

## Australian HC closed Dec 26 to Jan 2

METRO DESK

The Australian High Commission, including the Visa and Consular sections, will remain closed from December 26 to January 2 for Christmas and New Year holidays. The High Commission will re-open on January 3.

The VFS Australian Visa Application Centre will also be closed for the same period and Australian visa applications cannot be lodged during this time.

Australian citizens living in Bangladesh requiring emergency consular services during this period can contact the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra on +61 2 6261 3305.



(From left) Spouses and relatives of the crew of the hijacked Bangladeshi ship meet Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni at her office in the city yesterday. Hafuza, Khatoon, left, wife of Engineer Tariqul Islam, one of the hostages; and Shaila Ahmed, right, wife of Capt Farid Ahmed, another hostage; break into tears at the meeting. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: SHAWAKAT JAMIL

## JNU journos protest attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University (JNU) Correspondents' Association yesterday held a silent procession and rally on the campus protesting Tuesday's attack on the university correspondents and ransacking the association's office.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, president of JNU Correspondents' Association, from the rally at university Shaheed Minar, said Kottwali police chief Salahuddin Khan made the attack on the journalists in a planned way and demanded punishment to the police men responsible for the incident.

The association submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner (DC) of Dhaka district at 3:30pm.

The university authorities have formed an 11-member enquiry committee to probe the incident, said Kazi Asaduzzaman, the proctor. The authority also had suspended all the regular classes and examinations for the next two days, he added.

The administrative office, however, will remain open to continue the admission procedure. Following the Tuesday's attack, Bangladesh Chharta League (BCL) JNU unit committee had been dissolved, Mahmud Hasan Ripon, president of BCL central committee told The Daily Star last night.

## Phulbaria-Sayedabad road renamed after war hero

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday renamed the road from Phulbaria to Sayedabad rail crossing as Bir Uttam Abdus Salek Chowdhury Road.

The DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka unveiled plaque of the road named after Abdus Salek, a veteran freedom fighter.

Khoka said they have been renaming different road after freedom fighters as recognition to their contribution in the War of Liberation. The future generation will be able to learn the history of independence and will be inspired by patriotic values for these initiatives, he said.

The family members of Abdus Salek, local ward councillor, and chief executive officer of DCC were present during the programme among others.

## Visual media impacts on women's view

Speakers tell roundtable  
DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said the visual media not only entertains but also influences women's choice and way of thinking about their daily activities.

Two research papers were presented at the programme on "Women and visual media: Representation and engagement".

Pathways of women's empowerment research programme organised it at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The finding show women actively interpret the narratives on screen and creatively apply those in their daily lives.

Samia A Rahim, research associate of pathways of women's empowerment, read out the keynote paper.

Muhammad Jahangir, executive director of the centre for development communication; Kaberi Gayen, associate professor of Dhaka University; actress Sara Zaker, also head of Nayantara Communication; and Firdous Azim, teacher of Brac University; also addressed the programme.

# RMG workers block road Road crashes kill 11, injure 34

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers of three readymade garment factories, two in Gazipur and one in the capital, yesterday staged separate demonstrations over a host of demands.

The Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway was blocked for two hours by the workers of Moonlit Garments in Gazipur in protest of wage discrimination against them.

Joydevpur police said several hundred vehicles were blocked on the highway around 9:00am due to the protest that cooled after the workers' intervention.

Moonlit's workers said the authorities pay them as per the new wage scale being implemented from November. But junior workers benefit more than the senior ones according to the new wage scale, they claimed.

They also alleged that the authorities have reduced wage rate for workers' duty for both senior and junior workers.

A correspondent from Gazipur reports Moonlit's administration told the workers that they would look into the matter.

Officer-in-charge Abdur Rashid of Joydevpur Police Station said they chased the

workers who put the blockade even after the authorities assured inquiry into the matter.

Additional police have been deployed in the area to avert any untoward incident, he added.

Workers of ABC Dyeing Factory in the capital's Kadomtoli staged a sit-in protesting closure of the factory.

ABC's authorities declared the factory shut for an indefinite period on Monday following unrest by workers over wages. Tuesday was the weekly holiday of the factory.

Officer-in-charge Aiyubur Rahman of Kodomtoli Police Station told The Daily Star that the workers began the protest at the factory gate around 8:00am.

They had been demonstrating for the last few days over wage discrimination, said the OC. Labourers of Korea-owned factory, NTKC, in Gazipur went for one-day work abstention putting a five-point demand.

The demands include case withdrawal against 158 workers, removal of the production manager, and increasing pay for extra hours' work.

A Gazipur correspondent reports the workers authorised their protest programme if the authorities accepted three of the demands.

METRO DESK

Eleven people were killed and 34 others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Brahmanbaria, Pabna, Netrakona and Gazipur on Tuesday and yesterday.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports: A truck rammed a CNG-run auto rickshaw at Hatikumrul on the western side of Gangabandhu Bridge at about 7:30am, killing four people and injuring four others.

The deceased are Rahim Uddin, 48, of Shribaspara village in Salanga upazila of Sirajganj, his wife Hajera Banu, 42, Joyal Abedin, 35, of Gaibandha Sadar upazila and Aqidul Islam, 26, of Brahmakhola village in Sirajganj town.

