

NEWS IN *brief*

**Debate festival begins Dec 22**

METRO DESK

A two-day long debate festival will begin on December 22 in the city.

National Debate Federation Bangladesh (NDF BD) and Dhaka Medical College Debating Club (DMC DC) will jointly organise the festival titled "1st National SK+F. NDF BD. DMC DC Medical College Debate Festival, 2011" on Dhaka Medical College premises.

Debaters from all public and private medical colleges of the country will participate in the festival, says a press release.

The festival includes opening ceremony, rally, debate competition, debate workshop, meet the celebrity, cultural function and certificate and price-giving ceremony.

The registration to take part in the festival is going on.

The contact numbers are-01711541566, 01758632333, 01674906562, and 01754343333.

**Protest against secret killing**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

District unit Jubo Dal staged a demonstration in Kanchpur area in Sonargaon upazila yesterday protesting construction of Tipai Mukh dam and secret killing.

The party men barricaded the Dhaka-Chittagong highway for an hour from 9:00am causing a huge tailback on Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet roads.

Police charged batons to the party activists to bring the situation under control.

Yunus Ali, OC of Sonargaon Police Station, however, said police removed the barricade when Jubo Dal men tried to blockade the highway.

**NU degree exams from Jan 4**

UNB, Dhaka

Degree pass and certificate course practical examinations-2010 under the National University (NU) will begin on January 4, 2012.

The examinations will end on February 8 same year, said a NU press release.

The examinees have been requested to collect the schedule of their examinations from the colleges concerned.

**Students boycott exams, classes**

JU CORRESPONDENT

The students of Environmental Science department at Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday boycotted their final examinations and classes and locked the department's classrooms protesting the extreme shortage of classrooms and lack of other facilities in the department.

They demanded a permanent building for the department including adequate classrooms, exam halls, teachers' room, seminar and library rooms, toilets and other facilities. They also threatened to launch a tougher movement if their demands are not met.

Several teachers and students said about 200 students under six batches are studying in this department but they have only three classrooms while one of those three rooms is being used as library of the department.

**Edn for backward children**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) yesterday signed an agreement with seven national NGOs to implement non-formal primary education (NFPE) through UNIQUE-2 Project.

DAM will work in collaboration with Plan Bangladesh, in partnership with SOD, CCDB, Dorp, Padakkhep Manobik Unnyan Kendro, Surovi, Verd and Ipsa in 84 upazilas of 26 districts to gear up the government's third Primary Education Development Programme, says a press release.

DAM Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman and chiefs of the seven NGOs signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations at Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban auditorium in the capital.

Ehsanur said around 2.05 lakh drop-outs and 30,000 backward children of primary schools will receive education under the project while around 61,000 children will come under the pre-school programme.



Steps Towards Development forms a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding immediate punishment of Hawa Akhter Jui's husband Rafiqul Islam for severing her hand.

PHOTO: STAR

**Objective journalism to bring positive change stressed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens and editors of different national dailies yesterday stressed the need for maintaining maximum impartiality and objectivity to take the level of journalism to new heights for bringing a positive change in the society.

They said modesty, honesty and cautiousness are the prime prerequisite for objective journalism. On the other, arrogance, dishonesty or callousness are harmful not only for one's journalism career but also for the society, they added.

They made the remarks at the closing session of a 10-day training for the journalists of upcoming private TV channel, Ekattor, at the city's Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban auditorium.

Noted litterateur Selina Hossain urged the

young journalists to play a significant role in bringing political, economical and social stability through their works.

"Your (journalists) reports should be prepared on the basis of correct information and truth," she said.

She also criticised a few TV and FM radio channels for using "unnecessary" English words and programme titles.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said relationship between journalists and media owners should be kept transparent.

The objective journalism can be ensured if journalists get environment of working independently, he said.

Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman emphasised proper selection of words, sentences and language for development of journalism.

Journalist Abed Khan, also editor of the

upcoming Dainik Jagoron, said the main responsibility of a journalist is to present the event instead of making judgement.

Talking about commercialisation of journalism, he said, "Now corporate business companies are opening print and electronic media to secure their business purpose only."

The News Today Editor Reazuddin Ahmed said the main challenge of electronic media is to serve the news within a few minutes after happening any incident. So, journalists of electronic media should be more careful.

Ekattor Managing Director and Chief Editor Mozammel Babu and Chief Executive Officer Samia Zaman also spoke at the function.

Two internationally renowned journalists Richard Goslan and Bob Powel conducted the training sessions.

**Ninth session of Child Parliament held**

UNB, Dhaka

The ninth session of the Child Parliament on Healthcare and Good Governance was held at Biam auditorium in the city yesterday.

Dr Modasser Ali, adviser to the Prime Minister on Health, was present at the 9th session as the chief guest.

The 9th session of the Child Parliament was successfully held with the support of Plan Bangladesh, Save the Children and Manusher Jonno Foundation.



**View exchange meet**

Bangladesh Paribesh Bachao Andolon and two other organisations will hold a view exchange meeting; Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

**Discussion**

Rangpur Division Literature and Cultural Association will organise a discussion on Victory Day; Venue: Mahanagar Natyamancha, Time: 5:00pm.

**Seminar**

National Association of Sports for the Persons with Disability will organise a national seminar; Venue: Bangladesh Olympic Association auditorium, Time: 9:30am.

**Discussion**

Bangabandhu Chhatra Parishad will arrange a discussion; Venue: Doel Chatter, Time: 3:00pm.

