

NEWS IN *brief*

## Man shot dead in Keraniganj

UNB, Keraniganj

An unidentified man was shot dead by some miscreants at Suvadda Paschim Para in South Keraniganj yesterday.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

Police quoting witnesses said a gang of criminals fired gunshots on the man, aged about 32, at about 9:00am near Suvadda Jhilmil Project, leaving him dead on the spot.

## Brac Bank-Samakal 'Literature

## Award' introduced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac Bank and the daily Samakal has introduced 'Literature Award' to honour established and young writers for their creativities.

Samakal Editor Golam Sarwar and Brac Bank Managing Director Syed Mahbubur Rahman announced it yesterday at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

Young novelist aged between 18 and 40 will get Tk 50,000 and crest. Two persons will be selected and each will get Tk 1 lakh for poem, novel, article, autobiography and traveling story.

Books that were published from January to December in 2011 will be considered for the award. A writer could participate in one criteria only. Writers and publishers would have to submit six copies of their books within January 12, 2012.

## NSU Asian debate competition Dec 7

METRO DESK

A five-day long NSU Asian debate competition organised by North South University (NSU) Debate Club will begin on December 7 in the city.

NSU Debate Club announced the opening of the "NSU Asian British Parliamentary Debate Championship 2011" yesterday at a press conference on their Bashundhara campus.

This is a second largest debate contest in the world. Around 350 foreign participants from 12 countries across Asia and local private and public universities will participate in the competition.

## Comilla Awami forum formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The convening committee of Bangladesh Awami Forum of Comilla district unit was formed yesterday with Harun-or-Rashid as convener.

Principal Selina Reza Sourav and Abdul Motaleb Majumdar Alamgir were also made joint-conveners of the 61-member committee, said a press release.

## JU extends admission time

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities have extended the admission time till December 8 for the students of waiting list for first year honours courses under 2011-12 academic session.

The viva voce under the disabled quota will be held at 10:00am on December 8.

## Govt order on mobile courts' power stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for four months a government order that empowered the mobile courts to try the crimes of real estate companies.

The home ministry on September 8 issued a statutory regulatory order (SRO) providing mobile courts with powers to try the real estate companies on the spot for petty crimes.

In response to a writ petition, the court yesterday also issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why the SRO should not be declared illegal.

Mobile courts, which are constituted under the Mobile Court Act, 2009, are empowered to try a number of petty offences including illegal assembly, public nuisance, and illegal connection of electricity, water, and gas, and to supervise examination centres.

Rehab president Nasrul Hamid Bipu on November 27 filed the writ petition with the HC challenging the legality of SRO, saying that the provisions of the mobile court act that empower executive magistrates to exercise judicial powers are against the fundamental structure of the constitution.

The HC bench of Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Md Khurshid Alam Sarker yesterday came up with the order and rule after holding hearing on the petition.

## WEATHER TODAY

## No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met office said.

Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:28am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and Khepupara and lowest 15.0 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       | 28.8                   | 18.4                   | 76      | 76 |
| Chittagong  | 27.2                   | 18.0                   | 88      | 79 |
| Rajshahi    | 28.3                   | 17.0                   | 95      | 80 |
| Rangpur     | 25.8                   | 19.0                   | 84      | 81 |
| Khulna      | 28.6                   | 18.4                   | 91      | 87 |
| Barisal     | 29.4                   | 16.4                   | 94      | 91 |
| Sylhet      | 29.8                   | 19.0                   | 84      | 68 |
| Cox's Bazar | 29.5                   | 19.0                   | 81      | 75 |



Peshajibi Nari Samaj brings out a procession before the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding speedy trial of the war criminals and implementation of the spirit of '72 constitution.

PHOTO: STAR

TIPAI PROJECT  
Gowher happy with Indian explanation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gowher Rizvi, foreign affairs adviser to the prime minister, yesterday expressed happiness at India's explanation on implementing the Tipaimukh project, saying it would not be harmful for Bangladesh.

India will not build any barrage for irrigation or diverting water, he said adding, even Bangladesh could be a beneficiary of the hydropower project by acquiring a stake in it on a shared equity basis and importing electricity in return.

"But in that case we have to invest in the project as per the stake.... Now we have to decide about it," Rizvi told journalists at a programme hosted by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The hydropower dam will release water all the year round and there will be no shortage of water in the rivers of Sylhet region, clarified the adviser.

He further mentioned that India will welcome delegations of experts from Bangladesh to discuss the issue, if necessary.

His remarks came following his recent visit to India and a meeting with Indian prime minister. He discussed the Tipaimukh dam to be built on the Barak river in northwestern Indian state of Manipur.

Cabinet reshuffle proves corruption  
Says Mirza Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the reshuffle in the cabinet proved that the allegation of corruption against ministers was correct.

"The changes proved that the ministers are corrupt. The World Bank already sent a letter to the government and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in this regard," he said, while he was addressing a meeting organised by Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Fakhrul also spoke at a rally in front of the party's central office in Naya Paltan to protest the government decision to split Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and the arrest and attack on former mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

Khoka was picked up during hartal hours on Sunday and released a few hours later. Later, he was admitted to the hospital and BNP alleged that Khoka was stabbed by the ruling party cadres under police custody.

Fakhrul announced a five-day programme at all thanas under Dhaka City Corporation and all districts, protesting attack on Khoka and demanding release of the arrested leaders.

Protesting the comment of LGRD Minister Ashraful Islam that BNP is a party of war criminals, he said BNP was founded by a freedom fighter.

Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, Mirza Abbas and Abdullah Al Noman also spoke at the rally.

WAR CRIMES  
BNP corrects 'mistake' in statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday drew attention to a printing mistake in its Saturday's written statement in which it demanded that the government stop all activities of the war crimes tribunal.

The statement had read, "BNP believes that according to the existing legal structure, the tribunal is nothing but a servile, rubber-stamp organisation."

However, a party press release signed by its Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday said the line read out by BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed was printed wrongly in the copies handed out to the media.

"Moudud Ahmed had in fact said, 'BNP believes that under the existing legal structure, the people do not consider the tribunal as a neutral institution,'" said the press release.

## Moitree men beat up teacher in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Rajshahi

Leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree of Rajshahi New Government Degree College beat up a lecturer of Bangla department on the college campus yesterday as the victim refused to give them extortion money.

The lecturer Dr Azizur Rahman was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL  
SQ Chy's petition on stay order rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday rejected a petition filed by BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury seeking stay on the proceedings against him and his release from war crimes charges.

It said the questions Salauddin raised in the petition had been settled at the High Court.

The petition was filed on November 25, in which Salauddin stated that the constitution does not allow an HC judge to become a judge of the tribunal. Therefore, Justice Nizamul Huq and Justice ATM Fazle Kabir of the HC cannot serve as a judge of the tribunal.

The three-member tribunal headed by its Chairman Justice Nizamul Huq said the HC had already rejected a writ petition filed by Jamaat leaders raising the same issue.

The BNP leader in the petition also said the tribunal judges violated the constitution by framing rules of procedure. And violation of the constitution is a seditious offence.

In reply, the tribunal said it had framed the rules of procedure under the International Crimes Tribunal (Amendment) Act, 1973.

The tribunal has no jurisdiction to deal with the matters related to the constitution, which Salauddin raised in his petition, it added.

The court yesterday rejected another petition seeking withdrawal of its November 14 order in which it took the charges against Salauddin into cognisance.

In the petition, the BNP leader challenged the order for what he said was the court served the order in his absence. The court in response yesterday said there was no need for the presence of the accused or any lawyer when the court took the charges into cognisance as per its rules of procedure.

The court fixed December 12 for hearing other six petitions submitted by Salauddin on November 30.

He demanded in those petitions that the tribunal give him one year time to gather documents and witnesses to prove his innocence, the trial proceedings against him be broadcast on the electronic media, and international laws, the evidence act and Criminal Procedure Code be used in the trial.

The tribunal should define the crimes against humanity in rules of procedure and allow him to engage foreign lawyers as consultants to defend him, he insisted in the petitions.

Farhat Quader Chowdhury, wife of Salauddin, told reporters that her husband was determined not to take part in the court proceedings unless his demands were met.

Prosecutor Zead Al Malum, meanwhile, said Salauddin will be provided with counsels by the state, if he does not appoint lawyers on his own.

## SCBA to put up Zia's photo again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday again decided to put up the photo of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman in the office of its president.

The bar association, dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, took the decision at a general meeting at its South Hall with its president Khandaker Mahbub Hossain in the chair.

The meeting was organised in protest against the removal of Zia's photograph by a section of pro-Awami League lawyers from the office on Sunday.

The SCBA president told the meeting that the photo of Ziaur Rahman, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, and MAG Osmani will be hung at his office during his tenure.

He said if necessary, they will display the portraits of the three leaders in his office in exchange of blood.

Khandaker Mahbub said the "paid law officers of the government" removed the pictures of the three leaders breaking open the door of his room.

The incident disgraced the lawyers, he added.

Earlier, on November 22, the SCBA had hung the portraits, but the pro-AL lawyers removed them the same day. Witnesses said the AL-backed lawyers had removed the photo, saying that it had been hung to dishonour Bangabandhu.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon, advocate Zainul Abedin, advocate Fahima Nasrin Munni, and Barrister Ruhul Quddus Kazal, among others, spoke at the meeting.

## VISUALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS

## Equal opportunities in edn, jobs demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visually challenged students yesterday demanded equal opportunities in education and employment.

They said at a discussion that they have sight problems, but that does not mean that they have less equality than any other people.

Oggro, an NGO, arranged the discussion on education and employment of the visually challenged people at the Women's Volunteer Association (WVA) auditorium in the city, says a press release.

"Our state guarantees equal opportunities for all, so why we should face discrimination in education and employment," Badrunnesa, a student, raised the question.

Runa Laila, a graduate, said she was not appointed in a private firm only because she was visually challenged.

school.

Visually challenged women are more deprived of education, said the paper.

According to government statistics, three per cent people of the country are visually challenged and most of them are deprived of education, said the paper.

## Dec 6 in Ershad's eyes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When all political parties observe today (December 6) as the day of "fall of autocratic regime" of HM Ershad, he will observe it as "the constitution protection day".

Awami League, BNP, and all other political parties have taken elaborate programmes to recall the day of 1990.

In a statement, HM Ershad, chairman of Jatiya Party, however, yesterday said he had saved the country's constitution by resigning willfully on December 6, 1990.

He said his party will hold a rally in Gazipur to mark the day, and all upazila and district units were asked to hold rally, milad mahfil, and discussion in their respective areas.

Ershad said, "We had sacrificed a lot to ensure continuity of the constitution, and we will never let happen the discontinuity of the constitution".

Upon an end to almost a decade of military rule of Ershad through a united movement, the 1990 parliamentary elections brought democratic system back to Bangladesh.

On December