

## WB Dhaka office invites applications for SGP

The World Bank Office, Dhaka is inviting non-governmental organisations to submit their applications for the Small Grants Programme (SGP)-2002, says a press release.

The Programme's objective is to support registered nonprofit, non-governmental organisations in their activities aimed at promoting dialogue and dissemination of information and enhancing partnerships with key players in support of the development process.

This year the programme will support good governance initiatives and activities related to civic engagement for the empowerment of marginalised and vulnerable groups.

The grant amount will be between \$2000 to \$5000 and the applicant must indicate a matching amount for completing activity within one year.

However, the Small Grants will

not support research programmes, formal academic training programmes, operational projects, ongoing institutional core support, scholarships, fellowships, study programmes, or individuals applying on their own behalf, including for travel or studies.

Furthermore, the NGOs who received fund in FY01 are not eligible for this year's programme.

The deadline for submission of applications is January 31, 2002, and awards will be announced by March 15, 2002. For further information, programme guidelines and application form, please contact Razia Rouf, Information Assistant, World Bank Office, 3A Paribagh, GPO Box 97, Dhaka-1000, Tel: 9696301, Fax: 8613220, email: rrouf@worldbank.org; or MA Mazid, WBOD (External Affairs) 3A Paribagh, Dhaka-1000, Tel: 9696301, Ext:409, Fax: 8613220, email: mmazid@worldbank.org.



People have started coming back to the city after celebrating Eid with their near and dear ones at their village homes. This photo was taken from the Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## WEATHER TODAY

### Light rain or drizzle likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle may occur at one or two places over Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Faridpur and Madaripur today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, the Met Office said predicting light to moderate fog over northern part of the country during morning.

Night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country it added.

Country's highest temperature 28.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and Teknaf and the lowest 10.6 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.16 pm and rises on Saturday at 6.37 am.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity in the main cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.7	15.3	89	73
Chittagong	28.8	15.7	94	57
Rajshahi	23.4	13.2	86	84
Khulna	25.2	13.7	95	86
Barisal	25.4	12.5	96	90
Sylhet	27.4	14.4	74	80
Cox's Bazar	27.2	16.5	85	82

## Body recovered in Khulna

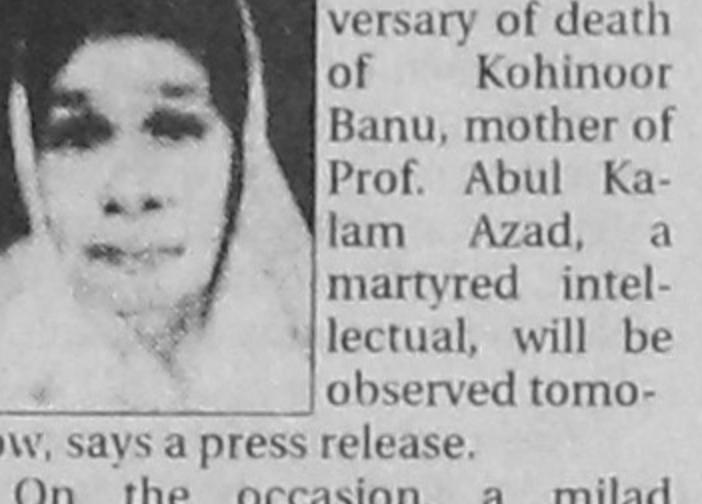
UNB, Khulna

Police recovered the beheaded body of a youth from a *beel* in Terokhada upazila on Wednesday. The dead was identified as Piku Sheikh, 22, son of Phool Mia of Molladanga village in Dighaliya upazila.

Police sent the body to General Hospital for autopsy.

Sources said a number of youths called out Piku from his house on December 13 and since then he remained missing.

## Death anniversary



The 8th anniversary of death of Kohinor Banu, mother of Prof. Abdul Karim Azad, a martyred intellectual, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

On the occasion, a mild mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at House No-35/B, Road No-7, Block-G, Banani, after Zohr prayers tomorrow.

On the occasion, a mild mahfil will be held at the central jame mosque after Juma prayers.

## Death anniversary of Mirza Golam Hafiz observed

BSS, Dhaka

The first death anniversary of former speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Mirza Golam Hafiz was observed yesterday.

A *mild mahfil* was held at his Dhamondi residence on the occasion. Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar and Health and Family Welfare Minister and President of Bangladesh-China Friendship Association Dr Khondoker Mushtashir Hossain, among others, attended the *mildah*.

Speaking on the occasion, Sircar recalled the glorious contributions of the late speaker to politics and legal profession.

## Cheholum

Cheholum of Begum Zubaida Khanum, mother of Dr. Mahmood Nasir Jahangiri, will be held today at her village home at Puran Bausia under Gazaria upazila, Munsiganj, says a press release.

On the occasion, a mild mahfil will be held at the central jame mosque after Juma prayers.

