

What's on today ....

**UNAB symposium:** United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a symposium to mark the Human Rights Day. Chief guest: Chief Justice Latifur Rahman. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 4 pm.

**BSEHR Discussion:** Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights will hold a seminar and discussion on 'Impediments to the Independence of Judiciary' in observance of the World Human Rights Day. Keynote paper: Barrister Nazmul Huda, MP. Chief guest: Barrister Mainul Hossain, President, Supreme Court Bar Association. Venue: VIP Lounge, National Press Club. Time: 3 pm.

**BMSF Discussion:** Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum (BMSF) will hold a discussion meeting to mark the World Human Rights Day. Venue: BMSF office premises at 86/1, North Adabar, Shyamoli. Time: 11 am.

**'Sangsad Bandhan':** Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh has organised a programme to form human chain around the Jatiya Sangsad and press for its demand to increase women's seat in the parliament and holding of direct election to women's reserved seats. Venue: In front of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Time: 10 am.

**Seminar:** Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees has organised a day-long seminar on 'Migrant Rights Violation at Home and Abroad' in observance of the World Human Rights Day. Keynote speakers: Anisur Rahman Khan and Khairul Alam. Venue: Democracy Auditorium, Khan Foundation, Mominbagh. Time: 11 am.

**Prize Giving Ceremony:** Amnesty International, Bangladesh will give away prizes among the winners of the painting competition on child repression. A report on repression on children will also be made public at the programme. Venue: Shishu Academy Auditorium. Time: 10.30 am.

**Rally:** Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council will hold a rally in the city's Muktangan and after the rally workers will lay a siege to the 'Srambhavan' and submit a memorandum there. Time: 11.30 am.

**Contract signing ceremony:** Siemens Bangladesh will sign a contract with Faridhara Jame Masjid and Islamic Centre for Studies complex. Venue: Siemens Bangladesh Limited Conference Room, Jiban Bima Tower (12th floor), 10 Dilkusha C/A. Time: 3.00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

**Medal Awarding Ceremony:** South Bengal Youth Welfare Association will award 'Suhrawardy Padak' among eminent personalities and hold a discussion on life and works of Hossain Suhrawardy. Key-note speaker: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed. Chief guest: Minister for Food Amir Hossain Amu. Venue: Mazar premises of Hossain Suhrawardy. Time: 3 pm.

**Seminar on book:** National Book Centre has organised a seminar on 'Translation Works in Enriching Mother Language' as part of the 7th Dhaka Book Fair. Keynote speaker: Subrata Barua. Director, Bangla Academy. Venue: Book Fair premises. Time: 3.30 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country and thick fog may occur over the central and southern parts of the country in next 12 hours till 6 pm, reports UNB.

Slight rise in night temperature is expected over Rajshahi division and little change in night temperature elsewhere over their country during the period. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature 28.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.2 degree at Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:12 pm and rises on Monday at 6:31 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	26.2	14.6	61	59
Chittagong	27.9	14.5	87	82
Rajshahi	26.3	11.8	95	90
Khulna	27.0	13.0	94	-
Barisal	28.0	13.3	87	86
Sylhet	27.0	14.8	79	66
Cox's Bazar	28.5	14.5	87	67

HERE and THERE



Abul Kalam Azad, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information distributing certificates among the participants at the Cyber Journalism training course organised jointly by CPU & PIB yesterday.

Cyber Journalists Assoc of Bangladesh

Cyber Journalists Association of Bangladesh (CJAB) was formed at the concluding ceremony of six-day training course on Cyber Journalism at Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) yesterday, reports UNB.

Rashed Ahmed Mital of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) is convener of CJAB while joint convenors are Siddique Islam of daily Banglar Bani, Kazi Shamsul Amin of Weekly Holiday and Chowdhury Zahurul Islam of daily Sangbad.

Pieter Wessels, a renowned cyber journalists and chairman of the Australian chapter of the Commonwealth Association of Journalists was made chief advisor while Amanullah Khan, chairman of UNB and Treasurer of CPU Bangladesh chapter as advisor of CJAB.

Some 36 journalists from national dailies and news agencies took part in the training jointly organised by Commonwealth Press Union (CPU), London and Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB).

