

## 10 lakh poly bags seized, one held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday seized nineteen sacks containing about ten lakh polythene bags and arrested one person from Mohakhali DCC kitchen market in the city, says a press release of environment and forest ministry.

The polythene was seized from Aroma Enterprise and a staff of the shop arrested while Environment

and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj was visiting the market.

A case was filed with Gulshan police station in this regard.

The minister yesterday visited Mohakhali DCC market and Shantinagar kitchen market to see the effectiveness of the government ban on polythene.

During the visit, Shajahan Siraj advised the shop owners to use jute bags for storing different commodities instead of polythene bags.

He said stern actions would be taken against the users and sellers of polythene bags soon.

During the visit, ten more cases were filed against different shop owners for using polythene bags, the press release added.

## IBA graduation ceremony Dec 27

UNB, Dhaka

## BAF certificate award ceremony

UNB, Dhaka

The certificate award ceremony of the 61st Junior Command and Staff Course of the Bangladesh Air Force was held at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Iqbal Azam attended the ceremony as chief guest and distributed certificates among the passed-out student-officers.

Some 24 officers - one each from Bangladesh Army, Sri Lanka Air Force and Indian Air Force, and 21 from Bangladesh Airforce - took part in the course.



Employees of Dhaka City Corporation crush unauthorised billboards with a bulldozer at Sukrabad in the city yesterday.

## City maternity centres to be upgraded

### Rapid migration creating health hazards

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for comprehensive sustainable reproductive healthcare services to widen access for the growing city population to primary healthcare services.

Top government representatives informed the seminar that the existing maternity centres in four city corporations - Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi - would be upgraded to Comprehensive Reproductive Healthcare Centres through renovation and installation of equipment.

The Urban Primary Health Care Project (UPHICP) of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly organised the

daylong seminar on "Strengthening Reproductive Health Services in Metropolitan Cities" at a city hotel.

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka inaugurated the seminar while CEO of Dhaka City Corporation AZM Shaiful Islam presided.

Local Government Secretary AYBI Siddiqi, DG of Planning Cell at the Local Government Division Ataur Rahman Majumder and UNFPA Country Representative Suneceta Mukherjee also spoke at the function.

Speaking as chief guest, the mayor said the number of people is increasing every day in the city slums and in areas with concentration of lower middle class group. This has been creating more health hazards that need to be addressed with top priority, he said.

In this regard, the mayor emphasised greater participation of the people to ensure health facilities.

AYBI Siddiqi said rapid migration and urbanisation are creating health and environmental degradation in cities, where the urban poor have less access to primary healthcare facilities compared to their rural counterpart.

Suneceta Mukherjee said the country's urban population is now growing at 6 per cent annually, which is three times the national average of 2 per cent.

At present, 25 per cent Bangladeshis are living in urban areas against a mere 5 per cent 30 years ago. By the year 2010, it is projected that 55 million people would be living in cities, the UNFPA official said.

She said 50 per cent of the slum inhabitants are poor while 30 per cent classifiable hardcore poor with little or no access to basic facilities such as piped water, sanitation and public health care.

To address the urban health problems, the City Corporation

## 1,224 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,224 people, including two listed criminals, from different parts of the country in last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered seven firearms, five other weapons and 52 rounds of bullet.

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ABM Kamal Uddin Khan

## Gulshan Club executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ABM Kamal Uddin Khan has been re-elected president of the Gulshan Club unopposed for 2003, says a press release.

Ten others were also elected members of the club's executive committee at its annual general meeting held at its Gulshan office in the city on December 20.

Five of the members - Anowar Rashid, Jahangir Alam, MM Hassan Sayeed (Shaheen), Murtaza Reza (Saju), and Zahiduzzaman Faruque - were elected unopposed.

The other members are Irshad Hossain, Mohammad Ali Khokon, Rokeya Quader, Shawkat Aziz Russell and SM Abdul Mannan.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country today.

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi division and at the region of Sylhet, Met Office said predicting slight fall in the night temperature.

It also forecast that moderate to thick fog may occur over the northern part and river basins while light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight to morning.

Country's highest temperature 27.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 11.2 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:18pm today and rises at 6:39am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest 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	22.2	14.6	99	78
Chittagong	27.5	13.7	85	65
Rajshahi	22.1	13.4	87	89
Khulna	23.6	13.0	88	85
Barisal	24.4	13.8	93	90
Sylhet	25.6	13.6	84	71
Cox's Bazar	27.6	14.5	75	68

## Provide more facilities for FFs: Iajuddin

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said sacrifices of the freedom fighters would be meaningful when a beautiful future is built for the nation.

"For the supreme sacrifices of freedom fighters our national entity has flourished. It is for them that we are the citizens of an independent and sovereign country," he said calling upon all to recognize the contribution of the freedom fighters.

Addressing a reception to the national heroes organised by Liberation War Affairs Ministry at Osmani auditorium, the President said freedom fighters are real patriots of the country.

"There is no way to deny the contribution of the freedom fighters as they liberated the nation at

the cost of their lives," he said suggesting more facilities for the national heroes.

The President expressed satisfaction over the formation of new ministry on liberation war even after 30 years of independence and termed it a milestone.

The President was happy to know that the Liberation War Affairs Ministry has taken up projects for employment of the freedom fighters, construction of monuments in every district and at the mazar of Birshreshas and construction of Shaheed Zia Memorial Complex at Kalurghat.

He said the ministry is also working for documentation of the liberation war, continuing work for the Mujibnagar Complex and Independence Monument at Suharawardy Udayan.

"I came to know that the work on all projects of liberation war ministry is progressing fast," he said and assured all possible help for timely completion of the projects.

The President said these activities are very much insignificant compared to the great sacrifice of the freedom fighters and suggested that all should be active for the welfare of their families.

He said the ministry has already taken some projects for the welfare of families of the liberation war heroes.

He suggested increasing facilities for the treatment of the wounded and ailing freedom fighters. He also advised the administration to take steps to ensure education for the wards of the freedom fighters.

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