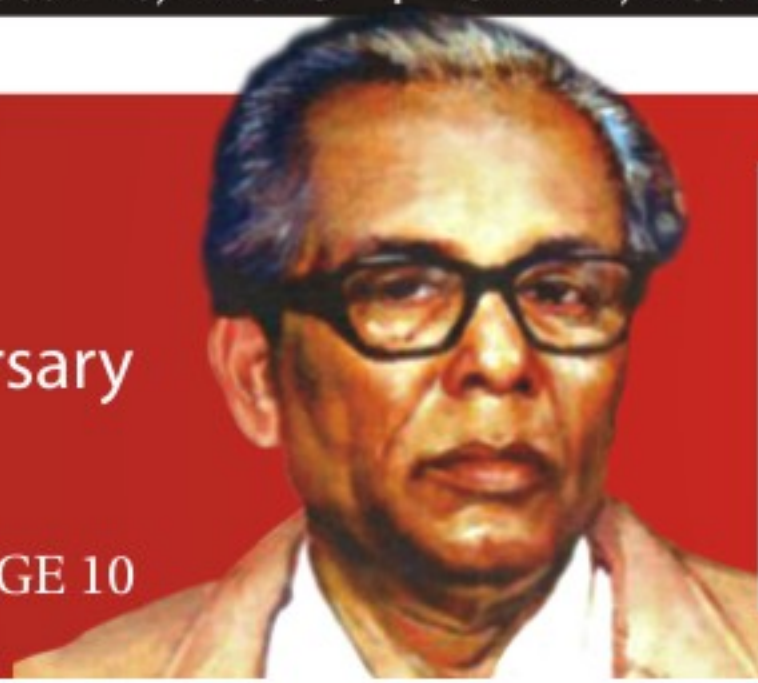


**ZAINUL'S 97TH**

Festival marks the birth anniversary of the master painter

PAGE 10



**A YEAR OF FALL**

Stocks shed around 37pc this year and ruin confidence

PAGE B1

**'CANCER PLOT'**

Hugo Chavez asks whether the US is giving Latin American leaders cancer

PAGE 7



**Fuel oil prices hiked again**

3rd hike in less than 4 months; effective from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet again the government yesterday hiked the price of all fuel oil by Tk 5 per litre each, the second time in less than two months and the third in less than four months.

The increased price came into effect from midnight last night.

Through an order last night, the energy ministry increased diesel and kerosene prices from Tk 56 to Tk 61 a litre, petrol from Tk 86 to Tk 91, octane from Tk 89 to Tk

	INCREASE	NEW PRICE
Petrol	+5	Tk 91
Octane	+5	Tk 94
Diesel, Kerosene	+5	Tk 61
Furnace oil	+5	Tk 60

94 and furnace oil from Tk 55 to Tk 60 a litre.

On November 10, the government raised the prices of all fuel oils by Tk 5 a

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



A section of the 1,000 singers singing a song of Rabindranath Tagore on a single stage built in front of Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday. The programme was organised to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the poet.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

**Commuters suffer, AL says sorry**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mass rally of the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance on the busy Matsya Bhaban-Shahbagh road yesterday afternoon caused huge traffic congestions in the capital, causing huge suffering to several thousands of people, especially those returning home from work.

The party, however, has said sorry for the trouble caused.

"We sincerely feel sorry for those city dwellers

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2  
PHOTO ON PAGE 20

**War criminals must be tried**

Grand alliance leaders pledge in rally; Sajeda asks followers to go door-to-door and capture collaborators of 1971

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading figures of the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance yesterday vowed to try the war criminals at any cost and alleged that the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami were trying to foil the trial by creating anarchy in the country.

They made the promise at a mass rally organised to demand a quick trial of the wartime collaborators of the Pakistan occupation force and to resist BNP-Jamaat's "move to protect those war criminals".