Bhorer Dak DUJ unit

Bhorer Dak Unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) was formed in the city yesterday with Kamal Mahmud as unit Chief and Zahurul Islam as deputy unit chief, reports BSS.

The unit was formed in a meeting which was presided over by Kamal Mahmud, a DUJ press release said.

The meeting was addressed by DUJ President Altaf Mahmud. It was attended by DUJ organising secretary Molla Jalal, publicity secretary Jaharal Chandra Das, executive members Salimullah Selim and Zahidul Islam.

The meeting was conducted by Pathik Saha.

Lalon Akhra Rokkha Committee

By DUJ Correspondent  
Lalon Akhra Rokkha Committee (LARC) yesterday announced to continue its agitation demanding shift of the construction of guest building and auditorium outside the main premises of the Lalon's majar.

The LARC will announce its next programme after report of a LRC delegation, which will visit the major on December 18, said a press release.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talking to the President of Hamburg Parliament Dr Dorothee Stapelfeldt at the dinner hosted in her honour at the Emperor Hall in Germany on Thursday. - PID photo

Over 10m Bangladeshi migrated to different parts of world

World witnessed migration of 150m people in 20th century

Twentieth century has witnessed the migration of more than 150 million people across the world including several millions from Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Better opportunities for work, study and desire to join family members or escape persecution or violence at their homeland fuelled the migration, said World Migration Report-2000 published by International Organisation for Migration (IOM), an inter-governmental body.

Many more people today have chosen or forced to migrate than ever before, and they are migrating to various destination across the world," it added. A significant number of international migrants could be found in countries as diverse as Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Germany, India, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Many of the migrated people still remained unaccounted for as they live and work in another country illegally, whether on a permanent or temporary basis.

According to an estimate, at least 10 million people of Bangladeshi origin have migrated to different parts of the world including Europe and North America over the last six decades. Around 10 million people who crossed into India during the

country's War of Liberation to escape the grisly atrocities of Pakistani Occupation Army, however, did not fall in the category of migration as they returned home within a year.

The number of long-term international migrants or people who are residing in foreign countries for more than one year has grown steadily in recent years.

According to UN Population Division, only 75 millions fitted the UN long-term definition of migration in 1965 and reached 84 million by 1975.

In the last ten years, the number swelled by 30 million to reach 150 million this year from 120 million in 1990. In the 80's, the growth of migration surpassed the overall population growth, the report said, adding during the period from 1995 to 1990, global population grew by 1.7 per cent per year, whereas total population of international migration increased by 2.59 per cent annually.

IOM estimates that there are more migrants today in the world than before. "International migration has played a crucial role in shaping the world we know," it said.

It further said international migration is a complex issue as it can have an influence on rela-

tions between states. The report placed stress on increased management cooperation between states to handle widespread international migration.

Referring to emigration trends in the sub-continent, the report said the partition of the South Asian subcontinent in 1947 and the birth of Bangladesh set the subsequent directions of migration within South Asia and abroad.

Historical links with the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth nations offered avenues for migration to the affluent section of peoples of this region.

It, however, said most of the migrations within and from South Asia to other regions today are related to labour movements across borders, especially to the Middle-East.

On the recent trend of labour migration from South Asia to the Gulf states, the report said the trend dates back to 1930s under the British rule. However, a remarkable upswing in the trend took place after the 1973 oil embargo.

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka led the nations in outward migration, the report added.



Death anniversary of Shaheed Khurram Bir Bikram today

The 29th death anniversary of Shaheed Shah Mutasim Billah Khurram Bir Bikram will be observed today at Sutrapur, Sribordi and other places to pay respect to the valiant freedom fighter, says a press release.

Khurram embraced martyrdom on December 10th 1971 near Beldia in Jamalpur hours before the liberation of Jamalpur during fighting with the Pakistani Occupation Forces.

The government, in recognition to his courage and remarkable contribution in liberating the country awarded him Bir Bikram posthumously. Khurram was the youngest freedom fighter to receive such a gallant award and is the only Bir Bikram awardee in greater Mymensingh District. The government named the Sherpur Stadium after him but the decision has not yet implemented.

Shaheed Khurram is the third son of Alhaj Shah Musharraf Hussain and Begum Fazlatunnessa Hussain of village Kallakura of Sribordi thana under Sherpur district.

