

DUCSU museum opens

Concerted efforts to erase terrorism urged

By DU Correspondent

Speakers at the inaugural ceremony of DUCSU Shagra-hashala (DUCSU museum) Tuesday called for concerted efforts to eliminate campus violence and restore the tradition of the Dhaka University.

They, however mentioned that our future generation would face a fearful situation if we failed to create a congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Manruzzaman Miah inaugurated the function held in front of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) building and titled "Publication ceremony, exhibition and office inauguration."

The function organised by DUCSU collection centre was also addressed by Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah as the chief guest. State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aminul Haque and State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadeque Hossain Khoka noted while addressing the function.

Former DUCSU Vice-President Mahfuz Khanam said that if we are conscious no terrorist acts could occur on campus.

DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon mentioned that the steps for DUCSU Sangrahashala were taken only to preserve the tradition and heritage of the University.

The function was also addressed by former DUCSU, VP Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi and Khurshed Ali.

DUCSU also invited the public to give documents of the freedom movement against British colonial rule, on the Language Movement, the Independence War.

The DUCSU General Secretary hoped that public contributions would make the DUCSU collection centre rich.

country, it would not be difficult for it to resist the prevailing violence in the campuses.

He also mentioned the enemies of democracy would be happy if we failed to restore it.

We could eradicate terrorist acts from the campus with concerted efforts, State Minister for Sports and Youth Sadeque Hossain Khoka noted while addressing the function.

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Canadian MPs Beryl Gaffney, Svend Robinson and Geoff Scott (L to R) speak to reporters yesterday in Hong Kong after their expulsion from China (Story on Page 5). —AFP photo

Masked men open fire on pro-Gamsakhurdia rally

THLISI, Georgia, Jan 7: Troops on Tuesday opened fire on thousands of people rallying in support of ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Several people were wounded, reports AP.

The rally began at the train station, with people shouting "Zviadi! Zviadi!" and holding pictures of the president and waving several red, white and black Georgian flags. Eventually the crowd grew to about 4,000.

As the demonstrators began to march through Tbilisi, several people were seen waving and cheering from balconies in support of the marchers.

Outside a hotel, a group of armed men, some wearing masks, appeared and formed a line across the street. They fired in the air and then some fired at the crowd. The crowd panicked and started to run wildly.

It was the second time gunmen had opened fire on peaceful pro-Gamsakhurdia demonstrators. On Friday, at least two people were killed

and 25 were wounded when men opened fire with machine guns on a crowd at the train station.

The ruling military council that ousted Gamsakhurdia on Monday has banned demonstrations in the capital.

After Tuesday's shooting, one man wounded in the leg was rushed to a nearby hospital where people started to bandage him. Two women were seen being carried away. The number of casualties could not be determined immediately.

At the parliament building that Gamsakhurdia fled before dawn on Monday, flames were still visible more than 24 hours later. Air conditioners were exploding from the heat of the flames.

People threw baskets with documents from the eighth floor down to the street. Around the blackened building, people began hauling away the smashed remnants of vehicles.

Gamsakhurdia was ousted after 16 days of fighting that

devastated much of central Tbilisi. A military council formed by opposition leaders is running the country and has promised to try to form a civilian coalition government.

Acting Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua said the situation in Georgia was very poor, and there was a severe shortage of money. Georgia still uses the ruble as its currency.

Armed bandits were roaming around the capital Tbilisi, and there were several shooting incidents between bandits and National Guardsmen loyal to the opposition.

Supporters of Gamsakhurdia have dismantled railway tracks, disrupting train connections to western Georgia.

Armenia has stressed that it was offering only temporary sanctuary, not political asylum, to Gamsakhurdia, the Tass news agency said.

Russian television said a delegation of Georgian lawmakers was due in Armenia to discuss what to do about Gamsakhurdia with Armenian officials.

Transfer of US logistical command

Malaysia deplores Singapore's failure to inform ASEAN allies

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7: Malaysia Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak has described as regrettable Singapore's failure to inform it of its decision to accept a US logistical command announced last week by President George Bush.

