

NEWS IN *brief***Joynul president, Ashraful general secy of Buet teachers' assoc**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Joynul Abedin and Prof Ashraful Islam were elected president and general secretary respectively of the executive committee of Buet Teachers' Association for 2013, says a press release.

Other office bearers are Prof M Ehsan, vice president; Prof Arif Hasan Mamun, joint secretary; Prof Ataur Rahman, treasurer; Prof Farida Nilufar, literature and cultural secretary; and Shah Md Toufiqur Rahman, entertainment secretary.

The members are Prof Shahidul Hasan, Prof Sarwar Jahan, Prof Maksud Helali, Prof Abu Borhan, Md Badruzzaman, Prof AKM Aktar

JU concert today for speedy war crimes trial

JU CORRESPONDENT

Demanding speedy trial of war criminals, the Jahangirnagar University authorities will stage an open concert titled "Bangladesh Concert" at Selim Al Deen Mukta Mancha on the campus at around 5:30pm today.

Marking the Victory Day, JU Students Welfare and Counseling Centre will organise the event to overcome all-out conspiracy to foil the trial.

JU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Anwar Hossain will address the function as chief guest.

Celebrity singer of Swadheen Bangla Betar Kendra during the Liberation War in 1971 Bulbul Mahalanabish, Timir Nandini, Bipol Bhattacharya and the singers of JU cultural organisation will render spiritual songs at the function.

Prof Nazrul chosen for Sheltech Award

METRO DESK



Prof Nazrul Islam, former chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), and current chairman of Centre for Urban Studies, have been nominated for Sheltech Award 2012.

The award money of Tk 2 lakh along with a crest will formally be handed over to the recipient on March 12, 2013, on the occasion of the 25th founding anniversary of Sheltech (Pvt) Ltd, a leading real estate company, said a press release.

ULESA gets new executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Naeem Ahmed Khan and Anisur Rahman Sarkar Litu have been selected president and general secretary respectively of University Laboratory Ex-Student Association (ULESA).

The other members of the 21-member executive council are -- Naser Iqbal Jadu, first vice-president; Ahsanuzzaman Thakur Swapan, first joint secretary; Ajmal Hossain Lalim, publicity and publication secretary; Hafizul Haq Rubel, treasurer; and Sagar Lohani, cultural secretary, said a

British High Commission, DFID closed tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The British High Commission in Dhaka, its office in Sylhet, and DFID Bangladesh will remain closed to the public tomorrow [January 1] on the occasion of New Year's Day.

The offices will reopen on Wednesday [January 2, 2013], said a press release.

WEATHER TODAY

Cold wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

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, said Met Office.

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet and Dhaka divisions and northern part of Chittagong division may continue.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:22pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

Country's highest temperature 26.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Feni and lowest 05.7 degrees at Sitakunda.

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	21.6	09.6	90	81
Chittagong	22.6	09.9	97	66
Rajshahi	23.5	07.5	100	89
Rangpur	22.2	08.5	99	85
Khulna	23.5	10.5	100	79
Barisal	21.8	09.3	100	84



This oil tanker, MT Nasihat, spilled some 500 litres of diesel and kerosene into the Karnaphuli river early yesterday after an impact with a jetty of Chittagong Boat Club near the estuary left a hole in the tanker.

PHOTO: STAR

Tight security for New Year's eve

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tight security will be in force in the capital on the New Year's eve today.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) authorities yesterday requested residents of Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara and Dhaka University to return home by 7:00pm today to avert untoward incidents and maintain law and order during the New Year celebrations.

The DMP also discouraged people, who are not residents of those areas, from visiting those areas during the 31st night.

Besides, huge contingent of additional forces from police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) would be deployed at the capital's posh and diplomatic areas, said DMP sources.

They said law enforcers would patrol strategic places of the city and check posts would be installed and mobile courts would be active during the 31st night.

DMP officials said no gatherings or rallies would be allowed at any intersection or on any flyover during the 31st night.

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT For security and maintenance of law and

order situation, DMP authorities will impose restriction on traffic on specific roads of the capital.

According to DMP officials, from 7:00pm today to 5:00am the following day, vehicles would only be allowed to enter Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara areas using Kemal Ataturk Avenue.

The crossings at Phoenix Road of Tejgaon Industrial Area, Road-11 in Banani, Chairman Bari, Amoli, Shooting Club, Badda Link, DOHS and Notun Bazar cannot be used to enter Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara areas but the roads can be used as exits.

Accordingly, all crossings to enter Dhaka University would remain closed during the stipulated time. However, the route from the High Court to Palashi via Dowel Chattar, Shahid Minar and Jagannath Hall would be open.