Sirajganj

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to different clinics in Kazipur, Dhunoi and Bogra Muhammad Ali Medical College Hospital and Sirajganj General Hospital. Police said condition of four in Bogra Muhammad Ali Hospital were stated to be critical.

The situation came under control when police rushed to the spot and resorted to lathi charge. Police recovered the bodies from the spot and took it to Kazipur thana.

Tension was prevailing in the village. None was arrested.

Sharif pardoned

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he is now serving multiple sentences.

Sharif, his wife, his father-in-law and a brother who is also in prison on related charges, will accompany him into exile once he promises not to re-enter Pakistan for 10 years, the sources said.

Members of his political party were in confusion, and many were angry at what they believed was Kulsom's readiness to strike a deal with the government without consulting them.

Heart problems  
The head of the state information department, Anwar Mehmood, said the government was considering a request by Sharif, who is said to suffer heart problems, to seek medical attention abroad.

Senior army officers were meeting on the second day of a scheduled two-day session of corp commanders to discuss national policy.

Sharif was removed from power in a bloodless coup in October 1999 after he tried to fire the head of the armed forces, General Pervez Musharraf.

Musharraf has run the country since then with the title of chief executive, vowing to create a new political system that would exclude the traditional political circles dominated by people like Sharif.

After the coup Sharif was convicted on a number of charges, including corruption. He received a life sentence for 'hijacking' but he tried to prevent Musharraf returning while on a flight from Sri Lanka after ordering his dismissal as army chief.

Sharif's predecessor, Benazir Bhutto, has remained outside the

country since before the army took power and began investigations that ended in her conviction for corruption. Bhutto's husband, a former minister, is in prison.

A deal between the army and Sharif would change the political landscape. Sharif's party has just formed an alliance with Benazir's Pakistan Peoples Party that has the single goal of ending military rule and restoring democracy.

BCL factions trade fire at Fatikchhari

From Our Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Dec 9: Two factions of local Chhatra League exchanged fire at Fatikchhari today.

Witnesses said Tipu group, reportedly kidnapped two members of Taveeh group at gunpoint from west Kanchon Nagor area at around 4pm.

Hearing the news of kidnapping, 35 members belonging to Taveeh group came to Kanchon Nagor Choumohuni Bazar and locked in gunfight with Tipu group. They kidnapped six businessmen from the market for their alleged support to Tipu group.

The kidnapped businessmen were identified as Harun UR Rashid, Ahmed Safa, Badsha Mia, Hazi Doulat Mia, Jahangir Alam and Dr Nazim Uddin.

Over one hundred rounds of bullets were exchanged between the feuding groups during the gunfight which continued for over two hours.

Prepare for oust-govt

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at any cost. It has cares little for human life, religion, democracy and law and order.

JP leader Sunil Gupta suggested the opposition parties to form an all-party resistance committee at all the thana and district headquarters to resist the activities of 'Awami terrorists' and to protect independence and sovereignty of the country.

City BNP General Secretary Abdus Salam said this government has already politicised the police administration and now out to politicise the judiciary.

But the judges of the higher courts have been playing their due role and upholding the rule of law despite 'stick procession and

PM at dinner hosted by Swiss FM  
Govt committed to ensuring rule of law, human rights

BERN (Switzerland), Dec 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that her government is committed to ensuring rule of law, human rights and good governance for economic welfare of the people, reports UNB.

"I believe that democracy, development and peace reinforce each other and we can't have the one without the other," she told a dinner party hosted by Federal Counselor and Swiss Foreign Minister Joseph Deiss at Von Wattenwyl House on Friday night.

Hasina, who is here in the final leg of her three-nation Euro visit, said: "We seek to establish legal institutions and precedence that will safeguard life and liberty of the people."

She renewed her appeal to foreign governments to extradite or deport the condemned convicts of Bangabandhu murder case. She hoped Switzerland would help bring the self-confessed killers to Bangladesh for trial from the countries of their refuge.

About her four-and-a-half-year rule, the Prime Minister said the government was working

hard for ensuring people's right to food through poverty-alleviation and empowerment, particularly targeting the most disadvantaged women and children.

Describing Bangladesh-Switzerland relations as excellent, she said there is enough scope for further strengthening the bilateral cooperation in different fields.

