



President Zillur Rahman holds a dialogue with the leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday on formation of a new election commission. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PID

**Results of JSC, JDC exams today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations will be simultaneously published today. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will formally announce the results at his ministry at 3:00pm today. Prior to it, a copy of the results will be handed over to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 10:00am. The results will also be available on www.educationboardresults.gov.bd. The candidates can also get their results through the short message service of Teletalk mobile phone operator.

**JCD founding anniversary on Jan 1**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal, student wing of the opposition BNP, chalked out a daylong programme across the country marking its 33rd founding anniversary on January 1. Former and current JCD leaders announced the programmes at a press briefing at BNP's central office in the city's Nayapalton yesterday. The programmes will begin at 12:01am in Bhasani auditorium of Nayapalton. The JCD leaders and activists will offer prayers at the grave of Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and hold the discussion at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh. The BNP chairperson is supposed to speak as the chief guest.

**Bangladesh missions lack migrant labour experts**

Says Prof Tasnim



Prof Tasnim Siddiqui speaks at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. On her right are Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman and Motasim Billah and on her left is Merina Sultana.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Migrant workers fell victim to injustice, repression, and other anomalies abroad due to lack of expert labour attachés in the Bangladesh missions and lack of coordinated efforts from the ministries concerned, Prof Tasnim Siddiqui of Dhaka University said yesterday. Appointed from army and audit, accounts, and administration cadres, the labour attaches had no practical knowledge on how to handle migrant labour issues abroad, leaving migrant workers to face one-sided trail in the countries concerned, she said. Prof Tasnim, who is also the chair of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), urged the government to compel recruiting agencies to introduce identity cards for their brokers as a step to check deceiving of workers intended to go abroad. She made the comments while presenting a keynote paper on RMMRU's annual report at a press conference titled "Pattern and Trends of Labour Migration 2011: Achievement and Challenge" at Jatiya Press Club. Manusher Jonno Foundation, a development organisation, gave assistance to the programme. Amid global recession, manpower export rates fell by 17.86 percent in 2009

and 21 percent in 2010 compared to the previous years, but this year it rose by 40.81 percent, she said from a report of Bureau of Manpower, Employment, and Training (BMET). Urging the government to enact the draft "Expatriate and Overseas Employment" law soon, she demanded building of an online database for returnees so that their experiences can be used in building the nation. She also said the government should follow multilateral approaches instead of government-to-government approach in dealing with migration related problems like visa trading, reducing migration cost, Kafala system, and raising opinion against death sentence. In the report, it was also demanded that the decade "2012-2021" be declared as Migration Decade to give importance to the sector. Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, said migrant workers earned remittances equal to 13.5 percent of the country's GDP, which was a great contribution on their part. "For them we have many things to do. Let's take a fresh initiative and speak of them. We are people of newspaper and we can do more", he said. At the programme, Matiur Rahman awarded two local journalists for their outstanding reporting on migration.

**112 BNP men get bail over Dec 12 violence**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to 112 BNP leaders and workers for two months in 10 cases filed in connection with the violence in Dhaka and Sylhet on December 18.

All the accused, including former BNP lawmaker Ilias Ali, Dhaka city BNP leader Abdus Salam and former Badda ward commissioner Abdul Qayum, appeared before an HC vacation bench seeking bail. They are facing the charges of arson, damaging vehicles, halting traffic move-

ment, anarchy and preventing policemen from discharging their duties on December 18. The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Anwarul Haque passed the order after hearing 12 separate bail petitions moved by the accused.

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Former Adviser to Caretaker Government  
Founder Director, National Heart Foundation, Dhaka

**Chief Guest**  
Advocate Jahangir Kabir Nanak, MP  
State Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives  
People's Republic of Bangladesh

**Special Guest**  
National Professor Dr. M. R. Khan

**Venue:** Bangladesh University Permanent Campus  
5/B Beribandh Main Road  
Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207

**Date:** 28th December 2011  
**Time:** 10.30 am

**Bangladesh University**  
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Email: info@bu.edu.bd  
www.bu.edu.bd

**River routes face severe navigability crisis**

Says Poba study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least ten major river routes have disappeared while eight other routes are about to be closed across the country due to a navigability crisis looming up over last two decades, says a report of Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba). Although all rivers across the country have been facing a severe navigability crisis, only 30 per cent of the total dredging activities are done on all routes while 70 per cent are done on ferry routes, says the report. Poba Secretary Syed Monwar Hossain revealed this at a seminar, styled 'Endangered riverine routes: What needs to be done', jointly organised by the Poba and the Jono Udyog, a local NGO, at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday. Currently, 4,000 to 5,000 kilometres of river routes are navigable in the rainy season. The figures come down to 2,000 to 2,500 kilometres

in the dry season, according to the report. Because of the continuous navigability crisis, people are becoming increasingly dependent on roads and railways. Eight per cent of all passengers travel through the river routes, while 4 per cent do so through railway and 88 per cent through roads, the report points out. Addressing the seminar as chief guest, Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon said Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) had played a vital role in destroying the rivers. "It made structures on the rivers in unplanned ways, thus hindering the natural flow of the rivers," he said. Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Chairman Dr Md Shamsuddoha Khondakar and Poba Chairman Abu Naser Khan also spoke on the occasion.

**'BRTA asked to stop broker activities'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday strictly directed the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to stop the activities of "brokers" in the institution to relieve people of sufferings and to bring order in road transportation. He said brokers controlled the BRTA and made people to suffer in obtaining driving licences and vehicle registrations. Initiatives would have to be taken to break the "evil chain", he said. The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of a workshop on "enhancing skills and awareness of professional drivers" organised by the BRTA at its Elenbari head office in the city. A total of 25 batches, each comprising of 50 drivers, will be trained under the three-month workshop. Talking about bribery and corruption in the BRTA, he said many officials have been

working in the same posts of same working stations for 12-15 years. They along with the brokers have made the "evil chain" to run their illegal business smoothly, he said. "But I will no longer tolerate such irregularities. The officials will be transferred as per the rule. We will have to remove the 'bad image' of the BRTA by ending those irregularities". About traffic situation in Dhaka city, the minister blamed a huge number of unfit vehicles for accidents and gave direction to the authorities concerned to stop plying of those vehicles. He also sought cooperation from all including bus operators, drivers, and passengers to reduce traffic jam and road accidents. BRTA Chairman Ayubur Rahman Khan and Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) Executive Director Dr SM Salehuddin, among others, spoke at the function.

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