


TOMORROW



Every year millions of children become victims of malnutrition which is one of the main causes of child mortality in our country and other parts of the developing world. What are the consequences for the children who survive? Read *Star Weekend Magazine's* cover story this week Malnutrition: Invisible threat to a Brighter Future.

Inside Today

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Bangabandhu Lands in Freedom

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftar
8	8	5:19	5:31
9	9	5:19	5:32
10	10	5:19	5:32

OBITUARY

We deeply express our grief on the death of the founder of New Jarwa House, a renowned personality in the Bangladesh Gold Jewellery Industry, **Sree Shubol Chandra Roy** of 9, Uttar Moushundi, Shrutapur, Dhaka who died on the 6th of January 1998 at 7.40 PM due to old age complications at the Birdem Hospital.

He contributed a lot in various social activities in addition to his effort to promote the Gold Jewellery Industry in his 74 years lifetime.

He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters and a large number of well-wishers to mourn his death.

We pray for his departed soul and wish that all his well-wishers pray for him too.

On behalf of the bereaved family

Badal Chandra Roy


HEARTIEST WELCOME TO

PROF. ROMANO PRODI

THE PRIME MINISTER OF ITALY

AND MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION FOR THEIR FIRST EVER VISIT TO BANGLADESH.

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Agreement on Ctg Hill Tracts

President himself won't call any roundtable

President Shahabuddin Ahmed himself will not call any round-table conference on the December 2 agreement on Chittagong Hill Tracts, BSS quoting a statement issued from Bangabhaban said yesterday.

The President, however, has reiterated his views that this is a national issue of the highest importance which may be discussed by the government and the opposition both in and outside the parliament without drawing the President into any controversy," the statement added.

Earlier, in the morning BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban.

On December 21, Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia met with the President and sought his intervention to arrange a roundtable to discuss the agreement with the government, according to UNB.

Next day Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met with the President and apparently rejected Begum Zia's idea of roundtable, arguing that Parliament is the appropriate forum to discuss such an important national issue.

A press release issued from Bangabhaban on December 22 said the President prefers to remain above all controversy. It said "He (President) will give his decision later."

In continuation of the December 22 press release from Bangabhaban, the President made the aforesaid statement yesterday.

Contact with BNP to continue, says Nasim

Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday said the opposition BNP should return to Parliament and give their opinion on the CHT peace agreement, reports UNB.

"It's the right of the BNP lawmakers to come back to the See Page 12 Col 5

Follow-up meet with PCJSS now Jan 15

KHAGRACHHARI, Jan 7: The date of the proposed meeting between the National Committee on CHT and the Parbatya Chatragram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) has been fixed on January 15, reports UNB.

The meeting to be held at Khagrachhari circuit house will discuss the process of surrendering of arms by Shantibahini guerrillas as per provision of the See Page 12 Col 8

All Party meet at Bandarban Jan 10

BANDARBAN, Jan 7: All Party Unity Council will hold a public meeting at Bandarban Press Club premises on January 10 to press for scrapping the CHT peace accord signed on December 2, reports UNB.

BNP leader Syed Wahidul Alam, MP, Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, Jamaat leader Moulana Delwar Hossain Saldee, MP, among others, will See Page 12 Col 1

Liquor poisoning: 13 deaths confirmed

By Staff Correspondent

Two more persons who fell sick allegedly after taking adulterated liquor at a slum in the city's Tejgaon area Sunday night died yesterday, raising the official death toll from the incident to 13.

One of them, Altaf Hossain, 45, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and the other, Fazlur Rahman, 30, died at the slum, hospital sources said. Altaf was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday night. Fazlur Rahman was an illegal trader of liquor.

Police yesterday said they got the information that 11 people had died from the incident earlier. Local people however put the death toll at 25.

Tejgaon police and the Department of Narcotics Control have arrested eight persons including a woman for illegally selling liquor in the slum.

Tejgaon police arrested four persons. They were Babul alias Dulal, Shahidul Haque and Khokon, all alleged liquor traders, and Ismail, reportedly a homeopath doctor.

The Department of Narcotics Control arrested four persons including a woman from Tejgaon area yesterday. They were being interrogated. The Department also filed a case with Tejgaon thana accusing 24 people. See Page 12 Col 6

ULFA leader was held with satellite phone

By Staff Correspondent

A fourth case was lodged with Mohammadpur thana on Tuesday against Anup Jettia alias Golap Barua on charges of possessing a satellite telephone. Police sources said last night that the Special Branch had seized the phone following arrest. See Page 12 Col 4

Crash-landing of Biman's F-28

Lloyds starts paying insurance claims

By Shehab Ahmed

The Lloyds of London, undertaker of Bangladesh Biman's F-28 aircraft that crash-landed on a mudflat, eight-km off Sylhet airport on December 22, has started paying insurance claims to the survivors.

Eight passengers, belonging to a family of Bangladeshis coming from UK, received the first payment of 10,000 Pounds earlier this week, according to Biman sources yesterday.

The rest of the 84 passengers who survived the crash-landing along with four crew, have been advised by the airline to immediately get in touch with it to file insurance claims.

The Lloyds began the payment after two of its assessors visited the site of crash-landing and filed their report to the head office in London last week.

