

NEWS IN *brief*

Schoolgirl 'commits suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolgirl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan of her room in the capital's Rampura yesterday.
Alo Akhter, 10, was a third grader.
Fazlur Rahman, victim's uncle, said Alo's elder sister rebuked her and went for college.
Later, as Alo was not responding from her room, her parents broke open the door and found her hanging.
They rushed her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.
An unnatural death case has been filed with

Man shot in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants shot and injured a man in the capital's Pallabi yesterday.
Saiful Islam, 45, with a bullet wound at his thigh is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He, in-charge of printing section at a garment factory in pallabi, resides in Mirpur section-10.
Pallabi police said some five miscreants opened fire on Saiful near his house as he was on the way to his workplace.
Quoting Saiful's family, the police said Saiful was in a conflict with a woman over buying a flat and

Koica to give \$12.8 million grant for nurses' education

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) will provide a grant of \$12.8 million for the establishment of a national institute of advanced practice nurses in Bangladesh.
An agreement to this effect was signed in Dhaka on Sunday between Koica and Economic Relations Division (ERD), said an official press release.
Kim Bok-Hee, resident representative of Koica Bangladesh office, Asif-uz-Zaman, joint secretary of ERD and Niru Shamsun Nahar, joint chief of health and family welfare ministry, signed the

Jamaat leader Shafiqur on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Shafiqur Rahman, acting secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami, on a three-day remand in an arson case.
The case was filed against him for torching a vehicle in the capital's Motijheel area during a clash between Jamaat men and police on November 5 and for preventing police from discharging their duties then.
Seeking a 10-day remand of the Jamaat leader, Motijheel Police Station Sub-Inspector Mokarram Hossain produced Shafiqur before Metropolitan Magistrate Asaduzzaman Nur yesterday, who passed the remand order.



Two nuns give final touches to a nativity scene at Kakrail Catholic Church in the capital on Christmas Eve yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ACC sues ex-director of RMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday sued former director of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital Brig Gen (retd) Abdul Latif and seven others on charge of misappropriating Tk 2.13 crore in 2009-10 fiscal.
Other accused are Abu Kalam Azad, former deputy director of the RMCH; Matiur Rahman, proprietor of Rajshahi based Fahim Medical Ltd; Anisur Rahman, regional manager of Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd; MA Mannan, regional sales manager of The ACME Laboratories Ltd; Robiul Hossain, manager operations of Rajshahi depot of Renata Ltd; Shahidul Alam, senior regional manager of Jayson Pharmaceuticals Ltd; and Sheikh Mohammad Ali, regional sales manager of ACI Ltd.
ACC Deputy Director Manjur Morshed filed the case with Rajpara Police Station in Rajshahi city.
According to the case statement, the former RMCH director in connivance with the other accused embezzled Tk 2.13 crore out of Tk 5.70 crore fund for purchasing medicines.
The accused persons misappropriated the money by purchasing medicines from low-profile companies that offered the highest prices for the medicines and the accused persons avoided lowest bids of big companies.
The drug companies illegally withdrew their bids in the tender process making way for the RMCH to choose the highest bidder, Fahim Medical Ltd.

Foolproof security for ICT demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must ensure foolproof security for International Crimes Tribunals (ICT) and persons working with it to save the tribunals, demanded Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday.
The committee, also known as Forum for Secular Bangladesh & Trial of War Criminals of 1971, placed a five-point demand, including stern action against persons involved in leaking the Skype conversation of Justice Md Nizamul Huq.
On December 11, ICT-1 Chairman Justice Huq resigned amid controversy after Bangla daily Amar Desh published "transcript of Skype conversation" of Justice Huq with expatriate law expert Ahmed Ziauddin. The newspaper said it had collected the records of the conversation from a source abroad.
At a press conference in Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday, the committee Adviser Justice Syed Amirul Islam said

legal steps could be taken against persons involved in the hacking of Justice Huq's Skype account.
He said, according to Information and Technology Act-2006, a person found involved in hacking into someone's computer and then leaking personal information could be awarded 10 years' imprisonment or fined Tk 1 crore.
The committee Acting President Shahriar Kabir called upon the government to incorporate tougher penalties by amending existing laws so that none dares to hack into Skype or e-mail accounts.
The committee Vice-President Muntassir Mamoon called upon the government to include provisions of capital punishment in the act if hackers threatened the country's security.
"We are yet not certain if the Amar Desh authority itself was engaged in the hacking or got it from someone else. But getting or buying the Skype conversation is like buying a stolen material," he said.

