

## NEWS IN *brief*

### Nuclear engineering dept at DU launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new department, Nuclear Engineering, yesterday started its journey at Dhaka University to promote nuclear science education and create experts in the field of nuclear technology.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique, State Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman and Russian Ambassador Alexander A Nikolaeb inaugurated the department at the university's Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

Bangladesh government and Russian Rosatom State Nuclear Energy Corporation opened the very first department of its kind where 26 students have been enrolled in its post-graduation programme.

Nikolaeb said, "Russia will provide necessary

### Last IO to face court in Khalaf murder case tomorrow

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned the last investigation officer (IO) in the Saudi Embassy official Khalaf Al Ali murder case to share probe findings.

IO Mohammad Obaidul Haque, assistant superintendent of police of Detective Branch (DB), will have to appear before the court tomorrow.

Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 Judge Mohammad Motahar Hossain summoned the IO after completing cross-examination of DB Inspector Azizul Haque, the second IO of the case.

Khalaf was shot dead near his Gulshan residence

### UK envoy attends live radio programme today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robert Gibson, British high commissioner to Bangladesh, will attend a live programme on Radio Today at 2:15pm today to answer queries related to studying in the UK, said a press release.

Alongside, Rosemary Arnott, director of British Council, and Taslima Yasmin, a lecturer of Brac University and a Chevening scholar, will also answer queries of visitors on the Facebook page of the British High Commission and of listeners during the radio

### Reception marking Romanian National Day held

UNB, Dhaka

A reception marking the Romanian National Day was hosted by Honorary Consul of Romania in Bangladesh Enayetullah Khan at his Baridhara residence in the capital on Saturday evening.

Political leaders, high civil and military officials, and members of foreign diplomatic corps and the intelligen-

### One killed in workplace accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker was strangled early yesterday as the shawl he wore was twisted into the motor wheel of a deep tube-well to supply water to Royal Cement Company in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong.

The deceased, Imdadul Haq Shohel, 32, worked under a contractor, Omar Faruk, who took lease to provide water to the land of the company at Kumira.

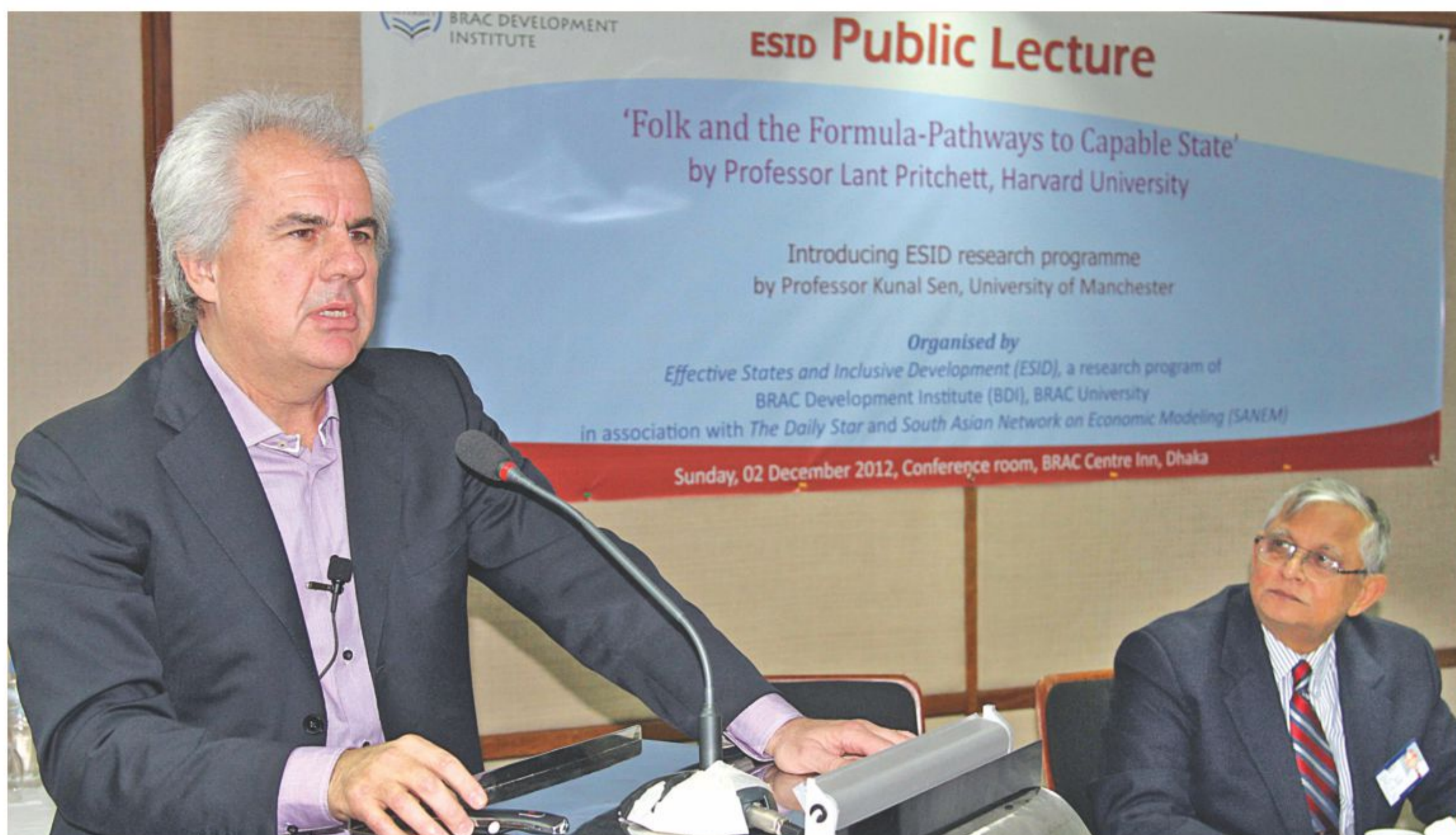
Police said when Shohel went to start the motor somehow his shawl fell on it and was twisted into the wheel. Later, he might have been strangled with the shawl.

