

NEWS IN *brief*

**DU increases 100 seats for BBA students**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities have increased 100 seats for the first year students of the faculty of Business Studies which will be effective from the current academic session, said DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

Talking to The Daily Star, he said the university authorities have increased the number of seats for the BBA students to solve the problem of seat crisis.

In the mean time, 'Ga' unit admission test under the faculty of Business Studies in 2011-2012 academic session was held peacefully, the VC confirmed over phone.

**Youth anthropologists' seminar held**

JU CORRESPONDENT

A daylong youth anthropologists' seminar was held at Jahangirnagar University (JU) for the first time in the country yesterday.

The students of Anthropology department of JU organised the seminar titled 'Contemporary Anthropology: Youth Anthropologists' Thought' at Zahir Raihan Auditorium on the campus where over 200 students of different private and public universities of the country were present.

Convener of the seminar Newazul Moula delivered the welcome speech with Zafor Sadik in the chair while Prof Helal Uddin Khan Arefin of Dhaka University, and Prof SM Nurul Alam and assistant prof Mahmudul Hasan Sumon of JU spoke.

**Ten-day book fair begins in Rajshahi**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A ten-day divisional book fair, organised by Jatiya Grantha Kendra, kicks off on the playground of Government Collegiate School in the city today.

Many local and some 68 renowned publications from Dhaka would participate in the fair, said Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Abdul Mannan. Alongside the fair, discussions, seminar, debate competition and cultural functions would be held every day.

**Four arrested with 110 bottles of phensidyl**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four persons along with 110 bottles of phensidyl worth about Tk 47,600 from Bara Kumira of Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

Rab also seized a truck and a private car, which were used to carry the drugs, from the spot.

On information, the rab personnel conducted the drive at PSP Road of Bara Kumira at around 4:00am and arrested the four along with the drugs.

The arrestees are identified as Md Ismail Hossain, 35, and Yunus Ali, 18, of Feni; Md Jashim Uddin, 22, and Motaher Hossain, 23, of Comilla.

**Fire in chips factory in Ctg**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Valuables worth about Tk 8 lakh were gutted in a fire at Meridian Chips factory in Kalurghat Industrial area of the port city on Monday night.

Fire service sources said the fire originated from a gas burner on the ground floor of the two-storey factory and gutted raw materials, goods and different equipment.

Two fire fighting units from Kalurghat fire station rushed to the spot and doused the blaze.

**Foreign liquor worth Tk 78 lakh seized**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A petrol team of Bangladesh Coast Guard in a drive seized huge contraband foreign liquor worth about Tk 78 lakh in Teknaf upazila early yesterday.

Coast guard sources said, acting on a tip-off, coast guard personnel conducted the drive in the river Naf at around 3:30am and seized an engine-run boat.

Searching the boat, they recovered 2,736 bottles of contraband foreign liquor and 1,008 cans of foreign beer.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) at NEC conference room in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

**BGB to get four regions Teesta deal soon: Rizvi**

Says Sahara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said that Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) will be divided into four regions to bring dynamism in its activities.

She disclosed it at a reception programme arranged for 57 freedom fighters of Dhaka region from the paramilitary force having titles of Bir Shrestha, Bir Uttam, Bir Bikram and Bir Pratik.

Eight gallantry award-winning freedom fighters and family members of the martyrs attended the reception organised for marking the first anniversary of BGB after changing the force's name from Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) at BGB Headquarters in the city's Palkhana.

After BDR mutiny on February 25-26 in 2009, the government renamed the 200 year-old force as BGB on December 20, 2010.

BGB began a journey afresh with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hoisting its flag on January 23, 2010.

BGB chief Maj Gen Anwar Hossain at the event said a total of 817 personnel of the force had sacrificed their lives during the Liberation War.