At the gathering, the first of its kind since the formation of the alliance three years ago, AL Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury called upon leaders and activists

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5  
PHOTO ON PAGE 2

**Rally held without DMP permission**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League-led grand alliance held its mass rally on a busy road in front of the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh yesterday without taking the necessary permission from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

Earlier, the government on more than one occasion had refused to allow the BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami to hold rallies in the city thoroughfares. Of late, police

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

**AL leader killed in city**

Feud over business contract behind bomb attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A leader of Awami Swechhasebak League was killed in a bomb attack in the capital's Badda area yesterday, a week after he received a death threat over a business contract.

A group of criminals threw bombs at Mamunur Rashid alias Mamun Hossain, 36, president of Swechhasebak League

Anandanagar unit and a sand trader, in front of Anandanagar Samaj Kalyan Samity office at about 10:30am, Mujibur Rahman, a witness to the incident, told reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The criminals fled the scene firing several shots, he said.

Seriously injured Mamun was whisked

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

PHOTO ON PAGE 20

**Rejoinder, our reply**

The Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources has sent a rejoinder to a Daily Star report headlined "Energy Sector Review: Short-term achievements; hope for long-term gains" which was published on December 25. The

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

**LOKMAN MURDER Narsingdi AL leader Montaz surrenders**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Narsingdi town Awami League President Montaz Uddin Bhuiyan, an accused in Narsingdi municipal mayor Lokman Hossain murder case, surrendered before a district court yesterday.

On his surrender after two months' disappearance since the killing, the chief judicial magistrate placed him on a one-day remand for interrogation.

Mamunur Rashid Mondol, investigation officer of the case, sought

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

**RIVER, LAND GRABBING**

**Rajuk fails to act**

TAWFIQUE ALI

Three years into its administration, the Awami League-led government has done little to fulfil its pledge to enforce construction laws and stop grabbing of rivers and public land in and around the capital.

Planned development of the capital on the basis of a master plan and the Detailed Area Plan, better known by its acronym Dap, has remained a far cry, according to urbanisation experts and environmental lawyers.

Dishonest businessmen have taken advantage of lax application of laws to grab public land, rivers and wetlands and destroy flood plains.

In the face of pressure from land grabbers, the government stalled the imple-



**3 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT**  
**No progress in Dap implementation**

**No urbanisation plan**

**Advantage for the powerful**

**Hardly any control over grabbers and realtors**

mentation of Dap and a master plan for the development of the burgeoning city.

Prof Sarwar Jahan, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said the government has failed to ensure planned urbanisation in the past three years of its rule. "The performance is frustrating," he said.

Land grabbers and housing developers ruled the game, as Dap was sent for review by a ministerial committee even after the vital planning document was published in the official gazette nearly two years back.

Rajdhani Unnyan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), entrusted with the city's development, has proved toothless in combating corruption in this sector, according to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

**Celebrating 40 years of independence**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) will jointly come up with a commemorative programme styled '40th Anniversary of Bangladesh's Independence: The Vision and The Journey' today in the city.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

**BNP, allies to form new alliance**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of BNP and its allies last night decided to form a new alliance, keeping the old one intact.

A formal announcement will come after a few more meetings of the BNP Standing Committee and the party-led four-party alliance.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the alliance with BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia in the chair at her Gulshan office.

They also discussed a possible name for the new alliance and later empowered the leader of the opposition to finalise the matter.

"The alliance will be expanded but the announcement will come after two more meetings. Discussion is needed with those who will be included in the alliance," Mirza