Dinabandhu Das, officer-in-charge of Hatikumrul Highway Police Station, said Haziara died on the spot while her husband, three-wheeler driver Aqidul, and Joyal, who were standing beside the highway during the accident, succumbed to their injuries at Sirajganj General Hospital.

The truck driver fled the scene soon

after the accident.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds: Three people were killed in a head-on collision between a truck and a pick-up van on the Rangpur-Bogra Highway in Gobindaganj upazila on Wednesday.

Highway police said a Rangpur-bound goods-laden truck collided head-on with a pick-up van at about 4:00am.

Truck driver Jahangir Alam, pick-up van driver Shafi Alam and van passenger Uzzal Chandra Singh died on the spot.

Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria says: One person was killed in a road accident while a speedy bus knocked him down on Brahmanbaria bypass road at Poyrtala village yesterday.

The deceased is Md Yeasin Mia, 18, of Kajolia village under Nabinagar upazila of the district.

Our correspondent from Pabna says: An elderly person was killed when a speedy Nasiman, three wheeler motorized vehicle, hit him near Debottar market of Atghoria upazila.

The accident took place at about

7:00pm on Tuesday and the victim died at about 12:30am yesterday. The victim is identified as Rebish Khan, 75, of village Kadamdanga of Atghoria upazila.

Our correspondent from Netrakona adds: One person was killed and 30 others injured in a road accident on Netrakona-Kendua road at Rampur under Kendua upazila yesterday at about 8:30am.

The deceased was identified as Abdur Rouf, 35, of village Boikorhati under Kendua upazila.

Police said the accident occurred when a driver of Netrakona-bound passenger bus lost his control over steering and fell into a roadside ditch. A case was filed with Kendua Police Station in this connection.

Our correspondent from Gazipur reports: A trader was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Konabari yesterday.

The accident took place when a goods-laden truck from northern region turned turtle after hitting a cement pillar. Robiul, 30, of Bagha upazila in Rajshahi, on the truck died instantly.

# 'Govt to revitalise livestock sector'

BBS, Dhaka

The government has a plan to revitalise the livestock sector by enhancing services at the grass root level for creating employment opportunities and improving quality of life of the rural hardcore poor.

Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdul Latif Biswas told a national seminar on the "Role of livestock in reducing ultra poverty in Bangladesh," organised by the Brac Advocacy Unit at a hotel here yesterday.

The minister said "as per directives of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, we have already finalised an organogram for increasing manpower at the union level to reach services of the livestock department to the doorstep of the rural poor."

He said the agriculture sector is working successfully in the country as the sector has a huge manpower at the union level while the livestock department is working at the thana level.

Secretary of the ministry of fisheries and livestock Uzzal Bikash Datta inaugurated the seminar chaired by director of Gender Justice and Diversity and Advocacy, Brac Shipa Hafiza.

Terming the livestock sector as the tool for poverty alleviation, the minister said there was no promotion in the department for the last 13 years as a good number of cases was pending with the high court. But all the problems were resolved by the present government and cleared the way for promotion.

Director General of the Department of

Livestock Services (DLS) Mohammad Ashraf Ali and director (news) of a private television channel Shaikh Siraj attended as special guests. Professor M Hafizur Rahman of Bangladesh Agricultural University presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

The government has given permission to the ministry for recruiting manpower in the second, third and fourth class categories, said the minister adding that "as per the decision of the government we will soon fill up the vacant posts of the non-gazetted officials in the department."

Criticising the role of BNP-Jamaat government in the name of poverty alleviation, Latif Biswas said they misused crores of taka in the name of introducing goat-rearing project.

## Abdul Mazid joins diabetic samity

METRO DESK

Dr Muhammad Abdul Mazid, ex-secretary and former chairman of National Board of Revenue (NBR), has joined Bangladesh Diabetic Samity as chief coordinator, says a press release.

Mazid retired from public service last July. He served as a member of Planning and worked in Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo, Japan.

## 17 traders fined in anti-polybag drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined Tk 1.65 lakh to 17 traders in an anti-polythene drive at the city's Karwan Bazar and sentenced to another trader for a one-month jail.

Md Kamruzzaman, executive magistrate of Department of Environment (DoE), led the drive, in association with Sukumar Bishwas, a Dhaka divisional acting director, and a huge contingent of forces from Rab and police.

The mobile court fined the traders and awarded jail for

stocking and selling the prohibited polythene shopping bags. During the drive, the mobile court also seized polythene from their possession.

According to DoE officials, the mobile court fined Tk 10,000 each of 16 traders -- Zakir Hossain, Jamal Uddin, Md Hanif, Md Shipon, Md Masud, Md Jasim, Mukul Ahmed, Md Rubel, Jahangir Alam, Md Hasan, Md Imran, Md Miron, Naser Ahmmmed, Md Taher, Md Mobarak and Md Maharam and trader Farhad Tk 5,000 while the court awarded a one-month jail to Md Atiqur Rahman.

