

## FOUNDATION STONE OF RANGPUR UNIVERSITY LAID

## Special attention given to dev of northern region: CA

UNB, Rangpur

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said his government has given special attention to the socio-economic uplift of the northern districts, particularly to the priority task of removing 'Monga', through formulating and implementing various development projects.

Fakhruddin made the remark while he was addressing a function for laying the foundation stone for setting up permanent campus of Rangpur University adjacent to Rangpur Cadet College in the town.

On February 2 this year, the Council of Advisers at its meeting with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in the

chair at Rangpur Circuit house took the decision to set up a full-fledged university in this northern district.

The education adviser formally opened the curricular function of the new public university on October 22.

The university administration completed the first batch's admission tests on November 30 and the admis-

sion would be completed by December 18, it was informed at the function. It was also stated that 62 admission seekers on average are competing for one seat for the subjects like science, arts and social sciences.

Addressing the function, Fakhruddin said Rangpur University would help in expanding higher education in this region and building up knowledge-based society as well.

He hoped that this university would be "a model for the country and centre of excellence in higher studies in this region".

The CA informed that it has been finalised that one secondary school in each upazila would be designated model school.

Later, he unveiled the plaque of the foundation stone.

Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman and Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr M Lutfar Rahman also spoke at the function.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed offers prayers after laying the foundation stone of Rangpur University in Rangpur yesterday.

## Call to defeat anti-liberation elements in nat'l elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 yesterday called on the countrymen to defeat the anti-liberation forces in the upcoming national election with the spirit of liberation war.

Any elements of Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams should not have any place in this country, they said, adding that the killers and collaborators of the Pakistani occupation force have been trying to snatch power again through the election.

The forum leaders said this at the discussion 'Expectation for one more victory in the spirit of liberation war' at the Bilia auditorium in the city.

They acknowledged the cooperation of brotherly neighbour India and expressed gratitude the country officially recognised Bangladesh as a free and sovereign country on December 6.

Acting President of the forum journalist Shahriar Kabir said, 'Jamaat, the all-time enemy of the country's liberation and sovereignty, produced hundreds of militant organisations while they were in power and is now dreaming of attaining power again by cheating people in the name of Islam.'

The speakers also vowed to defeat the force, which possesses the spirit of liberation war, into the power through breaking the circle of religious fundamentalism.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury said the reactionary forces are still powerful even after 37 years of

the liberation war.

"It is because the formal aspect of religion has strong impact on the minds of the illiterate and poor people," he said, adding that it is time to reform the education system entirely that would promote rational and scientific thinking and would break the circle of superstitions.

Expressing gratitude to the Indian government for extending its support that hastens the liberation, he also said that India could seal its border and if it did so, one crore of people of this country could have no shelter during the period.

"As many as 13,000 Indian soldiers sacrificed their lives for our liberation Bangladesh and we respect them as we respect our freedom fighters. In memory of them, we should build a mausoleum and if necessary the civil society is ready to take the initiative," he added.

Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mukta D Tomar as the special guest said Bangladesh achieved the liberation through sacrifice and suffering.

"But India also had to pay much for the liberation of Bangladesh as it had to bear the expenses of around one crore of refugees for long nine months while providing training for a significant number of freedom fighters. It also sent its troops who sacrificed their lives for the noble cause," she said, expressing hope to see the mausoleum built in the country in memory of those Indian soldiers.

Justice Mohammad Gholam Rabbani, Prof Ajay Roy, Prof Mahfuza Khanam, Sector Commander Col (ret'd) Abu Osman Chowdhury and Ambassador Waliur Rahman also spoke.

## Depression over Bay

UNB, Dhaka

The deep depression over southeast Bay and adjoining area moved rapidly west-northwestwards and now lies over southwest Bay and adjoining southeast Bay yesterday noon.

A special Met Office bulletin said it was centered about 1690 kms southwest of Chittagong port, 1610 kms southwest of Cox's Bazar port and 1620 kms southwest of Mongla port at about 12:00pm yesterday.

"It is likely to intensify further and move in a west-northwest direction," the bulletin said.

Maximum sustained wind speed within 48kms of the depression centre is about 50kph, rising to 60kph in gusts/squalls. Sea will remain moderate near the system.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist distant cautionary signal number one.

All fishing-boats and trawlers over north Bay and deep sea have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution until further notice. They are also advised not to venture into the deep sea.

