

NEWS IN *brief*

**Dhaka second in UNDP poverty reduction story contest**

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Bangladesh has stood second in an annual UNDP competition for story that highlights the success of the country's poverty alleviation efforts with a specific focus on the contributions that destitute women have made to the economy.

Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York Abulkalam Abdul Momen received the award from UNDP Administrator Helen Clark on Monday.

Sixty-six countries submitted more than 120 stories for the competition. Bangladesh's submission highlights the struggles and triumphs of Shyamola Begum of Korail slum in Dhaka, as she found her feet after being abandoned

**Dr Atia gets award for role in nuclear medicine**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Dr Atia H Jehan has received a lifetime achievement award from the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Bangladesh, for her contribution to development and promotion of nuclear medicine in the country. State Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman handed over the award to Atia at a hotel in the capital on January 25.

Atia, former director of Centre for Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound under the BAEC where she served for 24 years, was awarded International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) fellowship from Hahnemann University Hospital, USA, in nuclear

**Indo-Bangla poets meet Sunday**

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**  
India-Bangladesh Poets Meet, organised by Indira Gandhi Culture Centre in Dhaka and Jatiya Kabita Parishad Bangladesh, will be held at Dhaka University at 5:00pm on Sunday to celebrate International Mother Language Day, said a press

**5 get life term for Milton murder**

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**  
A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced five people to life term rigorous imprisonment for killing Abdul Baqui Milton, a cable operator, in November 2011 in the capital over land dispute. The convicts are Abul Kashem, Saiful Haque Mamun, Badrul Alam Sajal, Gias Uddin Montu and



A procession of men folk protesting violence against women was brought out from the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**BID TO SAVE WOMEN Memo sent to JS Speaker**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Rights activists and civil society members yesterday forwarded a memorandum to Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Abdul Hamid demanding an end to violence against women.

The statement, containing a three-point demand, called on law enforcers to play a more active role in ensuring safety for women, quick arrest and punishment for sexual abusers, and a more efficient role of the government in this effort.

Earlier Prothom Alo Trust organised a procession, participated mostly by males, to protest violence against women. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Acid Survivors Foundation, World University and Activista, individuals from all walks of life joined it.

**PM asks airports to prevent intruders**

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to check the entry of unwarranted people into the country and to be careful so that no-one falls victim to harassment at airports.

She also directed them to ensure safety of air passengers as well as their smooth and hassle-free journey.

The prime minister said this at the inaugural ceremony of the upgradation project of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital.

Hasina said the quality of services of the civil aviation should rise to international standard as Bangladesh could bridge the East and the West.

"The country's geographical position can be used as the bridge between the East and West. We need to utilise that opportunity. This will be helpful in uplifting the socioeconomic status of the country."

Hasina said the airport would be upgraded further on completion of the taxiway strengthening project with fund from the Danish government.

Terming airports as the mirror of a country, the premier said foreigners could see and get ideas about the country through the airports.

Hasina said the importance of air transport was increasing globally as the fastest and safest mode of travel.

Various economic activities, including export-import and tourism, can be boosted if the airports are equipped with adequate and modern facilities, she said.

According to official data, now the airport's taxiway and its lighting will be rehabilitated at a cost of 311 million Danish krone (Tk 445 crore) to be provided by Danish International Development Agency (Danida) as grant. The government will bear around Tk 85 crore in duty and taxes on imports of equipment.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) under the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry are implementing the project, "Upgradation of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport".

**Follow DAP Rajuk urges govt agencies**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Rajuk has urged all government, semi-government and local government bodies within its jurisdiction to follow the detailed area plan (DAP) for building a healthy and planned Dhaka city.

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakhha (Rajuk) in a press release, signed by its secretary, yesterday said DAP is the final component of Dhaka's master plan.

It covers a 1,528-square kilometre area stretching up to Gazipur municipality on the north, Dhaleshwari river on the south, Bangshi and Dhaleshwari rivers on the west and Shitalakshya and Meghna rivers on the east.

The DAP comprises of Dhaka City Corporation area, Narayanganj, Sonargaon, Kadam Rasul, Siddhirganj, Tarabo, Savar, Tongi, Gazipur, Savar EPZ, Keraniganj, Jinjira and parts of Rugganj and Kaliganj upazilas.

The objectives of DAP include a planned city with designated land use, conservation of environment, wetlands and open spaces, and planned communications.

DAP was reviewed by high-profile expert committee, approved by various technical committees and Rajuk board, and finally published in the government gazette in June 2010.

Its implementation is vital for saving Dhaka from natural and environmental disasters.

Asked why Rajuk came up with such explanation, its town planning director KZH Taufique said it was to address the questions recently raised by some quarters on DAP's legitimacy.

**Explain policy to stop private coaching: HC**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The High Court yesterday asked the government to explain in four weeks why its policy to stop "coaching business" should not be declared illegal.