Rab officials said around 5,000 additional Rab personnel would remain vigilant during the New Year celebration programme. Of them, 2,000 would remain deployed in the capital and the rest across the country.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL**Freedom fighters vow to continue movement**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters yesterday vowed to continue their movement against the "conspiracy to foil" the ongoing war crimes trial until the trial's completion.

They also demanded verdict of at least one of the cases pending with the International Crimes Tribunals before the next Independence Day on March 26 and ban of politics of Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Nine Jamaat and BNP leaders are currently facing charges of crimes against humanity at the two tribunals.

Freedom fighters made the demands at a human chain formed outside the International Crimes Tribunal in the old High Court building.

Bangladesh Mukti Jodha Sangsad formed the human chain and also brought out a procession as a part of their month-long programme to expedite the ongoing trial.

"Bangladesh Mukti Jodha Sangsad will continue its movement until the execution of verdicts of the war crimes cases," said Emdad Hossain Matin, secretary general (administration) of the sangsad.

Anwar Hossain Pahari Bir Pratik, organising secretary of the sangsad, said Jamaat and Shibir men are "conspiring to foil and delay" the war crimes trial but freedom fighters would continue their movement to thwart their [Jamaat] plans.

Later, they brought out a procession, which ended at Jatiya Press Club, to press home their demands.

JATIYA PRESS CLUB Sabuj re-elected president, Abdal general secretary UNB, Dhaka

Kamal Uddin Sabuj and Syed Abdal Ahmed have been re-elected president and general secretary of Jatiya Press Club for 2013-14 term.

The biennial election to the management committee of the club was held yesterday.

Sabuj bagged 386 votes while his nearest rival

Syed Akther Yusuf polled 176. Syed Abdal Ahmed got 356 votes while Abdur Rahman Khan bagged 193.

The other elected office-bearers are Kazi Rawnak Hosain, senior vice-president; Bakhtiar Rana, vice-president; Kader Gani Chowdhury and Farida Yasmin, joint secretaries; and Badiul Alam, treasurer.

The committee's 10 members are Parvin Sultan Musa Jhuma, Md Nurul Huda, Hasan Hafiz, Nuruddin Ahmed, Farid Hossain, Shamsuddin Ahmed Charu, Nurul Hasan Khan, Shanta Maria, Mainul Alam and Saiful Islam Shamim.

Abu Jafar M Iqbal was the chairman of Election Committee, Jatiya Press Club.

33 Tahrir men on 3-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent 33 members of banned Islamist outfit Hizb ut Tahrir on a three-day remand each in connection with a case filed under the anti-terrorism act.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Saifur Rahman passed the order after Sub-Inspector Masud Rana of Shahbagh Police Station and the investigation officer of the case, produced them before the court with a seven-day remand prayer.

Law enforcers on Saturday arrested them following a clash with them in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

During the clash, police fired rubber bullets and tear gas and charged batons to break up the Tahrir men, who retaliated with exploding handmade bombs and throwing brick chips.

The skirmish left at least 10 people including several pedestrians and police injured.

Around 200 members of the group brought out a procession before the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) building (opposite the Jatiya Press Club) on Topkhana Road on Saturday noon.



A child goes through objects being showcased for sale at the end of a three-day "Jatiya Utsab" in Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

LEFT PARTIES' NO TO POWER PRICE HIKE**25 protesters hurt in police action near Secretariat**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 25 leaders and activists of left-leaning parties sustained injuries, one allegedly from gunshot, yesterday when police charged truncheon and fired teargas to foil their attempt to lay siege to the power, energy and mineral resources ministry.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bangladeshi Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) and Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, an alliance of some left-leaning parties, on Saturday declared to lay the siege in protest of the government initiative to hike power prices.

Saikat Mallik, general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, was

admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition after sustaining bullet injuries to his leg, claimed the morcha leaders.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner (AC) (Ramma zone) Shibli Noman said police fired no gunshot during the incident.

Witnesses said a procession of the morcha from before Jatiya Press Club around 11:00am was stopped at a police barricade before a gate of Bangladesh Secretariat, on the press club's eastern side.

At one point, police launched the attack and the activists retaliated by pelting brick chips. The clashes forced CPB and BSD to relocate their demonstration from before the press club.

The morcha Coordinator Junaid Saki declared to stage demonstrations before the press club and around the country tomorrow afternoon. They will go for tougher agitation programmes like hartal if the government did not retract its decision, he said.

CPB and BSD also announced to stage demonstrations today afternoon before the press club.

The police assistant commissioner said police wanted to help in observing a peaceful programme but the activists broke the police barricade. "We dispersed them for the sake of the secretariat's security."