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Bank holidays on Dec 13, 14, 16, 25

BSS, Dhaka
Bangladesh Bank and all scheduled banks will remain closed on December 13, 14, 16 and 25 on the occasion of Lailatul Qadr, Jumatul Wida, Victory Day and Christmas Day respectively, a Bangladesh Bank press release said yesterday.

NBL reduces interest rates

The management of National Bank Ltd has decided to reduce its interest rates on lending in various sectors up to arrange from 0.50 to 3 per cent, says a press release.
The decision was taken by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the bank recently in line with the decision of the government to cut interest rates.
In export finance, the bank reduced the rate of interest from 10 per cent to 7 per cent as per guidelines given by Bangladesh Bank.

Govt to replace polythene with jute bags

BSS, Dhaka
The government has planned to introduce jute bags to replace polythene ones in a bid to make the country free from environmental hazards.
This was disclosed by Jute Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram, while presiding over a high level meeting on strengthening the activities of the diversification of jute products at the conference room of the Jute Ministry yesterday.
Jute Secretary Sarwar Kamal, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation Chairman ASM Abdul Halim and senior officials of the Jute Ministry attended the meeting.
The meeting emphasised the need for strengthening the activities of the jute diversification to ensure optimum use of jute fibre.
The meeting also decided to reach the jute bags at the door step of the users at a cheaper price so that the users could be attracted to buy jute bags.

NIIT signs deal to open centre at Feni

NIIT, information technology training company, has signed an agreement with KN Computer System Ltd to open a NIIT centre in Feni.
The agreement was signed at a function held in the city recently, says a press release.
The signing ceremony was attended, among others, by Tulika Sinha, Zonal Head of NIIT, Sanjeev Shrivastava, location Head-Bangladesh, NIIT, and Dr. AKM Sahabub Alam, Managing Director of Beximco Systems Limited.
Kazi Nasimul Hoque, Director of KN Computer System Limited, who has taken the initiative to set up a network of world-class computer training and education centres in the greater Comilla area, also attended the function.
Abdur Rais Kaiser, Managing Director of KN Computer System Limited, signed the agreement with NIIT on behalf of his organisation.

New advisor of Jamuna Bank

M Hayatur Rahman, a veteran banker of the country, has joined Jamuna Bank Limited as Advisor recently, says a press release.
After obtaining post graduation in Economics, Rahman joined United Bank Limited of erstwhile Pakistan in 1961 as Officer. He was Manager of Kushtia Branch of United Bank Limited in 1964.
Subsequently, he held many responsible positions in the bank.
United Bank Limited was renamed Janata Bank in independent Bangladesh. Rahman was promoted to Assistant General Manager in 1973 and to Deputy General Manager in 1979. In 1982, he was promoted to the rank of General Manager of Janata Bank which he held upto 1988. He was the General Manager of Sonali Bank also.
He was appointed Managing Director of Janata Bank in 1989. He was the Managing Director of House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) from 1991 to 1993. He was also the Managing Director of Uttara Bank Limited.

Drop anti-dumping case against battery, Dhaka asks Delhi

'Resolve issue under SAPTA provisions'

MONJUR MAHMUD
The government has formally requested India to drop anti-dumping case filed against lead acid battery exports from Bangladesh and resolve the issue under the provisions of SAPTA.
"I can assure you that there has been no case of dumping. I request you to advise the authorities to drop the case. You may also resolve the matter under the provisions of SAPTA," wrote Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury to his Indian counterpart Murasoli Maran recently.
The commerce minister reminded his counterpart that India has allowed preferential tariff concession under SAPTA to a number of Bangladeshi export items including lead acid batteries.
But despite the concession, an anti-dumping proceeding is being drawn by the Director General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties against Bangladeshi exporters for alleged dumping, Khosru mentioned.
The Indian authorities unilaterally decided to impose anti-

dumping duty on export of Bangladeshi lead acid battery, alleging non-cooperation by the Bangladesh's largest battery manufacturer Rahimafrooz.
The Indian authority alleged that Bangladeshi battery exporter has not complied with the anti-dumping investigation requirement. "The exporter also expressed reservation regarding giving consent for verification visit by the investigation team of the authority to their premises for on the spot verification of the information submitted by them," Director General of Anti Dumping & Allied Duties of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry informed Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi in a letter.
The Indian authorities have termed such 'reservation' as non-cooperation and threatened imposition of anti-dumping duty.
But Bangladeshi exporters have outright rejected such allegations of the Indian authorities.
"We did not deny our consent for investigation. We are ready to provide all documents and welcome the Indian authorities to

