



Children flip through the books at a stall at the 11th Dhaka Book Fair at Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. The National Book Centre organised the fair.

## Hasina demands retrospective effect of pay scale

UNB, Dhaka  
Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday demanded that the pay scale

for government officials and employees be given retrospective effect from the day the prime minister and ministers drew their enhanced remuneration.

She said public life has already been affected badly with the skyrocketing prices of essentials, starting from the month of Ramadan. "Now the raise in the prices of diesel and kerosene will only add fuel to the fire."

Welcoming a group of leaders and workers of Jatiya Party and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj of Roumari upazila to Awami League at Suda Sadan, Hasina said the pay and perks of prime minister and her ministers were increased after one year of assuming office on the plea of price hike. But, she said, after a

lapse of three years the salaries and allowances of the government employees are being raised from January 1.

She said that new taxes and VAT made public life miserable on the one hand and on the other "the PM, her family members, ministers, BNP MPs and leaders are making fortunes..."

Accusing the alliance government of harbouring criminals, Hasina questioned why the government failed to track down grenade attackers. "Although the government speaks of curbing terrorism, grenades are now being exploded inside houses," she said.

More than 100 leaders and workers of JP and Chhatra Samaj led by Mujibur Rahman Bangabashi, Fazlur Rahman, Saidur and Fazlul Huq Mandal joined Awami League.

Sajib Wazed Joy and Kurigram AL president Major Gen (Rtd) Amsaa Amin were present.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Osmanul Haq, a veteran freedom fighter and senior sub-editor of local daily the Azadi, breathed his last at a city clinic yesterday at the age of 58.

The elderly journalist suffered a severe head-injury in an accident on December 27 and had been undergoing treatment in coma at the clinic since then.

He left behind his wife, two sons and host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest in state honour at his village graveyard after the second namaz-e-janaza at Satipara under Dhemsia union under Satkania upazila in the afternoon.

Chittagong Press Club and Chittagong Union of Journalists will hold a condolence meeting at the club auditorium at 11.00am tomorrow.

## Ataur Rahman Bhuiyan

Engineer Ataur Rahman Bhuiyan, former director (Planning and Implementation) of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation,

died at Birdem Hospital in the city on January 2 at the age of 74, says a press release.

His quikhwani will be held at his Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers on January 7.

## Death anniversary

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Mohi-uddin Ahmed, advisor of the now defunct Bengali daily Dainik Desh, says a press release.

He died of cardiac arrest at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease in the city on January 4 in 2000.

On the occasion, his friends and admirers have decided to form Mohiuddin Ahmed Foundation and publish a souvenir.

Relatives, friends, admirers and colleagues have been requested to send writings, pictures and documents for the souvenir at Flat-2-A, Building No-3, 69-71 Talukder Estate, Siddheshwari Circular Road in the city.

## Nurjahan Begum Tuku

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Nurjahan Begum Tuku, wife of poet and architect Rabiul Husain, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Mianul Quran Hafizia Kaumia Madrasa and Orphanage at Green Road in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives and friends have been requested to pray for the departed soul.

## Construct Ganges Barrage to ensure water in lean period

### Speakers urge govt at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to take immediate steps to construct the Ganges Barrage for implementing the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (IWRMP).

They said the proposed barrage would ensure availability of water in some of the dried-up rivers in the southern part of the country during the lean period and save Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world.

The speakers called upon the government to encourage the use of surface water as much as possible as the level of groundwater, contaminated with arsenic, has dropped sharply.

They also raised their voice in favour of incorporating the trans-boundary rivers issue in the agenda of the upcoming South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit for better negotiation.

The seminar on 'National Consultation on Integrated Water

Resources Management Plan and Water Efficiency Strategy in Bangladesh' was organised by Bangladesh Water Partnership at the LGED auditorium in the city.

Speaking as chief guest, Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed

said the country's water resources have been decreasing rapidly.

"Right now we should start building some barrages for water storage as we could not arrive at a solution during the bilateral talks with our neighbouring country," he said.

"We have sat so many times with the representatives of that country to reach a solution but failed," he added.

The minister said the government has already approved the water policy in the cabinet and is now looking forward for its implementation.

Ainun Nishat, country director of IUCN-the world conservation union, said the government should start implementing the long-term

water management plan without any further delay.

He said due to lack of cooperation among the different ministries, the government is yet to start its implementation.

In a keynote paper, WARPO Director General H S Mozadad Faruque said the experts have formulated the long-term water policy considering the country's future water requirements.

The policy has laid down the broad principles of developing the water resources and their rational use by both public and private sectors.

Chaired by Global Water Partners President Quamrul Islam Siddiqui, the seminar was also addressed by Director General of Bangladesh Water Development Board Md Muklesuzzaman, Chief Engineer Aminul Haque, Member of the Joint River Commission Touhidul Anwar Khan, Programme Officer of the Netherlands Embassy Zahir Uddin Ahmed, and President of Coastal Area Resource Development and Management Association Hasna Moudud.



Sajib Wazed Joy, son of Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina speaks at a meeting to exchange opinion with the leaders and activists of Awami Jubo League at Suda Sadan in the city yesterday.

## 'Food producers have no enough food to eat'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The food producers themselves in the country are deprived of enough food to eat, said former planning commission member Prof Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

He was delivering a lecture on 'Agriculture and eradication of food deprivation in rural Bangladesh' organised by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh in the city to mark its 53rd founding anniversary.

"Four decades of planned development works from sixties have hardly helped us in eradicating food deprivation," Prof Hossain said.