Hasina referred to the Agreement on Protection of Investment signed during Deiss' visit to Bangladesh and said it would encourage labour intensive industries from Switzerland to the benefit of the two countries.

Earlier, welcoming Prime Minister Hasina, Swiss Home Minister Mrs Dieffuss said her government would take steps for the expansion of technical cooperation with Bangladesh and some other sectors.

She said her government would encourage the entrepreneurs of their country to work in Bangladesh and take initiative so that the ongoing Swiss projects in Bangladesh can be completed smoothly.

Dieffuss recalled the contribu-

tion of Bangladesh's founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who had liberated the country, and said he has many friends in Switzerland.

"We all supported the liberation war," she said. About existing bilateral relations, the Swiss Home Minister hoped that the bilateral relations of the two countries would be strengthened in the field of economy and social sectors.

She praised the prime minister for her efforts to bring changes in the socio-economic sector and said: "Hasina's steps would be considered as models for the flourishing democracy, empowerment of women and for social changes."

Dieffuss specially mentioned the steps for the development of women and children and said: "We are giving special credit for that."

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal Secretary Dr SA Samad, Foreign Secretary CM Shaif Sami and PM's Press Secretary Jawadul Karim were present.

JBIC

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lakh square feet area including 9,643 square feet runways and a terminal equipped with all modern facilities.

Two boarding bridges were set up in the airport to facilitate the passengers movement between aircraft and terminal building. The airport has a visitors' lounge with accommodation facilities for nearly 3,000 people as well as 10 well-equipped rooms for foreign airlines.

Study reveals

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homes, 15 per cent at public places and 4 per cent at work places, she added.

A total of 835 married women were interviewed in two areas in Dhaka city. Sixty per cent of them said they were physically assaulted by their husbands.

In developed countries, the percentage of women reporting physical violence by their husbands varies between 20 and 30.

During the open discussion later, the speakers suggested that steps should be taken for treatment and legal aid for such victims and amendment to laws to check those.

Bem to back

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Swiss-aided projects in the country.

The Swiss government, in view of growing bilateral relations, would encourage private companies to invest in Bangladesh.

To address the arsenic contamination, the Swiss government decided to step up its cooperation in this field and assured Dhaka of working closely with local government bodies to reach the affected people in rural areas as soon as possible.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal Secretary Dr SA Samad, Foreign Secretary CM Shaif Sami, Ambassador to Switzerland Mohammad Zamir Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva Dr Itekhhar Ahmed Chowdhury and DG (Europe) Shahed Akhtar assisted the Prime Minister at the talks.

The Swiss Foreign Minister was assisted by senior officials of the president's office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In her opening statement, the Prime Minister recalled the support of the Swiss government and people to Bangladesh's War of Liberation in 1971 under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She also referred to the visit of Bangabandhu to Switzerland and his desire to build the country as the 'Switzerland of the East.'

207 political

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across the country.

Besides, the report said, 191 became victims of acid throwing while some 120 journalists came under repression in 84 incidents and two were shot dead by the terrorists.

BRCT President Dr Khalilur Rahman, Dr Ekramul Haq, and Mahfija Akram Chowdhury were present at the press conference.

14000 killed in first 3 years of AL rule, says Nizami

Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami yesterday said that some 14,000 people were killed in the first three years of Awami League regime, reports UNB.

"The Awami League government has itself destroyed the law and order of the country... Under its rule in the first three years, some 8,250 incidents of rape and 24,300 incidents of women and child repression took place," said Nizami in a statement.

He said that godfathers and mafia group let loose terrorism during the Awami League rule. He pointed to the incidents of Feni, Luxmipur and Narayanganj as glaring examples.

Delhi orders crackdown on Assam rebels

NEW DELHI, Dec 9: India has ordered more paramilitary troops into the northeast state of Assam to launch operations against separatist tribal rebels who have killed more than 70 people over the past month, reports Reuters.

An interior ministry official said today that 27 more companies of 80 to 100 men were being sent to the remote jungles of Assam to reinforce the 128 companies of the federal forces already there.

"Besides the army is on call there," the official said and added that joint operations would begin immediately.

Suspected guerrillas of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) intercepted three trucks on Thursday and gunned down 28 people, mostly non-Assamese settlers.

