Begum, mother of Aftab Uddin, leader of Mymensingh district Sramik League, passed away due to old age complications on November 15 at the age of 75, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, four sons and three daughters to mourn her death.

Jatiya Sramik League President Abdul Matin Master and General Secretary Ray Ramesh Chandra in a statement yesterday expressed deep shock at her death and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

## Ambia Khatun

Ambia Khatun, wife of Md Ishaq, former general manager of Bangladesh Bank, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at her residence at Uttara on Saturday night at the age of 65, says a press release.

Ambia, also mother of BCS Information Association Secretary General Md Sarwar Alam, left behind her husband, three sons and three daughters to mourn her death.

BCS Information Association President Abu Abdullah consoled the death prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

## Mahmuda Begum

Mahmuda Begum, wife of Majibur Rahman, president of Shiddhirganj Thana Awami League, passed away due to brain stroke at a city clinic yesterday at the age of 50, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, three sons and one daughter to mourn her death.

Jatiya Sramik League President Abdul Matin Master and General Secretary Ray Ramesh Chandra yesterday in a statement expressed deep shock at her death and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

## Shipping agents

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goods at the terminal. As a result, seven container ships have been waiting at the terminal and another 16 are at the outer anchorage.

The operation cost of a container ship is between \$10,000-15,000 per day.

The Shipping Agents Association of Bangladesh yesterday called on newly appointed Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Mosleh Uddin and urged him to resume operations of the port immediately.

They extended their ultimatum for another 24 hours to resolve the dispute or else they would launch tougher programmes. The association on Saturday gave an ultimatum of 12 hours to resume operations of the port.

Meanwhile, a faction of Master Stevedores Association, loyal to the Chittagong City Corporation Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also met the CPA chairman and reiterated their demand for cancellation of the agreement between the CPA and the private company.

Led by Golam Mohammad Chowdhury, the stevedores demanded the port operators operate the gantry cranes instead of the foreign crane operators appointed by the private company Saif Powerlec Ltd. They also demanded cancellation of the agreement signed with Saif Powerlec.

The CPA signed the agreement in June this year to accelerate the container handling capability of the port through sophisticated Quay Gantry Cranes, which were installed in January costing over Tk150 crore.

The private company handled 25-30 containers per hour while the port operators handled 10-12 containers. The dockers, particularly the ones loyal to the Chittagong city mayor, have been opposing the handling of containers by a private company.

Saif Powerlec on Saturday, however, served a notice to the CPA demanding compensation of Tk 10 lakh per day for failing to allow the company operate the crane as per agreement.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina calls on President/Chief Adviser to Caretaker Government Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

## 4 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Jhalakathi and Khagrachhari yesterday.

UNB from Sirajganj adds: Two people, including an old woman, were killed and three others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj yesterday.

In the first accident, an unidentified old woman was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Koddar crossing on the link road of Jamuna Bridge at about 2:30pm.

In another accident, a man was killed and three others were injured when a truck plunged into a roadside ditch at Bhuiyangati in Rayganj upazila.

The identity of the deceased, aged about 35, could not be known. The injured were sent to a local hospital.

UNB from Jhalakathi adds: A child was killed and three people, includ-

ing his parents, were injured as a bus hit their rickshaw from behind at Boidarapur in Rajapur upazila yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Rifat, 6, son of Hanif Hawladar of Bamunkhan village of the upazila.

Witnesses said Rifat and his parents fell down from the rickshaw when the speeding bus dashed it and the bus ran over Rifat leaving him dead on the spot.

Rifat's father Hanif Hawladar, mother Mahmuda Begum and rickshaw puller Nurul Haq also sustained serious injuries in the accident. They were admitted to a local hospital.

The bus driver managed to escape along with the vehicle.

Our correspondent from Khagrachhari adds: One man was killed in a road accident yesterday at Sanirbar Bazar under Khagrachhari sadar upazila in the hill district Khagrachhari.

The dead was identified as

Pradip Kumar Dey, 29.

Police and eyewitnesses said the accident occurred at around 10:00am when a Khagrachhari bound speeding passenger bus hit Pradip at Sanirbar Bazar injuring him seriously. Locals rescued the man but he died on the way to hospital.

