

News

What's on today

Discussion meeting: Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will jointly hold a discussion meeting to mark 'Martyred Intellectuals Day'. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 11:00 am.

Discussion meeting: Bangla Academy will hold a discussion meeting on 'Martyred Intellectuals Day and Today's Bangladesh'. Venue: Seminar room of academy. Time: 11:00 am.

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of Dr Naim Ahmed's book 'Public Interest Litigation: Constitutional Issues and Remedies' will be held. Organiser: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST). Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Chamely House, 17, Topkhana Road. Time: 4 pm.

Film show: *Muktir Katha*, a documentary by Tareque Masud and Catherine Masud will be screened. Venue: Shishu Academy premises. Time: 6:00 pm.

ISL presentation: Information Solution Ltd has organised a presentation on '6 New Technologies for the New Millennium'. An Iftar party will follow the presentation. Venue: IDB Bhaban premises, Agargaon. Time: 3:30 pm.

Exhibition: A 3-day exhibition of the Situation Report and other documents of Sector II of the Liberation War opens. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Time: 3:30 pm.

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Weather

Dry weather likely

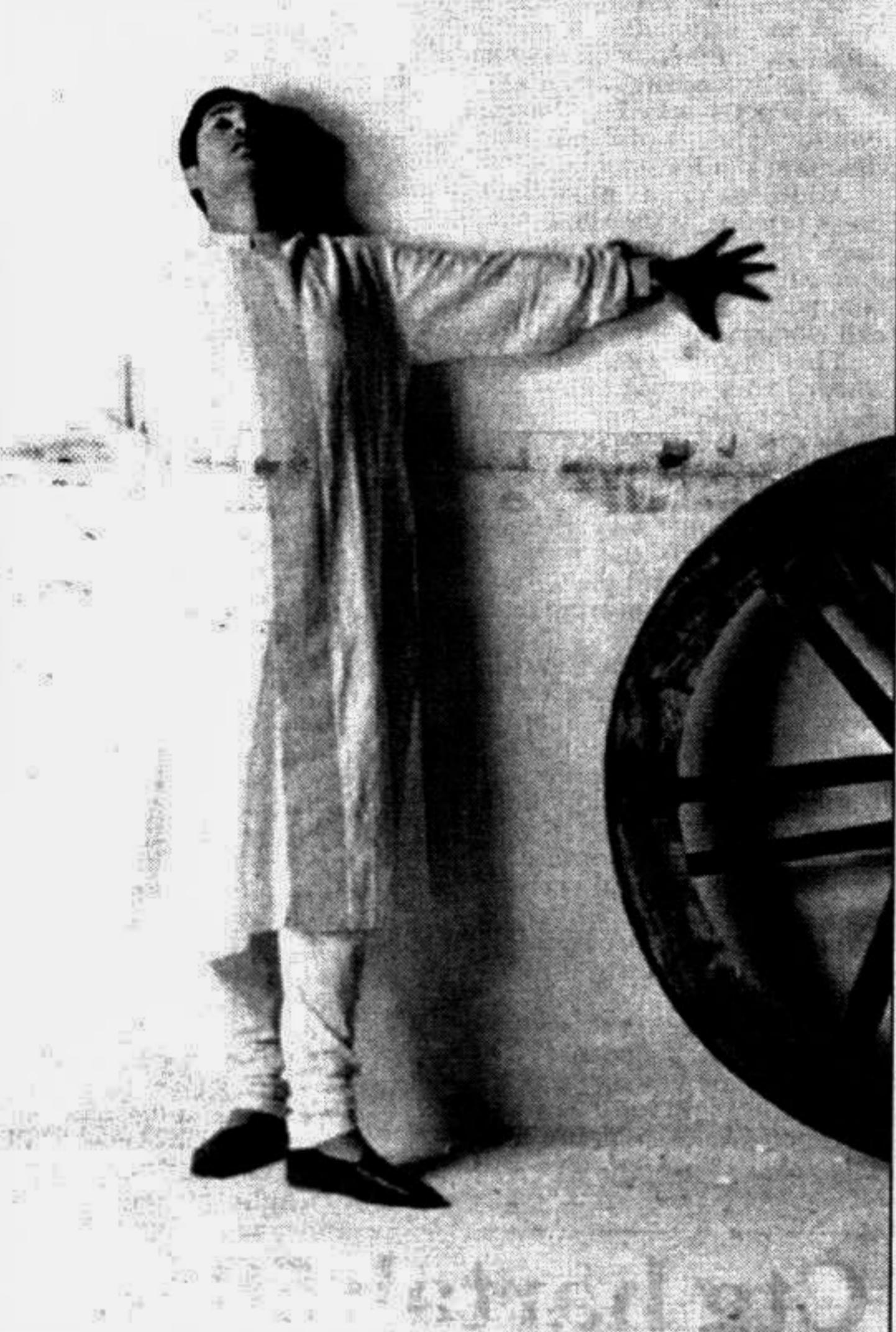
Weather is likely to remain dry over the country during next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Slight fall in night temperature is expected over the country during the period. Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature 30.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and the lowest 13.4 degrees at Sathkhira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:14 pm and rises on Wednesday at 6:32 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.5	18.3	73	74
Chittagong	28.8	18.6	84	63
Rajshahi	28.3	13.9	72	78
Khulna	29.3	16.2	76	74
Barisal	28.8	15.0	83	87
Sylhet	29.4	17.2	77	78
Cox's Bazar	29.0	20.0	73	58



Andes's Millennium Fashion Collection exhibition by designer Anila Haque begins tomorrow at Andes Boutique at Gulshan. The above picture shows one of her creations from the collection.