"So far Singapore has not officially informed Malaysia of the matter," Najib was quoted by Bernama news agency as saying late Monday.

Malaysia was only informed by the US authorities of Singapore's decision to accept the US request one day before Bush's three-day visit to the island republic last week, Najib said.

"Malaysia respects Singapore's right to determine its own policies, but as a member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), it should inform its neighbours if it wishes to offer military facilities to foreign nations," Najib was quoted as saying.

Malaysia and Singapore are members of ASEAN whose other members include Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei and the Philippines.

Singapore's agreement in principle to the US request to transfer to the island the US Seventh Fleet Command Task Force 73 from Subic Bay in the Philippines was announced during Bush's visit to Singapore.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad had said Monday Kuala Lumpur had no objections to Singapore's decision to accept the US logistical command but stressed it would object to the setting up of a new naval base there.

Najib said Malaysia was officially informed of the move Monday by US Commander-in-Chief Pacific Air Force General Jimmy Adams and US ambassador Paul Cleveland.

"The US is still seriously and actively considering using our facilities in Lumut," Najib said.

Defence questions

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client". He pointed out that the charges suffers from "inherent defect".

Explaining, Barrister Hossain said there was no evidence that "my client has misappropriated the gifts". The gifts were found either in Serakhshan or Bangabhaban, he said adding that it had not been proved by prosecution that the accused had "misappropriated those gifts".

On the discovery of huge cash money, the other charge against the accused, the defence counsel said before his client could say anything, Jatiya Party leaders have claimed the money.

While placing his arguments, the chief defence counsel devoted a substantial portion of the time in pointing out the discrepancies and anomalies in the statements of prosecution witnesses (PWs). In all he examined the statements of 11 PWs who included investigating officers and members of the inventory committees.

Haque said while instituting the case against the former president, the prosecution did not follow the set rules. He further pointed out although the accused was arrested on December 12, 1990, FIR was lodged on the 8th of the following month.

He said before FIR was lodged, the Jatiya Party leaders through letter to the Acting President claimed the money

and it amply demonstrated the bonafide of accused's claim that money did not belong to him. Moreover, he said, JP leaders also filed money suit as advised by the Acting President to get back the money.

Serajul Haq said the gravest complaint that could be brought against the prosecution was that although the former president was charged with possessing so much money and goods, he (Ershad) was not given a single chance to explain. "There was not the slightest effort to have his comments", the chief defence counsel said. He said this speaks of the intention of the prosecution.

The chief defence counsel further said Mustafizur Rahman, brother-in-law of Ershad was entrusted to receive the goods, but the prosecution made him (Mustafiz) the accused's representative thereby to have done great injustice to his client.

The court yesterday witnessed an acrimonious exchange of words between the lawyers of two sides after the chief defence counsel has made some remarks on the case. The order was restored after the Judge Mohammad Ali Khan asked both sides to confine themselves to the case and refrain from uncalled for remarks.

The arguments from the defence side will continue today.

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Published by S. M. Ali on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News and Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynebee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX: 245061-3, 246023-4. Editorial and News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. Fax No: 88-02-863035. GPO Box No: 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.

Shantibahini

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Security force recovered from him one G-3 rifle and 120 rounds of ammunition.

Talking to BSS from his hospital bed at the combined military hospital here, Tari Chakma said that his insurgent group was awaiting the arrival of security forces or non-Tribals engaged in Dhighinala-Babuchara road reconstruction work in Khagrachari to shoot and kill them.

He said that the armed insurgents wanted independents and that they had now targeted members of Bangladesh Security Forces and the non-Tribals to eliminate them from hill tract areas.

Tari said that Pablakhal operation was his second mission while the first one took place at Jarulchari of Dhighinala in 1989 in which seven tribal insurgents were killed in an encounter with Bangladesh Security Force. He did not say if he had participated in any other operation since he joined the insurgents in 1988 in spite of repeated pressures.