The body was sent to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

## Memorial meet for Poet Sufia Kamal postponed

Samajik Protirodh Committee has postponed the memorial meeting for Poet Sufia Kamal marking her seventh death anniversary scheduled to be held today due to the current political situation, says a press release.

## EC secretariat made off-limits to journo

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secretariat.  
The ban on the media--unprecedented in the history of the EC--was imposed at a time when the next parliamentary election is nearing and all eyes are set on the activities of the EC and its secretariat.

Last week, the EC banned journalists from entering the EC Secretariat for a few hours.

Last year, the chief election commissioner (CEC) also imposed a restriction on the then two election commissioners' talking to the media as the two had been strongly opposing CEC MA Aziz's unilateral move for preparing a fresh voter list.

The EC and its secretariat have been criticising the media for the last few months as different newspapers

and television channels ran reports on various irregularities in the process of preparing the voter list. Latest, they reported alleged irregularities in the printing process of the updated voter list.

Aziz also accused the media on several occasions of "tampering the image of the EC".

Last Wednesday, EC Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarkar told some journalists at his office that they wanted to beef up security at the EC Secretariat and sought cooperation from the journalists who visit the place regularly.

Sarkar also proposed that the EC Secretariat will provide the reporters with all information, but they will have to stay in a room in another EC Secretariat building where no

important officials sit to work on election-related issues.

The journalists assured him of providing all cooperation but refused to accept his proposal that reporters will not be allowed to move frequently in the secretariat.

The EC secretary again discussed the issue with journalists on Thursday and assured that no restriction will be imposed on them.

But, the ban suddenly came yesterday.  
Talking to reporters, officials at the EC Secretariat regretted the ban.

The EC has always supplied information to the media to create public awareness for holding a free and fair election.

## JCD men attack

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several bombs and firing of gunshots allegedly by the JCD men when the CSP leaders entered the campus to have a meeting with the university authorities regarding the current state of campus politics and coexistence of the activists of different parties on the campus.

BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon and General Secretary Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury Roton led the CSP team.

The JCD men, who were preparing to resist the BCL leaders, rushed to the Registrar Building area to chase the CSP leaders and beat up Mijan and Faruque of Sir AF Rahman Hall and Titu of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Hall.

Later, the CSP leaders took shelter at the VC's office and held meeting with VC Prof SMA Faiz. During the meeting, the JCD men allegedly exploded two crude bombs outside the office, sources said.

At around 1:30pm, when the CSP leaders were leaving the campus with police escort, the JCD activists chased them again firing blank shots and exploding crude bombs.

In another incident, the dissident group of the BCL, who did not receive any post either in the central or in the DU committee, assaulted the organisation's General Secretary Roton.

Hundreds of general students and admission seekers got frightened at this sudden occurrence.

Talking to the reporters, Prof Faiz said the authorities are trying to find out ways of creating a congenial atmosphere for coexistence of all the activists of different student organisations at the university halls.

"If it is necessary, dormitories will be raided by the BDR," he said.

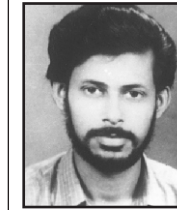
Prof Faiz said university authorities would conduct investigation into yesterday's incidents and take action against those responsible.

The CSP leaders also demanded punishment of the JCD 'cadres' responsible for yesterday's attack, recovery of illegal arms from the university dormitories and peaceful coexistence of all the activists of different student organisations on the campus.

General students expressed concern over the announcement of indefinite closure saying it will only prolong the already existing severe sessions jam of more than one and a half years.

Due to the declaration, holding of first year honours admission tests, scheduled to start from December 1, also became uncertain.

## Death anniversary



Today is the 35th death anniversary of Shaheed LtAbu Moeen Muhammad Asmaqu Samad Bir Uttam, says a press release.

On this day in 1971, Samad embraced martyrdom in a battle. Local people renamed the area where he was killed as Samadnagar.



