

What's on today

Rally: Bangladesh National Coordinating Council (BNCC) of Textile, Garments and Leather Workers will hold a workers rally. Venue: Mukhtangon. Time: 10.30 am.

NBJF meeting: A meeting of the North Bengal Journalists Forum (NBJF) will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11.00 am.

Views exchange meeting: Sammilta Samajik Andolon will hold a views exchange meeting to discuss growing anarchy in the country. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00 pm.

Discussion: Shoto Nagorik Committee will hold a discussion meeting on Hussein Shaheed Suhrawardy. Venue: VIP lounge of National Press Club. Time: 3.00 pm.

Meeting: Dhaka City Awami League will hold a discussion meeting on Hussein Shaheed Suhrawardy. Venue: AL office at Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 3.00 pm.

Reception: Kabi Nasir Ahmeder Sangborthona O Janmodin Urdapon Committee will accord a reception to poet Nasir Ahmed on occasion of his 49th birthday. Venue: Bishwa Shahitya Kendra auditorium. Time: 4.00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Launching ceremony: Niloy Motors Ltd will hold the launching ceremony of its 4-stroke eco-friendly 'Nitol Rider' motorbike. Venue: Ballroom of Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 4.00 pm.

BIBM seminar: Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) will hold a seminar on 'Impact of Capital Market Liberalisation on Investment'. Venue: BIBM Bhaban, Plot No 4, Rd No 1, Mirpur-2.

Weather

Rise in night temperature

Weather may remain dry over the country in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Slight rise in night temperature is expected over the country during the period. Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 28.4 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 9.8 degree at Sapsedpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:10 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:27 am.

Maximum and minimum 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	26.2	14.7	72	61
Chittagong	26.5	11.8	79	70
Rajshahi	26.0	12.4	58	69
Khulna	26.7	13.8	59	—
Barisal	26.5	12.2	84	90
Sylhet	27.0	14.8	70	67
Cox's Bazar	28.4	16.2	74	70

HERE and THERE

B'baria
Bangabandhu
Ainjibi Parishad

A 31-member Executive Committee of Brahmanbaria District Bangabandhu Ainjibi Parishad has been formed recently, a press release said, reports BSS.

The committee was formed on November 28 with Advocate Kazi Azizur Rahman Dulal and Tajul Islam Khan as its president and general secretary respectively.

The other office-bearers are: Vice president A H M Kamal, joint general secretary Abul Kalam Azad, organising secretary Syed A Kabir Tapan, publicity secretary A K M Abdul Hal, law secretary Bashir Uddin Ahmed, office secretary Zakir Hossain, and women affairs secretary Aleya Chowdhury.

French envoy
calls on FM

Michel Lummaux, the ambassador of France to Bangladesh yesterday called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his office, reports BSS.

They discussed matters relating to mutual interest.

Healthcare system

From page 1
a positive action now, or it would be too late.

"We are here to listen to voices which have rarely been heard before, if at all. It encourages people to develop their own solutions and to put demands to authorities," said another participant.

The need for democratisation of global decisions is critical as we move into the new century. Global policies affecting our present and future well-being are made by a few powerful institutions like the World Bank, World Trade Organisation and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said another speaker.

Said continued, "These power cliques of the global economy are pushing globalisation at the cost of people's lives and deterioration of the environment. The resulting gap between the rich and the poor, both between and within countries, has led to deepening of poverty, falling real wages, unemployment, deterioration of health, increased diseases and disability and global epidemic of crime, violence and despair."

Speaking on people's power, Dr N H Anitla from India who also chaired the inaugural session said, "Today, we are failing in the battle to fight poverty and diseases. Why people cannot exert power, why the gaps are widening between the poor and the rich? It is very unfortunate that these questions are not asked by economists and politicians today."

Dr Anita continued, "It is not charity that we are looking for. It is the spirit and power of the people we are looking for here today to act against a real world war."

