

NEWS IN *brief*

## Khaleda to attend Akheri Munajat today

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will join the Akheri Munajat (concluding prayers) of Biswa Ijtema at Tongi on the outskirts of the city today.

Khaleda will start from her residence for Tongi at 9:45am.

She will join the Akheri Munajat from the premises of Atlas Bangladesh Ltd at Tongi, close to the Ijtema venue, party sources said yesterday.

## Foreign wine recovered

CU CORRESPONDENT

Members of Bangladesh Coast Guard (east zone) recovered huge quantity of contraband foreign wine from Moheshkhali in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the coast guard members conducted a drive at Gorak Ghata in the area at around 3:00am and recovered 1,890 bottles of foreign wine worth about Tk 47 lakh from an engine-run boat, said a press release.

The force also seized the boat.

## IUB spring semester begins

METRO DESK

The spring semester at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) began through an orientation programme for freshers at the university's Bashundhara campus yesterday.

Vice Chancellor (in-charge) Prof M Omar Rahman delivered a brief speech on the occasion in the presence of parents, guardians, and members of the faculties and management of the university, says a press release.

Upon orientation, the newly admitted students under the semester visited the campus.

Lima Choudhury, senior assistant director, Undergraduate Admissions, IUB, conducted the programme.

## Khaleda wishes quick recovery

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed sympathy for those injured in the roof collapse in Feni during a roadside rally of her Dhaka-Chittagong road march.

In a statement she said, "I am deeply shocked as the people got injured in the roof collapse while hearing the speech".

Over a hundred people were injured when the roof of Pilot Primary School collapsed as they went up there to hear Khaleda's speech on January 8.

She wished immediate recovery of the injured.

## 'Regional cooperation a must for energy security'

BSS, Dhaka

Labour, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said regional cooperation must be strengthened to ensure development in the area of energy and power.

There is enormous scope for regional cooperation among the south Asian countries but due to lack of political farsightedness such cooperation could not be achieved, he said while addressing the 'Dr Engineer MA Rashid Commemorative Lecture' at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) yesterday.

The IEB organised the lecture on the occasion of its 53rd convention.

He said Saarc was founded 25 years ago for strengthening regional cooperation but no remarkable progress could be made during this period. Political instability and lack of institutional democratic practice are the major barriers in the way of strengthening regional cooperation, he added.

About the disputes over demarcation of maritime boundary, he said the present government has initiated talks with India and Myanmar to settle the issue.

IEB's former president Prof Engineer Jamilur Reza Chowdhury chaired the lecture. Engineer Delwar Bakth, former managing director of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited, presented the keynote paper.

## WEATHER TODAY

## No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Sandwip, Sitakunda, Rangamati, Comilla and Feni and it may continue.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 5:32pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 24.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 06.2 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 in percentage		
Max	Min	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	22.2	11.6	81	68
Chittagong	21.6	14.6	77	54
Rajshahi	22.4	07.2	99	68
Rangpur	19.5	09.4	96	80
Khulna	22.5	10.4	84	68
Barisal	22.4	09.0	91	84
Sylhet	22.6	10.3	79	65
Cox's Bazar	23.0	12.8	54	56

## Emphasise proper planning

## PM asks engineers

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked engineers to act as responsible citizens and ensure proper and planned utilization of the tax money and the limited resources of the country to provide more services to the people.

She however noted that, "Proper utilization of state resources as well as maintaining qualitative standard of the development activities depend on the honesty, efficiency and dutifulness of the engineers."

The premier said this at the inaugural session of the four-day long 53rd Convention of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) held on its city premises.

Around 85 percent funds of the government's development activities are spent through the engineers, she said, urging the engineers and technologists to put emphasis on proper planning and use of right technology to this end.

Hasina stressed the need for low-cost sustainable equipments and structures, innovation of alternate energy and energy-efficient equipments as well as innovating techniques for building low cost houses.

She asked IEB to suggest a specific policy to set up residential, commercial and industrial areas at district and upazila level to ensure maximum utilization of limited lands in the country.

Highlighting the need for adopting improved methods of crop cultivation and preservation to ensure food security, she urged the engineers to find out ways to reduce post-harvest losses that account for nearly Tk 30,000 crore per year in absence of appropriate preservation facilities.

Referring that around Tk 100 crore is spent every year for importing agricultural equipments, she hoped that the country would become self-



reliant in producing such equipments if technology, training and capital are made available to the manufacturers.

She also put emphasis on sustainable and environment-friendly development programmes and technologies to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change, the big challenge of today.

The premier said, in order to raise the power generation to 7,000 megawatt (MW) by 2013 and 20,000 MW by 2021, the incumbent government has taken the initiatives of establishing coal-based power plants, nuclear power plants, construction of inter-grid network with India and hydroelectricity generation with Bhutan and Nepal.

Regarding making a digital Bangladesh, she said, apart from bringing 4,501 unions under

internet network through Union Information Centers, the government has taken the initiative for a second submarine cable connection to ensure high speed internet facilities.

Earlier, the PM distributed medals and certificates among the best engineers for their outstanding contributions in respective fields in 2011.

IEB President Engr Nurul Huda presented the PM with a crest of the 53rd IEB convention.

Convenor of the convention preparatory committee Engr Munir Uddin Ahmed gave the welcome address while its member secretary Engr Mohammad Hossain, IEB General Secretary Engr Abdus Sabur and IEB president addressed the function.

