

NEWS IN *brief*

Binod Bihari's birthday celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Anti-colonial revolutionary Binod Bihari Chowdhury's 103rd birthday was celebrated in Chittagong yesterday.

On the occasion, the anti-British movement veteran was accorded floral reception by different clubs and socio-cultural and political organisations.

Individuals, well wishers and students from different institutes gathered at Biplab Kutir, the residence of the veteran revolutionary in city's Momin Road area, to greet Binod Bihari Chowdhury.

Indian Assistant High Commissioner in Chittagong Somnath Ghosh handed him over a Nazrul Sankalan (compilation of Nazrul's works). Abul Momen, resident editor of the daily Prothom Alo, and Nurul Islam, MP, also paid respects to him.

Benapole C&F agents go on indefinite strike tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association yesterday declared an indefinite work abstinence at Benapole Customs House from tomorrow, protesting seizure of goods by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Al Haj Shamsur Rahman, president of Benapole C&F Agents Association, said around eight BGB personnel on Wednesday seized fish worth Tk 10 lakh from the Benapole port even though it had valid documents.

They will continue the strike unless the BGB compensate them and transfer Maj Feroz Wahid, operational officer of BGB 26 Battalion, he said.

Prof Fayequzzaman made KU VC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Prof Fayequzzaman yesterday took charge of Khulna University (KU) as its new vice-chancellor for the next four years.

President Zillur Rahman, also chancellor of KU, appointed Prof Fayequzzaman as the new VC.

Prof Fayequzzaman has served KU as its pro-VC from November 28, 2010, until yesterday. Before joining KU as the pro-VC, he served as a professor of Islamic History and Cultural Department of Rajshahi University.

On November 1, last year, he was also given the additional charges of VC.

**BISHWAJIT MURDER
JnU expels 3 more, cancels certificate of another**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jagannath University (JnU) authorities yesterday expelled three students and cancelled the certificate of a former student for their involvement in the murder of Bishwajit Das during the opposition's roadblock on December 9.

The decision was taken on the basis of JnU's investigations. With yesterday's decision, a total of three former students had their certificates cancelled while 10 students were expelled.

Those who were penalised are activists of pro-Awami League student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League. Photographs of the brutal murder were published in almost all dailies while the video footage was aired in television channels.

The one whose certificate was cancelled is Khandaker Mohammad Unus Ali, son of Yaqub Ali and a student of the sociology department in the 2002-03 session, said JnU's Information and Publication Department.

The three who were expelled are Azizur Rahman of philosophy department's 2006-07 session; Rafiqul Islam of political science department's 2008-09 session; and HM Kibria of psychology department's 2006-07 session.

Those expelled are Mohammad Kaiyum Miah alias Tipu, Rajon Talukder, Saiful Islam, GM Rasheduzzaman alias Shaon, Rafiqul Islam alias Shakil, Meer Nur-e-Alam and Obaidul Kader.

Those whose certificates were cancelled are Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman alias Nahid and Imdadul Huq.



Artists of Shadhona perform during a seminar organised by One Billion Rising Bangladesh at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Continue movement to end violence against women

Urges The Vagina Monologues author Eve Ensler

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tony Award-winning playwright and prominent activist Eve Ensler yesterday encouraged national activists and youth leaders in Bangladesh to continue and strengthen their movement to end violence against women.

In a seminar organised by One Billion Rising (OBR) Bangladesh in the capital's Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Ensler termed violence against women a global problem and the most atrocious human rights violation.

"We tend to think of violence against women as something particular to a country, culture, religion...as something local. But it's not. It happens everywhere because patriarchy exists everywhere, albeit in different forms," she said.

Ensler authored the celebrated play, The Vagina Monologues, which tells through humour and honesty true stories of women's experiences regarding their bodies and sexuality.

Her experiences performing the play inspired her to create Vday in 1998, a global activist movement that supports anti-violence organisations around the world, said Ensler.



Eve Ensler performs her latest unpublished piece "Rising".

On the 15th anniversary of Vday, Ensler initiated the One Billion Rising (OBR) campaign, with a call for at least one billion people to walk out, rise up and demand an end to violence against women and girls worldwide on February 14, 2013.

"OBR is what you make of it," explained Ensler, adding that every community, group and country was defining the nature and form of resistance of the campaign in its own way.

Over 182 countries have pledged to rise in solidarity with the global movement. In Bangladesh, the campaign, called "Uddomey Uttoroney Shotokoti", will be carried out in collaboration with different stakeholders.

Ensler congratulated the local activists and hoped that Bangladesh would set an example for the rest of the world. "There is a rising happening across the planet," said Ensler, highlighting the recent movement in India following the gang rape and death of a girl in Delhi.

"The good women and men understand that the time is here that women start to live in security, without fear and oppression," she said.

"February 14 is not the end, but the beginning, a turning point," said veteran women's rights activist Khushi Kabir.

Dialogues were held at the seminar with young women sharing personal stories of violence and suggesting ways to take the movement forward.

In the evening, a cultural show featuring music, dance and performances by Vday Dhaka, Nagorik, Shadhona, and OBR Bangladesh team was held.

The performances include monologues based on Bangladeshi women's experiences and reading out translated excerpts of Ensler's latest book "I Am An Emotional Creature: The Secret Life of Girls Around The World".

\$130m loan signed with World Bank to bring back dropouts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday signed a US\$130 million loan agreement with The World Bank for the Second Reaching out of School Children Project II, with the aim to bring back to school 720,000 dropouts.