Another participant said, "Our goal is to strive for a better world for ourselves and for future generations - a world in which a healthy life for all people is no

The Independent
Sramik Karmachari
Union

By Staff Correspondent

The executive committee of the Sramik Karmachari Union of The Independent has been formed.

The seven-member executive committee of the union was announced at a general meeting of the workers and employees held in the newsroom of The Independent yesterday.

Abul Fazal Azad was made president and Mohammad Ali Khan Aja general secretary respectively of the committee. Harun-ur-Rasid and Nurul Islam Gazi were made assistant general secretary and treasurer. Other members of the committee are Shahabuddin Khan, Ashit Paul and Sarkar Mizanur Rahman, according to a press release.

SUST students

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longer a dream but a reality."

She said, "Given the resources the world possesses today, it is possible for everyone to enjoy the levels of health and well-being that are available only to a small minority today."

She said, "Persistence of preventable ill health, resurgence of diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria and the emergence and spread of new diseases such as HIV/AIDS are a stark reminder of our world's lack of commitment to principles of equity and justice."

Another speaker pointed out that the most powerful countries of the world (G-7) are using all their resources including economic sanctions and military interventions to consolidate and expand their positions with devastating effects on people's lives.

PHA is Organised by a group comprising Asian Community Health, Consumers International, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Gonoshasthya Kendra, Health Action International, International People's Health Council and the Third World Network.

Participants from Tanzania, Ecuador, Bangladesh and United Kingdom also addressed the inaugural session.

They entered the VC's house by breaking open the main gate and damaged doors, windows, computer sets and disconnected the phone lines.

The students raised slogans demanding resignation of the VC and formed a 12-member non-political forum to continue agitation.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is welcomed by her Italian counterpart Giuliano Amato at the Palazzo Chigi in Rome yesterday.

AUST students submit
memo to President

By DU Correspondent

The students of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST), yesterday submitted a memorandum to the President.

Shahabuddin Ahmed to press home their five-point demand including implementation of a new grading system as the one in BUET and an opportunity for them to pursue MS in the BUET.

Their other demands include membership of the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), withdrawal of the present Registrar of the university and appointment of a new Registrar and shift to their own campus of the university according to the rules of University Grants Commission (UGC).

The students brought out a silent procession from the university campus at West Tejuri Bazar at around 11:00 am and paraded towards the Bangabhaban.

Police intercepted the procession near Gullistan and later a 10-member student delegation went to the Bangabhaban and submitted the memorandum to Abdul Gani Halder, an APS of the President.

Later, the AUST students held separate press briefings at National Press Club and in Madhu's canteen on the Dhaka University campus.

Talking to the journalists, the students alleged, "AUST does not have any post of Treasurer and Pro-Vice Chancellor and this is a violation of government rule for any private university."

They said that the land purchased as the permanent site for the university at Begunbari in Tejgaon area is not suitable for the campus as 'the areas is known as a den of terrorists'.

The students also announced that they will not attend any more classes till their demands were met. The students refrained from attending classes since Saturday last.

Among others, Shoaib, Tony and Tanveer addressed the press briefings.

Anniversary of Suhrawardy

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rate messages recalling the contribution of the late leader.

The President in his message said the life-long struggle of Suhrawardy was aimed at ensuring welfare of the people through establishing a democratic order.

In her message, the Prime Minister recalled his pioneering role in establishing democratic rights and keeping up communal harmony in this subcontinent.

Shaheed Suhrawardy Jatiya Smriti Parishad (SSJSP) and Vashkar Publications will jointly hold a discussion, milad mahfil and place wreath at the grave of the great leader at 9:00 am.

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Co-operatives Zillur Rahman will attend the programme as the chief guest.