A total of 119 personnel of the force were given gallantry award. Of them, Lance Nayek Nur Mohammad Sheikh and Lance Nayek Munshi Abdur Rouf were awarded Bir Shrestha, the highest gallantry award in Bangladesh.

Another eight had been awarded Bir Uttam while 32 Bir Bikram and 77 Bir Pratik awards.

Sahara also declared to raise the BGB sectors from existing 12 to 16 to strengthen the force and make it time befitting.

The government is considering deployment of BGB personnel to the UN Peacekeeping Mission alongside the police and army, she said.

The BGB chief said this year around 7,000 personnel have been promoted while 1,961 personnel were recruited against the vacant posts in the force.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Signing of the delayed Teesta water sharing deal between Bangladesh and India will take place very soon, said Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister Gower Rizvi yesterday at a dialogue in the city.

Popular perception is that failure to sign the Teesta deal during the visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh in September is a major setback to the improvement of Indo-Bangla bilateral relationship, he said.

The sooner it is signed the better, the adviser said.

Time is crucial in regard to signing the deal, Rizvi said adding three-fourth people of Bangladesh expect an improved relationship with India.

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) and Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation (ORF) jointly organised the two-day dialogue on Bangladesh-India security, third of its kind, at a city hotel.

Though Indo-Bangla relationship experienced some success and progress in border demarcation, resolution of enclave issue, adversely possessed land, access to Teen Bigha corridor and duty-free export of 98 per cent commodities in recent times, signing of Teesta deal got stalled, said Rizvi.

The relationship could thrive further on water cooperation, joint river basin management and regional connectivity, he said.

Bangladesh and India share common aspiration for secularism, pluralism and peace, he said, and there is no such fundamental issue that should deteriorate the

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bilateral ties.

Farooq Sobhan, president of BEI, said that collaboration in combating terrorism can provide the bedrock of Indo-Bangla mutual relationship.

MK Rasgotra, president of ORF, said that people of both the countries should push their respective government for open border, free trade and common currency that would automatically resolve many discords in bilateral and regional relationship.

Unfortunately, he said, the Saarc has since the eighties amounted to nothing. It has made enormous progress on papers but not on the ground.

A number of retired ambassadors, former ministers and former government officials attended the dialogue.

**EVICTING SLUMS Govt decision challenged**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two slum dwellers challenged the government decision of evicting several slums in the city's Mirpur area before the High Court (HC) yesterday.

Abdus Salam and Abdul Jabbar, dwellers from two slums adjacent to police lines in Mirpur, section-14, filed the writ petitions challenging the order passed by Jatiya Grihayan Kartripakkha recently asking dwellers of several slums leave the area before Dec 24.

The order also mentioned that the authorities would conduct an eviction drive if the area is not cleared by the time.

The petitioners mentioned that they have been living in the slums for about 25 years and the sudden decision to evict those runs against relevant laws.

A HC bench held a hearing on the petition yesterday and fixed today for passing an order on the issue.

The petitions have been filed with legal assistance from Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and advocate Khurshid Alam Khan is fighting for the petitioners.

**Convention of adolescents held in city**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the theme "participation and empowerment of adolescents for a safe and enlightened future" a national convention of adolescents-2011 was held in the city yesterday.

Disadvantaged Adolescents Working NGOs (DAWN) Forum organised the convention to build consensus on adolescent concerned critical issues through collective participation, sharing of views, discussion and exchange of experience by the adolescents, said a press release.

The convention includes seminar, roundtable, debate competition and dialogue with the journalists.

Lawmaker Israfil Alam, secretary of women and children ministry Tariq-ul-Islam, former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan, Action Aid Country Director Farah Kabir, Secretary General of DAWN Forum Shamsun Nahar, executive director of Nari Unnayan Shakti Afroja Parvin, Executive Director of Nari Maitree Shaheen Akter Dolly were present in the programme.

**SCHOOLBOY MURDER One arrested**

BSS, Dhaka

Savar police arrested a youth yesterday from Bhagolpur Mohalla on charge of killing Sabuj Hossain, 15, a student of Mohammad Ali High School.

