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Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today (Thursday) on the occasion of Holy Shab-e-Barat. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Friday).

NEWS BRIEFS

AL discussion meet tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The city unit of Awami League will hold a discussion meeting and a cultural function tomorrow in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Liberation War victory. AL presidium member and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will attend the function as chief guest. With city AL president and Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif in the chair, the function will begin at 3 pm at Bangabandhu Avenue, says a party press release.

Thakurgaon TV relay centre opens Saturday

The Thakurgaon relay centre of Bangladesh Television, 12th relay centre of BTV, will be commissioned on Saturday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally open the relay centre at Salanda at 10 am. State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed will preside over the function, reports UNB.

Young man shot dead in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Dec 25: A young man was shot dead in an attack at his residence at village Tetulia in Shailkupa thana at about 8 tonight. Police said unidentified assailants attacked Paramesh Mandal, 18, at his house and killed him. Another inmate, Debendra Nath Mandal, was injured in the shooting. Shailkupa police brought the body to the thana and registered a case, reports UNB.

Gournadi turns Pourasava today

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Dec 25: The Gournadi pourasava of Barisal district will be inaugurated tomorrow. Chief whip Abul Hasan Abdulla, MP, is expected to inaugurate the pourasava. The Gournadi pourasava will be the 3rd in the district and the 14th in Barisal division.

Chandrika on pvt visit to India

NEW DELHI, Dec 25: Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandarnaike Kumaratunga began a holiday in India today after Tamil rebels began an undeclared Christmas truce in their 13-year-old war, sources on both sides said.

"There is peace in the air. We are confident 1997 will bring good news," one source close to her told Reuters. "Right now she is thinking more about peace than about war."

Indian and Sri Lankan officials played down reports of a link between Kumaratunga's visit and rumoured peace initiatives with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Laying emphasis on watershed management, Dipankar

Chakraborti, Director of the SOES, who has been working to fight against serious arsenic problem in West Bengal of India for long, prepared the report following a survey.

During the survey, SOES

analysed 1343 water samples, 214 hair, 222 nails, 118 skin-scales and 26 urine samples. Four hundred people were identified as arsenic patients having arsenical skin lesions.

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