Nure Alam Siddique, Sirajuddin Ahmed, Dr Harun-Or-Rashid, Salauddin Badal, Ajay Kar Khokon, M Matkur Rahman and poet Muhammad Abdul Khaleq will take part in the discussion which will be chaired by

Justice Naimuddin Ahmed said, "If a lawyer wants to delay a case, he can delay it for some time. If a judge wants to delay a case, he can delay it for all time to come". This is a notion widely accepted worldwide and there is no element of contempt in it, he said.

The rule issued on November 27 was the first of its kind in the country against a former judge of the High Court. It followed publication of his comments in daily Ittefaq, Janakantha and Sangbad.

The comments followed publication of a report in tabloid daily Manab Jamin based on an alleged conversation between a judge of the High Court and HM Ershad after the court upheld the trial court's conviction of the former president in the Janata Tower case.

Justice Mohammad Latifur Rahman, one of the judges of the HC Division Bench that rejected Ershad's petition for leave to appeal against upholding of the trial court's conviction, subsequently resigned in the wake of publication of the said conversation.

Justice Naimuddin Ahmed prayed for exemption from contempt proceedings, saying that his statement was made in good faith and not to malign the judiciary.

The court fixed December 10 for the next hearing and exempted Justice Naimuddin Ahmed from appearing in person.

UNB adds: "I do accept that the two newspapers (Janakantha and Ittefaq) reported my remarks, as they perceived them to be, honestly and correctly," he said.

Justice Nayemuddin said some commentators at the workshop pointed to the problems of the judiciary, backlog of cases, delay in disposal of cases, erosion of

Justice KM Sobhan.

Dhaka City Awami League (AL) will hold a discussion at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue office at 3:00 pm today in observance of the day.

Acting president of AL and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Minister for Home, Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim and Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif will take part in the discussion.

Jatiya Patti will place wreath and offer fatiha at the major of Suhrawardy at 9:00 am. The party will hold a discussion at its central office at 7:00 pm.

Shato Nagorik Committee (SNC) will organise a discussion at the VIP lounge of National Press Club at 3:00 pm today.

Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Barrister Mainul Hossain, Prof Chowdhury Shamsul Huda, Harun, Prof Mahabubullah, Prof Afabuddin Ahmed and Sirajuddin Ahmed will discuss the life and philosophy of Suhrawardy.

Past glory of judiciary

From page 1
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Our Reply: We stand by our report.

Industrialist
dead

Irshad Ali Khan, the chairman and managing director of Naseem Plastic Industries Limited, died of cardiac arrest on Sunday at his Shantinagar residence. He was 70, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, nine sons, daughter-in-laws, grandsons and granddaughters and relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Azimpur graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza at Naya Paltan Jame Mosque. His qulshwani will be held at his 73, Shantinagar residence today after Asr prayers.

Folk singer
Shyam Sundar
Boishnab dead

CHITTAGONG, Dec 4: Shyam Sundar Boishnab, a noted folk singer of the country, died of brain haemorrhage at a clinic here this afternoon. He was 70, family sources said, reports BSS.

Boishnab, better known as the king of folk songs in Chittagong dialect, was undergoing treatment at the clinic following a brain stroke on Friday. He was suffering from diabetes and blood pressure for a long time.

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

The death news of the popular singer cast a pall of gloom on the cultural arena. A large number of admirers thronged his Katalganj residence to have a last glimpse and pay homage to the singer.

The duet of Shyam Sundar Boishnab and another folk singer Shefali Ghosh will live long in the hearts of millions of fans especially in the rural areas.

He will be cremated at his village home at Fateyabad under Hathazari thana tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Abu Sufan and Faruk Iqbal, President and General Secretary respectively of the Chittagong Press Club, expressed deep shock at the death of Shyam Sundar Boishnab.

They also placed a wreath at the body of the late singer at his city residence tonight.

Delhi declines

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In her resignation letter, delivered to prime minister in the morning, Mamata said the day-to-day functioning of the railway was not the minister's responsibility, she was taking the decision to resign after a lot of soul searching.