Tari Chakma said that he took 18-day arms training at Mandula camp in Tripura, India. He said that he was recruited by one Pulin Babu and was forced by his commander to take part in the operations. When he was asked to comment why he was killing innocent people, he said, I made a mistake by joining the insurgents and I am now compelled to kill people.

When asked if he would receive facilities to be given by government for his rehabilitation he kept mum for a minute and said, I shall accept them and lead a normal life.

Tari said that tribal insurgents generally operate with rifle, grenades and they hardly use mortars.

Tari Chakma hails from Ultachari, Longgadu of Ranganamti hill districts.

According to an official source, 952 non tribals, 188 tribals and 237 insurgents were killed and about 2500 injured during past 18 years in Chittagong Hill Tract areas in armed clashes or in different other ways.

Rajshahi jail wardens stage sit-in

RAJSHAH, Jan 7: Wardens of the Rajshahi Central Jail today staged sit-in demonstration at the jail-gate demanding fulfillment of their 18-point demand, reports UNB.

After the three-hour sit-in since 8 am, the jail guards submitted a memorandum containing the demands to the Deputy Commissioner and the DIG (Prison).

Saddam executes 80 for coup attempt

DAMASCUS, Jan 7: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has executed 80 officers involved in a coup attempt, Iraqi opposition sources were quoted as saying Tuesday, reports AP.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency quoted the sources as saying in Tehran that the plot was foiled last month when an army officer, identified only as Mufleh al-Rawi, exposed the alleged conspirators. The sources told the Syrian agency Saddam later decorated al-Rawi.

The news agency identified the sources as members of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, the main Iraqi Shiite Muslim opposition movement based in Tehran.

There was no independent confirmation of the report.

There have been several reported attempts by military officers to oust Saddam since he invaded Kuwait on Aug 2, 1990, with scores of officers executed or purged.

None of the reports was ever verified by reliable independent sources. Still, some reports have been more credible than others, and some senior officers have not been seen for months.

Flag meeting

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sured the Bangladesh side at the "first flag meeting" that they would return all the weapons and ammunition taken from Rezupara BDR outpost on December 21. They had also assured to open the Bangladesh-Myanmar border soon for restoration of normalcy along the border.

Tensions along the border flared after a Myanmar patrol raided a Bangladesh border post leaving one jawan of Bangladesh Rifles dead and several injured.

The incident sparked off building of troops by the Myanmar along the border. Bangladesh also strengthened its security as warranted by the situation.

Report from Cox's Bazar adds: At least 1,000 Rohingya refugees have entered into Bangladesh through different border points during the past two days.

Shikhhak Oikya Parishad joins strike from Jan 18

Bangladesh Shikhhak Oikya Parishad (BSOP) Tuesday announced an indefinite strike from January 18 in all non-government high and primary schools of the country to press teachers' demands, reports UNB.

BSOP action programme also includes a token strike and demonstration on January 12, seeking early implementation of a 15-point charter of demand.

Its action coincides with a nonstop strike in all colleges, high schools and madrasahs across the country from the same date (Jan 18) which was earlier announced by the Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Associations.

The Shikhhak Oikya Parishad is an alliance of country's private school teachers, grouping Bangladesh Shikhhak Samity (Quamruzaman), BSS (Nurulrah) and Bangladesh Sahakari Shikhhak Samity (BSSS).

Three pirates held in Khulna

KHULNA, Jan 7: Bangladesh Navy ship Ranganmati during its intensified patrol apprehended three pirates named Shahidul Islam and Faruk Farazi both hailing from Sonatala and Samal Molla hailing from Khulna, from their hideout in Saran Khola forest (Bagerhat district) yesterday. All the three pirates have been handed over to Saran Khola police station, reports BSS.

Tuesday's account from the Syrian agency sources was the first to give a more precise figure for the number of officers executed.

Surjasen hall provost resigns

By DU Correspondent

Surjasen Hall Provost tendered resignation on January 3 allegedly protesting a comment made by a student leader at the meeting of Dhaka University Academic Atmosphere Council (DUAAC).

The Surjasen Hall Provost, Prof Abul Kalam submitted the resignation letter immediately after the DUAAC meeting on Jan.

