

NEWS IN *brief*

Adolescent girl electrocuted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An adolescent girl was electrocuted at Bandartila in the port city yesterday.

The dead, Moyna, 13, daughter of Abdul Kader of Mymensingh, lived in her sister's house at Altaf Nagar. She came in contact with a live electric wire when she went to the roof of the semi-pacca house to put out clothes in the sun at 10:00am, said Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) police box sources, quoting Moyna's family members.

She was rushed to CMCH where duty doctors

NSU convocation tomorrow

METRO DESK

The 15th convocation of the North South University (NSU) will be held on NSU campus at Bashundhara in the city tomorrow.

President Zillur Rahman, also the chancellor of NSU, will present as the chief guest and confer degrees on 1074 graduate students.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will attend the convocation as the special guest while Prof Dr Mathana Santiwat, president of Bangkok University, Thailand, will deliver the convocation speech.

Prof Dr Hafiz G A Siddiqi, vice-chancellor of NSU, Md Shajahan, chairman of NSU Foundation, and deans of four schools will be present at the

Govt urged to control market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Workers Party of Bangladesh, an ally of the ruling Awami League-led 14-party, yesterday called upon the government to control the market considering sufferings of the people.

Dhaka Metropolitan Committee of the party organised a rally before the Jatiya Press Club in protest against fuel and transport fare hikes, said a press release.

The leaders said the government has increased fuel price irrationally following advice of the World Bank.

The party's City Secretary Abul Hossain presided over the rally while General Secretary Anisur

Cuet extends winter vacation

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) authorities have extended its winter vacation up to January 5, which was scheduled to be opened yesterday.

Cuet authorities yesterday extended this vacation through a notice issued at 5:00pm.

Due to the delayed declaration about the vacation, many students of the university already reached the campus.

Students expressed their dissatisfaction over the decision.

Mentionable, the vacation was started from

US university team meets DU VC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of teachers and students of five universities of the United States (US) yesterday called on Dhaka University (DU) Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

During the meeting, they discussed academic activities of the DU and socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

Prof Mizanur Rahman Miah, director of School of Social Works of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, now on a visit to Bangladesh under 'Study Abroad Programme 2011-2012', led the team, said a press release.

Meanwhile, Prof Mafizur Rahman, associate professor of the department of Mass Communication and Journalism of DU, and Mohammad Delwar Hossain, a Ph.D student of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, are jointly coordinating the programme.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or drizzle is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla and weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may fall 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:23pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 31.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.9 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.5	18.0	51	46
Chittagong	28.0	16.8	73	51
Rajshahi	25.8	16.4	69	61
Rangpur	21.3	14.6	77	85
Khulna	29.0	15.6	80	61
Barisal	28.8	14.6	71	74



Government National Primary School students in Chittagong sprint out after classes with textbooks provided free of cost by the government yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

1,000 DU students start 2012 with free Daily Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One thousand meritorious students of Dhaka University (DU) began their journey into the New Year yesterday with free copies of The Daily Star.

As part of corporate social responsibility (CSR), The Daily Star, the country's highest circulated English daily, and Mutual Trust Bank Limited have taken this initiative to give copies of the newspapers (1,000 copies per day) to the meritorious DU students who reside in different halls.

The list of the 1,000 meritorious students has been prepared with the help of the DU vice chancellor's office.

Hamidullah's qulkhwani today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Wing Commander (Retd) M Hamidullah Khan, Bir Pratik, will be held at his residence in Cantonment Bazar area in the city at 6:00pm today.

Hamidullah Khan passed away at Combined Military Hospital on Friday afternoon.

Ershad optimistic about return to power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday called on the people to keep faith in him and said his party would go to power at the next parliamentary polls.

He said this at a rally in the city marking the party's 26th founding anniversary.

"Our aim is to go to power through the next parliamentary polls. And to achieve this we will contest in 300 seats," declared Ershad, a key leader of the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance.

Pointing to several cases filed against him, for which he had to serve time in jail, the former president said, "Our hands were tied and legs were chained and that's why we couldn't come close to the people. But those days are over. Time has come to go forward, taking the people with us."

Meanwhile, the Jatiya Party (Manju) yesterday also observed its 26th founding anniversary.

The party's Chairman, Anwar Hossain Manju, at a meeting at the Jatiya Press Club in the city said his party would always support a constitutional and democratic path.

Criticising Ershad, he posed the question of which side he [Ershad] and his party belong to. "Do they belong to the government or are they in the opposition?" he asked.

