

NEWS IN *brief*

Four arrested with heroin and phensedyl in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) and police yesterday in separate drives arrested four people with contraband drugs in Chittagong city.

Rab-7 arrested Mushfiqur Rahman Mushfiq with 1.3kg of heroin in front of New Market in the city while Khulshi police arrested Wasim, Badal Hawladar and Anwar Hossain in Jhawtala as they found 500 bottles of phensedyl in their microbus.

Two cases were lodged with Kotwali Police Station and Khulshi Police Station against Mushfiq

Free medical camp held in Satkhira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two hundred and thirty-five people were provided treatment free of cost at a medical camp in Assasuni of Satkhira yesterday.

Shikhhacharya Shahabuddin Health Service Project, named after renowned educationist late Mohammad Shahabuddin, organised the day-long camp at Champafal APC High School.

A team of three physicians led by Associate Prof Dr MA Hasanat of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University gave the consultations and treatment.

Prof Abdul Aziz, coordinator of the project, and Shahidul Islam, headmaster of the school, guided

Shamim president, Quayyum general secretary of IEB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamim Z Bashunia and Miah Muhammad Quayyum were elected president and general secretary respectively of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) on Monday.

Shamim was supported by Awami League-backed panel Bangabandhu Prokashali Parishad while Quayyum was supported by pro-BNP and Jamaat panel, Association of Engineers Bangladesh (AEB).

The election was held for 2013 and 2014.

Among the 10 executive posts, AEB got six posts, including general secretary and two vice presidents, while Bangabandhu Parishad got three posts – one president, one vice president and one



Christians at a Christmas Day Mass at Tejgaon Church in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Christmas celebrated

UNB, Dhaka

Members of the Christian community in Bangladesh celebrated Christmas yesterday with much enthusiasm, festivity and religious fervour.

According to Christian belief, God entered the world of men through his son, Jesus Christ, on this day.

Christians offered special prayers in churches on the occasion as Christmas is one of the most important days of the year for them.

It was also a celebration of rebirth, a new beginning, forgiveness and peace as the New Year approaches. It was an occasion for the Christians to renew their relationship with God and fellow humans.

The celebrations started on the Christmas Eve with singing carols in public places like lobbies, restaurants and lounges.

The day's celebrations also included decoration of Christmas trees with colourful lights, distribution of gifts by Santa Claus to children, family gatherings, feasts and special church prayers.

Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar as well as private TV channels aired special programmes, while national dailies published supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and opposition leader Khaleda Zia greeted the Christian community and wished them all the best.

JS caucus on child rights launched

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary caucus on child rights was launched yesterday at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla in the capital.

It was launched with support from Centre for Services and Information on Disability, Child Rights Governance Assembly and Save the Children.

Even though individuals and organisations working with child rights cannot join the parliamentary decision making processes, they can be heard through the parliament caucus members, said social activist Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled.

Speakers said a parliamentary caucus dedicated to working for children's rights could bring necessary changes as members can ensure effective implementation of correct policies.

The parliament has an integral role in passing bills for the public's benefit, which will enable members to target child rights in the parliament and raise awareness on the subject and work for smooth child rights governance, said Prof Kazi Nazrul Islam of Dhaka University.

The caucus should also ensure that child rights initiatives are implemented at the correct place and time to ensure effectiveness, said speakers. Lawmaker Abdul Matin Khasru, among others, spoke at the event.

AL wants all parties to join next polls: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said ruling Awami League is not interested in participating alone in the next general elections.

"Awami League has no desire to score goals in an empty field. The government wants to ensure all parties' participation in the elections," he said while addressing as chief guest in the triennial conference of north district unit of Chittagong AL.

The conference was held at Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong centre.

The minister requested the main opposition BNP to attend the upcoming winter session of parliament and place their demand regarding the general elections.

Quader also said if the ruling party wants to win the next election, its activists should cordially behave with the general public.

Environment and Forests Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, among others, also spoke.



Prof Md Maniruzzaman Bhuiyan, second from left, principal of Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College, and Prof Dong Zie, second from right, dean of International School of Capital Medical University in China, sign a memorandum of understanding in Dhaka yesterday. The agreement aims to foster exchanges and cooperation in education and training between the two institutions.

PHOTO: COURTESY

WEATHER TODAY

Thick fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Cold weather over western, northern and central part of the country may continue today due to thick fog.

Weather is likely to remain 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 morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:19pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am.

Country's highest temperature 25.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 09.7 degrees at Srimangal.

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	21.0	13.0	76	67
Chittagong	19.5	13.2	99	86
Rajshahi	18.8	12.1	84	89
Rangpur	16.2	12.0	97	87
Khulna	20.0	12.0	94	89
Barisal	20.5	10.3	94	89

RMG workers clash with cops in Savar

20 hurt demanding wage arrears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 workers of a sweater factory were injured as they clashed with law enforcers blocking Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar on the outskirts of the capital demanding their arrears yesterday noon.

During the clash, chase and counter chase also occurred between police and the workers.

The police fired several rubber bullets and charged the agitators with batons.

Witnesses and locals said around 11:00am nearly 200 workers of BNS Sweater Ltd blocked the highway for more than an hour demanding their two months' arrears.

The traffic on the highway came to a halt following the demonstration, they said.

The authorities of the company kept the factory closed since December 15 due to lack of work order, said senior Superintendent of Police Ali Ahmed, also a deputy director of industrial police of Dhaka zone.

Police took the actions against the RMG workers as they did not entertain their request to clear the road, he said.

The injured were admitted to Savar Upazila Health Complex.

After the clash, the BNS authorities, however, announced to pay the workers' salaries on January 5, Ahmed added.