# Initiate environment revolution

## Urge ecologists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading ecologists yesterday called for an environment revolution in the country cautioning that public health and sustainable development will be at stake soon otherwise.

"An environmental revolution is necessary for the sake of our future," said Dr Ainun Nishat, vice chancellor of Brac University at a roundtable.

"You will see big newspaper headlines in March-April that Wasa is failing to supply drinking water in various parts of Dhaka," said Nishat, former country representative of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The water in the Buriganga and Shitalakkhya will be so polluted by then that it could not be purified in the most modern treatment plant, he said.

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organised the roundtable on "UN global compact principles on environment and anti-corruption" at its auditorium in the city.

Rules and regulations are there to protect ecology, but their enforcement has only started. "A consumers' resistance is necessary to fully enforce the laws," said Nishat.

He said people, who live nearby factories that pollute the wetlands or the environs, suffer from various diseases including bronchitis.

Nishat suggested that the government frame laws making obligatory for the businesses to follow corporate social responsibility (CSR).

He said the oil spill in the Bay will cause devastating effects in the Bay and the Sundarbans.

The whole planning of industries in Bangladesh is flawed, said Dr Moinul Islam Sharif, fellow of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies.

He added that if all industries were in zone, authorities could easily enforce laws for effluent treatment plants.

Majority of the industries do not maintain ecological standards, mainly because they are not aware of the issue and technologies, said Dr Sharif. "There is also no strong pressure group. Massive awareness has to be created for this."

Danish Ambassador in Dhaka, Svend Olling, said Denmark could be an example of how the country has introduced green technologies for industries and is contributing to cutting greenhouse gas emission.

Involving private sector in this regard is extremely important, he said, adding that they are the main contributors to the economy.

In another session on anti-corruption, Chief Information Commissioner Muhammad Zamir said low wage for the public officials and even the judges is one of the major obstacles in curbing corruption.

Right to Information (RTI) Act could greatly help establish transparency and accountability, but lack of logistics for the designated officers at the public offices is hindering effective application of RTI, he noted.

He said corruption is rampant all over Europe and India, but Bangladesh's corruption is highlighted too much. He urged the NGOs to "work more and talk less" to help curb corruption.

Iftekaruzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), said holding the public officials accountable is equally important as providing better compensation.

Comptroller and Auditor General, Ahmed Ataul Hakeem, said, "We are involved in corruption so much so that we can't differ which is corruption and which is not."

It will be just like a social cancer unless corruption is curbed with strong hand, he said suggesting rewarding the honest people to check corruption.

Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam said corruption appears to be a normal activity in Bangladesh and corrupt and powerful people are to use RTI Act, which is bad.

She urged all to well RTI Act to hold both public and private sectors accountable. Mamunal H Khan of UNDP also spoke at the programme chaired by BEI President Farooq Sobhan.



Guests at the unveiling ceremony of "Bajuk Praner Bangla Gan," a CD collection of Nazrul stars, pose for photograph at Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## US embassy closed today

METRO DESK

The American Embassy, including the Consular Section and the American Center with the Archer K. Blood American Center Library and the Student Advising Center, will remain closed at 1:00pm today. It also will remain closed on Sunday on the occasion of Christmas Day, an American holiday, says a press release.

## Obituary

DU CORRESPONDENT



Dilara Begum, wife of cultural personality Abdul Mukhtar, passed away at a city's hospital yesterday evening at the age of 72, says a press release.

Dilara Begum was the younger sister of national professor Kabir Chowdhury and martyred intellectual Munir Chowdhury.



## Slight fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Sayedpur, Dinajpur, Satkhira, Jessore, Chuadanga and Srimongal and it may spread over some more parts of the country.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:17pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am.

Country's highest temperature 26.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 07.7 degrees at Chuadanga.

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	24.6	15.2	57	59
Chittagong	23.8	14.0	82	60
Rajshahi	23.0	08.0	96	77
Rangpur	24.6	10.3	85	74
Khulna	24.0	11.5	84	6
Barisal	25.5	10.5	84	78
Sylhet	25.6	13.6	75	71
Cox's Bazar	26.0	14.5	66	67

### DHAKA TODAY

**Meeting**  
Manikganj Samity, Dhaka will hold an annual general meeting. Venue: 48/C, Uttar Adabar, Shamoly. Time: 10:00am.

**Seminar**  
BIDS will arrange a seminar. Venue: BIDS conference room. Time: 11:00am.

**Roundtable**  
Bangladesh Youth Forum will organise a roundtable. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

**Human chain**  
Bangladesh Sammilito Peshajibi Prishad will form a human chain. Venue: In front of the National Press Club. Time: 2:30pm.

**Seminar**  
Stamford University will organise a seminar. Venue: 783, Salmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 11:00am.

সম্মিলনের খুনে রাস্তা পথে পথে হায়নার আনাগোনা সইবো না

## সপ্তদশ জাতীয় সম্মেলন

### সংবাদ সম্মেলন

জাতীয় প্রেস ক্লাব, হল রুম, ২২ ডিসেম্বর-২০১০

## বাংলাদেশ উদীচী শিল্পীগোষ্ঠী

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi holds a news conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday ahead of its 17th national convention on December 24 and 25.