OPPOSITION'S MASS CONTACT Khaleda to join 6 rallies in capital tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will address six roadside rallies during a daylong mass contact programme in the capital tomorrow as part of her movement for restoration of the caretaker government system to oversee the next parliamentary elections.
"Our programme will be peaceful. We have already received permission from the authorities concerned to hold the rallies. I hope the government will provide all out support in organising the programme peacefully," said BNP spokesman Tariqul Islam.
The BNP standing committee member was briefing journalists after a meeting, convened to review preparations for tomorrow, of secretaries-general of parties under the BNP-led 18-party alliance in BNP's central office in the capital's Nayapaltn.
Khaleda will start the programme by addressing a roadside rally in Gabtoli at 11:00am and then address rallies in Karwan Bazar, Dholaikhal, Jatrabari, Sabujbagh and Badda.
BNP, its city and local units, and its front and associate bodies have taken huge preparations to make the programme a success. Senior leaders of the alliance will also attend mass contact programmes in other cities.
Tariqul said after the programme, Khaleda will sit with the alliance leaders to finalise the next programme.

15-YEAR-OLD GIRL'S SUICIDE Schoolmate's two sisters sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed yesterday against two sisters of schoolboy Rony for pushing his schoolmate Sadia Akhter Pinky into committing suicide.
Threatened by the two with dire consequences if an abduction case against them was not withdrawn, 15-year-old Pinky took her life on Sunday at her grandmother's residence in the capital's Manda.
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday visited the residence and assured the family members of bringing to book the accused. The schoolgirl was buried in Sonargaon of Narayanganj yesterday after an autopsy at Dhaka Medical College (DMC), which confirmed that she committed suicide, said DMC sources.
A junior school certificate examinee at a Jatrabari school, Pinky was abducted by Rony on November 28.
Four days later, police rescued her from a house in Araihaazar of Narayanganj, and arrested Rony from the spot and later his sister Pakhi in an abduction case. Pakhi had attained bail. Pinky's father Babul Hossain told The Daily Star that his daughter took her life failing to stand humiliation and threat by Rony's sisters.



Some 500 staff of Urban Primary Health Care Project, funded by Asian Development Bank and run by Chittagong City Corporation, stage a demonstration on Nagar Bhaban premises in Chittagong city yesterday demanding payment of their due wages.

PHOTO: STAR

CCC health workers demand arrear wages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Staff of Urban Primary Health Care Project in the port city yesterday staged a demonstration before Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) building, demanding payment of their arrear wages.
Under the banner of "Nagar Shastho Kendro Karmakorta Karmachari Kallyan Parishad," around 500 workers of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) project, which was being operated by CCC since 2001, took part in the hour-long demonstration from 10:30am.
The workers said they did not get any salary since September this year and were apprehensive about the future of the project and their jobs.
The project tenure ended in June this year, following which ADB extended the tenure till December 31.
Meanwhile, CCC Secretary Md Shamsuddoha told The Daily Star that the city corporation has decided to use its own funds to pay off the due salary of the project's staff in two phases in January and February respectively.
The decision came at a meeting called by CCC Mayor M Monjur Alam with the leaders of the Parishad following the demonstration.
Shamsuddoha said due to some problems in the extended period of the project, salary payments from ADB has been pending for three months.
CCC sources said if ADB does not provide fund for the next phase, the city corporation would run the project on its own.



Mild cold wave likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.
Thick fog may occur over the river basins and moderate to thick fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till noon, Met Office said.
Mild cold wave may continue over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Srimongal.
The sun sets in the capital today at 5:19pm and rises tomorrow at 6:39am.
Country's highest temperature 28.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 09.8 degrees at Srimongal.
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	22.2	12.7	87	83
Chittagong	24.2	13.2	98	80
Rajshahi	16.0	12.2	97	92
Rangpur	22.6	12.4	97	88
Khulna	20.5	11.8	100	96
Barisal	20.0	11.8	100	91

DHAKA TODAY

Reunion
Dhaka University Political Science Department Alumni Association will organise a reunion; Venue: Teacher-Student Centre, Dhaka University; Time: 9:00am.

Memorial
Mazharul Islam Foundation will hold a memorial programme marking Mazharul Islam's 89th birth anniversary; Venue: Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University; Time: 3:00pm.

Human chain
Muslim-Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Sampriti Parishad will form a human chain marking Christmas Day; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Exhibition
Bangladesh Computer Samity will inaugurate an exhibition, "BCS ICT World 2012"; Venue: Bangabandhu International

ডাঃ-বাংলা ব্যাংক-এর ১০২ কোটি টাকার বাৎসরিক শিক্ষাবৃত্তি

প্রধান অতিথি: জনাব আবুল মাল আবদুল মুহিত
মাননীয় মন্ত্রী
অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিশেষ অতিথি: জনাব গারবেন ডি জং
মাননীয় রাষ্ট্রদূত
কিংডম অফ নেদারল্যান্ড

ডাঃ-বাংলা ব্যাংক
আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী

আমাদের সম্ভানের মেধা বিকাশে

From left, Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) Managing Director KS Tabrez, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh Gerben de Jong, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhit, and DBBL Board of Directors Executive Committee Chairman Sayem Ahmed at a scholarship distribution ceremony organised by DBBL at Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium in the capital's Mirpur on Saturday. The bank awarded a total of Tk 30 crore worth scholarships to 2,030 meritorious and needy university level students in its sixth phase this year. PHOTO: DBBL