KUJ condemns attack

CPJ, DRU blast attack on newsmen

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) yesterday condemned attacks on journalists in Dhaka and Chittagong on Sunday, reports UNB.

City Editor of daily Prothom Alo and convening committee member of the CPJ Sanaullah Labloo were assaulted by a group of terrorists in Dhaka while 15 other journalists were assaulted by the opposition activists in Chittagong Sunday.

The CPJ leaders also condemned other attacks on journalists while covering protests, demonstrations and by-elections.

"Such attacks and physical threats have created a dangerous situation for journalists in general and specially risky for those doing field work," the statement jointly signed by CPJ president Ataus Samad and member secretary Showkat Mahmud said.

The CPJ also criticised the government for canceling the publication of the evidence, a periodic.

Meanwhile, Anwarul Huq and Monwarul Islam, president and general secretary of Dhaka Reporters' Unity also condemned the attack on Sanaullah Labloo and demanded arrest and punishment of those responsible for the attack.

"Our belief is that Turkey, which has made important contributions to European security and defence through its NATO membership since 1952, will be allowed to have its rightful place in the new structure," the Turkish statement said.

At the Helsinki summit, Turkey has previously voiced objections to the European Security and Defence Identity (ESDI), on the grounds that it would be forced to contribute to the initiative on missions it cannot decide upon.

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Mahila Parishad slams Gen Niazi's remarks

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Mohila Parishad in a statement condemned the remarks made by Pakistani General Niazi in an interview with Pak news agency PPI that Pakistani Occupation forces did not rape Bangladeshi women during the country's War of Independence.

Ayesha Khanom, general secretary of the Parishad said Gen Niazi's remark was not an isolated event and there is a correlation between the recent movement of anti-liberation axis and the remarks.

She said the fundamentalists have been engaged in conspiracy by sending death threats to the country's leading intellectuals and they have dared to attack the procession of Mohila Parishad.

She said those anti-liberation forces are still active who had tortured women, killed innocent people and helped the Pak occupation army in killing intellectuals of the country.

"They are now active to eliminate the spirit of the Liberation War and jeopardise the practice of democracy in the country," she said.

She expressed her surprise and alleged that they have joined their hand with the main opposition party in the name of restoration of democracy.

The Mohila Parishad urged to make it a reality to try the killers and collaborators of '71 and called upon all to come forward to resist and eliminate those evil forces.

Policeman killed in road accident in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Dec 13: A cop was run over by a speeding night coach at Majbagh in Nandail thana on Kishoreganj-Mymensingh road this (Monday) morning, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Abdu Sattar, 40 sub-inspector of Nandail police station.

Sattar on his way to Nandail from Kishoreganj on board a motorcycle met the tragic end of his life when the night coach coming from opposite direction rammed into his bike at 6 am.

Police seized the vehicle but the driver managed to escape.

Mokammel to attend meeting in Bangkok

Mokammel Haque, executive director of Board of Investment (BOI), left yesterday for Bangkok to attend the roundtable meeting on Foreign Direct Investment and Sustainable Human Development in Asia: Past Experience & Future Prospects, reports UNB.

FIAS and UNDP jointly organised the roundtable to be held on December 13-14 aiming to share experience of relevant policies and practices that can influence flows of desirable FDI and help to realize its potential socio-economic benefits for Asian countries.

Narsingdi Mukto Dibash observed

NARSINGDI, Dec 13: Narsingdi Mukto Dibash (liberation day) was observed here yesterday amidst jubilation, reports BSS.

After a nine-month long Liberation War against Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators — Razakars and Al-Badrs, hundreds of freedom fighter entered Narsingdi town on December 12 in 1971 and liberated the then thana headquarters from Pakistani Army.

Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsads, Narsingdi District Unit Command, organised a discussion meeting, rally, mifal mahfil and special prayers at its office to mark the day.

Commander of Mukti Joddha Sangsads, Narsingdi District Command Abdul Motaleb Pathan hoisted the national and organisational flag in front of the command office to mark the liberation day celebrations.

Earlier, a colourful rally, participated by the people from all walks of life, paraded main streets of the town.

EU defence move unsatisfactory

ANKARA, Dec 13: Turkey today described as unsatisfactory a European Union initiative to set up a rapid reaction force because it will exclude non-EU members from the decision-making mechanism, but use their resources, reports AFP.

The prevalent EU understanding on the participation of European NATO members that are not EU members, like Turkey, to the initiative is far from satisfactory, the foreign ministry said in a statement.

On Friday at the EU's Helsinki summit, European leaders agreed to create a force of 50,000 troops to intervene in European conflicts, without relying on NATO and to be in place by 2003.

Turkey has previously voiced objections to the European Security and Defence Identity (ESDI), on the grounds that it would be forced to contribute to the initiative on missions it cannot decide upon.

"Our belief is that Turkey, which has made important contributions to European security and defence through its NATO membership since 1952, will be allowed to have its rightful place in the new structure," the Turkish statement said.

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