visit our factory. But they need the government's consent and have to come through proper channel," Niaz Rahim, President of Bangladesh Accumulator and Battery Manufacturers Association (BABMA), told The Daily Star earlier.
Besides, the grounds on which the non-cooperation charge has been brought are not covered under the anti-dumping investigation rules, local battery manufacturers said.
Meantime, BABMA has said that the attempt of the DG of Anti-dumping to impose anti-dumping duty will nullify the terms of preferential trade and tariff preference given under SAPTA and duty accommodated within the legal regime of WTO.
Regarding on the spot factory verification, the agreement requires the authorities to inform the Bangladesh government and seek its consent. The association has also submitted all information to Indian authorities to assess the impact of battery export from Bangladesh.
Two Indian companies filed a petition demanding initiation of

an anti-dumping investigation, and imposition of anti-dumping duty on battery exports to India from Bangladesh. Exide Industries and Amara Raja Batteries Limited filed the petition, saying that huge numbers of lead acid batteries are making their way into India from Bangladesh, Japan, Korea, and China due to easing of import restrictions, and bringing import of lead acid batteries under open general license.
A move to slap anti-dumping duty on automotive lead acid battery exports to India was rejected on March 21 this year by the Indian government after the former Bangladesh commerce minister raised the issue with his Indian counterpart during his visit to India on March 13.
Subsequently, the matter against Bangladesh was dropped pending further investigation. But India went ahead on similar charges against Japanese, Korean, and Chinese exporters. The Indian customs authorities revived an anti-dumping petition in May against Bangladeshi lead acid battery imports.

DESA, PDB stop appointing ICAB auditors

Lack of quality reports blamed

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Some public entities have stopped preparing their audit reports by the members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) due to lack of quality auditing, said State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharrar Hossain, at a seminar yesterday.
"Power Development Board (PDB) and Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) used to get their audits prepared by the ICAB members but they have stopped now mainly because of poor quality," the minister said.
He pointed out that such lack of quality forced the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to appoint auditors for crosschecking the reports prepared by the ICAB members.

The state minister was speaking as the chief guest at a CPE seminar on 'Economic Value Added' held at ICAB auditorium in the city yesterday. Commerce Secretary Suhel Ahmed Chowdhury and ICAB President Anwaruddin Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion while Masud Khan, Director-Finance of Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd, presented the keynote speech at the seminar.
Mosharrar Hossain, who himself is a chartered accountant, urged the ICAB to be strict in maintaining professional standard. "Once the goodwill is damaged it is very difficult to restore that," he said.
The minister also came heavily on corruption in the public entities. Mentioning an incident, he said that he had requested Titas Gas to provide connection to a

factory two months back but it was still unheeded.
The factory owner later informed the minister that it would have been easy for him to get the connection if he had simply bribed the Titas Gas officials with Tk 5 lakh, the minister said.
He said such corruption and management inefficiencies are causing Tk 500 crore loss a year.
The ICAB President said the Institute had approached the commerce ministry for amendments to the Companies Act 1994 to remove the existing legal bottlenecks in appointing and removing company auditors.
For strengthening independent audit reporting in the greater corporate interest, it is imperative that the proposed legal amendment be undertaken on a priority basis, he maintained.

S'pore may recruit more Bangladeshis

More teams to be sent abroad to explore market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
Singapore has assured Bangladesh of recruiting fresh workers, but stopped short of making any firm commitment.
As part of the government's planned mission to expand the country's labour market abroad, a high-powered delegation headed by Labour and Employment Minister Abdullah Al Noman visited Singapore last week.
The two-day visit earned Bangladesh a lot of assurances, but no definitive commitments on fresh import of manpower and resolving problems faced by Bangladeshi workers in Singapore were made.
During a briefing at the labour ministry on Monday, Noman said

he had discussions with the Singaporean authorities on as many as nine issues relating to the country's manpower export.
But he admitted that Singapore had only assured Dhaka of considering all these points. The four-member Bangladesh delegation had no agreement with or commitment from the Singapore government during its two-day visit on December 3 and 4.
The issues Bangladesh discussed with Singapore include fresh export of manpower from Bangladesh especially for cleaning and maintenance, setting up of more remittance houses in Singapore for Bangladeshi workers, action against phony recruiting agents, ensuring wages for Bangladeshi workers as per agreement and getting affiliation of Bangla-