The project will continue to support the government's efforts to achieve the country's "Education for All" goal, which includes children from poor and disadvantaged families who were forced to dropout or miss school at the right age due to poverty.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Md Abul Kalam Azad and World Bank Country Director Ellen Goldstein signed the agreement on behalf of the two parties in the ERD conference room in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

The project will provide stipends to the students and grants to the Learning Centres known as Ananda Schools (School of Joy) for underprivileged children. It will cover 148 remote or poor upazilas and help these children complete primary education in the Ananda schools and move on to formal secondary education.

"The project will also move into urban areas for the first time to provide educational opportunities to children living in slums, and information technology will be applied to strengthen social accountability and service delivery," Ellen Goldstein said.

DHAKA TODAY

Views exchange meeting
National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports will organise a views exchange meeting; Venue: Mukti Bhaban, Purana Palta; Time: 11:00am.

Reception
Quantum Foundation will accord reception to those voluntarily donated blood; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Human chain
South Asian Lawyers' Forum will form a human chain protesting violence against women; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Parishad will hold a discussion on the occasion of Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day; Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha; Time: 10:30am.

Human chain
Nadi Sangskar, Pani Shasan o Byabhar Unnayan Parishad-Bangladesh will form a human chain demanding renovation of

WEATHER TODAY

Cold wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary or 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.

Severe cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh, Sitakunda, Rangamati, Comilla, Srirangal, Jessore and Kushtia and moderate cold wave is sweeping elsewhere over the country may continue.

Night and day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:30pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am.

Country's highest temperature 22.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 03.0 degrees at Sayedpur.

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	18.2	07.6	92	79
Chittagong	19.2	09.0	90	62
Rajshahi	18.4	04.8	98	79
Rangpur	16.4	03.5	97	88
Khulna	21.0	07.6	100	78
Barisal	20.0	06.5	100	80

Justice Nizamul back to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A month after his resignation from the post of International Crimes Tribunal-1 chairman, Justice Md Nizamul Huq yesterday joined his office as a High Court judge.

Supreme Court sources said Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain on January 9 formed a single-member bench of the High Court with Justice Nizamul Huq for hearing and disposing of civil cases.

After his resignation from the post of ICT-1 chairman, Justice Huq was on leave as High Court judge till January 9, according to the sources.

He resigned as chairman of ICT-1 on December 11 last year amid controversy over his Skype conversation with a Bangladeshi expatriate legal expert Ahmed Ziauddin about the tribunal proceedings.

After Justice Huq sat in the High Court bench at around 11:00am yesterday for discharging judicial functions, a lawyer accorded him with new-year greetings, court sources said.

The former ICT-1 chairman told the lawyers present in the courtroom that everything felt new in the High Court as he started discharging judicial functions in this court after about three years of his appointment as chairman of ICT-1.

Justice Huq was appointed as chairman of ICT-1 on March 25, 2010 for holding trials of those accused of 1971 war crimes.

Tributes paid to Nirmal Sen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation paid its last tributes to veteran journalist and left politician Nirmal Sen on Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital yesterday.

Nirmal died at LabAid Hospital in the capital on January 8 due to old age complications. He was 82.

Political, cultural and media personalities, journalists and people from all walks of life paid their last respects to Nirmal at the programme, organised by Gonotantrik Biplobi Party, of which he was the president.

The tributes started pouring in from 11:00am, first by the private secretary of the president, on behalf of him, followed by Nirmal's family.

On behalf of Awami League, senior leaders Mohammad Nasim, Dr Abdur Razzak and Qamrul Islam placed wreaths on the coffin.

BNP city unit Convener Sadek

Hossain Khoka placed a wreath on the coffin on behalf of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim, Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, and AL leader Suranjit Sengupta also paid their last respects.

The organisations including Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra, Samajtantrik Nagorik Oikya, Biplobi Nari Forum, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Dhaka University Teachers' Association, Samaj Chinta Forum, and Nijera Kori also paid tributes.

A police contingent led by a Dhaka district executive magistrate provided a guard of honour to the freedom fighter.

Afterwards around 1:00pm,



Nirmal's family handed over the body to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for research purposes, as per his last wish.

Earlier around 9:00am, the body was taken to Gonotantrik Biplobi Party office in Topkhana from LabAid Hospital's mortuary.

It was then taken to Jatiya Press Club for members of the press club, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of Journalists, Dhaka Reporters' Unity, Dhaka Sub-editors' Council and Press Club Employees' Union to pay tributes.



People from all walks of life pay their last tributes to veteran journalist and left politician Nirmal Sen on Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**CTG-12 BY-POLLS
Jalal out of contest as SC stays HC order**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Independent candidate Jalal Uddin Ahmed cannot contest the January 17 Chittagong-12 by-polls as the Supreme Court yesterday stayed the High Court order that directed the Election Commission to allow him to contest the polls.

The six-member bench of the Appellate Division of SC headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain passed the order after hearing a petition filed by the EC on Wednesday seeking stay on the HC order.

The HC on January 7, following a writ petition filed by Jalal, directed the EC to allow him to contest the by-polls.

Jalal filed the petition on January 2 challenging the EC's December 27, 2012 order that rejected his nomination paper and cancelled his candidature.

The by-election's returning officer on December 23 cancelled Jalal's nomination papers stating that Jalal had failed to submit signatures of one percent of voters of the constituency as required by the Representation of the People Order.

The Jatiya Sangsad seat (Chittagong-12) fell vacant following the death of Awami League lawmaker Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu on November 4, 2012.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq appeared for Jalal.