

DHAKA TODAY

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American thriller titled 'The Usual Suspects'. Venue: 21/ C, Jigatola. Time: 6.00pm.

DU seminar

An international seminar on 'Cao-Dai Religion of Vietnam' will be held with Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof SMA Faiz as chief guest. Scholars from Australia, Canada and Vietnam will take part in the discussion. Venue: Department of World Religion, Dhaka University. Time: 9.15am.

IEB seminar

The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), organises a seminar on 'MBA in Technology Management'. Venue: IEB seminar room, Ramna. Time: 5.00pm.

Discussion

Youth and Social Development Organisation will hold a discussion on 'Independence Day' and a reception for youth delegates from the UK and Scotland. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 5.30pm.

Inauguration

The inauguration of the country's first ever Ramp Coach Service, to be introduced by the BRTC, will be held with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: BRTC Bus Depot, Khilkhet. Time: 10.00am.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Mo'jum Jananeta', organised by Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani Parishad, will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

Seminar on children

The inaugural ceremony of a seminar on 'Rehabilitation of Working Children in Asia' will be held with Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9.30am.

Roundtable

Council for National Agenda organises a roundtable on 'Pro-East Foreign Policy of Bangladesh: Recent Perspective'. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 3.00pm.

Annual conference

The annual conference of the Department of Public Works will be held with Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas as chief guest. Venue: Purta Bhaban, Segunbagicha. Time: 10.00am.

Rotary meeting

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhanmondi Dhaka will be held with a special discussion on 'Experiences in recent Hajj'. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

Anti-war rally

Anti War Movement organises a protest rally against the possible US attack on Iraq. Venue: Muktagong, Ramna. Time: 3.00pm.

Hasina condemns Bagerhat incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has condemned Sunday's murder and rape of minorities at Komorpur village in Bagerhat.

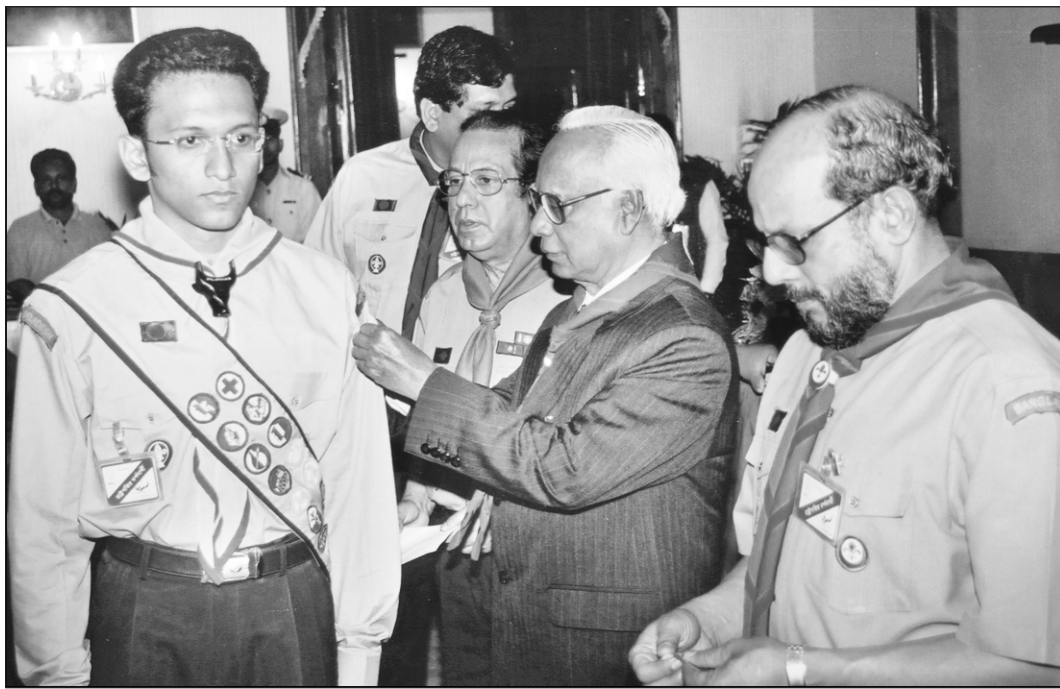
In a statement on Monday, Hasina termed the brutal act "a terrible crime against humanity".

"The seed of hatred and torture of minorities as well as opposition activists that was sown by the four-party alliance after coming to power have now grown into a poisonous tree," she said.