desh Institute of Marine Technology with the Polytechnic Institute of Singapore.
Noman told journalists that the Singaporean authorities assured him of looking into the matters.
The government has decided to send similar missions to other prospective countries such as Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Brunei and South Korea, the minister said. A high-powered delegation would visit Saudi Arabia in the first or second week of January, 2002.
"We are also exploring the prospects of exporting skilled manpower to the developed countries like Germany, Italy, Australia and Japan," he said.
The labour and employment

minister dismissed press reports as baseless that the Malaysian government would deport a large number of Bangladeshi workers.
"Our investigation reveals that Malaysia has no such plans to deport Bangladeshi workers. We rather hope to export more manpower to Malaysia and for that matter, we'll send a delegation there soon."
Noting that the demand for unskilled manpower was declining across the globe, the minister said his government would develop skilled manpower to expand the country's labour market abroad.
Noman told the press briefing that 33,084 workers have been exported to different countries since the new government took over.



Apex Footwear Ltd opened a showroom at Rifles Square in the city on Monday. The showroom - Galerie Apex - was inaugurated by Chairman of Apex Group and former advisor of the caretaker government Syed Manzur Elahi; Managing Director Syed Nasim Manzur and GM-Marketing Abdullah Al Mosaddeq were also present at the inaugural ceremony. Apex footwear and Adidas shoes will be available at the new showroom.

EU gives Pakistan spl trade access

REUTERS, Brussels
The European Union added Pakistan Monday to a list of countries eligible for special trade preferences, praising its efforts to curb drug production and trafficking.
Diplomatic sources said the decision also reflects the key role of Pakistan, a neighbour of Afghanistan, in the US-led coalition against international terrorism.
The EU is Pakistan's main trading partner, buying 30 per cent of its exports, mostly textiles, worth some 2.3 billion euros, last year.
Under the new arrangements, the EU will eliminate a seven per cent duty on imports of clothing from Pakistan from January 1, 2002, scrapping 150 million euros of duty a year. In return, Pakistan will cut duties on EU textile and clothing imports.
The new scheme, which runs from the start of 2002 to the end of 2004, also offers incentives for the countries involved to boost labour rights and protect the environment.

US set to cut rates as job losses cloud recovery

AFF, Washington
US Federal Reserve policymakers are set to cut interest rates for the 11th time this year as heavy job losses cloud the prospect of a quick recovery, experts said.
Most of the market expected the Federal Open Market Committee to lower the key federal funds rate to 1.75 per cent from 2.00 per cent at a meeting Tuesday following a steep rise in jobless numbers.
The rate began this year at 6.50 per cent.
Many analysts fear the deteriorating US labour market will eventually undermine consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of US economic activity.
"The overriding concern is that consumer spending will not be

IMF sees 2001, 2002 global growth slowing to 2.5pc

AFF, Manila
Global economic growth is seen slowing to about 2.5 per cent this year and next, nearly half the 4.7 per cent in 2000, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) official said here Tuesday.
IMF assistant regional director for Asia Charles Adams said the global economic imbalances that became apparent before the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, rather than the attacks themselves, were the principal causes of the slowdown.
"The IMF is to publish a world economic outlook paper next week which will estimate global growth for 2001 and 2002 around 2.4 to 2.5 per cent, Adams told a regional economic conference sponsored by the Asian Development Bank here.
He said the slowdown would not be as sharp as in the early 1980s and early 1990s.
However, a "fairly unusual" situation was arising where the three major currency areas, the US, Japan and Euro area would all be lagging the overall world economy.
Adams said the effects of the terrorist attacks "are not insignificant but by and large they're probably not that large, if one looks at the global economy as a whole, and some of them are probably quite short-lived."
He emphasized the world economy was much weaker than expected before the attacks and

US set to cut rates as job losses cloud recovery

able to continue to support the economy in the face of rising jobless numbers," Wachovia Securities economist David Orr said.
Government data Friday showed the unemployment rate soared to a six-year high of 5.7 per cent in November from 5.4 per cent in October.
The economy destroyed 331,000 jobs last month, after evaporating 468,000 in October, the Labor Department figures showed. It was the worst two-month performance since 1974, said Naroff Economic Advisors chief economist Joel Naroff.
The data helped to smother rising optimism on Wall Street of a quick escape from recession.
The blue chip Dow Jones industrials index slid well below 10,000 points in late afternoon

trade Monday, dropping 124.29 points, or 1.24 per cent, to 9,925.17.
"The financial markets have decided there will be a recovery. I think the Fed is a little less convinced," Orr said.
Much of the favourable data released in the past month reflected a bounce-back from the shock of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the economist said.
But the economy had yet to regain the levels of August, he cautioned.
"I think there is a fair possibility, or probability, that when we get to the first quarter (of next year) the consumer leg of the recession will actually hit."
Housing and car markets had so far been spared from an exodus

of buyers, he said.
Economists credit the low interest rates with helping the housing market. Car showrooms have also been filled by manufacturers' offers of zero-per cent financing deals.
But Conference Board economist Delos Smith said key motive for the expected rate cut would be psychological.
"I think they are going to do it because they need to show they are still trying to turn this economy around," he said.
Some people argued the Federal Reserve should end the rate-cuts now and declare its work was done, Smith said. "But how do you say everything is marvelous with a 5.7 per cent unemployment rate?"