**Painting exhibition**

British American Tobacco Bangladesh and Bengali Foundation will organise a painting exhibition; Venue: Bengal Gallery Fine Arts, Dhanmondi, Time: 7:00pm.

**Debate competition**

Expatriates welfare ministry and Debate for Democracy will arrange a debate competition; Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 3:00pm.

**Workshop**

National Society of the Blind and Partially Sighted (NSBP) will organise a workshop; Venue: NSBP national office, Time: 9:30am.



Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Advocate Subrata Chowdhury.

PHOTO: STAR

**War to continue till last war criminal rooted out**  
Says Sajeda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) presidium member and deputy leader of the parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday vowed not to spare a single war criminal of 1971 this time as the trial has already begun.

"We must continue our war until the last war criminal is wiped out. Let us take an oath that we will not allow a single war criminal stay on our land anymore," said Sajeda Chowdhury at a programme at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in the afternoon.

Sajeda made the remark after referring to the violence took place yesterday morning in the city. She said the incident has proved that the war of independence has not over yet and the war criminals have not subdued even in the last 40 years.

"Only the flag of Bangladesh will rise on this land, only Bangalees will reside, and the country will only be Bangladesh," said Sajeda as the chief guest of the event titled "40 years of victory," organised by BSMMU.

Planning Minister AK Khandaker also attended the programme as special guest and echoed the remark of Sajeda.

"We will not cease until the last war criminal is tried," said Planning Minister AK Khandaker. A total of 19 BSMMU staff, including 17 doctors, was accorded reception at the programme.

Six doctors, out of 19, were awarded gold medal while the rest with red rose. The gold medalists are Maj Gen (ret'd) Samsul Haque, Brig Gen (ret'd) Khurshid Uddin Ahmad, Dr Sarwar Ali, Prime Minister's health adviser Syed Modasser Ali, State Minister for Health Mujibur Rahman Fakir, and AL lawmaker Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin.

"Those who talk in favour of getting two leaders--Hasina and Khaleda--sit in discussion are just mad. They (two leaders) are sitting around the same table means humiliation of freedom fighters as one [Hasina] is for the liberation while another [Khaleda] is for ensuring protection of war criminals," said Syed Modasser Ali.

**38 KHATUNGANJ TRADERS SUED**  
**Withdrawal of case demanded**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The traders of Khatunganj at a rally here yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of a case filed against 38 traders of the wholesale market recently.

They also threatened a tougher movement if the case was not withdrawn within Thursday.

Khatunganj Trade and Industries Association (KTIA) organised the meeting in front of Chowdhury Market at Khatunganj.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Councillor Nurul Haque, Nurjahan group Managing Director Jahir Uddin Ratan, Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CMCCI) Director Abul Bashar Chowdhury, Chaktai Rice Traders Samity General Secretary Omar Azam and KTIA General Secretary Sayed Sagir Ahmed spoke at the rally with KTIA President Mahabubul Alam in the chair.

Three brothers Md Habibullah Chowdhury and his two brothers Saiful Islam Chowdhury and Saiful Azam Chowdhury, also traders of the same market, filed a case on December 14 with Kotwali police station against 38 traders of the market on charge of fraudulence. They complained that the accused traders forced them to put signature on blank cheques.

The traders at the rally said the three brothers were fraud and filed the case only for not returning the money to different creditors against the DOs (delivery orders) they bought.

They said the three issued more than 100 cheques worth Tk 145 crore to 38 traders of Khatunganj since February against the delivery orders (DO) but the cheques were bounced from banks.

**Punishment to Jui's husband demanded**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights groups yesterday demanded immediate punishment to Rafiqul Islam for committing barbaric repression on his wife Hawa Akhter Jui recently.

The groups placed the demand at a human chain programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city urging the people to stand against such violence and cruelty against women.

They also demanded special medical treatment for the second-year student of Narsingdi Government College Jui and security for her family members.

Jui's husband chopped off her right hand on December 4 as she wanted to continue her studies defying her husband Rafiqul's order.

Police arrested Rafiqul on December 5 following a case with Cantonment Police Station filed by Jui's father Yunus Mia.

Steps Towards Development, Ain o Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Manusher Jonno Foundation are among the organisers of the event, the press release added.

**Suranjit vows to make railway free from loss**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta during his first official visit in Chittagong yesterday vowed to make the railway free from the burden of huge loss of Tk 700 crore.

He said, "There is a syndicate which is the beneficiary of the loss. I termed it earlier as 'black cat'. I am after it."

The new railway minister said e-ticket system would be launched soon to reduce sufferings of the passengers.

He was talking to reporters during a visit to the Carriage and Wagon Repair Workshop in the city's Pahartali area yesterday evening.

The railway minister informed the reporters of starting a crash programme of six months to repair the locomotives, compartments and other necessary parts of trains.

He said he would sit with the Prime Minister soon to discuss his plan to develop the country's railway sector.

Admitting manpower shortage in Bangladesh Railway, the minister assured that he would take step to solve the problem and to start recruitment in the vacant posts through transparent process.



**Rise in temperature likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur during mid night till noon over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and till morning elsewhere over the country, Met office said. Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:15pm today and rises at 6:36am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 26.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 09.7 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

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	19.8	13.0	86	84
Chittagong	21.5	13.5	94	78
Rajshahi	21.4	10.8	93	87
Rangpur	21.3	10.4	97	89
Khulna	19.8	12.2	92	86
Barisal	21.6	11.7	99	91
Sylhet	24.9	14.2	80	79
Cox's Bazar	24.5	14.5	94	79