Formed in 1979, ULFA is fighting for a separate state because it says the federal government has

plundered Assam's mineral resources and encouraged outsiders to settle in the region.

Unidentified gunmen on Friday killed the brother of an ULFA leader in what police said was a revenge killing by non-Assamese groups who are starting to assert themselves in recent months.

Press Trust of India quoted Assam Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta as saying that special operations would be carried out against suspected ULFA camps in the Tirap and Changlang areas of the neighbouring state of Arunachal Pradesh.

Night curfew has been imposed on border areas of Assam and all night bus services in the state have been suspended.

India's mountainous north-east is home to dozens of ethnic groups fighting for greater autonomy or self-rule.

Political parties

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enshrined as the guiding principles of state policy. And, though not enforceable, these are made fundamental in the governance of the state.

"Hence, it is the bounden duty of the judiciary to implement them," the CJ told the function.

He suggested that the international human rights norms be incorporated in the municipal law to make human rights observance more effective and meaningful.

"In the 21st century our cherished goal remains to create a truly welfare state by protecting the rights of all kinds of people, particularly safeguarding the rights of minorities and the weaker class in society."

He had a special note on condition of women across the world. "... Yet the fact of the matter remains that women continue to suffer not only in Bangladesh but all over the world," he said, emphasising empowerment of women for ensuring human rights in all broader aspects.

In his brief presidential speech, Justice Abdur Rouf said that enforcement of human rights also requires responsibilities of all people in a society.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said the most glaring failure of the society is the lack of

implementation. "We can't implement anything properly. It's our big failure."

He said terrorists are now main threat to freedom of press and added that the criminals are taking the advantage of conflict between the government and the opposition.

BNP leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed told the seminar that from the very beginning the government has been unleashing repression on the opposition by filing criminal cases against the leaders and activists.

He said that 86 criminal cases now pending against Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, 29 each against Mirza Abbas and Amanullah Aman, MP and 69 cases against Jatayatadabi Chhatra Dal leader Habibunnabi Sohler.

Among the other JCD leaders, Moudud told the seminar, Mohon has been implicated in some 117 cases, Ishaq Ali in 94 and Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu in 79 cases.

For ensuring human rights, Barrister Amir-ul-Islam said the topmost agenda should be trial of the 1971 war criminals and their local collaborators. Trial of the killers of Bangabandhu, Zia and Manzur is also a must to ensure the rule of law and human rights in the country, he said.

Just buy a token

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metres. To avoid being identified, none of the traffic police wore name tag, which is mandatory for any on-duty policeman.

Driver Zakir Hossain carried his 'token' that allowed him to pass through all 'check points'. To check the efficacy of the 'token' system, we requested the driver not to show his 'token' at the Biswa Road crossing. He had to pay Tk 50 on the spot.

The 'check points' where our vehicle was stopped for 'token' are: The Airport Police Box, Biswa Road rail crossing towards Rampura, in front of the American Embassy, Chowdhurypara Abul Hotel, Malibagh crossing, Khilgaon rail crossing, Kamalapur rail crossing, Gopibagh at Biswa Road crossing, Sayedabad and Sayedabad Bridge.

In most of the places, the traffic sergeant pointed out the 'target'. The constable, getting the signal, stopped the vehicle and asked for papers.

At the Biswa Road rail crossing check point, the constable blew his whistle and asked the driver to stop his microbus along the road. He asked for papers and pointed at the luggage inside.

The driver showed him a 20 taka note but the constable declined and asked for documents. The driver then showed him a 50 taka note.

"These are not documents," the constable said.

"It is document, look carefully," the driver said handing the note to the constable. He then went to the sergeant.

The driver said that he has all the relevant documents but still prefers giving bribe to avoid fine which ranges from Tk 200 to Tk 500.

The driver said that on way to Chittagong, he has to give police Tk 200 at a point near the China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge, Tk 200 at Bogerchar, Tk 200 in Comilla and Tk 200 at Mohipal in Feni.

The driver said if they fail to show 'token', police demand Tk 50 or more. The amount is much more when they face a traffic sergeant wearing a yellow jacket. The 'harassment' by police has increased ahead of the Eid-ul-fitr, Zakir alleged.

Ansars