

● What's on today

Annual general meeting: The 22nd annual general meeting of the general body of Assistance for Blind Children (ABC) will be held. Venue: ABC premises at Tajmahal Rd. Time: 11.00 am.

BCPS lecture: Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) will hold two lectures on "Reproductive health in developing countries" and "Evaluation of a child with congenital heart disease". Venue: BCPS auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 11.00 am and 12.10 pm.

Inaugural: Henry's Heritage presents its two week long Eid-ul-Fitr and winter fashion apparels designed by Shahrish Shahid. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3.00pm to 8.00 pm.

Fashion exhibition: An exhibition of fashion apparels by Avalon is going on. Venue: Cafeteria of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Launching ceremony: The launching ceremony of TJ Honda Motor Cycle will be held. Chief guest: Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Foreign Affairs. Venue: Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 3.45 pm.



The election of Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) began at the University Officers' Club yesterday. Active supporters of different panels eagerly await the arrival of voters there.

— Star photo

Dress exhibition: Rakha's creation begins its 3-day long dress exhibition. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Exhibition: Kay Kraft begins its 11-day long display of its Eid-ul-Fitr collection. Venue: Conference room of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Weather

No change in temperature

Dry weather is likely to prevail over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

No appreciable change in night temperature is expected over the country during the period, according to Met Office.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 29.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and lowest of 10 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.17 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.38 am.

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

	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	26.0	65
Chittagong	28.0	85
Rajshahi	25.5	82
Khulna	28.6	82
Barisal	28.0	89
Sylhet	26.4	70
Cox's Bazar	29.4	66

HERE and THERE

Nari O Shishu Kalyan Parishad

Nari O Shishu Kalyan Parishad, a Mirpur Journalists' Housing-based Women's Organisation, has celebrated the Victory Day and launched a magazine "Anuk" at a function in the city recently, reports BSS.

Presided over by parishad president Nurul Wara Begum, the function was addressed, among others, by journalists Syed Dildar Bakht, Saleh Chowdhury, Syed Zafar, Syed Abdul Kahar, Ziaul Huq, Mukarram Hossain, Akram Hossain Khan, Ataur Rahman, Mostafa Kamal Mazumder and Ashrafi Ali.

President and general secretary of Journalists' Housing Cooperative Society Ruhul Amin Gazi and Abdul Awal Thakur also spoke.

The speakers paid tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War and praised the publication of Ankur.

Parishad General Secretary Rochi Habib, organising secretary Rehana Kamal, treasurer Shamim Ara and office-secretary Nilu Mazmuder also spoke.

Daffodil Institute of Information Technology

The welcoming ceremony of the new students of the 11th batch of Daffodil Institute of Information Technology was held on Monday at its campus at 64/3, Lake Circus, Kalabagan, says a press release.

Md Sabur Khan, Managing Director of Daffodil Computers Ltd, welcome the new students on behalf of the institution. Md Nuruzzaman, training manager, teachers and officers of the institution were also present on the occasion.

FPAB discussion

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday called upon all to take a fresh vow to build a self-reliant Bangladesh in the next millennium, reports BSS.

"We have to make the country self-reliant being inspired with the spirit of the War of Liberation," he told a discussion in the city.

Bangladesh Family Planning Association organised the discussion in the Shaheed Moizuddin auditorium on the occasion of the Victory Day.

Four daughters' murder case: Police submit chargesheet

MYMENSINGH, Dec 21: Police today submitted chargesheet to a court in the sensational murder of 4 minor daughters accusing mother Rashida Begum, reports BSS.

Rashida, who is in her late 20s, pleaded not guilty to the magistrate and said her husband, Abdul Khaleque, killed the daughters.

The police investigation officer in his charge sheet said Rashida of her house Khodabupur under Iswarganj thana slaughtered her daughters while they were asleep on the night of September 17, set the house on fire and fled when her husband Abdul Khaleque was away fishing in nearby river Brahmaputra.

AIUB

AMA International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) participated in the Close-Up 4th International University Debate Championship organised by Jahangirnagar University Debating Society. The competition was held at JU campus. Medical colleges and 19 ITS, twenty universities, both public and private, participated in this competition, says a press release.

AMA International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) became runners-up in the English debate. The team members were Ahmed Wakil, Mahbub Sharif, Md Nadeem, Md Waliullah.

In the Bangla debate, AIUB secured 9th position out of twenty teams. Hasan S M Ashraful was judged the best debator in the competitions against Dhaka University and North South University (NSU). Other team members were Ahmed Sabir, Md Sarwar, Huque Md Mustaqimul.

Bangladesh Law Association

President of Bangladesh Law Association S A M Shawket Hossain and General Secretary Advocate Md Abdun Nur Dulal yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Advocate Ramzan Ali Khan, former president of the Dhaka Bar Association and former Public Prosecutor, says a press release.

In a statement, they recalled the contribution of Advocate Ranzan Ali Khan in establishment of rule of law and human rights. In his departure the nation has lost a legal luminary, they added.