BNP Chairperson and immediate past prime minister Khaleda Zia exchanges views with cultural personalities at her Hawa Bhaban office in the city yesterday.

## Police administration

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(Dhamra) during the tenure of the immediate past government in order to get a party ticket from the BNP-led four-party alliance. Supporters of Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan, the then local lawmaker, had locked in clashes with Farooq's activists on several occasions.

Other than Farooq, the officials who were reinstated yesterday are: BTRC commissioners AMM Rezae-Rabbi and Justice Mohammad Abdus Salam. They were reinstated two after their contractual jobs were cancelled two days ago.

The SEC Chairman Faruq Ahmad Siddiqi and members Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury, Mohammad Ali Khan and Abbas Uddin Khan were also reinstated to their posts.

Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ali Kaiser Hasan Morshed, whose contractual job was also cancelled on Thursday, was reinstated yesterday.

Additional deputy commissioners (ADCs) Nurul Amin and M Salimullah

of Chuadanga, Rabi ur Reza Siddiqui and M Bazil Karim Chowdhury of Kurigram, Moksudur Rahman Patwari of Rajbari, Mofizul Islam of Feni, Ashok Kumar Biswas of Khulna and Asmaul Hossain of Laxmipur were withdrawn to the establishment ministry.

Senior Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture Shamima Yasmin was transferred as ADC of Dhaka. Deputy Director of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) Ram Chandra Das as ADC of Khulna, Chief Revenue Officer of Chittagong Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) Syeda Sorwar Jahan as ADC to Feni, Senior Assistant Secretary of the establishment ministry Achhia Khatun as ADC to Rajbari, UNO of Kalpa upazila in Narail AKM Masudur Rahman as ADC to Laxmipur, Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa) Magistrate Mejbahuddin Chowdhury as ADC to Chuadanga, UNO of Badarganj in Rangpur

Abdus Sattar Sarker as ADC to Kurigram and UNO of Mollahat in Bagerhat Kamala Ranjan Das as ADC to Tangail.

While reshuffling the police administration, the government transferred Chittagong Range DIG Sheikh M Sajjat Ali to the Police Headquarters, DIG of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) M Sadiqur Rahman to Special Branch (SB), DIG of SB Mokhesur Rahman as principal of Sardah Police Academy and DIG Amir Uddin of Highway Police to Chittagong Range.

Principal of Sardah Police Academy M Najibur Rahman was transferred as DIG to the Highway Police, Commandant of Detective Training School (DTS) of CID Milli Biswas as joint commissioner to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and Special Superintendent of police Abdur Rahim, who was transferred as commandant of Rangpur Police Training College on October 31, as commandant of DTS.

## Tarique files defamation suits

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direct cognisance.

Enraged by the order, more than 200 BNP-backed lawyers tried to create pressure on the magistrate to issue summons upon the AL president and her two close aides, but the magistrate stuck to his order despite the chaotic situation created by them that lasted for nearly half an hour.

In the complaint against Sheikh Hasina, Tarique mentioned that she (Hasina) told a public meeting at Paltan Maidan on November 3, "The son of 4-party alliance chief drives Tk 2 crore car, wears suit worth lakh taka and squanders thousands of crore taka in gambling abroad," and "A syndicate of 2 lakh and 86 thousand crore taka is being run at Hawa Bhaban."

In the charge against Obaidul

Quader, the complainant said he (Quader) at a press briefing on November 4 said "The New York Stock Exchange has awarded Tarique Rahman with a medal. How much taka is needed to get it, what is the source of this money, people want to know." Quader also said "people want to know what Tarique Rahman carried in 435 suitcases and bags on his trip to Saudi Arabia for performing the Umrah? Why and how the Malaysian government has confiscated the money of Tarique?"

Tarique quoted AL general secretary as telling the newsmen on November 16, "Apu, APS of Tarique Rahman, met the inspector general of police (IGP) and pressurised him for the posting of 15 BNP party men as officers-in-charge (OCs) to the police stations of Gopalganj, Faridpur, Shariatpur and Madaripur districts."

The petitioner said that all these widely published and telecast statements of the AL leaders, are false and baseless aiming to undermine his political image.