## Nurul Islam's Qulhwani today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Qulhwani of Ganotantri Party President Nurul Islam and his son Tamohar Islam Puchi will be held today.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Dhaka University Central Mosque after Asr prayers, says a press release.

His family members requested all to attend the programme.

Veteran politician also a freedom fighter Nurul Islam died on Thursday afternoon after 36-hour long fighting for life at Combined Military Hospital in the city. He was critically injured in a mysterious fire at his city apartment and his son was burnt alive in the blaze in same incident on Wednesday.

Hannan was addressing a view exchange meeting on upcoming election in Kapasia.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses through a video conference at Tungipara in Gopalganj yesterday.

## Remain vigilant for free, fair elections

Hasina tells people thru' videoconference

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina for the first time in the country talked with the people of her electoral constituency Gopalganj-3 through videoconference yesterday.

Hasina participated in the half an hour-long meeting to condole the death of Alhaj Layek Ali Biswas at the mausoleum on the grave of Bangabandhu at Tungipara in Gopalganj from Sudha Sadan in the city through satellite technology.

She said she would announce the AL election manifesto on December 12 after offering Fateha at the mazar of Hazrat Shah Jalal (RAW) in Sylhet.

She would also address the people of Kotlipara through another videoconference.

She would talk with the people across the country through videoconferences in phases, she added.

More than 1,000 leaders and workers of Tungipara and Kotlipara under Gopalganj-3 constituency were present on the occasion. Two big television sets were used at Tungipara

for the videoconference.

The AL chief said, "My heart is with the people no matter wherever I am. The people of Tungipara and Kotlipara were my inspiration after I returned home in 1981. I have been working for building a Sonar Bangla as dreamt by Bangabandhu."

She added that she had lost a guardian at the death of Layek Ali Biswas.

"All will have to remain vigilant so that the election is held in a free, fair and neutral way. People are suffering due to price hike of essentials. Awami League works for the people. If we are voted to power, we will bring down the price to people's reach through establishing good governance."

Sheikh Hasina's special assistant Hasan Mahmud Babul coordinated the videoconference.

District Awami League President Mohammad Ali Khan Abu Miah, General Secretary Emdadul Haque Chowdhury, Suvash Chandra Joidhar, Abul Bashir Khair and SM Humayun Kabir also spoke.

## DMP's special security measures during Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has taken special security measures on the eve of Eid ul-Azha apprehending deterioration of law and order situation at shopping centres, cattle markets, launch and bus terminals, railway stations and raw leather markets, in the city.

DMP authorities at a press conference at the commissioner's office yesterday said they will provide security in three phases by forming surveillance teams and setting up check posts at different key points in the city.

Since December 1, DMP has been active to ease the traffic jam until Eid day on different roads and adjacent areas of different cattle markets with deployment of additional forces and strengthening community traffic police system.

The authorities said they also served a notice regarding vehicular movements in the city during the period so that vehicle carrying raw hides of sacrificial animals cannot create

traffic jam in the concerned areas.

A total of 4608 policemen and 580 ansars will be deployed to ensure security for seven days starting from the day after Eid day, they said, adding that policemen will keep a vigil at different lanes and roads to check the acts of robberies, muggings and lootings, especially at the vacant residences and to remove any impediment in carrying raw hides.

However, Science Lab, Newmarket, Hazaribagh, Azimpur, Tipu Sultan Road, Bongshal, Siddique Bazar, Gulshan-2 and Amin Bazar truck stand area will be brought under constant security measures so that leather markets in the areas can function smoothly.

To check black-marketing, four check posts will control exit of trucks laden with raw leathers. The check posts will be set up at Amin Bazar, Abdullahpur, Dhaour Bridge and Sanarpur.

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed and other high officials of police took part in the press conference.



PHOTO: BNP

Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh Sakir Ozkan Torunlar calls on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

## 'Halt greenhouse gas emission at Kuakata'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday formed a human chain and mass gathering at Kuakata sea beach demanding a halt to greenhouse gas emission to check pollution of environment.

Thirty NGOs working for containing environmental pollution also took part in the programme that demanded compensation from the rich countries for Southern Bangladesh.

Later a discussion was held at the beach where Prof Muzaffer Ahmad was present as chief guest.

Shafiqur Rahman, president of Patuakhali Chamber of Commerce and Industry, presided over the discussion.