### Anti-communal conference on Dec 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The anti-communal conference, which was scheduled to be held on December 8 in the capital's at Mohanagar Natya Mancha, will be held on December 13, said a press release.

Fifteen eminent citizens convened the conference protesting recent attacks on the Buddhist, Ahmadiyya and Hindu communities.



Prof Lant Pritchett of Harvard University gives a public lecture, "Folk and the Formula-Pathways to Capable State", at Brac Centre Inn in the capital yesterday. The programme was organised by Effective States and Inclusive Development, a research programme of Brac Development Institute under Brac University, in association with The Daily Star and South Asian Network on Economic Modeling.

PHOTO: STAR

## Institutional reforms a must for growth

Says Prof Kunal Sen of Manchester University

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miracle growth can take place in a country without properly functioning institutions, including effective courts, but to maintain a sustainable growth institutional reforms are a must, said Prof Kunal Sen of University of Manchester, UK yesterday.

Prof Lant Pritchett of Harvard University, USA said 80 percent of states in the world were still at low, stagnating or failing levels of capabilities.

The two were addressing a public lecture, "Evolution of State Capacity in a Challenging Governance Environment", at Brac Centre Inn in the capital.

Effective States and Inclusive Development, a research programme of Brac Development Institute under Brac University, in association with The Daily Star and South Asian Network on Economic Modeling jointly organised the lecture.

In his lecture, "Politics of Economic Growth", Prof Kunal said countries in growth stagnation would be characterised by a deals environment -- personalised relationships between individuals.

"Growth acceleration can take place when deals between political and economic elites move from being disordered to ordered," he added.

Prof Lant Pritchett, in his lecture, "Folk and the Formula-Pathways to Capable State", said development needs a state that can carry out its responsibilities -- formulating effective policies, delivering the mail, educating children, enforcing law and collecting taxes.

"But most developing countries are still failing or stagnating...the reality is that success in building state capability typically comes from a struggle to replace bad institutions with good, based on learning from experience-and not from imposing a rigid formula unsuited to local conditions," he added.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam moderated the programme.

Brac University Registrar Air Commodore (ret'd) Ishfaq Illahi Choudhury delivered inaugural address while eminent personalities including Prof Rehman Sobhan, Dr Akbar Ali Khan, and Prof Rawnak Jahan were present.

## BNP boycotts talks with EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition BNP yesterday boycotted electoral talks with the Election Commission as the issue of the caretaker government was not on the agenda.

The party was to attend the dialogues yesterday afternoon. It sent two letters to the EC on Thursday, refusing to participate in the discussions if the agenda did not include "provision of the interim government before the next general elections."

Jamaat-e-Islami, a key component of the BNP-led 18-party alliance, is set to boycott the talks today.

A number of other components of the alliance have already boycotted the dialogues.

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad termed BNP's boycott a political stratagem, adding the commission will consider the party's views on re-demarcation of the parliamentary constituencies if sent to it.

There is no problem arranging the dialogues again for the BNP, said Rakibuddin, while talking to reporters at the EC. "We will welcome the BNP if it wants to sit with the commission."

The discussions close on Wednesday, the day set for the Awami League and some other parties.

**TOKEN STRIKE**  
Meanwhile, reporters of the print and electronic media yesterday decided not to cover the ongoing dialogues in protest at Election Commissioner Mohammad Abdul Mobarak's misbehaviour with them.

