

Here and There

Lobster promotion at Sheraton

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel will hold a 10-day long prawn and lobster promotion from February 9 at its Bithika Restaurant.

Merchants seek security against attacks

Shops of Dhaka Stadium and Baitul Mukarram market kept their shutters down till noon Wednesday protesting attack on them Tuesday evening, reports UNB.

A number of electronic shops, including General, Apollo, Hical and Himalaya, were attacked and goods worth several lakh Takas were looted by miscreants who also stabbed Sabuj, an employee of Dhaka Radio at the Stadium market, witnesses said.

At a rally held near the Stadium Swimming Pool in the morning, leaders of the Merchants' Associations condemned the attack and blamed the law enforcing agencies for its failure to check the incident which, they said, ensued from a trifling matter between footpath hawkers earlier in the morning.

Addressing the owners and employees at the rally, Officer in Charge of Motijheel Thana Noor Ahmed assured them of proper security against such attacks and termed Tuesday's occurrence a stray incident.

He also said that police will try to identify and arrest those responsible for the incident at the earliest.

Leaders of the two merchants' associations urged the Islamic Foundation to take appropriate steps in removing the hawkers from footpaths of Baitul Mukarram. These hawkers, they alleged, were involved in creating similar law and order problems in the past.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Stadium Market Merchants' Association Secretary Feroze Alam and Baitul Mukarram Owners' Association President Shah Ali and Secretary Nazmul Islam.

Plea to spray anti-mosquito pesticide

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Homeless Welfare Society on Tuesday urged the concerned authority to spray anti-mosquito pesticide to help the slum dwellers sleep peacefully, said a press release of the society.

The statement was signed by Aman Ullah Khan, chief patron of the society, Atiqur Rahman, President, and M.A. Hamidul Haq, General Secretary of the society.

RU pass exams begin April 28

RAJSHAHI, Feb 6: B.A., B.S.S., B.Com and B.Sc. examinations of 1990 under Rajshahi University will be held from April 28, the Controller of Examinations announced, reports BSS.

B.A., B.S.S., B.Sc and B.Com (Sanatan and Samannita) Honours and Subsidiary part two examinations of 1989 will be held from April 27 while B.A., B.S.S., B.Sc and B.Com (Sanatan and Samannita) Honours and Subsidiary Part-one examinations of 1990 of the university will begin from May 27, the announcement said.

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Action against illegal arms holders demanded

The National Democratic Party (NDP) Tuesday urged the authorities to take drastic action against the holders of illegal arms, reports UNB.

At a gathering at NDP office this morning, the party leaders hailed the Election Commission for its pledge to take "stern legal steps" to ensure fair elections.



Activists of Janamukti Party organised a rally in Dhaka on Wednesday, demanding release of the party chief Mahfuz Bhuiyan from detention. He was detained last month under Special Powers Act. — Star photo.

Campaign fever grips CHT

From our special Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Feb 6: Hectic campaigning for February 27 parliamentary polls is sweeping tiny villages of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHTs), all major parties have fielded candidates in three CIIT constituencies: Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban.

The mass upsurge of 1990 has created enthusiasm among the hill people about democratic transition. They strongly believe that an elected government will be in a better position to solve the CIIT problems. The Chakmas and other tribals who crossed over to Indian state of Tripura have also evinced keen interest to exercise their franchise out of this belief.

Multi coloured banners and posters give the CIITs a festive look.

Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, BKSAL, National Democratic Party (NDP), Zaker Party and Adarsha Krishak Dal have fielded their candidates for the elections. Many independent candidates are also contesting.

In a development the non-tribal candidates in Rangamati have decided to vote for Jamaat candidate Shahidullah, who is very vocal about the demands of the settlers. The settlers in Chittagong Hill

Tracts are generally opposed to the local government bills, which have virtually turned the Bangladeshi into second class citizens in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

According to Ruhul Amin a member of local government in Rangamati, the BNP candidate Nazimuddin, Zaker Party candidate Jamshed and Jamaat candidate Shahidullah at a meeting decided to vote for the Jamaat candidate in a bid to resist the election of any tribal to parliament. In this constituency the Awami League candidate Dipankar, Jatiya Party candidate Parijat

Kushum, and independent candidates Paritib Roy, Sagarika Raoza Tripura, Suniti Bikkash Chakma, Ilrommoy Chakma and Nirmol Kanti Chakma are contesting from the tribal community. In this constituency the Barigale voters comprise 42 per cent of the total while the rest are tribal voters. Independent candidate Sagarika Raoza is seen as a formidable tribal candidate.

In Khagrachari constituency the main contest is expected to be between the BNP candidate Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan and BKSAL Candidate Joytrindra Lal Tripura, who is also the

chairman of the sadar Upazilla Parishad. Awami League Candidate Kalparanjan Chakma, NDP candidate Mahbulul Alam, Adarsha Krishak Dal candidate Sarafat Ali, Zaker party candidate Md.Younus Miah, Jatiya Party candidates ex-MP A.K.M. Alimullah and independent candidates Lokmanuddin, Abul Hossen, and Samir Datta Chakma are also contesting from this constituency.

In Bandarban constituency the BNP candidate KS Prue has a fair chance to be elected while the Awami League candidate Bir Bahadur is likely to follow him. Among others Jamaat candidate Aminul Haque Azad, JP candidate Ibrahim, BKSAL candidate Manjurul Kader Zaker Party Candidate Md Rafiq and independent candidate Abdul Malek and Abdul Khaleque are all non-tribals. As such they have a very remote chance of winning against the tribal candidate K.S Prue who is the son of incumbent Bomang chief Mong Suc Prue.

The local administration told The Daily Star correspondent who recently visited the area that only a few of the national leaders have visited the area for election purposes.