Bapa Secretary Dr MA Matin, Joint Secretaries Md Zakir Hossain and JK Baral, national assembly member Sharmin Morshed, freedom fighter Nurul Huda, Adviser of Patuakhali Samity in Dhaka and its acting president Golam Mostafa, former Patuakhali municipality chairman Advocate Sultan Ahmed Mridha, Jahangir Shikder, secretary of Patuakhali Diabetic Samity, Mizanur Rahman Bulet, president of Kuakata Press Club, and Kazal Baron Das, joint secretary of Patuakhali Press Club, also addressed the programme.

A 14-point demand was placed at the meeting. These included massive plantation in coastal belts, introduction of solar energy and use of organic fertiliser.

## Turkish envoy meets Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh Sakir Ozkan Torunlar yesterday called on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city.

After the meeting the Ambassador told reporters that they discussed how to increase bilateral trade and higher studies in Ankara.

Shamsur Mo'bin Chowdhury, member of Khaleda Zia's foreign affairs advisory committee said the Ambassador conveyed Eid greetings and discussed how to increase the bilateral ties between Bangladesh and Turkey.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Reaz Rahman were present.

## Nurul Islam's Death Electric short circuit causes fire

Say firefighters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fire brigade's inquiry into the death of Ganatantri Party President Nurul Islam by a devastating fire found that the fire was caused by an electric short circuit, said a fire brigade official yesterday preferring anonymity.

Police also could not find any clue to the causes of the incident, though they have not yet ruled out that it was not an act of sabotage and trying to find out those who threatened Islam and his son over phone.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed told journalists that they were investigating into the accident incident at the victims' house taking into account three matters that include circumstantial evidence of the incident, statements of the witnesses and expert reports on the incident.

Nurul Islam, also a nominee of the Awami League-led grand alliance for the upcoming national election, succumbed to his burn injuries on December 4 that he received on December 3 at his Lalmai residence.

His son Tamohar Islam died on the spot in the same incident.

The DMP commissioner also said they will file the investigation report within the next 15 days.

The fire brigade had formed a three-member probe committee that will submit its final report today to the director general of Fire Service and Civil Defence, an official related to the probe body told The Daily Star.

They have found an electric short circuit as the cause of the fire, he added.

## Banani-Gulshan Bridge opens today

METRO DESK

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will inaugurate the newly built Banani-Gulshan Bridge on Gulshan Lake in the city today, says a press release.

The Adviser for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Md Anwarul Iqbal will be present as the special guest.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) constructed the bridge in time with the government decision to construct a number of bridges over Gulshan Lake at different points to address excessive traffic jam in Banani, Gulshan and Baridhara areas, especially at Kamal Ataturk Avenue.

The Banani-Gulshan Bridge is 306 meters in length and 16 meters in width. It has been constructed six months ahead of the project period of 18 months. The foundation stone of the bridge was laid on October 22 last year.

The people moving towards Gulshan from Banani would cross the bridge to enter Road Nos. 41 and 43, while people coming from Gulshan to Banani would cross the bridge through Road Nos. 34 and 35 to reach Road No. 11 of Banani. The bridge will be opened to traffic on December 8.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK

The second death anniversary of Advocate ABM Fazle Rashid Chowdhury Hiron, a politician, businessman and social worker, will be observed on December 10, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quarkhwani, milad mahfil and feeding of destitutes will be held.

## Shafika Hossain

METRO DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Shafika Hossain, wife of Syed Badaruddin Hossain, former registrar of Dhaka University, says a press release.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 31.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Sandwip and lowest 14.9 degrees Celsius at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:29am 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	28.8	18.4	71	68
Chittagong	29.8	19.4	67	62
Rajshahi	28.0	17.3	89	83
Khulna	27.7	18.5	91	78
Barisal	29.0	16.5	91	86
Sylhet	29.1	18.1	69	67
Cox's Bazar	31.0	18.5	65	69



## BISS seminar

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organises a commemorative seminar on 'Security of Bangladesh: Contemporary perspectives'. Venue: BISS office. Venue: 10:30am.

## Symposium

Petrobangla organises a symposium on 'BAPEX: Beyond horizon'. Venue: Petrobangla seminar hall. Time: 9:00am.

## Seminar

Ministry of Social Welfare and Unicef Bangladesh in association with LETI will organise a seminar on 'Towards restorative justice for children in conflict with the law: Promoting a diversion strategy in Bangladesh by adopting alternatives to deprivation of liberty'. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9:30am.

## Udichi expels 3 members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigosthi has expelled Manjarul Islam Chowdhury Sweet, Alak Dasgupta and Faruk Hossain Khan from the organisation due to their anti-organisational activities, says a press release.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the body on November 4.