Hasina said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government through its inhuman torture and repression on the opposition and minorities has tarnished Bangladesh's liberal and non-communal image abroad.

"The incident in Bagerhat has saddened and shamed the entire country," she said and demanded immediate arrest and trial of those responsible for the attack on the Hindu family.

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikka Parishad, Bangladesh Christian Association, Citizens' Voice: Security and Human Rights, Ain O Shalish Kendro (ASK), Shammilito Shamajik Andolon (Combined Social Movement), Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities, and The House Tutors of the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University also condemned the Bagerhat incident.



President Iajuddin Ahmed adorns a Scout with badge at the President's Scout and Rover Scout Award ceremony at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

Aussies survive Bond blows

FROM PAGE 1

their own to send New Zealand tumbling to 112 all out and a 96-run defeat.

The win was Australia's eighth in succession in the World Cup and their fourteenth in a row in all one-day international cricket, extending their world record run.

It left New Zealand uncertain of qualifying for the semifinals and looking for a victory in their last Super Six match against India at Centurion on Friday.

Australia, who have already qualified for the last four, play Kenya in their last Super Six match at Durban on Saturday before returning to the St George's Park for the first semifinal on March 18.

Michael Bevan and Andy Bichel, who shared a match-winning unbeaten ninth wicket stand of 73 in a pool match against England on the same ground, were again their team's saviours, putting on 97 for the eighth wicket.

Then Glenn McGrath took three wickets in a deadly opening spell at the start of the New Zealand innings before Brett Lee produced an electrifying burst of fast bowling to seal New Zealand's fate.

Lee dismissed New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming, who was sixth man out for 48, before slicing into the Kiwi tail, taking three wickets in four balls and finishing with five for 42.

He took all his five wickets in the space of 15 deliveries. McGrath took three for 29.

Bond, 27, more than fulfilled the pre-match wish expressed by Fleming who wanted his main fast bowler to "knock the top off Australia."

Bond did just, having Matthew Hayden caught behind for one, trapping Adam Gilchrist leg before for 18 and Ricky Ponting caught at slip for six in an opening spell of three for 20 in six overs.

He returned later to rip out

Damien Martyn, Brad Hogg and Ian Harvey in a second spell of three for three in four overs.

But Fleming, who had gambled by sending Australia in, took another chance by letting his strike bowler complete his maximum number of overs with 21 overs still to be bowled in the Australian innings.

As they had against England, when they came together with Australia in trouble at 135 for eight, Bevan and Bichel set about repairing the damage with sensible batting.

The left-handed Bevan played the anchor role, making 56 off 94 balls, while the right-handed Bichel hit a career-best 64 off 83 deliveries, which included seven fours and a six off an attempted slower ball from Andre Adams which bounced twice before Bichel powered it over mid-wicket.

Bevan and Bichel were dismissed in the last three overs but Lee finished the innings on a high for Australia by hitting the last two balls from Jacob Oram for six.

Bond's figures beat the previous best for New Zealand, six for 25 by Scott Styris against the West Indies in Port-of-Spain last year. Bond's personal best had been five for 25 against Australia in Adelaide last season.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Super Six match between Australia and New Zealand at St George's Park Port Elizabeth on Tuesday:

AUSTRALIA	
Gilchrist lbw b Bond	18
Hayden c McCullum b Bond	1
Ponting c Fleming b Bond	6
Martyn c McCullum b Bond	31
Lehmann c Astle b Adams	4
Bevan c Vincent b Oram	56
Hogg lbw b Bond	0
Harvey b Bond	2
Bichel c Cairns b Oram	64

Lee not out	15
McGrath not out	3
Extras: (lb-1, w-4, nb-3)	8
Total: (For 9 wickets in 50 overs)	208
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-24, 3-31, 4-47, 5-80, 6-80, 7-84, 8-181, 9-192	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bond	10	2	23	6
Adams	9	2	46	1
Vettori	10	1	40	0
Oram	7	0	48	2
Harris	10	1	24	0
Styris	3	0	18	0
Astle	1	0	8	0

NEW ZEALAND

Vettori c Gilchrist b McGrath	10
Fleming c Gilchrist b Lee	48
Astle c Ponting b McGrath	0
Styris lbw b McGrath	3
Cairns c Lee b Bichel	16
Vincent c Martyn b Harvey	7
Harris not out	15
McCullum lbw b Lee	1
Oram b Lee	0
Adams b Lee	0
Bond c and b Lee	3

Extras: (lb-4, w-5)
Total: (All out in 30.1 overs) 112
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-14, 3-33, 4-66, 5-84, 6-102, 7-104, 8-104, 9-108

Bowler	O	M	R	W
McGrath	6	1	29	3
Lee	9.1	2	42	5
Harvey	6	3	11	1
Bichel	5	0	15	1
Hogg	4	0	11	0

Result: Australia won by 96 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Shane Bond.