## Take fresh vow for a corruption, terrorism-free society: Moyeen

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan yesterday urged all to help strengthen democracy, establish good governance and promote healthy culture to fulfil people's expectations from the government.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of a three-day Victory Day celebrations as chief guest, the minister said, "It is time to take a fresh vow to make the society free from corruption and terrorism and to attain economic emancipation for which people gave the ruling party an absolute mandate in the last national elections."

Jointly organised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Shilpkala Academy, the celebrations were held at Ramna Batamul.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury and Director General of Shilpkala Academy Mostafa Zaman Abbas also spoke on the occasion.

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## Death in custody

### Trial of Nuru Murder Case uncertain

UNB, Dhaka

The case of killing Nuru Mia in custody 11 years ago is a glaring example of how justice was delayed and ultimately denied in the lengthy process of trial.

Twelve people, including the jail super and the jailer of Kishoreganj District Jail, who were accused of mercilessly beating Nuru Mia to death, have so far showed disrespect to the court order by refusing to appear for the trial.

Still in government service, the two accused - jail super and jailer, now posted in Gaibandha and Meherpur jails respectively - have been trying to suppress the truth and bury the case by influencing the process of trial.

A magistrate's court in Kishoreganj on November 11 ordered warrant of arrest against the accused and set December 22 for hearing of the case. This is the 81st hearing date of the case, court sources said.

But the two accused have not appeared before the court till December 9, nor did the police arrest them.

Nuru Mia, a poor peasant of Tarua village in Brahmanbaria sadar upazila, was sentenced to a 10-month imprisonment in 1990. For an unspecified reason, he was transferred to the Kishoreganj jail from Brahmanbaria.

According to the case filed by his wife, Asia Khatun, Nuru Mia was beaten to death inside Kishoreganj jail on June 9, 1990. She named 12 people, including the jail super and the jailer in the case.

She also complained that after the killing, the body was given to Anjan-e-Mafidul Islam for burial without post mortem. The jail authority made no effort to hand over the body to his relatives in a bid to conceal the heinous crime, she said.

Police submitted to the lower court a fictitious report on the death of Nuru Mia, whereupon the court dismissed the wife.

Nuru Mia's wife filed a revision petition with the Judge's Court that ordered judicial inquiry. The judicial body found evidence of death by beating and the case was revived. But the accused persons moved the High Court seeking

quashing of the case and secured an order for suspension of the trial by the lower court until disposal of the petition.

After a lengthy process, the High Court finally dismissed the petition of the accused and issued order on March 23, 1999 for resumption of the trial in the lower court.

Accordingly, the Magistrate's Court on July 13, 1999 issued summons upon the accused persons to appear in the court for trial. But the accused have failed to turn up and secured several shifting of dates for hearing of the case.

And behind the scenes, an influential quarter has been trying to influence the process of trial. On the other hand, the accused persons have been mounting pressure on the wife of Nuru Mia to withdraw the case.

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## DHAKA TODAY

### Film show

Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will screen two movies - "The Festival" directed by Claude Chabrol and "Noce Blanche" by Jean-Claude Brisseau. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm respectively.

### Scientific confe

The Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Bangladesh is going to hold a scientific conference on laparoscopic surgery. Amico Laboratories Limited has sponsored the event. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 7.00pm.

### Scholarship award ceremony

Bangladesh Scholarship Council arranges the 7th annual scholarship distribution ceremony with Information Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 7.00pm.

### DHAKA TOMORROW FEJB seminar

Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) will hold a seminar on "Banning the use of Polythene Bags in Dhaka city: Implementation Strategy" with Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.30pm.

### Gas cylinder explodes in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

A gas cylinder exploded at Purabari in Khalishpur area of the city yesterday, injuring two people.

Pala Mia and his son Halim Mia were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital with serious injuries suffered in the blast.

Witnesses said the cylinder blew off and dropped on a rooftop of a house about three kilometres away from the spot.

Hospital sources said condition of the elderly Pala Mia was "critical".

## STOCK

### TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES DECEMBER 20, 2001

Company	DSE			CSE			Financial Performance			Company	DSE			CSE			Financial Performance				
	FV/ML (Tk./No.)	Price Closing	Chg. (%) Pre. Day	Turnover Share	Price Closing	Chg. (%) Pre. Day	Turnover Share	Price Closing	Chg. (%) Pre. Day		FV/ML (Tk./No.)	Price Closing	Chg. (%) Pre. Day	Turnover Share	Price Closing	Chg. (%) Pre. Day	Turnover Share				
<b>BANK</b>										Delta Millers Ltd.	100/20	38.75	0.00	38.75	220	39.00	Not Traded	—	26/12/00	0.59	—
AB Bank Ltd.	100/5	251.25	1.31	248.00	15880	248.00	Not Traded	—	22/07/01	38.7	18.0	—	20/9/01	11.4	5.00	—	20/9/01	11.4	5.00		