Sources said that one student leader made a comment on the appointments of the present Vice Chancellor some former vice chancellors and also the Provost of Surjasen Hall.

Prof Abul Kalam of International Relations also the Treasurer of Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU).

It could not yet be confirmed whether his resignation was accepted.

Two killed in accidents on Dhaka-Ctg Highway

From Our Correspondent
MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 7: Two persons were killed and eight more were injured today in the two separate accidents on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway near Gazaria.

The first accident took place when a Chittagong-bound bus and a Dhaka-bound truck collided at Tetaltala today at about 5:30 am.

Freedom Party wants new state structure

Freedom Party Chairman Col (Retd) Syed Farooq Rahman said in Dhaka Tuesday that there was no alternative to building a new state structure to alleviate poverty, create employment for about 2 crore unemployed and save the nation from ruination, reports IBS.

Addressing a representative meeting of the party's thana and ward committees of Dhaka City at the Dharmadati central office, he said Freedom Party was pledge-bound to bring about a change in the present state structure.

Presided over by Farooq Reza, staff co-ordinator of Dhaka Metropolitan, the meeting was also addressed by Col (Retd) Abdur Rashid, co-Chairman of the party.

Col Farooq said "vested quarters" had been spreading malicious campaign against Freedom Party, but he hoped they would not be able to halt the forward march of the party.

Col (Retd) Rashid urged the people to help implement the party's 10-point demand including repealing the Special Powers Act, creating employment opportunity for all the people above 22 years, resolving the constitutional problems and taking steps to protect the national independence and sovereignty.

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Arms buildup

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Soviet republics.

The aircraft sales apparently are being made at the governmental level, while Red Army tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery and other weapons are being sold through international arms dealers, a US official said.

Some of the Russian arms purchases were agreed upon before the Soviet Union was dissolved and President Mikhail Gorbachev resigned, an American official said.

The bulk of Iran's arms purchases come from Russia, but Iran also is acquiring arms from North Korea, Argentina and other countries, sources said.

In addition, Tehran has kept 146 aircraft flown by Iraqi pilots to Iran during the Gulf war, the newspaper said.

US officials are concerned about the buildup but note that Iran has eased its anti-Western stance, helped free hostages in Lebanon and could help the US campaign to topple Iraq's Saddam Hussein, the newspaper said.

Israel views the buildup with "grave concern," an Israeli official was quoted as saying.

Newspaper ads

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tion to reduce 10 per cent of the allocated advertisement earlier earmarked for this sector.

The meeting observed that country's newspaper industry had fallen into a grave crisis because of the exhaustion of funds in the government advertisement sector and un-realised advertisement bills, with the autonomous bodies.

It has become difficult to purchase newsprint, ink and other inputs because of the existing crisis, the meeting observed. The government allocation of Taka five crore was inadequate to meet the present needs, it observed.

The Midnight File

China-ASEAN talks to benefit both sides: Yang

SINGAPORE, Jan 7: Dialogue between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will benefit both sides and contribute to regional peace and prosperity, China's President Yang Shangkun said here today. The Chinese President, speaking at a banquet hosted in his honour by his Singaporean counterpart, Wee Kim Wee said he wished complete success for the fourth ASEAN summit, due to open here January 27, reports AFP.

KGB spied on Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Jan 7: Russia's top prosecutor has launched an investigation after discovering that the KGB spied on Boris Yeltsin and other rivals of former Soviet President Mikhail S Gorbachev, a newspaper reported Tuesday. The secret papers were discovered in a stronghold belonging to Valery Boldin, the former chief of the Soviet presidential staff. Gorbachev had scrawled notes in the margins of some of the papers, the Rabochaya Tribuna newspaper reported, reports AP.

EC chopper shot down in Yugoslavia

ZAGREB (Yugoslavia), Jan 7: A European Community helicopter carrying five people was shot down Tuesday by federal air force jets northeast of Zagreb, the Croatian Interior Ministry said. A ministry statement, read over the telephone to the Associated Press, said the chopper exploded in the air after it was hit by an air-to-air missile. It said nothing about the passengers, reports AP.