"As a head of the 16 lakh railway family, I can neither escape nor wish to avoid moral responsibility for this great human misery (railway accident)," Ms. Banerjee said in her letter.

Talking to reporters informally, she said she was yet to receive any official communication from the prime minister's office about her resignation not being accepted by the prime minister.

Mamata Banerjee earlier had also resigned protesting against the rise in the prices of fuel, LPG and kerosene. But later she withdrew the resignation at the request of the prime minister.

Meanwhile, amid uproar and protests mainly from the Left Front members, Mamata today told the Lok Sabha that an inquiry by a sitting Supreme Court judge would be held into the Anritsar mail accident.

Ties with Dhaka to grow further,
says Italian President

ROME, Dec 4: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought support of the good offices of Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi for quota- and tariff-free access of Bangladeshi goods to European market, reports UNB.

The PM made the request when she called on the President at Quirinale Palace today, the third day of her visit to Italy on the first leg of her three-nation European tour.

"We hope to get continued support from Italy for free access of our products and continuation of GSP facilities," she told the President.

Sheikh Hasina said she had talks with the leaders of European Union and response was very encouraging with regard to

the preferential trading facilities in the EU countries.

Bangladesh, she said, is going for massive agro-based industrialisation and free market access would greatly benefit the countrymen. She said the setting up of agro-based and agro-processing industry will generate massive employment, including jobs for women.

The Italian President said there exists a strong economic and bilateral relationship between the two countries and assured that the government of Italy would continue discussion in order to further strengthen the Dhaka-Rome ties.

Mentioning the visit of former Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi to Bangladesh, President

Ciampi said, "I have heard from him that you have taken lot of programmes in social sector, we are very much appreciative of your work in removing poverty."

He said that a new agreement on science and technology between Bangladesh and Italy is going to be signed which will usher in a new horizon in the bilateral relationship.

The Prime Minister said this was her fourth visit to Rome, home to a great civilisation. Earlier, she came here in 1969 as tourist and again in 1993. Her third visit here was in 1996 to attend the FAO summit.

Sheikh Hasina observed that there is strong affinity and friendship between the peoples of Bangladesh and Italy.

One killed, 10
hurt as villagers
clash in Rajbari

RAJBARI, Dec 4: A business- was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers at village Atdapunia here today, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Wazed Khan, 60, president of local Baharpur Bazar Merchants' Association.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted when some goats of one Tuku destroyed the paddy field of Wazed Khan's younger brother Shamsu Khan.

Tuku's supporters beat Wazed Khan to death when the old man came to settle the dispute.

Three of the injured Shamsu Khan, Ayen Uddin and Rabeya Khatun were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

The body was sent to sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

Meanwhile, the Baharpur Bazar Merchants Association enforced an eight-hour halt in the bazar today demanding immediate arrest and trial of the killers.

2 dacoities

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police did not want to the spot.

Police, however said, they were not aware of the incident and none called them for help.

The gang took away the keys of the almirah and looted Tk. 3.60 lakh in cash and gold ornaments worth more than Tk. 16 lakh from the house during their one and a half hour operation.

Mohammad Farhad, brother of the landlord, filed a case with Ramna police in this connection.

Police could not arrest any of the miscreants till filing of this report last night.

In another incident, a gang of dacoits entered the house of one Khondoker Asaduzzaman after cutting the grills at Dinonath Sen Road in the city's Sutrapur area.

The gang of eight entered the house of 35/3/b Dinonath Sen Road at about 5 am and looted Tk. 70,000 in cash and 60 tolas of gold ornaments worth about Tk. 4.38 lakh.

A case was filed with Sutrapur thana in this connection, but none was arrested till last night.

10-day 'holiday'

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The holidays will begin on December 22 with the two-day weekend, December 24 will be a holiday for Shab-e-Qadr and December 25 is Christmas holiday.

December 26 will be a working day followed by Eid holidays from the next day and the weekend.