Addressing a press conference at Hawa Bhaban, the BNP chairperson's office in Banani, Tarique's lawyer Barrister Nawshad Jamir and Barrister Nasruddin Washim told the journalists that AL Chief Sheikh Hasina, General Secretary Abdul Jalil and Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader had been making defamatory statements against Tarique Rahman for a long time.

Asked which portion of Hasina's remark is defamatory, Jamir said they have recorded them in their suits.

He died later after having a cardiac arrest during his speech at the rally, Habibullah Belali, Ahmad Abdul Quader, Abdul Latif Nizami and Azizul Bari Helal also addressed the rally.

After the rally at Muktangan was over, hundreds of four-party alliance leaders and activists from different wards and thanas carrying colourful banners marched towards Moghbazar area through the streets of Bijoynagar, Kakrail and Malibagh.

Leaders and activists of BNP and Shibir, student wing of JCD and Jamaat, took position at Muktangan after conclusion of the rally and declared a continuous sit-in programme at the venue until the election schedule is announced.

Among others former ministers Aminul Haque, Mirza Abbas, Aman Ullah Aman and numbers of former student leaders spoke at the sit-in.

## 4-party warns of agitation again

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the caretaker government is a weak government. Law-enforcement agencies are behind it...People are behind it," he said.

He regretted that there had never been any movement against any caretaker government in the past "... because it is a neutral government and everyone's government."

The 14-party alliance is waging movement against the present caretaker government considering it a weak government, the BNP leader observed.

Mannan Bhuiyan accused the 14-party alliance of trying to foil the election as they foresee their defeat in the upcoming polls. He also accused his rivals of trying to destroy the country's institutions like the judiciary, the Election Commission, the Public Service Commission and parliament.

"Can any patriotic political party

wage such a movement that harms the country and causes sufferings to the people?" he questioned. "14-party alliance will be held responsible if prices of essentials go higher due to the blockade".

On the Election Commission, Bhuiyan said, "It is not a big deal who heads the institution. If confidence is not established, no one in the future would come forward to be the chief election commissioner or the commissioners".

Ali Ahsan Mujahid, Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami, asked the president and chief adviser to take stern action against those who want to create anarchy in the name of so-called blockade programme.

The rally was presided over by Sadek Hossain Khoka, mayor and president of Dhaka city unit BNP, while among others, Bangladesh Jatiya Party leader Saifur Rahman,

## Nagorik body places proposals to CA

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Describing the gravity of political deadlock Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said, "I have never seen such a dangerous situation through which the nation is passing now."

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya said the president was also urged to take steps for curbing corruption and the influence of black money and musclemen during the next general election.

The committee members hoped that the president would perform his duties as the president and chief adviser of the caretaker government separately and with transparency.

The delegation apprised the president of the background of the Nagorik Committee and informed him that the recommendations were prepared through 15 national dialogues in different places of the country in last few months.

The delegation told the president that the immediate and meaningful reforms and reconstitution of

the Election Commission demands of time as the nation is passing through a critical situation.

The Nagorik Committee thinks that the initiative taken by the advisers with consultations of the chief adviser can play a vital role in resolving the political impasse.

The nation is eagerly waiting for the president's statement in this regard, the committee observed.

They suggested holding meeting of the advisers with district level officials for creating awareness for keeping the administration out of the political influence.

The committee suggested incorporations of some new provisions in the RPO including compulsory registration of political parties, imposing bar on government officials in participating in the national election within three years of his or her retirement, informing the people about the candidates' income, expenditure, property, tax and liabilities within 72 hours of their

financial statements submitted to the returning officers.

The Election Commission should appoint the officials of the National Board of Revenue, Anti-Corruption Commission and the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General for examining the financial statements submitted by the candidates, they said.

The Election Commission should also form election disqualification commission for cancelling the candidature if any allegation of corruption or illegal activity is made against any candidate, they suggested.

The election dispute cases must be resolved within six months of filing the case, they said.

The committee thinks that their recommendations should be implemented for curbing the influence of black money and musclemen and ensuring participation of the competent, honest and dedicated persons in the election.