China threatens to raise duties on US goods

BEIJING, Jan 7: China threatened Tuesday to raise import duties on US airplanes, corn, steel and other items if Washington imposes punitive tariffs on Chinese products. It was the latest development in the dispute over China's copyright, trademark and patent laws. The United States has given China until Jan 16 to improve its protection of intellectual property rights or face tariffs of up to 100 per cent on a wide range of goods, reports AP.

Girl delinquents in Asia increasing

BANGKOK, Jan 7: Juvenile crime has surged in Asia in the past decade and an increasing number of young offenders are girls, a United Nations statement said on Monday, reports Reuters.

Many countries in the Asia Pacific region had reported an increase in theft, property offences, and traffic violations by juveniles the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said.

Some countries had reported a rapid rise in serious offences by young people, ESCAP said in a statement.

While juvenile delinquents in most societies in the region are still likely to be boys, a worrying change in the pattern is the increasing involvement of girls in acts of delinquency.

The emergence of play type offences associated with boredom and affluence is an intriguing new phenomenon in the region, ESCAP said. It said there was an alarming association between delinquency and drug abuse, especially among older juveniles.

Fourteen countries in the ESCAP region are meeting in Bangkok to discuss the best ways to rehabilitate juvenile offenders in accordance with UN policy and mandates.

In his opening statement on Monday, ESCAP's executive secretary SAMS Kibria called for timely action to prevent juvenile crime becoming a major problem, escalating in turn to serious crime in later adolescence and early adulthood.

Kibria said that although UN policy stated that imprisonment of juveniles should be a last resort and for a minimum period of time many juveniles, including first time offenders, were imprisoned with adults because of the lack of appropriate rehabilitation measures.

The Bangkok meeting will study rehabilitation methods in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo, the statement said.

ESCAP representatives will visit these countries ending in Tokyo on January 22.

Representatives from Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam are attending the meeting.

CIS members

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bloc" including Azerbaijan and the five Central Asia republics of Turkmenia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizia and Kazakhstan.

Lacking any modern diplomatic tradition, he noted, they will most probably be looking for patterns in some known and traditional frame of reference that is, for them, Islam.

These newly termed Muslim republics are already active in establishing ties with neighbouring Muslim countries, Schilbach said.

Azerbaijan is looking at Turkey as a model while Uzbekistan is interested in establishing close ties with Pakistan.

All of these republics are extremely keen on being on good terms with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states; most of them are thinking of settling up direct links with culturally "close" India, he added.

Ukraine, also a CIS member, will want to have close ties with its immediate European neighbours, but as it is uncompetitive in the European market economy, one can predict that Ukraine would want to start developing economic ties with South Asia, he noted.

As for Russia, its relations with India, the traditional partner, will have to find a new basic unlike wide government-level links in a 71 treaty style, Schilbach said. Past relations have to be replaced by ones based on realistic interests of both sides.

Russian relations with Pakistan did not have much in common with the real political interests and economic possibilities, he pointed out, adding "Now, hopefully, a fresh start can be made, particularly in the economic field".

Khaleda

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dustries and strengthen national economy.

The Prime Minister called upon the people to utilise the compulsory primary education programme introduced by the government by educating their children.

The meeting was also addressed by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Selma Rahman MP, Syeda Nargis Ali MP, BNP leader Monowaruddin and student leader Rafiqul Islam Jagu.

The Foreign Minister referred to the demands of the local people and requested the Prime Minister to take necessary steps to fulfil those demands included nationalisation of Bagerhat school, construction of a bridge over the river Rupsa, and development of Mongla Port and stadium, she said.

Earlier, the prime minister inaugurated the re-excavation work of Bura Khan Khal at Badalkhal.

Transport strike call ignored

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 7: The transport strike called by the transport owners of the 16 northern districts which was due to begin today reportedly failed, says UNB.

The transport owners group, North Bengal Transport Owners Association, gave the call to press the government to resolve the deadlock in the transport sector of the northern districts.