

NEWS IN *brief*

**Zillur returns to Bangabhaban**

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday returned to Bangabhaban after medical check-up at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

"The president returned to Bangabhaban at 11:50am and he is now in good condition," President's Press Secretary AKM Nesar Uddin Bhuiyan told the news agency.

Zillur was admitted to the CMH on Thursday morning as he was feeling unwell.

**DU earthquake workshop starts**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Geology of the University of Dhaka initiated the second phase of a five-day training course on earthquake at the Seismology & Geodesy Lab of the department yesterday.

Prof Abdul Baki, the dean of the faculty, was present at the inaugural session of the workshop.

Prof Humayun Akhter, a senior faculty member of the department, and the director of Dhaka University Earth Observatory centre delivered the welcome speech.

The laboratory contains state-of-the-art geotechnical equipment such as the Fully Automated Cyclic Triaxial Testing Equipment, Universal Triaxial Testing Equipment, Direct Shear Testing Equipment, Consolidation Testing Equipment and PS Logging Equipment.

These were donated by the European Commission through United Nations Development Programme under the Earthquake and Tsunami Preparedness Component of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme.

United States Agency for International Development, the United States National Science Foundation and Columbia University, New York, USA jointly supported the programme.

The first phase of the workshop was held in May, 2011.

**Seminar on Gamma Radiation**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day-long seminar on industrial application of Gamma Radiation in Bangladesh was held at Institute of Radiation and Polymer Technology (IRPT) auditorium of Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE) in Savar yesterday.

IRPT organised the seminar which was chaired by Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) Chairman ASM Firoz, says a press release.

A 350-kCi Gamma Radiation Plant named "Gamma Bikiron" has been set up at AERE and it is now ready for commercial use, said the release.

State Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman was present as the chief guest. Member (Bio-Science) of BAEC Dr Shahana Afroz, Director General of AERE M Ali Zulqarnain were also present. IRPT Director Dr Mubarak Ahmad Khan was the theme speaker.

**Lecture on youth leadership held**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC), the country's first leadership institute, organised a lecture on global youth leadership yesterday.

Special Adviser to the US Secretary of State Ronan Farrow addressed the event at the centre's office in the city, says a press release.

The graduates of BYLC took part in the programme moderated by founder and president of the organisation Ejaj Ahmad.

**5 martyrs' death anniversary today**



METRO DESK

Today is the 40th death anniversary of four martyred brothers--Mukarram Hossain Mukul, Mansur Hossain Manju, Mastaque Hossain Anju and Mosharrif Hossain Ranju--and their brother-in-law Yusuf Ali.

On the occasion, qurankhwani, milad mahfil and feeding the destitute will be held at Hossain Nagar, Baitul Mozammel Jame Mosque in Savar EPZ link road area, said a press release.

All of them had sacrificed their lives for the country's independence during the War of Liberation in 1971.



**Dry weather likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary or partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours till 6:00 today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the Country during mid night till morning, Met office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:13pm today and rises at 6:32am 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	25.5	17.3	84	84
Chittagong	27.8	17.8	80	53
Rajshahi	24.6	15.7	94	83
Rangpur	25.0	14.5	95	74
Khulna	27.0	17.6	95	85
Barisal	27.5	14.5	100	90



Dhaka University students hailing from Narsingdi form a human chain before Aparajeya Bangla on the campus yesterday demanding fair trial of the killing of Narsingdi mayor Lokman Hossain.

PHOTO: STAR

**Oli gets bail in defamation case**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail for two months to Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Oli Ahmed in a defamation case.

Jubo league leader Abu Ahmed filed the case with Chandanaish Police Station in Chittagong on December 8 following a statement by Oli in which he alleged that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offered him a post of ministry and money in exchange for not speaking about the government's corruption.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Shahidul Karim granted him bail after hearing a petition filed by Oli.

**Eliminate 'sea robbery': Dipu**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni has called upon the relevant organisations including government agencies to work together to eliminate "sea robbery" in and around Bangladesh.

She made the call at an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday held at her ministry.

Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes, representatives from ministries of Shipping, Home, Fisheries & Livestock, Commerce, and Armed Forces Division, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Police, and Coast Guard, among others, attended the meeting.

