

NEWS in brief

Sabuj, Abdal elected NPC president, general secy

UNB, Dhaka

Kamal Uddin Sabuj, news editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), and Sayed Abdal Ahmed, deputy editor of the daily Amar Desh, were elected president and general secretary of the National Press Club (NPC) on Friday.

Other office-bearers are: Senior Vice President: Kazi Rounak Hossain (Sargam), Vice President: Bakhtiar Rana (BSS), Joint Secretaries: Nurul Islam Khan (Economic Time) and Quader Gani Chowdhury (Amar Desh) and Treasurer: Badiul Alam (News Today).

The members are AKM Mohsin (Ittefaq), Jahirul Islam (NTV), Golam Mohiuddin Khan (BSS), Hasan Hafiz (Amar Desh), Nuruddin Ahmed (NTV), Nazmul Ahsan (Financial Express), Farid Hossain (AP) and Shamsuddin Ahmed Charu, Farida Yasmin, and Mainul Alam of Ittefaq.

Two panels -- one led by Golam Sarwar and Saiful Alam and another by Kamal Uddin Sabuj and Abdal Ahmed -- contested the election.

Some 623 voters, out of 659, cast their votes.

Call to stop harassment of street children

METRO DESK

Human Rights International (HRI) Bangladesh yesterday demanded an end to harassment of street children, their rehabilitation and treatment, and appointment of ombudsman, says a press release.

The organisation made the demand at an emergency meeting chaired by its presidium member Dr Mohamad Selim at its central office in the city.

HRI Secretary General Hasan-Uz-Zaman, Joint Secretary General Motahar Hossain Saju, and Joint Secretary and International Affairs Coordinator Moniruzzaman Babul addressed the programme among others.



PHOTO: COURTESY

SARA International School and College Governing Body Chairman Lion Md Nazrul Islam Sikder hands over result card to a student during the school's final exam's result declaration on the school premises in the city's Dhanmondi yesterday.

Kamal Lohani sick

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted cultural personality and Director General of Shilpakala Academy, Kamal Lohani, has fallen seriously ill on Tuesday during a visit to China.

He is currently being treated at Kun Min Specialised Hospital in China under direct care of the cultural affairs ministry of China, said a press release.

He requested his well-wishers to pray for his cure. Kamal Lohani was visiting the country at the invitation of the Chinese government between December 20 and 29.

Khaleda greets new NPC leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday congratulated newly elected president Kamal Uddin Sabuj and the general secretary Sayed Abdal Ahmed of National Press Club, says a press release.

Sufian, Rouf re-elected CPC president, secy

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Editor of Weekly Chattala Abu Sufian and Rashed Rouf of The Daily Azadi were re-elected the president and secretary of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) in the polls held yesterday.

The other office bearers are Nurul Amin, senior vice-president; Khorshed Alam, vice-president; Mohossin Chowdhury, joint secretary; S M Ibrahim, treasurer; Rupam Chakraborty, cultural secretary; Mohammad Sahidul Alam, library secretary; Tapash Barua, social welfare and entertainment secretary; and Mohosin Kazi, media and publication secretary. Shaheed-Ul-Alam, Abu Jafor Mohammad Haider, Monjur Kader Chowdhury, and Chowdhury Farid were elected in the executive posts.

Doa mahfil

METRO DESK

A doa mahfil of Engr Amirul Islam, a founding director of Associated Builders Corporation (ABC) Limited, will be held at his residence at House no. 20, Road no. 62, Gulshan-2 in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Engr Amirul passed away on December 30.

He was buried at Banani graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Gulshan Azad Mosque on Friday.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) will be held at his residence at House no. 31, Road no. 12/A, Dhanmondi in the city after Maghrib prayers today.

Prof Bazlul Mobin passed away in the city's Apollo Hospitals on December 30.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

'Save Dumni-Boalia canal'



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday demanded that the government take immediate steps to protect the Dumni-Boalia canal from the

grabbers.

They made the demand at a human chain programme jointly organised by the Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) and Greenbelt Trust in front of the Institute of

Fine Arts of Dhaka University, said a press release.

The speakers said Dumni-Boalia canal is a lifeline for the people living in the Khilkhet area. Not only the canal provides the

Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) and Greenbelt Trust jointly form a human chain in front of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University yesterday demanding the government steps to save Dumni-Boalia canal at Khilkhet in the city.

PHOTO: STAR

livelihood for thousands of people living in the area, but it also plays a major role in protecting the city from waterlogging and floods, they added.

A section of people encroached on the canal filling a large portion of it with sand, they said, adding that unless immediate steps are taken it will become extinct like many other city canals.

This will create environmental turmoil and affect the socio-economic well-being of the local people, they said.

Poba Chairman Abu Naser Khan, Joint Secretary Sabina Nayeem, Greenbelt Trust Director General Jasim Katabi and Nature Loving People Director Alamgir, spoke at the rally.

They blamed the government for not adopting effective measures to take care of and conserve the water bodies.

A total of 43 canals are on the verge of extinction for illegal grabbing in the city.

THE DAILY STAR'S PROGRAMME School children enthral audience

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Unique performances by children of seven English medium schools of Sylhet kept the jam-packed audience enthralled for over two and a half hours at Sylhet auditorium on Friday night.

The Daily Star organised the event to promote Bangla culture for the first time in the north-eastern city. Children performed dances, chorus songs with drama and other performances on themes like War of Liberation, rural life, and social events and on Bangla culture.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof MA Aziz, vice-chancellor of Metropolitan University in Sylhet, said, "We all must teach children about our Bangla culture."

Prof Aziz said it is not correct that children of English medium schools are learning everything except Bangla culture.