The arrestee was identified as Mamun, 16, son of Abdur Rahman of Singair upazila under Manikganj district.

Sabuj, son of Nurul Islam at Shovapur village of the upazila, was beaten to death by a group of miscreants on the playground of Adhar Chandra Model High School on Sunday.

**Management Net reunion on Dec 23**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Management Net, an organisation of former students of Management Studies Department of Dhaka University, will organise a day-long grand re-union at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) on December 23.

To celebrate its 14th anniversary, the organisation will carry out social activities including providing assistance to the victims of natural calamities, distributing foods among the poor and organising voluntary blood donation programme, said a press release.

Contact address: Management Net Re-union '08 office, 41/2 Purana Paltan, Suit No. E-4, Dhaka-1000. Phone: 7161730 or 01819216652.



Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon, an organisation of farmers and workers, forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding steps for digging canals and construction of cross-dams in the coastal areas of Bangladesh.

PHOTO: STAR

**Dhaka supports Palestine state**

**Dipu Moni tells Abuali**

BSS, Dhaka

Palestine Interior Minister Dr Said Abuali yesterday called on Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni at her office.

Dipu Moni reaffirmed Bangladesh's full support to the just cause of the Palestinians who have been fighting for long for their independent homeland.

Bangladesh in line with the position of the OIC, has recently voted for the full membership of the state of Palestine in the Unesco and promises to do the same in any other forum of the UN and international organisations.

Bangladesh supports the peace initiatives taken so far for the Middle East, including the road map, the Annapolis Agreement and the Arab Peace Initiative-2002.

Bangladesh condemns any state-sponsored act of aggression, provocation or manipulation against the Islamic holy sites in the Al-Haram Al-Quds Ash-Sharif, including the holy Masjid-ul-Al-Aqsa, the third holiest site of Islam.

The Palestinian minister appreciated Bangladesh for its support to the cause of Palestine.

**2500 Yaba tablets seized, four women arrested**

JU CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four women and seized 1.2 kg of heroin and 2500 pieces of Yaba tablets from their possession in Bank Town area of Savar on Monday night.

The arrestees were identified as Shilpi Akter, Parul Begum, Rozina Akter and Marzina Begum.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab raided a house in Bank Town area and arrested the four women with the contraband drugs but the house owner Munna managed to escape sensing the presence of the law enforcers.

**Govt to drop 68 more cases against AL men**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday okayed the withdrawal of 68 more 'politically-motivated' cases filed against Awami League leaders during the tenure of the last government.

The decision was taken at the 29th meeting of the national committee formed to review such cases filed by the BNP-led 4-party alliance government.

Speaking to reporters following the meeting at the home ministry, State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam said "There are no cases involving any senior AL leader. All these cases are against leaders among the lower tier of the party."

Answering to a question, he said no cases against any BNP leaders were tabled at yesterday's meeting.

With this, the committee has thus far recommended withdrawal of 7100 cases by considering those as 'politically motivated'. They, however, include 315 graft related cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

A total of 320 cases were placed before the meeting yesterday for withdrawal. The committee reviewed the cases and recommended 68 for withdrawal and rejected 188. Sixty-four others were kept for review at the next meeting.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku and senior officials of home ministry were also present at the meeting.



**Moderate to thick fog likely**

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during midnight till noon, Met office said.

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

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:16pm today and rises at 6:37am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 26.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 10.3 degrees Celsius at Jessore.

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	20.2	12.5	86	83
Chittagong	19.5	12.7	95	89
Rajshahi	18.5	11.5	99	89
Rangpur	21.0	10.8	99	83
Khulna	20.0	12.4	100	89
Barisal	23.7	12.2	82	89
Sylhet	25.3	12.9	89	74
Cox's Bazar	24.2	13.8	97	79