Quoting different survey reports, he said at least 75 percent of the rural people are unable to have

access to a standard amount of 2150 calories.

Prof Hossain said three conclusions could be drawn about food deprivation situation in Bangladesh as per those surveys.

Firstly, average level of food and calorie intake in the rural areas is much less than what the people need.

Secondly, food and calorie intake level is found to be declining over time.

And thirdly, the percentage of households suffering from food deprivation in the rural areas has been going up during last few decades.

He said though foreign trade and banking sector including some

other areas have thrived over last couple of decades, common men's access to resource has not increased.

"Poverty alleviation is not possible with the micro-credit programme," Prof Hossain said, adding that food producers have to be provided with adequate 'inputs' in time.

Scholars, university teachers and top government officials were present at the lecture chaired by society President Prof Emajuddin Ahmed.

## Viva voce for judicial service Jan 11

BSS, Dhaka

The viva voce for the candidates of the order of preference for judicial service will be held at 2.30pm on January 11 instead of January 8 at the Judicial Service Commission secretariat at Old High Court Building.

## Advance ticket for trains on Eid

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Railway has arranged advance ticket sale for inter-district trains for an easy movement of homebound passengers on the occasion of Eid-ul-Ajha.

"The advance tickets will be sold from January 11 to 15 from 8.00am to 4.00pm under a special arrangement," Railway sources said yesterday.

It said tickets would be available at the counters of inter-district trains in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet stations.

The ticket booking for January 16 will be given on January 11, for January 17 on January 12, for January 18 on January 13, for January 19 on January 14 and for January 20 on January 15.

Other tickets will also be sold simultaneously and the advance tickets are non-returnable.

## Price-hike of diesel, kerosene protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties protested the increased price of diesel and kerosene yesterday.

Left-leaning eleven party held a rally at Muktangan in the city in protest against the increase of fuel price.

Speakers at the rally said the increased price of fuel has added the sufferings of the common people.

It will also hamper agriculture, industry and business resulting a negative impact on the economic growth.

The speakers urged all to intensify the agitation to oust the failed government.

Presided over by eleven party Coordinator Nurul Islam, the rally was addressed by

Bangladesh Communist Party President Monjurul Ahsan Khan, General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, President of Gono Azadi League Abdus Samad, Gono Forum Presidium Member Pankaj Bhattacharya, and Workers' Party Central Committee leader Kamrul Ahsan.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, on the second day of their fortnight-long campaign to oust the government, held rallies in Comilla, Choumohoni and Feni.

Speakers at the rallies said this is the second time that the government has increased the price of diesel and kerosene causing sufferings to poor and middle class people.

They urged all left-leaning parties to be united to topple the anti-people government.



Five-Party stages demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting price-hike of diesel, kerosene and other essentials.

# DHAKA TODAY

**JFS Film show**  
Jahanginagar Film Society will screen two films titled 'Under the Sand' directed by Francois Ozu of France, and 'Ilgrido' directed by Michel Angelo Antonioni of Italy. Venue: German Cultural Centre, House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm and 5.30pm.

**Scandinavian film show**  
Dhaka Chalachitra Sava will screen two Scandinavian films titled 'The Celebration' directed by Thomas Winterberg of Denmark, and 'The Man Without a Past' directed by Aki Kaurismaki of Finland. Venue: 62, Science Laboratory Road. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

**Film show**  
Bishwasahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'Sunshine' directed by Isvan Sabo. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 5.00pm.

**Muldhara discussion**  
Weekly discussion meeting of Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, will be held. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

**General meeting**  
A general meeting of Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad will be held. Venue: Albert David Pharmaceuticals, Tejgaon Industrial Area. Time: 3.00pm.

**Scientific seminar**  
A scientific seminar of University Dental College and Hospital will be held. Venue: 120/A, Siddheshwari Outer Circular Road. Time: 9.30am.

**Gono Forum meeting**  
A meeting of the central committee of Dhaka unit of Youth Gonoforum will be held. Venue: Hotel Eden, Arambagh. Time: 6.00pm.

**Rotary meeting**  
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5.00pm.

**Scandinavian film show**  
Dhaka Chalachitra Sava will screen two Scandinavian films titled 'Kitchen Stories' directed by Bent Hammer of Norway, and 'Autumn Sonata' directed by Ingmar Bergman of Sweden. Venue: 62, Science Laboratory Road. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

**Lecture**  
Centre for Advanced Research in the Humanities of Dhaka University organises a lecture on 'Muslim religious discourse: A personal view'. Venue: Room No 434, Lecture Theatre. Time: 4.00pm.

# WEATHER TODAY

## Light rain or drizzle likely

**UNB, Dhaka**

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6.00pm today.

Light rain or drizzle is expected at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and in the region of Jessore and Kushtia during the period, Met Office said, predicting light to moderate fog in the morning.

**Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.**

Highest temperature 30.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 10.0 degree Celsius at Srimongol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:23pm and rises at 6:43am 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       | 26.8                   | 15.3 | 83                     | 73      |
| Chittagong  | 30.5                   | 14.8 | 73                     | 59      |
| Rajshahi    | 25.7                   | 13.4 | 87                     | 75      |
| Khulna      | 28.0                   | 15.8 | 96                     | 79      |
| Barisal     | 28.2                   | 13.6 | 94                     | --      |
| Sylhet      | 26.5                   | 14.3 | 69                     | 71      |
| Cox's Bazar | 28.7                   | 15.0 | 85                     | 81      |