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
সাতার, ঢাকা।
বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় দিবস ২০০২-এ অংশগ্রহণের জন্য রেজিস্ট্রেশন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সকল প্রাক্তন ছাত্র-ছাত্রীকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আগামী ১২-১২-২০০২ তারিখে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় দিবস-২০০২ অনুষ্ঠান উদযাপন করা হবে। এই অনুষ্ঠানে অংশগ্রহণে অগ্রাধী প্রাক্তন ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদেরকে অগ্রাধী ব্যাংক, জাতীয় জাদুঘর শাখা, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা এবং অগ্রাধী ব্যাংক, জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শাখায় প্রাপ্তব্য নির্ধারিত ফর্মে অথবা নিচের ছকে ৬-১২-২০০২ তারিখের মধ্যে রেজিস্ট্রেশন, জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃক আবেদন করতে অনুরোধ করা হলো। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় দিবসের বিস্তারিত কর্মসূচি যথাসময়ে পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি দিয়ে জানানো হবে।

১। রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফর্মঃ

ক) প্রাক্তন ছাত্র/ছাত্রী	ঃ টাকা ২০০/- (দুইশত) জনপ্রতি
খ) স্বামী/স্ত্রী/পরিবারের সদস্য	ঃ টাকা ১০০/- (একশত) জনপ্রতি
গ) ১২ বছরের নিচে শিশু	ঃ টাকা ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) জনপ্রতি

২। ফি পরিশোধের পদ্ধতিঃ

ক) অগ্রাধী ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখা থেকে জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় রেজিস্ট্রেশনের অনুকূলে অগ্রাধী ব্যাংক, জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শাখার উপর ইস্যুকৃত ব্যাংক ড্রাফটসহ ছক অনুযায়ী আবেদন করা যাবে। অথবা,
খ) অগ্রাধী ব্যাংক, জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শাখায় বিবিধ জমা রশিদের মাধ্যমে CD-68 নং একডাকটে ফি জমা দিয়ে রশিদ নিচের ছক অথবা উপরে বর্ণিত নির্ধারিত ফর্মের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দিতে হবে। অথবা,
গ) ঢাকার জাতীয় জাদুঘর শাখা অগ্রাধী ব্যাংক বিবিধ জমা রশিদের মাধ্যমে STD-07 নং একডাকটে ফি জমা দিয়ে রশিদের এক কপি আবেদন ফর্মের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দিতে হবে।

৩। রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফর্মের ছকঃ

আবেদনকারীর নাম	ঃ
পিতার নাম	ঃ
বিতানের নাম	ঃ
ব্যাচ/সেশন	ঃ
আবাসিক হলের নাম	ঃ
বর্তমান ঠিকানা (পত্র যোগাযোগের জন্য)	ঃ
টেলিফোন/ফ্যাক্স/ই-মেইল নম্বরসহ (যদি থাকে) (১২ বছরের উপরে)	ঃ
অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক পরিবারের সদস্য সংখ্যা (১২ বছরের উপরে)	ঃ
অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক পরিবারের সদস্যসংখ্যা (১২ বছরের নিচে)	ঃ
রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি বাবদ দেয় মোট টাকা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/বিবিধ জমা রশিদ	ঃ (অংকে) (কথায়)
নং (সংযুক্ত করতে হবে)	ঃ (তারিখঃ)
	আবেদনকারীর স্বাক্ষরঃ
	তারিখঃ

৪। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বর্তমান ছাত্র-ছাত্রী, শিক্ষক, কর্মকর্তা এবং কর্মচারীদের রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি, ফি জমা দেয়ার পদ্ধতি, রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফর্মের ছক ইত্যাদি উল্লেখপূর্বক পৃথকভাবে অভ্যন্তরীণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রদান করা হবে।

রেজিস্ট্রার
জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।
জিডি-১১৫৯