The government on June 20 last year announced a policy to stop the "coaching business" of teachers by preventing them from giving private tuition to students of their own institutions.

The "Policy-2012" also prohibits teachers of government and non-government schools, colleges and madrasas from giving private tuition during school hours.

Yesterday, a HC bench came up with the order after a writ petition filed by five guardians of students.

Secretaries concerned to the Prime Minister's Secretariat, parliament, and cabinet and the ministries of education and law have been made respondents to the rule.

**Bangladesh elected vice chair of UN commission**

**BSS, Dhaka**  
Bangladesh has been elected the vice chair of the United Nations Peace Building Commission (UNPBC) after a one-year successful term as the commission's chair. Croatia has replaced Bangladesh as the chair of the commission on January 28, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

**RELEASE OF LEADERS BNP threatens to paralyse Dhaka city**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The BNP yesterday threatened to paralyse people's life in the capital if the government does not free its leaders, including Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

"...today we want to warn the government that we will disrupt people's life in the city if our leaders are not freed soon," BNP vice-chairman Sadeque Hosain Khoka told a rally in front of BNP head office at Nayapaltan, organised by Dhaka city BNP.

A Dhaka court for the sixth time yesterday deferred until March 10 the hearing on charge framing against Alamgir, arrested on December 11 last year, in a blast case. BNP coordinator Tariqul Islam said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wanted to create anarchy with an aim to holding a one-sided parliamentary election to go to power again.

"Like autocratic rulers, Hasina is repeatedly saying the next polls must be held under her government. An evil ghost of one-party spirit has descended on her [Hasina]. But we will drive it away through tough movement so that she is compelled to accept the caretaker government system," he added.



Two city buses set afire by Jamaat-Shibir men near Jagannath University in Old Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

**SHINDE MEETS DIPU MONI India reaffirms to bring border killing to zero**

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Indian Home Minister Shushilkumar Shinde yesterday reiterated that the Indian side was committed to bring the number of border killings to zero.

He was talking to Foreign Minister Dipu Moni when he called on her at her office yesterday. Shinde also assured that the Indian government would continue their efforts in this regard.

During the meeting, the foreign minister raised the issue of border management particularly the issue of killing of Bangladesh nationals along the border by the BSF, said a press release.

She noted that though there was commitment at the highest level on bringing the number of killings to zero, recurrence of incidents of violence at the border continued to be a matter of concern for the people.

Dipu Moni also mentioned the pending issue of ratification of the Land Boundary Agreement 1974 and its protocol signed in 2011 and hoped that the Indian side would take necessary measures so that the two instruments could be implemented in full and the long pending issue could be laid to rest.

She also expressed hope that other pending issues, including the signing of the agreement on sharing of the waters of Teesta would be resolved quickly.

The ministers recalled the existing excellent relations between the two countries and expressed satisfaction that the various mechanisms set up to coordinate and follow up on various issues were working smoothly to resolve issues of mutual interest.

Shinde left Dhaka yesterday ending his two-day visit.

**State depriving Harijans of rights Says NHRC chief**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The downtrodden Harijans are being deprived of basic rights by the state organs, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chief said yesterday.

"We are all guilty...because this community, which has been serving us for decades, is leading their lives without due rights," Prof Mizanur Rahman told reporters after visiting the capital's Ganoktuli and Mironjilla Harijan colonies. "It is absolutely unacceptable and this situation must change," he said.

The NHRC chairman urged the government to take effective measures to improve the community's accommodation, health and education facilities.

When told of the Harijans' miserable living conditions, Prof Mizanur said, "We will try to do everything for addressing the problems you (harijans) have, even by drawing the attention of the prime minister."

Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad Secretary General Nirmal Chandra Das demanded permanent housing, education, and job facilities for the community. Currently, 13 lakh Harijans live in Dhaka city.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Discussion**  
Gono Sangeet Samannaya Parishad will hold a discussion on war crimes trial; Venue: Public Library; Time: 4:00pm.

**Seminar**  
Disabled Rehabilitation & Research Association will organise a national seminar on maternal health; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 11:00am.

**Human chain**  
Bangladesh Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad will form a human chain demanding constitutional recognition of indigenous people; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

**Rally**  
Bangladesh Chhatra League will stage a rally demanding cancellation of

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Mild 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. Moderate fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, said Met Office. Mild cold wave is sweeping over Rangpur division and the regions of Tangail, Faridpur, Comilla, Srimangal, Rajshahi, Pabna, Satkhira, Jessore and Kustia and it may continue. Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:44pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am. Country's highest temperature 29.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 07.3 degrees at Chuadanga. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.0	13.6	74	55
Chittagong	25.8	12.4	82	64
Rajshahi	25.4	08.3	84	60
Rangpur	24.0	10.0	90	69
Khulna	26.0	11.2	67	56
Barisal	25.5	10.5	90	73
Sylhet	29.2	13.0	66	49
Cox's Bazar	26.5	13.4	82	67