**PILKHANA CARNAGE**

**PW submits 11 seized arms to court as sample**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness of Pilkhana carnage case yesterday submitted before a Dhaka court three kinds of firearms that were seized after the gruesome mutiny on February 25-26, 2009.

Commanding officer of 36 Border Guard Battalion Maj Sujaul Haq told the Metropolitan Session Judge's court that 11 firearms including, rifle, submachine gun and pistol, of the battalion were handed over to him after the mutiny.

The two-day mayhem at the headquarters of the erstwhile BDR killed 74 people including 57 top and mid-ranking army officers.

In his deposition against nine accused, Maj Sujaul, however, did not specify whether the accused used the seized weapons.

"I'm submitting the weapons as a sample", said Maj Sujaul, the 11th prosecution witness.

Sujaul also narrated how he took shelter at the quarters of Nayek Subeder Shah Alam at Jamuna-4 on February 25, the first day of the carnage.

On his way to the Alam's place, which was at the North of the Darbar Hall, he saw about 25 unruly armed jawans opening fire as they ran towards the hall.

He hid himself behind a Rain Tree inside Pilkhana from where he identified seven soldiers of 36 rifle battalion.

Leaving his uniform, he wore plain-clothes to avoid being caught by the mutineers and remained in hiding at Alam's quarters for some 34 hours, he told the court.

Sensing danger, Shah Alam asked him over the phone to leave immediately around 4:30pm on February 26. Sujaul then fled Pilkhana by jumping over the wall and went to his Gulshan residence.

On completion of his deposition, defence counsels started cross-examining him, which will resume when the court opens today.

**Form national body to protect indigenous people's land**

**Parliamentary Caucus urges govt**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous People yesterday proposed to set up a "National Commission" under an act to ensure the rights of indigenous communities on their ancestral lands.

The caucus, proposing the act "Bangladesh Indigenous People's Rights Act" at a meeting in a city convention centre, urged the government to formulate a law in light with the act to ensure indigenous people's economic wellbeing and protect their socio-cultural heritage.

Proposing the act, Mesbah Kamal, general secretary of Research and Development Collective, said, "The act will lay down the legal framework to address indigenous people's poverty in

order to alleviate the plight of the country's less developed community.

"The act will also stipulate that the indigenous communities have the responsibility to maintain the ecological balance, restore denuded areas and adhere to the spirit and intent of the act."

Mesbah Kamal, a Dhaka University professor of history department, said the act will also uphold the rights of indigenous people on self-governance and empowerment.

On the "National Commission", he said it will monitor and oversee the act's implementation.

The caucus chief Rashed Khan Menon said the existing laws are not adequate to ensure the rights of the indigenous people. "Therefore, we need a comprehensive legal framework where all existing

laws will be incorporated."

"The indigenous people have always been ignored historically. We are yet to ensure their rights on their land in the hill areas," said Menon, adding that the government had formed a land commission which failed to perform properly.

The commission failed to recover lands of indigenous people grabbed by the local influential people, said Shapan Adnan, a member of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Commission.

He also said the lives of indigenous people have been badly affected by "traditional development" such as eco-tourism, the Kaptai barrage and rubber plantation in the CHT areas.

**Widows of '71 still lament for spouses**

BSS, Sherpur

The tranquil remote village of Shohagpur at Nalitabari upazila turned into widows' village in a twinkling of eyes when 187 villagers were sacrificed on July 25 in 1971.

Shohagpur, now known as Bidhaba Palli, had a sudden jolt on that fateful day as the Pakistani heinous occupation forces gunned down 187 innocent male villagers.

While giving an eyewitness's account of that fateful day Kapuli Beoya, wife of martyred Siraj Ali, said, "I was so young when the Pakistani forces stormed into our house and opened fires targeting my husband who was in

his twenties. I was alone in the house and was unable to bury the body of my husband."

"In the afternoon I saw some stray dogs were eating the flesh of my husband's body," she said in utter exasperation.

Still the widows lament the tragic death of their martyred husbands, said Dilmoni Laksam, a tribal woman, who survived tears after the loss of her spouse in the tragic genocide.