Toss: New Zealand.

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri) and Steve Bucknor (WIs)

TV umpire: Brian Jerling (Rsa)

Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (Sri)

Death toll in Ctg fire rises to 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Death toll in the devastating fire on Monday at the Burma Colony rose to seven. The Burma Colony is under Bayezid thana in the city.

One girl identified as Tamanna, 3, injured in stamped during the fire, succumbed to her injuries in the evening the same day. She was the daughter of one Motiur Rahman.

Meanwhile, initiative has been taken for providing relief materials and cash money to the affected people.

Over 70 metric tons of food grains, about 300 sheets of Corrugated Iron (CI) sheets and Tk 2 lakh from the prime minister's relief fund have been declared for the victims, sources said.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan is scheduled to distribute the relief materials among 98 affected families of the slum under his constituency today afternoon.

Chittagong district administration yesterday distributed relief among the victims. Each family got 20 kgs of rice and Tk 500 in cash.

The state minister for civil aviation Mir Md. Nasir Uddin also visited the spot yesterday afternoon and distributed relief materials.

City mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury assured financial support and relief for which Chittagong City Corporation made a list of the affected people. Besides, City corporation also arranged for the burial function of the six persons burnt to death in the fire on Monday.

Grenades defused

FROM PAGE 1

different times for carrying out operations to wage 'Jihad,' Shumon said he did not disclose what party Faisal belonged to and where is their stronghold. Hunt for Faisal and Faruque is going on.

ASPO of the CID, Mawla Bakhsa said that Shumon and Shahidullah would also be quizzed to find out whether they were involved in Satkhira and Mymensingh cinema blasts.

Bomb scare

FROM PAGE 12

powerful bombs. Dhanmondi police said they rushed there following a call from a shopkeeper that someone threatened over phone to blow up the market.

Police checked every body entering the market and coming out. The checking continued till writing of this report at 8:30pm. Police could not recover any bomb or explosives from the market.

Some sources at the market said there was a hitch among shopkeepers over leadership of their association.

2 cops killed

FROM PAGE 1

lipped about the missing shot guns.

At least 30 persons of the area have been detained by the police for questioning.

It may be mentioned here that Sergeant Arif of the KMP was killed and two constables were injured in a bomb attack on March 1 near the International Trade Fair site at Circuit House Maidan.

On the evening of January 10 this year, three police constables were critically wounded in a similar bomb attack at the PTI crossing under Khulna thana.

Badshamurder case Court grants petition to drop 2 names

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday granted the petition for dropping the names of two accused in constable Badsha Miah murder case.

They are Islamic Oikya Jote chairman Moulana Azizul Haq and Zahidul Islam.

The petition was submitted by the Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor (PP) on Monday.

Judge Hossain Shahid Ahmed rejected the petition for dropping the name of another accused, Humayun Kabir.

On February 4, the home ministry sent a letter to the PP asking him to take necessary steps in this regard.

The investigation officer of the case submitted a chargesheet against Azizul Haq and 36 others on July 24, 2001, showing 43 people as prosecution witnesses.

Police constable Badsha Miah, 50, was beaten to death by Islamic zealots inside the Noor Masjid in the city's Mohammadpur area during the hartal called by Ulema Mashaikh (Islamic scholars) on February 3, 2001.

PP Abdullah Mahmud Hasan appeared for the state while advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder for the accused.

Road accident in Satkania kills 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two persons were killed in road mishaps at Satkania in the district here on Monday night.

Sources said, one of the victims identified as Shahana Akhter was crushed to death by a vehicle at the Chittagong - Cox's Bazar road at Moulvir Dakan area at around 8:30pm.

Shahana, reportedly a college student, was crossing the road when she met her untimely death. In the other accident, one unidentified youth of about 23 was also crushed by a vehicle on same road at BOC point area, some 300 yards off the previous spot, at around 9:00pm.