Manju further said that Ershad was playing double standard politics. "Sometimes he says he will never belong to the Awami League-led grand alliance. But after a few days, he again says the grand alliance should strengthen its unity."

CJ reconstitutes HC bench

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday reconstituted powers of a High Court bench, as the Supreme Court will reopen today after a two-week winter vacation, Kabir Ahmed, secretary (High Court Division) of the chief justice said.

The Appellate and High Court Divisions of SC went on vacation on December 18 last year.

During the vacation, two benches of Appellate Division and some benches of the High Court Division heard some urgent matters.

Bangladesh out of 'high piracy risk' list

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

After more than 20 years, Bangladesh is no longer on the list of "high risk" waters prone to piracy in the official website of International Maritime Bureau (IMB).

According to a foreign ministry press release yesterday, IMB, as per a protest letter it received from Bangladesh on December 20, brought about major amendments in the website, which warns mariners about piracy.

In the letter, Bangladesh categorically stated that, as per relevant international laws, the incidents reported to IMB by mariners are mostly "petty thefts" or "robbery".

Under no circumstances should these incidents be termed as "piracy" as they occurred well within 200 nautical miles from Bangladesh's coast. Therefore, Bangladesh

witnessed not a single case of piracy in its waters.

The ministry also mentioned, with sufficient evidence, that most of the incidents are either false or exaggerated accounts of thefts.

The amendments include: (a) The definitions of piracy and armed robbery have been distinguished as per relevant laws [Art 101 of UNCLOS for Piracy and IMO Resolution A.1025 (26) for armed robbery]; (b) the heading of the warning site has been changed from "piracy warning" to "piracy and armed robbery warning"; (c) in Bangladesh part, the word "pirates" have been replaced by "robbers"; and (d) the "high risk" area label has been removed from the name of Bangladesh.



Workers Party of Bangladesh forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of the price hike of petroleum products.

POTO: STAR

Youngone to restore Sonargaon museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Korean company Youngone Corporation has stepped forward to restore and conserve of the Sonargaon Folk Arts and Crafts Museum building in the suburbs of the capital.

The building, which was known as Baro Sardar Bari, is one of the finest examples of residential complex of the colonial period built nearly 200 years ago, says a press release of Youngone.

Later in 1902, during the colonial period, a double court was extended with the origi-

nal structure.

The main entrance to the building is through an archway, highly ornamented with traditional Chinni Tikri (broken china ceramics), in the south of the building.

The restoration project is an initiative of Kihak Sung, chairman and CEO of Youngone Corporation and Korean EPZ Corporation (BD) Ltd.

The project will include restoration of columns, ornamented surfaces, Chinni Tikri ornamentation works and replacement of wooden beams, doors, windows and special entrances, the release says.



Parents agitate on the Baily Road branch of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of the lottery system and "sister quota" in the admission process.

PHOTO: STAR



US diplomat Verveer to arrive Jan 4

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Melanne S. Verveer, a top ranking American diplomat, will arrive here on January 4 on a three-day visit as part of the Obama administration's efforts to promote policies on women issues and peace and security in Bangladesh.

Besides, a US Congressional delegation will also visit Bangladesh around the same time to see for itself the state of women's health, food security and other issues.

Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, will also visit Kathmandu after Dhaka, to meet with government, community-based, and civil society leaders involved in advancing the rights and well-being of women and girls, and to promote US policy on women, peace, and security, according to an announcement by the US State Department.

During the visit, she will join a Congressional Delegation engaging with host country officials and non-government organisations (NGOs) on such issues as child marriage, maternal and child health, women's political and economic participation, gender-based violence, the role of women in climate change, and improving girls' access to education.

Ban on foreign films demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some film directors, artistes and NGO activists yesterday placed an eleven-point demand to overcome the "ongoing crisis" in the country's film industry.

They demanded a ban on commercial showing of foreign films in Bangladesh and a stop to appointments of political party men to different posts of Film Development Corporation (FDC).

They placed the demands at a function styled "Protest Rally against Cultural Aggression" at the Central Shaheed Minar, said a press release.

Other demands include reduction of tax on importing equipment of film industry, arrangement of soft loans for repairing cinemas, formulation of time-befitting policy for the industry and restriction of showing foreign channels.

Film directors Chashi Nazrul Islam, Muhammad Hannan, Morshedul Islam, actress Rokeya Prachy and Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar also spoke at the function.