This great ballade of supreme sacrifices was unknown to the nation until early 90s when the country's media unearthed this and gave extensive coverage of it.

While telling about their present conditions the widows informed that

out of 187 widows only 34 are alive now. They said they are now getting financial help of Tk 1,600 per month-Tk 1000 from the Trust Bank, Tk 300 as widow or old age allowance and Tk 300 from the BRAC Bank. They had also received help from local lawmaker and Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury who gave them two goats each and other helps in cash and kinds.

"The little help that we are getting now is out of pity, which we don't want. We want respectful support to eradicate poverty," said martyred Ibrahim's wife Hafiza Begum, who was then pregnant.

**Govt behind secreta killing: BNP**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said implementation of the Padma Bridge project through public private partnership (PPP) is nothing but a "wonderful dream".

Referring to the prime minister's demand to the World Bank for proving the allegation of corruption in the project, Fakhru said "It is absolutely meaningless, since the communications minister has already been replaced in the face of World Bank's demand."

The BNP leader told this to reporters after attending a meeting organised by Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal on the premises of Balaka, the head office of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, in the capital.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on

Saturday at a press conference announced that the proposed Padma Bridge would be constructed under PPP.

Fakhru also attended a press briefing organised by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at party's central office in Nayapaltna.

"The ruling party is conducting planned murders in the country through numerous extra-judicial killings. The continuous secreta killings are a proof that the government is using its forces to conduct such murders," he said.

Unidentified bodies are being recovered every day from different areas near the capital, the BNP leader told the press briefing.

"The government forces pick up people and kill them without trial. We believe the government has a direct link with these killings," he alleged.

**'Punish killers of Lokman'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred students of Narsingdi district demanded immediate arrest of the killers of mayor Lokman Hossain and punishment to the culprits.

Those students who study in the city's educational institutions, made the demand at a human chain at the base of Aparajeya Bangla of Dhaka University yesterday.

Lokman, a gold medalist mayor, was shot by unidentified criminals inside the district Awami League office on November 1. He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

TREE CUTTING

**HC summons Kurigram DC**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the deputy commissioner of Kurigram and three others for not taking action against the persons liable for cutting trees at Bhurungumari High School premises in the district.

In response to a writ petition, the court directed them to appear before it on January 5 next year to explain about the failure to take action against the tree cutting.

Three others are UNO of Bhurungumari and OC of Bhurungumari Police Station and the headmaster of school.

The HC also issued a rule upon them to explain why their failure to take action against the people responsible for cutting the trees should not be declared illegal.



Convention

Practical Action will organise a convention; Venue: Biam Auditorium, Time: 10:00am.

Workshop  
Centre for Disability in Development will organise a workshop; Venue: Hotel Westin, Time: 10:00am.

Reception  
The Prothom Alo will accord a reception to poor meritorious students; Venue: CA Bhaban, Karwan Bazar, Time: 10:00am

Rally  
Bangladesh Chhatra Federation will organise a rally; Venue: Aparajeya Bangla, Time: 12:00noon.

Roundtable  
Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (Bils) will arrange a roundtable; Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 3:00pm.

Human Chain  
Students of Narsingdi living in Dhaka will form a human chain; Venue: Aparajeya Bangla, Time: 12:00noon.

Discussion  
Bangladesh Sangit Paribar will arrange a discussion; Venue: National Museum, Time: 5:00pm.

Dialogue  
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) will organise a dialogue; Venue: Brac Centre, Time: 9:15am.

**আন্তিনন্দন**

সিটি ব্যাংক -এর চেয়ারম্যান

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ভাইস চেয়ারপার্সন

নির্বাচিত হওয়ায়



চেয়ারম্যান



ভাইস চেয়ারপার্সন

জনাব রুবেল আজিজ (প্রেসিডেন্ট, গুলশান ক্লাব) ও মিসেস মেহেকুন হক কে সিটি ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর সম্মানিত চেয়ারম্যান ও ভাইস চেয়ারপার্সন নির্বাচিত হওয়ায় RUPAYAN গ্রুপ এর পরিচালকবৃন্দ, উপদেষ্টা মন্ডলী ও সকল কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীর পক্ষ থেকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

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