The lone working day is also likely to turn into a 'holiday' as most of the officials and employees may take leave on the day to enjoy a '10-day holiday', sources concerned said.

Central bank officials said a decision to keep banks open for a day during the holidays is expected to be taken today.

Juba Dal

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Hossain, another Juba Dal activist. They shot him and left the bazar.

Belavet was admitted to a hospital and later shifted to Dhaka as his condition deteriorated.

District Juba Dal president blamed ruling party backed Juba League activists for the killing of Sujon.

Meanwhile, police arrested 20 BNP and JCD activists in the last two days from Rampura area of Feni town and Char Chandina of Sonagor for their alleged involvement in the killings of four Juba League activists on November 30 and December 1.

3 ECs

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people he had hired for the EC project.

MA Syed, who took over last May, blamed his predecessor Mohammad Abu Hena for keeping the project works aimed to strengthen the Election Commission pending. "During the last three years the project made no progress. It is I who resumed the project and hired Lionel J. Woliner, an IT expert, to complete it within the stipulated time."

Blaming the press for the controversy, the CEC said, "Newspaper reports are far from the truth." The crisis is not like what have been reported in the press, added Syed.

The tussle between the CEC and his deputies began in August when the former appointed some IT experts for the UNDP-funded Strengthening Election Commission Project, allegedly violating the rules and norms.

Israeli gunships pound
Bethlehem refugee camp

JERUSALEM, Dec 4: Israeli helicopter gunships launched a rocket attack overnight on a Palestinian refugee camp near the West Bank town of Bethlehem in a fresh outbreak of violence amid faltering efforts to restore calm to the region, reports AFP.

Three Palestinians were injured as the helicopters destroyed two houses from where military sources said Palestinians had opened fire on soldiers guarding Rachel's Tomb, a strongly fortified Jewish shrine on the northern edge of the West Bank City.

The bombardment followed what the Israeli army described as an attempt by armed Palestinians to storm the tomb, revered by Jews as the resting place of the biblical patriarch Rachel.

Soldiers guarding the tomb were confronted by an organised attack by dozens of armed Palestinians who came within a few dozen metres of our position, the army commander for the region Lieutenant-Colonel Ino Kassem told military radio.

A gunbattle raged in the area between Israeli troops and armed Palestinians for some three hours, military sources said.

The site in Bethlehem and villages surrounding the town have often been the scene of violent confrontations since the eruption of the deadly tide of Israeli-Palestinian unrest that has claimed the lives of some 300 people in over nine weeks.

The Israeli army considers

with utmost gravity this attack against a holy site which follows the destruction of Joseph's Tomb in Nablus," army spokesman Yarden Vatikay told AFP.

Laxmipur BCL

From page 1
ing of the district development coordination committee directed the police to rescue the BNP leader. Police then became active.

CID police earlier arrested seven Chhatra League and Juba League leaders in this connection. But they could not yet trace the kidnapped BNP leader.

AL-BNP clash
at Bandarban
continues: 5
more injured

BANDARBAN, Dec 4: Tension mounted in the hill town as clashes between supporters of Awami League and BNP continued for the second day today, leaving at least five more people injured, three of them critically, reports UNB.

All the injured were said to be activists of BNP. Three of them were identified as Mohammad Ali, Khoka Lusai and Abdur Rashid.

Witnesses said the trouble began when supporters of the ruling Awami League attacked BNP activists in Keachingghata area.

Market on car park land

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But PWD officials expressed their surprise how Rajuk could have approved the plan, in the first place, without asking them. A source said that hearing rumor about such a move, they warned Rajuk in writing on November 2, three days before the approval.

Bypassing official procedure, the Land Ministry secretly allocated 1.5 bighas of land near the Bangabandhu Avenue to BABSS for only Tk 1.6 crore. The actual price of the land could be as much as Tk 50 crore.

The deal involved one minister, top government officials and several ruling party men. Most of them rang up Rajuk officials for expediting approval process of the building