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

**TALKS ON EC Demand for law comes up again**

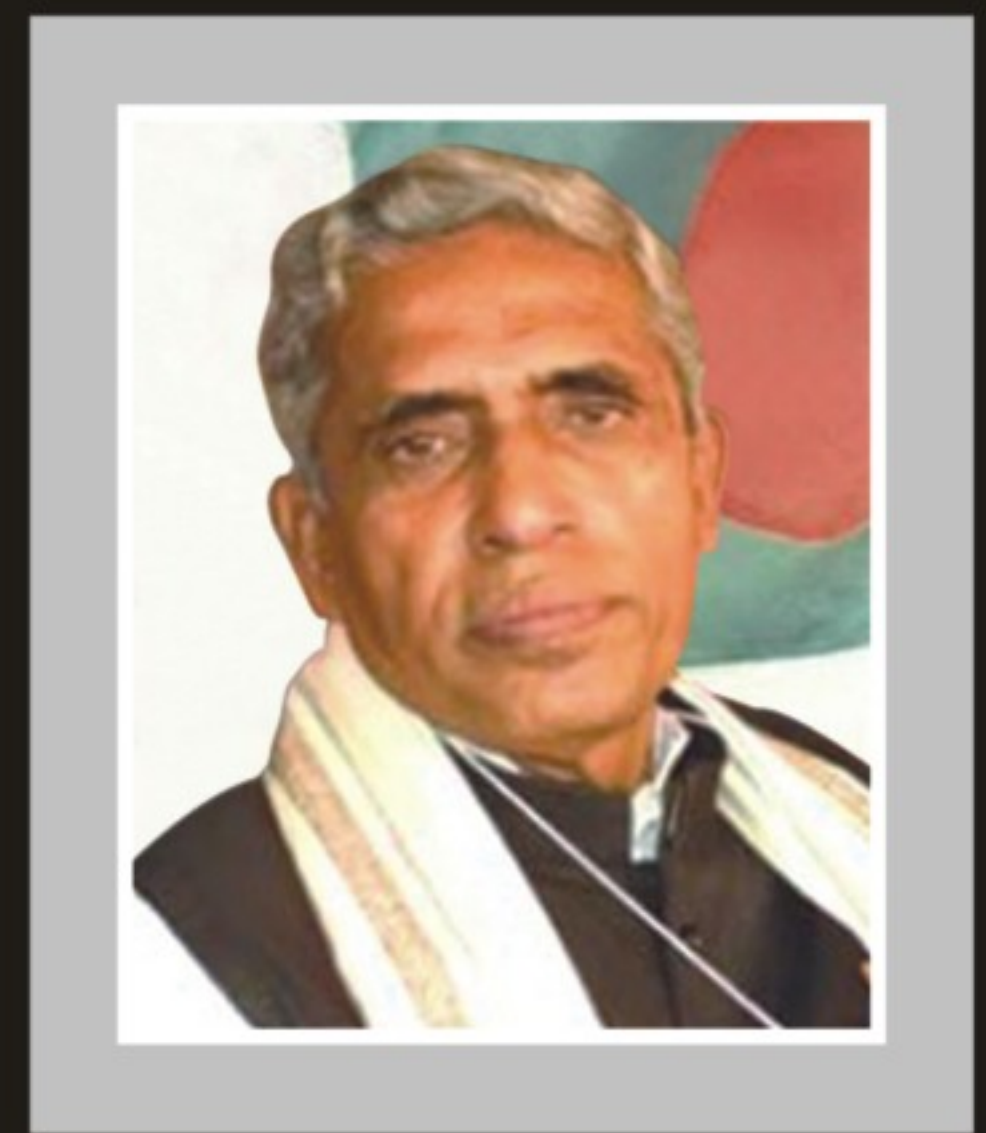
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesher Shamyabadi Dal and Islamic Front Bangladesh yesterday suggested enactment of a law providing for appointment of chief election commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners.

Taking part in the ongoing talks with President Zillur Rahman separately at the Bangabhaban, both

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

**আমরা শোকাহত**



আবদুর রাজ্জাক  
(১৯৪২-২০১১)

মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের অন্যতম সংগঠক, বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের সাবেক সাধারণ সম্পাদক, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের সাবেক মন্ত্রী আবদুর রাজ্জাক, এম.পি. গত ২৩ ডিসেম্বর, ২০১১ তারিখে ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্নালিল্লাহে .... রাজিউন)। তাঁর মৃত্যুতে আমরা গভীর ভাবে শোকাহত।

আমরা মরহুমের আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং শোক সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জানাচ্ছি।



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