Reuters

FROM PAGE 12

issue. Primary investigation revealed that the Reuters stringer, Enamul Huq Choudhury neither spoke to the minister nor did he know the minister's telephone numbers.

The stringer later admitted that he spoke to one of his journalist colleagues whom he mistook as the home minister. Reuters withdrew the story following the investigation.

"Reuters has withdrawn a number of stories related to bombings, as the agency could not vouch for their accuracy," Sposato wrote in his letter.

The home minister later issued a legal notice to Reuters saying he would file a defamation suit of Tk 10 crore.

Police arrested the Reuters stringer, Enamul Haq Choudhury, on December 13 under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc) and later he was shown arrested in the Mymensingh bomb blast cases. The stringer was released on bail on March 5 after 82 days of detention in the Dhaka Central Jail.

15 hurt as BNP factions clash in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 15 people were injured, four of them with bullets, in a clash between two factions of BNP at Sreerampur village under Magura sadar upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

The factions -- one led by Mokaddes Hossain and the other by Abdur Rouf Mahkan -- clashed over establishing their supremacy in the area.

The bullet-hit people are Arzoo, 45, Sufian, 40, Rabi, 30, and Abdus Sabur. They have been admitted to Jhenidah hospital.

No case was filed in connection with the incident till 5:00 pm yesterday.

Journalist Rumi

FROM PAGE 12

Market Jam-e-Mosque after Asr prayers while the second at the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Ali Asghar, MP, and members of the advisory council expressed deep shock at the death of Rumi.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Mohammad Fazlur Rahman yesterday expressed deep shock at the sudden death of Rumi.

He prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

President of Dhaka Reporters Unity Mahfuzur Rahman and general secretary Monir Hossain have expressed deep shock at the death of Rumi, also a DRU member.

Former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Youth and Sports secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Dewan Shaful Arefin Tutul and Bangladesh Handball Federation have also expressed deep shock at the death of Rumi.

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) have expressed their deep shock at the death of journalist and valiant freedom fighter Masud Ahmed Rumi.

They expressed sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

Kamal threatens

FROM PAGE 12

autonomous bodies have to work in favour of Whip Sarwar, Kamal alleged. "Violating election rules and regulations, Sarwar is openly making all sorts of promises."

Kamal appealed to the local and foreign observers to monitor the BCC polls, and appreciated the role of the press.

Rallies organised by the supporters of the candidates like Whip Sarwar (BNP), Enayet Pir (AL) and Kamal (BNP rebel) were held peacefully in the city yesterday, though there were signs of tension in some places. The BCC polls will be held on March 20.

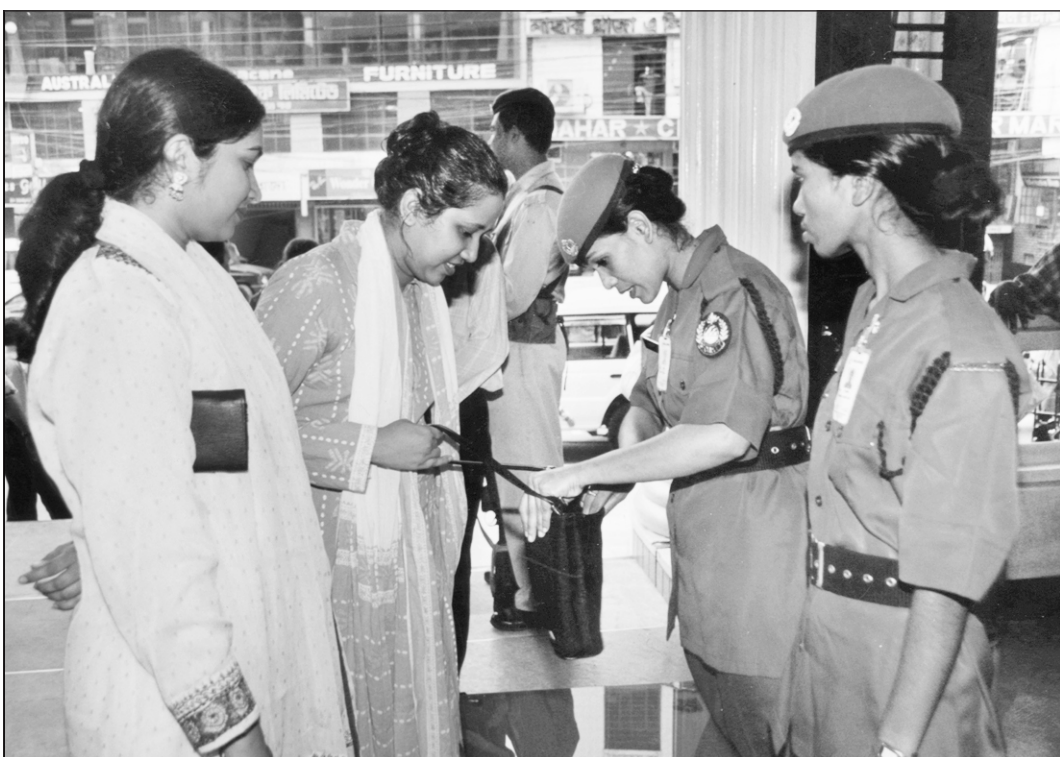
5 'extremists'