They held a sit-in on the premises of the commission.

After the day's electoral talks on Saturday, Mobarak behaved rudely with reporters before the chief election commissioner and other officials of the commission.

### Implementation of CHT accord in a year: Gowher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Admitting that the government could not do "much" regarding materialising the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, prime minister's special adviser Gowher Rizvi yesterday said they are confident that the accord will be implemented within the next one year.

"The peace accord should have been implemented much earlier but there are some people in the government who wanted to go slow," Rizvi, the prime minister's foreign affairs adviser said at a policy dialogue.

"But this time none will be able to refrain us from implementing the accord as our bottom line is to implement it," he added.

Parliamentary Caucus on Indigenous Peoples organised the 3-day long dialogue titled "CHT accord: achievements lessons learnt and the way forward" at Dhaka University's Senate Bhaban.

Rizvi said mixed police [comprising of indigenous and plain land people] force will be formed for Chittagong Hill Tracts, which is a major way forward to implement the accord.

However, Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, chairman of CHT regional council said, confusion, disappointment and mistrust are prevailing in hill peoples' mind due to the government's inactiveness regarding implementing the CHT accord.



A World Bank team arrives at Anti-Corruption Commission's head office in the capital yesterday to hold a meeting on the anti-graft body's progress in investigations into the Padma bridge project corruption.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## 'No effort' to execute CHT peace accord

Discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Besides making vain promises, the current government has made no effort to implement the 1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord in the last four years, said speakers at a discussion in the capital yesterday.

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) organised the discussion, marking the peace accord's 15th anniversary, at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

PCJSS Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma said no marked progress in implementing the accord can be seen though it was an electoral pledge of the present Awami League-led government.

"After observing their programmes and their language for 15 years, we now realise that no government will implement the peace accord," said the PCJSS chairman.

Sanjib Drang, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said the prime minister insulted the indigenous population of Chittagong by publishing a special colour supplement in the national dailies on the occasion of the peace accord's 15th anniversary.

## Transfer of control to hill district councils sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission (CHTC) yesterday urged the government to immediately transfer control of remaining important issues, including law and order and land management, to councils of three hill districts as per the 1997 peace accord.

CHTC, in a statement issued by its co-chairs Eric Avebury, Sultana Kamal and Elsa Stamatopoulou, made the appeal marking the 15th anniversary of the CHT Peace Accord's signing, urging the government to implement the accord in full within its present tenure.

The government is yet to transfer control of issues like police (local), secondary education, youth welfare, environment, tourism (local), forests (except reserved forests), and preservation of statistics on birth and death, it said.

Recently functions of some government agencies, including the health engineering department, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, Cotton Development Board, Ramgarh Hatchery, and Government Shishu Shadan, were transferred.

AWARENESS ON 1971

## Musa's 25-day cycle journey starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Musa Ibrahim, the first Bangladeshi to conquer Everest, will embark on a 25-day journey across Bangladesh on a bicycle today to generate awareness among the youth about the Liberation War.

Twenty other cyclists will accompany Musa on the tour to 50 districts of the country that will commence from Shaheed Minar in the capital. Prothom Alo

Bandhushabha, Everest Academy, Cyclelife, IDLC and The Daily Star launched the cycle tour yesterday on the premises of Dhaka University's Teacher-Student Centre (TSC). Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice chancellor of Dhaka University, initiated the event by riding a bicycle alongside Musa, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and others.

"The main objective of this cycle tour is to spread the significance of the Liberation War among school and college students," said Prof Arefin Siddique, who was the chief guest at the event. "It is a matter of great pride that this tour is taking place in the month of our victory. We need to highlight the history of the Liberation War to the next generation," he added.

"As a nation, we are lazy. A cycle tour like this can awaken the nation and we need to take more initiatives like this," said Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, chairperson and director of Biswa Sahitya Kendra.

The adventurers will visit 10 educational institutions each day to encourage the youth to take an interest in Bangladesh's history.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Rokonuzzaman Khan



Dada Bhai, noted writer, journalist and founding director of

Kochi-Kanchar Mela. A milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at his residence in the capital.

## Ashraf Uddin

METRO DESK



Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, legal guardian of the family of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam in Bangladesh.

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, legal guardian of the family of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam in Bangladesh.

# WEATHER TODAY

### Light fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly Bcloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall slightly over north western part and may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:27am.**

Country's highest temperature 29.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 10.6 degrees at Dinajpur.

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

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.4	16.2	62	58
Chittagong	26.8	16.8	80	67
Rajshahi	27.9	12.3	67	71
Rangpur	27.0	14.0	88	78
Khulna	28.0	14.0	79	80
Barisal	27.4	13.5	85	89