



Meritorious students who secured GPA 5 in the SSC examination of 2005 pose with Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at a reception at Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. The BCL organised the reception ceremony for the students.

Four pipe guns recovered in Satkhira ahead of PM's visit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police recovered four homemade pipe guns yesterday from a pond in Palashpole area, only 100 yards away from Satkhira stadium in the town.

Acting on a tip-off, the police recovered the weapons wrapped in a polybag from the pond owned by Dr Hadi Khan, an activist of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The arms recovery from near the stadium area ahead of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit to Satkhira has sparked concern in the administration. The prime minister is expected to fly to Satkhira on Sunday and her helicopter is scheduled to land on the helipad in the stadium.

Security has been beefed up in and around the stadium following the recovery of firearms, said Sadar Police Station OC Shahjahan.

Ten shops gutted in Ctg fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Ten shops were gutted in a fire at Fatikchari upazila in the district here yesterday.

Shops of cloths, furniture, stationery and cosmetics items were damaged in the fire that broke out at Bhujpur Bazar at around 6.00am.

Fire fighters from the Bayezid Fire Station rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze with help of locals after a two-hour struggle.

An electrical short-circuit sparked off the blaze, fire service sources said, adding that the loss was estimated at Tk 3 lakh.

Help build a prosperous nation Hasina tells students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina has called upon the meritorious students to play a leading role in building a happy and prosperous nation.

"You have to acquire knowledge to help those who are poor and deprived of their rights to education so that they could be educated like you," she told the students, who achieved GPA-5 in the SSC examinations in 2005, at a reception yesterday.

Around 8,000 students were accorded reception organised by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student front of AL, at Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in

the city. Speaking as chief guest, Hasina called upon the students to work for the welfare of the downtrodden who are deprived in many ways.

Discrimination between the poor and the rich has increased further during the four-year rule of the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government, she said, adding that poor people have become more poor while rich people have become more rich.

"The prime minister and her son have made up huge fortunes by looting people's wealth," she said.

The AL leader said Bangladeshi students are very brilliant and if they are guided properly they can build a prosperous Bangladesh as dreamt by Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman. Giving her heart-felt thanks to the students, their parents and their teachers for their outstanding academic result, Hasina called upon them to be more attentive to their studies to lead the country in future.

The AL chief said if voted to power her party would improve the standard of education and generate employment for the youths.

The alliance government has been distorting the glorious history of Bangladesh in a planned way to achieve their parochial political interest, she said, adding that the true history of the country would be revealed one day.

Later, Hasina gave away crests and citations to the students.

BCL President Liaqat Shikder

chaired the reception while General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu delivered the address of welcome.

Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) General Secretary Prof Dr Abul Barakat, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Secretary General Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Advocate Tarana Halim, Engineer Mozammel Babu, former captain of the national cricket team Naimur Rahman Durjoy, captain of the national football team Arifur Rahman Khan Joy, and Ishtiaq Ahmed and Sharmin Sobhan, on behalf of the students, also spoke at the reception.

A cultural function was held at the same venue in the afternoon.

CU admission test begins today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test for first year honours courses of 2005-2006 sessions at Chittagong University (CU) begins today.

The test for Gha unit (Social Science Faculty) will be held today where around 24 admission seekers will vie for one seat.

A total of 66,257 candidates collected forms against 2,815 seats under different faculties this year which is around three thousand more than those of previous year.

However, with the introduction of two more departments - Psychology and Persian Language- the number of units has also been raised to eight from previous seven, sources added.

Hundreds of admission seekers started arriving at the campus since yesterday to sit for the test and they are staying in the dormitories with their relatives and known ones.

With the presence of the candidates, the dormitories, tea-stalls, restaurants and canteens are now crowded with people.

Photography album on SM Sultan launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A photography album on renowned artist SM Sultan by noted photographer Nasir Ali Mamun was launched and the 50th solo exhibition of the photographer was inaugurated at the Drik gallery in the city yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mamun said he would set up a photography museum in the country with a view to displaying and preserving the portrait photographs of the world famous personalities.

The album titled "Guru" by Mamun contains some rare and intimate moments of the life of artist SM Sultan that Mamun took staying with him for nine years from 1978 to 1987. During his stay in the abandoned royal palace in Narail where Sultan lived, Mamun observed his enigmatic lifestyle and took snaps of the artist.

Describing Sultan as the 'wonder of east Bengal', Mamun said he considered Sultan as 'mysterious' as he saw him talking with animals and worms and he had intimacy with them.

The ceremony was jointly organised by Neer and Saroni Limited.

Attending as chief guest, Justice Habibur Rahman, former chief adviser to caretaker government, inaugurated the exhibition and unveiled the cover of the album.

Neer and Saroni Managing Director Mobashsher Hossain delivered the welcome speech in the function.



Justice Habibur Rahman launches "Guru", a photography album on renowned artist SM Sultan, by photographer Nasir Ali Mamun at the Drik Gallery in the city yesterday.

'Uphold dignity of national flag, resist bomb attackers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a vow to uphold the dignity of the hard earned national flag by resisting the defeated forces of 1971, people from all walks of life joined the national flag procession at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

Under the banner of Bikkhubdha Deshbashi (aggrieved citizens), the common people spontaneously joined the procession with the slogan "The defeated forces of 1971, the mastermind of recent bomb blasts, must be resisted."

Starting from the Central Shaheed Minar in the morning, the procession ended at the National Museum after passing through the Teachers Students Centre (TSC) and Milan Chatter on DU campus.

Earlier speakers at the Shaheed Minar said, taking the advantage of people's generosity and myopia of the ruling parties, the vested quarter who opposed the liberation of the country gained much strength and started fighting against the

progressive forces to turn the country into a communal and fundamental one.

"They even threatened to eliminate the freedom fighters and undermine the spirit of our liberation war, said Zahirul Islam, an activist of Bikkhubdha Deshbashi, while reading out a written speech.

Similar processions were also brought out in Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Sirajganj and Narayanganj at the same time.

On December 14, Bikkhubdha Deshbashi announced a programme to hold national flag procession on every Friday till March 26 to protect the dignity of the national flag and resist the defeated forces of 1971.

A grand national flag procession will be brought out in Dhaka on March 25.

Different organisations including Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK), Nijera Kori, Karmojibi Nari, Mahila Parishad, Naripakkha, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi and Manobadhikar Natya Parishad have expressed solidarity with the movement of the Bikkhubdha Deshbashi.

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