FROM PAGE 1

place into a "safe haven for making bombs and a training centre of Jama'at ul Mujaheddin Bangladesh."

Local people said although the young men had identified themselves as madrasah students, their movement was suspicious and they were never seen going to any madrasah or even to mosque.

At midnight, unidentified youths riding motorbike used to come to visit them, said the locals.



A policewoman peers into the purse of a woman at the entrance of Eastern Plaza in the city yesterday. The Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday checked handbags of people at several city markets saying that they had information about bombs and arms.

The cattle route ...

FROM PAGE 12

ber. The importer walks the animals to the nearest bazaar and sells them to buyers from Dhaka, Khulna, Chittagong and other places.

The buyers load the cattle into trucks and head back. Police provide protection to the trucks at designated spots at a fixed rate. For each cow or buffalo that reaches Dhaka from Satkhira, the trader has to pay Tk 500 to police.

Ninety per cent of beef selling in

Dhaka -- around 3,000 cows and buffaloes every day -- is 'imported' from India, said sources.

On the Indian side, locals said, the Border Security Force (BSF) these days does not want to let cattle cross the border.

But the people along the border in India are so poor that they are left with no option other than selling cattle to Bangladeshi buyers.

However, some BSF officials inform local cattle sellers about their schedule of duty. The officials let the smugglers know when they "will not be guarding the border". Some pass on information in exchange for money.

"At the time, we cross into Bangladesh with cattle," said a trader in Satkhira that has three routes for cattle to cross.

ABDR man at the Shatani 'corridor office' contradicted the version of Tk 500 paid for each cow and said traders pay Tk 800 for each big cow and Tk 500 for others.

Cattle cross the border in greater numbers during weekly bazaars along the border on the Bangladesh side, says a villager who has been in the trade for 30 years.

The Satkhira border camps are receiving much less cattle than before. The Shatani corridor received only two cows until 2:30 pm last Wednesday, which is unusual, compared with a few months ago.

Two outlaws held with AK-47 rifle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Two cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were arrested at village Sani-Arpara in Shalikhia upazila of Magura district on Monday night.

Police also recovered one AK-47 rifle and 10 bullets from their possession.

The arrestees are Abdur Rahim, 30, and Shamsur Rahman, 28. Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house at the village at around 10:00 pm and arrested the PBCP cadres.

After questioning the men, police recovered the gun loaded with bullets from beneath the floor of the house.

Officer-in-charge of Jhenidah police station told our Khulna correspondent that the arrestees are listed criminals and loyal to Abdur Rashid alias Tapan, commander of the killingsquad of PBCP.

3 arrested with phensidyl in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Three persons were arrested with 260 bottles of phensidyl from Lamapara area under Fatullah thana yesterday afternoon.

They are Fazal, Sentu and Hasan Mahmud.

The arrestees were carrying the Indian made drug from Comilla in an ambibus.

A case was filed with Fatullah police station.

Garment worker gangraped in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 15-year-old garment worker was gangraped in Amtala Colony area under Baizid Bostami police station on Monday night.

A case was filed with Baizid Bostami police station yesterday evening, accusing six persons. Four of the six accused in the case are Mozaffar Hossain Mintu, Omar Faruk, Belal Hossain and Suruj Meah.

Sources said the gang picked up the garment worker from her rented house at Mollar Bostami in Amtala Colony at around 8:00 pm. They took her to a place in the area and raped by turn.

Victim's elder sister, also a garments' worker, and some neighbours recovered her unconscious and sent to a clinic for treatment.