The programme began with presentation by children from Ananda Niketan.

They performed a dance on the song 'Mora jharnar moto uddam' followed by a chorus song 'Tumi rahmater nadia, doa koro morey Hajrat Shahjalal aulia', written by poet Dilwar. They also performed a Manipuri dance.

Children of The British-Bangladesh International School and College, British-Bangladesh International Collegiate School, Green Hill International School and College of Moulvibazar, Osman Ideal International School and College, Sylhet Khajanchibari International Collegiate School and Sylhet Grammer School also performed at the function.

Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran and Sylhet Metropolitan Police Commissioner Amulya Bhushan Barua also spoke. Event Manager of The Daily Star Selim Shamsul Huda Chowdhury and Maisha of Ananda Niketan conducted the function.

Visually impaired person shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

General secretary of Jatiya Andha Sangstha, an organisation for the visually impaired persons, was shot dead allegedly by his rivals at a house in city's Mirpur last night.

General Secretary Khalilur Rahman, 44, also a visually impaired person, succumbed to his bullet injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 9:40pm.

Mirpur police said Khalil was shot in his head when two unidentified men sprayed bullets on him while he was attending an arbitration to settle a dispute with his rivals around 8:00pm at the house of visually impaired person Yakub Ali of Janata Housing.

Subho, an office staff of Khalil, said of the two armed men, one pointed a gun at his head while another man shot Khalil and left the spot.

Ulfa leader Arabinda Rajkhowa released

STAR REPORT

Arabinda Rajkhowa, chairman of the outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam (Ulfa), was released early yesterday from an Indian jail, reports The Times of India.

Rajkhowa said the outfit was ready for unconditional peace talks but a formal decision would be made once all detained Ulfa leaders are freed.

Rajkhowa was released on bail from the Guwahati Central Jail, a year after he was captured by Bangladesh and then handed over to Indian authorities in Assam.

"But I would like to appeal to the government to immediately release two of our jailed colleagues, (self styled foreign secretary) Sasha Choudhury and (finance secretary) Chitran Hazarika, immediately.

"Besides urgent steps should be taken to enable Anup Chetia (Ulfa general secretary in Bangladesh jail since 1997) to come to India and take part in the peace process," he said.

Bangladesh is likely to hand over Anup Chetia to India within a couple of months, ahead of the peace talks between the Indian government and the outfit, The Times of India reported yesterday.

Our correspondent in New Delhi said: Quoting an unnamed senior Indian official, the daily reported that Chetia, who was arrested in 1997 for intruding into Bangladesh territory, may be handed over before Ulfa enters peace talks.

However, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikdar said, "I have no information that Anup Chetia would be handed over to India for peace talks between the Indian government and the outfit."

He said despite his completion of one jail term, he is still behind bars in connection with another case filed against him, reports our staff correspondent.



Police chase Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists during clash at Moni Chatter in Rajshahi city yesterday. (Story on page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

IN FOND MEMORY OF



Abu Ahsan Abdul Matin
Head of the Dept. of English (Retd.)
Govt. Jagannath College &
Founder Teacher of Central Women's College



A.E. Taslimuddin Quaderi
DLO & FRCS
Consultant Surgeon
Abdullah Fuad Hospital, Damam.

They left this world for eternity on the 2nd January, 1986, between 8:00 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. from their Paternal House at 11, Segun Bagan and were buried the next day after Jumrah prayer. The friends, relatives, dear ones and millions of the Pupils at home and abroad will kindly remember them in their prayers.

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY Implementation a challenge: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Strong monitoring of the implementation process of the national education policy and building mass awareness are necessary for its accomplishment, educationalists said yesterday.

Focusing on major points of the policy, they said it is the first-ever policy in Bangladesh passed unopposed in the parliament last year; now the challenge lies in its implementation.

The experts were speaking at a roundtable on "Education policy 2010: Different aspects of implementation" organised by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The education policy had been a much-discussed issue over the past few months as some ulamas opposed its several provisions saying the policy lacks guidelines for moral and religious education.

With regard to ulamas' such claims, Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, co-chair of the National Educational Policy Formulation Committee, said the policy recommends mandatory religious and moral education from the elementary level.

The education policy of 2010 is the first one accepted by all but a small section of people, which will also be settled, said Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of prominent educationist and the Vice Chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) late Professor Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury will be held today (Sunday, 2 January 2011) at his residence at House 31, Road 12/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka after Maghrib prayers.

Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury passed away at Apollo Hospital, Dhaka at 5 pm on December 30, 2010.

All students, colleagues, friends and well-wishers of the deceased are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the departed soul.



Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country and moderate to thick for may occur over the river basins of the country during midnight till morning.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:23pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 28.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 11.0 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	26.6	15.3	84	72
Chittagong	26.7	13.9	98	88
Rajshahi	24.5	12.3	91	81
Rangpur	18.5	12.2	94	88
Khulna	28.5	13.6	98	66
Barisal	28.5	11.7	90	92



Roundtable

The Daily Prothom Alo will organise a roundtable. Venue: Prothom Alo office, Karwan Bazar, Time: 10:30pm.

Laptop fair

A Laptop fair will be inaugurated. Venue: Sonargaon hotel, Time: 3:00pm.

Book fair

Mizan publishers will organise a month-long book fair. Venue: Public Library premises, Time: 4:00pm.

Protest rally

Shaheed Biplobi Smriti Sangsad will arrange a protest rally. Venue: Muktagong, Time: 3:00pm.

Exhibition

A solo painting exhibition will be inaugurated. Venue: Drik gallery, Time: 4:00pm.

Protest rally

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal will arrange a protest rally. Venue: BNP central office, Time: 2:00pm.