Jamaat leader held for vandalism at Sust

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Detective Branch of police yesterday arrested Jamaat-e-Islami leader Jalal Ahmed on charge of vandalism on Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) campus on January 11.

Jalal, the sadar upazila unit secretary of the party and also Jalalabad Union Parishad chairman, was immediately handed over to the Kotwali Police Station.

Khondaker Naoroj Ahmed, officer-in-charge of the police station, told this correspondent that the arrested was produced before the judicial magistrate court at about 5:00pm yesterday.

Following clashes between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir on the campus, three cases were filed with the Jalalabad Police Station accusing the Shibir activists.

Jalal was shown arrested in all the cases, said the police station officer-in-charge Selim Hossain.

Earlier on Friday, a Shibir activist and Sust student Abu Taiyab Sajib, was also arrested in this connection.

Selim Al Deen's death anniversary observed

JU CORRESPONDENT

Over 200 students and teachers of Jahangirnagar University (JU) and guests from Dhaka observed the 4th death anniversary of theatre personality Selim Al Deen on the campus yesterday.

A procession inaugurated by cultural personality Nasiruddin Yousuff was brought out before the Old Arts Building, ending at the central mosque.

Later, wreaths were placed on the grave of Selim Al Deen, who founded JU drama and dramatics department.

Those paying their respects include Selim Al Deen's wife Begumjodi Meherunnisa, actor Pijush Bandhopaddhay and the department Chairman Prof Dr Aminul Islam.

Wreaths from the department, Shikhaak Samaj, Students and Teachers Centre, Taluk Nagar Theatre, Shahheed Titu Theatre, Bangladesh Gram Theatre, Selim Al Deen Memorial Society and Selim Al Deen Foundation were also placed.

Selim Al Deen passed away in 2008 in the city's Lab Aid Hospital.

## Three hurt in Savar bank fire

UNB, Savar

Three security guards were injured and valuables gutted as a fire broke out in the BKSP branch office of Uttara Bank Ltd in Savar, outskirts of the capital, yesterday.

Two of the injured were admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The victims were asleep inside the bank office when the fire started.

The reason behind the fire could not be known immediately.

Local people saw flames coming out of the bank at about 7:00am. On information, two units of firefighters rushed in and doused the blaze after half an hour.

Fire service sources said the fire burned down valuables, worth Tk 35 lakh, including four computers, furniture, and valuable documents.

Senior station officer Aktheruzzaman of DEPZ fire station said the vault and a computer, however, were unharmed.

He said the fire might have originated from an electric short circuit.

## UK minister concerned over 'fall in foreign investment'

UNB, Dhaka

A visiting British minister expressed "concern at the decline in foreign investment" in Bangladesh as he called on Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia in the city last evening.

The UK Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell, held an hour-long meeting with Khaleda, also the BNP chairperson, at her Gulshan office.

They discussed issues of bilateral relations, politics, economics, and trade.

Mitchell viewed that foreign invest-

ment in a country declines when it suffers from political instability, BNP Vice Chairman Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury, who was present at the meeting, said in a news briefing.

He said the British minister expressed "a little bit of concern over a little decrease of foreign investment" in Bangladesh.

During the meeting, Mitchell hoped that a free, fair, neutral, and acceptable election would be held in Bangladesh to overcome political instability.

He also hoped that the UK would play a bigger role in the investment in

Bangladesh. He said the economic assistance of Britain has been increased in Bangladesh.

Terming the relations between Bangladesh and the UK historic, Khaleda said it will be further enhanced in the days to come. She hoped that Bangladeshi students would get more opportunity for scholarship for study in the UK.

She also sought the UK minister's intervention in increasing visa facilities for Bangladeshis to get job in Bangladeshi restaurants in that country.



Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP, along with his delegates, pays a courtesy call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

## DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY

## Implement 4-lane projects

## Demands CCCI

BSS, Chittagong

President of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Murshed Murad Ibrahim requested the authorities concerned for firm intervention and necessary actions in implementing four lane projects of Dhaka-Chittagong Highway and Karnaphuli River Dredging Project immediately.

In a statement, the CCCI president said Chittagong is the economic hub of the country and major portion of export-import goods are transported to different districts from here via Dhaka-Chittagong Highway.

He mentioned that 70 per cent work of the project of upgrading the highway into four lanes has already been completed, adding but the slow disbursement of the fund, shortage of soil at Chittagong-Feni portion and legal complication about the acquired land are delaying the process.

Ibrahim also urged that

the hindrances in accomplishing Karnaphuli River Dredging Project must be removed with prompt decision to turn the port into an international one.

He proposed that dredged soil can be used in filling up the Dhaka-Chittagong highway extension work.

He also sought earnest and active measures of the authorities concerned to enhance business activities in the district by accomplishing these two projects on priority basis.

## BCL hails Hasina

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of ruling Awami League (AL), yesterday congratulated Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina on receiving the honorary D. Litt degree from Tripura University on January 12.

Marking the event, BCL brought out a colorful procession on Dhaka University campus and held a rally before Aparajey Bangla with BCL President HM Badiuzzaman Sohag in the chair.

Sohag said Hasina struggled in the path to establishing democracy in the country for which she was conferred with the degree.

He said admission business in different universities of the country has stopped under Hasina's supervision and it is a great achievement for the country.