JCD leader stabbed

GAZIPUR, Dec 21: A JCD leader was seriously injured when armed hoodlums stabbed him at Shibbari area in the town Monday night, reports BSS.

Police said Jaijal Abedin Rizvi, Sadar thana President of BNP's student wing, was rushed to Sadar Hospital with critical stab injury at 9 pm.

He was later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital following deterioration of his health condition.

Party sources said intra-party conflict might be the reason behind the attack.

Comrade Abdul Haque's death anniversary today

The fourth death anniversary of Comrade Abdul Haque will be observed today in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

On the occasion a national committee has been formed to observe the day. Elaborate programmes have also been chalked out to mark the day. The programmes include placing of wreaths at the graveyard of the late leader at 8 am today at Mirpur.

A reminiscence meeting will be held at the Jatiya Press Club at 10 am.

The committee has requested all to attend the programmes on time.

Landless get khas lands in Barisal

MULADI, Barisal, Dec 21: Chief Whip Abdul Hasnat Abdulah today handed over papers of khas lands among the 157 landless families of the thana under Barisal district, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion in the Thana Parishad auditorium here, the Chief Whip said the government of Sheikh Hasina is working relentlessly for the well-being of the down-trodden people of the country.

The government has established Employment Bank, introduced allowances for the elderly people and the women deserted by their husbands as part of its poverty alleviation programme, he said.

He said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the first who handed over khas lands to landless people of the country. "The government is implementing the programme to fulfill the dreams of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," he added.

Divisional Commissioner Yahia Molla, Awami League leader Mushfiqur Rahman, among others, spoke on the occasion with Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alauddin in the chair.

Two students stabbed in Barisal

BARISAL, Dec 21: Two students of Barisal Government College were stabbed indiscriminately by their opponents on the campus today as sequel to quarrel, reports BSS.

Babu, 17, a student of first year, and the other yet to be identified, were admitted to the hospital. Their condition was stable.

Police said a group of armed students of the same class attacked Babu and his associate.

Sharif

From page 1 main evidence," he said. "They clearly have no evidence that the plane was not allowed to land."

The army has accused Sharif of trying to kill Musharraf by refusing to allow the plane to land while the aircraft ran dangerously low on fuel. When the aircraft eventually landed there was barely seven minutes of fuel remaining, according to court documents and the police case against Sharif.

During today's court hearing, Sharif's lawyers argued that a charge of treason can be filed only by either the federal or provincial governments and not by the military.

Justice Shabir Ahmed said he will decide on jurisdiction on January 12. Sharif will remain in jail.

The charges were filed more than one month ago with the police, which is the first step in Pakistan's lengthy legal process. The list of charges also has been submitted to the anti-terrorist court, but so far no formal charges have been filed.

Sharif has repeatedly maintained his innocence.

His coaccused include his younger brother, Shahbaz, and several former senior officials in his government.

However, one former coaccused Aminuddin Chaudhury, the Civil Aviation Authority chief, has agreed to testify against Sharif in exchange for compensation.

His statement has been given to Sharif's lawyers and is to be presented in court when the hearing begins.

Sharif is to be tried in Pakistan's anti-terrorist courts, which were established by his government to hand out quick justice. Cases can often take years to run through the legal system. A case before the anti-terrorist court however has to be completed within seven days.

Y2K council reviews readiness in 9 sectors

The seventh meeting of the Y2K Advisory Council yesterday reviewed the preparedness for the millennium bug in nine sectors and found it satisfactory, reports BSS.

Science and Technology Secretary M Fazlur Rahman presided over the meeting.

Preparations in all the sectors, including finance, energy and telecommunications, were discussed in the meeting.

The meeting expressed satisfaction over the contingency plans.

Meanwhile, another meeting of Finance Ministry was told that all banks and financial institutions of the country except House Building Finance Corporation are Y2K complaint.

The meeting took stock of reports of all the 52 government and private banks and financial institutions and found 51 ready to face the millennium bug.

As the zero hour is ticking in,

and expand market, the

Bangladesh minister said such fairs also provide scope to both consumers and businessmen to be acquainted with goods and services of different established and reputed firms of various countries.

Tofail said Bangladesh, which began its foreign trade in 1972-73 with an export value of \$348 million has achieved export value \$5.32 billion in the last fiscal.

He said the government is playing supportive role for the private sector initiatives which has resulted in significant achievements. He illustrated the incentives given to the private sector.

Pointing to market access issues, Tofail said as an LDC Bangladesh is entitled to have duty-free market access to developed and developing countries.

If we are allowed duty-free market access, our exports will enjoy both comparative and competitive advantages in the world market."

He said India has withdrawn some restrictions on import and reduced import tariff on the basis of bilateral discussions.

He urged the Indian government to allow restriction-free import on duty-free basis to enable Bangladesh raise its export value to India, and reduce the trade imbalance.

In his inaugural address, Jyoti Basu underlined the need for regional and sub-regional cooperation among the South Asian nations for rapid economic development.

He said both the countries have resources and there are complementaries in their economies which could be shared by both for mutual benefits.

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