The F-28 aircraft had been insured for six million dollars by the Sadharan Bima Corporation with the Lloyds. The aircraft is beyond salvage, Biman sources said.

The sources expressed their See Page 12 Col 2

Drug withdrawn for severe side effects

By Naimul Haq

The government has issued letters to all local pharmaceutical companies asking them to stop further production of terfenadine, a non-sedative antihistamine drug that has been proved to cause loss of life and severe side effects if ingested.

The drug is marketed in trade names — dinafine, servinin, nosidan and fenadine. As many as nine companies produce the drugs locally.

"We have issued notices to the respective drug manufacturing companies asking them to postpone manufacture of the drug, prescribed for remedy of cough, allergy, excessive accumulation of mucous in the nasal cavity and few other similar symptoms. We have also asked them to stop further import of raw materials used to produce the drug," said Md Abdul Malek, Director of Drug Administration.

He said, "The order came following a warning from the World Health Organisation (WHO) late last month about the See Page 12 Col 8

Employees of edn boards may call off strike today

By Staff Correspondent

The employees of the eight education boards may call off their indefinite strike, today after a meeting of the leaders of Inter-education Board Employees Federation with officials of the Education Ministry and the boards, according to Federation sources.

The decision was taken at an informal meeting between Education Minister A S H K Sadek and leaders of the Federation at See Page 12 Col 7

Senator Harkin due today

US Senator Tom Harkin, famous for his Bill against American import of garments made with child labour, will arrive in the city today, reports UNB.

During his two-day stay, the See Page 12 Col 8



Cricket fans throng the Dilkusha branch of Al-Baraka Bank for tickets of the Coca-Cola Independence Cup cricket tournament yesterday.

BTV to cover Independence Cup cricket

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Television will cover the Coca-Cola Independence Cup cricket tournament. BTV and the Asiatic, local agent for WorldTel, reached a deal in this regard yesterday.

As per the deal, BTV will get Tk 22 lakh from Asiatic for providing air-time for six matches under the package rule while Asiatic, in return will get free commercial space during the breaks.

It was also learnt that Asiatic will also provide Tk 20 lakh to Bangladesh Cricket Board for the six matches.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan and Indian team, led by Rashid Latif and Mohammed Azharuddin respectively, will arrive in the capital today.

Pakistan who will take on their arch rivals India in their first match on January 11, are expected to arrive at ZIA at 12:10 pm while India, who will face Bangladesh in the inaugural match on Jan 10, are expected to reach at 1:30 pm.

Meanwhile, tickets for the Independence Cup cricket were See Page 12 Col 1

Death toll from cold wave now 138

Warm moisture from Bay brewing dense fog

By Special Correspondent

At least 138 people died from cold bite in different parts of the country during the last two weeks, reports from different sources available in Dhaka said.

Dense fog shrouded the sun for the second consecutive day yesterday. And the cold wave made life miserable for the poor.

Lack of warm clothes, coverings during the night caused the deaths mainly in the northern districts, the sources said.

The cold spell brought mercury down to 6.4 degree Celsius in Jessore on Saturday, the minimum recorded officially. But unofficial sources claimed that it was hovering around four degree in the northern region.

Since the cold pushed mercury down, unofficial sources said, 34 people died in Nilphamari, 20 in Panchagarh, 18 at Kurigram, 16 each in Dinajpur and Thakurgaon, 10 in Gaibandha, 7 in Rangpur, Pabna 12, Sirajganj 4 and Lalmonirhat 1.

The fog will continue for at least two more days, today and tomorrow, a Meteorological Department official told The Daily Star last night.

See Page 12 Col 2

No iftar party, buy clothes for the poor with that money: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday decided to hold no iftar party and utilise the money thus saved for purchasing clothes for the poor and homeless who are suffering most in the severe cold wave across the country, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister appealed to the well-off people to donate See Page 12 Col 4

Italian PM arrives today

By Staff Correspondent

A warm welcome awaits Italian Prime Minister Prof Romano Prodi when he arrives in the city this evening at 7.30 on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will receive her Italian counterpart and his spouse Madame Flavia Prodi at the airport. After the formal ceremony, the visiting dignitary will be driven in a motorcade to Sonargaon Hotel where he will be staying.

The Italian prime minister's 70-member entourage will include 12 officials and 30 representatives of internationally renowned Italian companies such as FIAT automobiles, Italtel and Nuova Telspazio.

His entourage will also include Foreign Trade Minister See Page 12 Col 4

Contract with Indus Valley cancelled

The Government has cancelled the controversial contract between the RAJUK and the Singapore-based Indus Valley Investment Private Ltd in the public interest, reports UNB.

The contract was signed to develop the Gulshan-Banani Baridhara lake, an official handout said.

Earlier, an enquiry committee led by the Housing and Public Works Secretary submitted its report on this project. Its decision on cancellation of the contract was taken on the basis of the enquiry committee report.

The Government has also directed the Indus Valley to immediately close down its local office.


Rejoinder

Alhaj Fazlur Rahman, chairman of Rahman Group, has sent a rejoinder to a story published in The Daily Star on January 28. In his rejoinder Rahman said:

"The news in the caption 'Ever changing colour of a defaulting borrower' in your See Page 12 Col 5

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