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## Ijtema at Tongi

From Page 1

large peaceful atmosphere in the country, the organisers said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message yesterday greeted the devotees from all over the Muslim world.

The Prime Minister extended her sincere greetings to tens of thousands of Muslim devotees who will be attending the three day congregation.

Although the government has taken some steps to keep the traffic system smooth on the roads along the Ijtema venue and provide emergency medicare services and water supply, those are very inadequate, according to some devotees.

The Gazipur district administration has set up three police control rooms and two medicare camps at the venue to maintain law and order and provide emergency medicare services.

This correspondent while visiting the area found that buses and mini-buses were being parked in a chaotic manner after off-loading the devotees, creating traffic jam on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, the main road passing along the Ijtema venue.

Although there are several medicare camps set up by different NGOs, none has adequate supply of medicine.

The government-run Tongi Modern Hospital, located very close to the Ijtema venue, has not opened any medicare camp.

When asked, a doctor of the

Myanmar currency seized

### Nine including 2 Myanmar citizens held in Teknaf

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 27: BDR personnel today caught nine people, including two Myanmar nationals, along with huge amount of illegal Myanmar currency from Teknaf border, reports UNB.

They were caught at Badarmokam on the bank of the river Naf, while they were allegedly going to Myanmar.

The arrested Myanmar citizens are identified as Abdul Karim and Salimullah. The others are: Mohammed Nur, Mohammad Hakim, Abdullah and Rahmatulla of Teknaf thana and Nur Mohammad, Abdur Rashid and Mohammad Jallil of Ukhia thana.

BDR jawans also recovered one lakh Myanmar currency from their possession.

The arrested were handed over to Teknaf thana and a case was filed with the police in this connection.

### DUTA iterates

From Page 1

Nuban Ahmed, a teacher of the Department of Economics, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on December 26 last year, ten days after he sustained serious injuries by an unidentified gang on December 17 near the Sangsab Bhaban. His first death anniversary was observed on Thursday.

The conference was attended by DUTA president Prof A T M Zahurul Huq, general secretary Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique, Dr Shahid Akter Hussain, Prof S M Imamul Huq and Prof Syed Glasuddin Ahmed.

### BM Abbas

From Page 1

resources and the efforts he made for the wellbeing of the people.

Qul khwani of BM Abbas AT will be held tomorrow after AS prayers at his residence at Road 1, Dhamondi.

### John Major

From Page 1

The announcement said the forthcoming visit of John Major will mark a new chapter in the relations between the two countries.

During the visit, the two Prime Ministers will hold formal talks when they will review the broad gamut of bilateral relations as well as international issues.

John Major will also call on President Justice Shahbuddin Ahmed.

### MOU signed

From Page 1

man of the Board of Investment (BOI) and Chung In-yung, chairman of the Halla Business Group, signed the MOU on behalf of their respective sides.

The power plant to be built on the basis of 'built-own-operate' shall have a period of 20 years with effect from the day of formal commissioning of the plant.

The Halla Business Group has shown keen interest in development of river banks. The company is interested to launch massive dredging of river bed for reclamation of land to develop industrial estates. Besides, the group is also interested to establish a deep sea port in Bangladesh. Discussions were held for development and upgradation of Chittagong and Mongla ports.

hospital said outdoor facilities have been kept open for 24 hours but there is no special room or bed for providing emergency services to the devotees. However, leave of doctors and employees of the hospital have been cancelled on this occasion.

Some patients at the outdoor of the hospital alleged that doctors gave only prescription but no medicine.

The temporary latrines and toilets were giving bad smell. Organisers said that at least 30 barrels of bleaching powder were needed to keep those free of bad smell but they get only two barrels from the local health department.

### Govt destroying democratic atmosphere: B Chy

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called upon the government to change its attitude and behave like a democratic government, reports UNB.

You cannot expect democracy from the Opposition when you are resorting to undemocratic behaviour and destroying the country's democratic atmosphere... BNP is ready to resist such undesirable attitude, he said.

The BNP leader was addressing a meeting, organised on the occasion of the 18th founding anniversary of the Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS), in front of the party central office in the evening.

Presided over by JASAS president Rezabuddoula Chowdhury, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuyan, party leaders Matir Rahman and Kabir Murad, and JASAS general secretary Wasimul Bari Rajeeb.

Prof B Chowdhury said parliament should be run according to the Rules of Procedure, not by the will of the Speaker. 'Either the Speaker should be replaced or his attitude should be changed.'

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A school girl was kidnapped from Maghbazar in the city on Thursday, police said, reports UNB.

A group of young men took Ruma, 14, from in front of her residence at 593/A Peererbagh at Maghbazar at about 1 pm on the day.

She is a student of class eight of Shahnoor Girls High School in the city.

Her brother Nurul Islam Nayan filed a case with Ramma police accusing one Shaheen and his (Shaheen's) friends of the abduction.

### Art exhibition

From Page 1

breathed his last, in her presence at a poetry festival at the TSC crossing.

She also recalled with gratitude the glorious role of the artists in the War of Liberation. They not only inspired the nation in the freedom struggle with their paint-brush, but some of them also took up arms in hand, she said.

Earlier, the Prime Minister distributed prizes among the award-winning artists whose works were put on display at the national art exhibition.

Dilara Begum Jolly, Alok Roy, Rathnath Kabir and Ahmed Nazir received honorary award while Wakilur Rahman received the Pacific Group gold medal. Sheikh Afzal, the Bhoror Kagoj award, Tarun Ghosh the AB Bank award and K M A Quimay the Shilpakala Academy award.

The recipients of honorary award got a crest and a cheque of Tk 10,000 each while the other four got Tk 50,000 each.

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Expressing the hope that deliberations at the conference

rich cannot sustain the system to maintain the *status quo*. The earlier we are conscious of this possible predicament, the better it will be for charting an appropriate course of change, she added.

Sheikh Hasina reiterated her government's commitment to safeguard, protect and defend the Constitution and to maintain its supremacy as the embodiment of the will of the people and the foundation of the rule of law. 'Despite that, our search for constitutional continuity and supremacy and adherence to the rule of law have often been interrupted by usurpers,' she said.

Over 100 leading jurists and law practitioners from SAARC countries attended the session. Chief justices of Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh Justice Sajid Ali Shah, Justice Surendra Prashad and Justice ATM Afzal respectively were sitting besides the Prime Minister.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Communication Minister Anwar Hossain, Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury, State Minister for Law Abdul Matin Khaas and head of the former caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman were also present.

SAARCLAW President KK Venugopal said, 'When economic tigers are emerging in South-East Asia, unfortunately we are lagging far behind. Let's see collectively that how law practitioners can contribute to a better future.'

Amir-UL-Islam said, despite socio-political differences among SAARC nations, 'We have common affinity. We have common problem of poverty. We are striving for rule of law.'

A final report of the Conference will be presented at 9:30 am tomorrow.

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