A scene from play 'Raja Mahashayer Goppo' (Tale of the King), staged at the Central Shaheed Minar premises by the Kollol Natya Sangstha of Narsingdi on Wednesday. The play was a part of week-long drama week being observed in commemoration of the 1952 Language Movement. The 'Raja Mahashayer Goppo' was written by Shah Alam and directed by Anup Bhowmic. — Star photo

Physicians to help people during polls

By Staff correspondent

Palli Chikitsak Samity on Tuesday urged the village physicians to come forward to aid of the people during the polls, a press release said.

The Samity held a national conference' sub-committee meeting for preparation of the conference.

The meeting was presided by Dr. Nazim Uddin Ahmed and addressed by Dr Emdad Hossain, Dr Nazrul Islam, Dr Ahmed Hossain, Dr Qamrunnabur, Dr Delwar Hossain Bhuiyan, Dr Abdur Rauf and Dr Enayattuddin, the press release added.

Dateline Chittagong

AL calls for joint vote campaign

CHITTAGONG, Feb 6: Awami League leaders here Tuesday called upon the rival candidates of other alliances and parties to launch a joint vote campaign, reports BSS.

They said, the joint campaign would check clashes among rival workers.

Addressing a rally arranged at Lakdighi Maidan in protest against alleged terrorism by BNP workers Monday, the leaders also demanded of inclusion of 30 thousand adults who were reportedly not listed as voters.

The meeting was presided over by Ishaq Miah, a contestant from Chittagong-8 constituency which was addressed by ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Prof Pulin Dey, Abul Kalam Sowdagar, Enamul Hoq Danu, Amalendu Bhattacharya and others.

Alleging of arson and ransacking of AL election symbols and camps by BNP workers, the speakers demanded formation of a central election steering committee with a judge as its head and representatives from high government officials and different professional groups to check rigging in the coming elections.

After the rally, a big procession was brought out carrying the election symbol boat.

Earlier, BCL (H-A) in a protest rally also condemned

alleged burning of symbols and election camps of the party and demanded arrest of the offenders within a week.

Call to stop Gulf war

A public meeting held at Lakdighi Maidan Sunday called for immediate halt to the Gulf war and withdrawal of US and allied forces from Arab soil, reports BSS.

The meeting held under the auspices of Greater Chittagong Development Mass Action Committee was presided over by its Chairman S.M. Jamaluddin. Other leaders of the committee Monwar Ahmed, Kalam Chowdhury, Shaiful Bashar, Manzur Mahmud Khan, Sheikh Muhammad addressed it.

Termining US and allied forces' attack on Iraq as a naked aggression, they said, the indiscriminate bombing was destroying Muslim culture and civilization of many thousand years in Iraq and Muslim nations should not remain as silent spectators. They urged world nations to take necessary steps to halt the war.

They demanded withdrawal of Bangladeshi soldiers from Saudi Arabia.

Founding anniversary

Islamic Chhatra Sena observed its 11th founding

anniversary through a discussion held at Tinchaudia Primary School ground in Rangunia Upazila Sunday, Sena press release said, reports BSS.

Local branch president Mr. Muhammad Khair Ahmad presided over the discussion while Islami Front nominated candidate for Chittagong-7 constituency Maulana Fazlul Kabir Chowdhury attended it as chief guest.

TK 3 lakh milk powder seized

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) and detectives seized two trucks and recovered three hundred bags of solidified milk powder worth about Tk 3 lakh, unfit for consumption and arrested two persons Monday, police said, reports BSS.

The police team seized both the trucks at Court road here on a secret information

A case was filed and investigation was underway in this connection.

CMP also arrested 17 persons on various charges from different areas of the city during 24 hours of Tuesday.

New political forum launched

By Staff Correspondent

Gonotantra Anushilon Kendra, a new political forum was launched on Wednesday.

At a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club on the occasion, convener of the forum Mahbubur Rab Saadi said the aim of the new forum was to identify democratic and patriotic political parties, if any, and cooperate with them.

If the forum found no such party it would try to unite the more democratic-minded parties into a positive political force, he said adding if this was not possible the Gonotantra Anushilon Kendra would try to build up a new democratic and political force.

Saadi said the forum believes in multi-party democracy and Bengali nationalism. He said Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman is the father of the nation but imposition of one-party rule in 1975 was an undemocratic step.

Saadi said Ziaur Rahman declared War of Liberation, but inscription of "Bismillah" in the Constitution was made with a motive to exploit the religious feelings of the people.

Saadi said ideological weakness of the political parties was the cause of the existing uncertainty even after the success of the recent mass movement.

Saadi announced a 21-member convening committee of the forum which included S.M. Solaiman, Manirul Islam Hela and Advocate Nitya Gopal Devnath.

Sayedee Muktijodda Sangsad convener

By Staff Correspondent Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Kazi Nuruzzaman and Abu Sayeed Khan have been elected Chief Patron and Convener of Bangladesh Muktijodda Sangsad, respectively.

The central committee of the Sangsad in a session in Dhaka recently dissolved its former Central Command Council which formed by deposed President Ershad and formed a adhoc committee comprising of 11 members.

Abu Sayeed Khan, Convener of the Central Command Council in a press release requested all Unit Commands and Upazila Commands to contact with him.

Partial strike at Suhrawardy Hospital continues

By Staff Correspondent

A section of physicians and employees of Suhrawardy Hospital continued their strike on Wednesday demanding, among others, removal of the hospital's project director. The striking physicians and employees at rally in the hospital compound strongly demanded of the government to accept their demands which also include cancellation of transfer order of some employees.

The rally also called for withdrawal of cases against 13 employees of the hospital.

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