

Jatiya Olama Parishad hails PM's decision

Jatiya Olama Parishad has hailed the Prime Minister's decision not to waste public money in the name of Iftar party, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, the Olama Parishad leaders thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for opting in favour of austerity by the government instead of giving Iftar party at the state's expense.

They said Iftar is an important part in the life of Muslims, but its sanctity is being dishonoured by vested quarters for their own political interests and as a means of extortion.

Bangladesh is a poor country and frequently attacked by floods and droughts, the Olama leaders said and called for reducing unnecessary expenditure as far as possible for the welfare of the people.

The statement was signed by Maulana Ruhul Amin Khan, Maulana Abu Sufian, Maulana Mustaq Ahmed, Maulana Wahiduzzaman, Maulana Abdul Amin Sirajee, Maulana Abdul Alim, Maulana Borhanullah and Maulana Abdul Qayum Sobhani.

ICMAB students continue demonstration

By DU Correspondent
Students of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) continued their demonstration yesterday to press home 20-point demands that include immediate reopening of the institute.

They put up a barricade on the Kataban-Nilkhel Road in the city for two hours from 1 pm. Earlier in the morning, the students paraded through the road in a procession.

The authorities closed the institute on December 31 for an indefinite period following a brawl with the students.

The students under the banner of "Andolok Bastobayan Parishad" have been agitating since December 20 in protest against the decision to raise tuition and other fees.

At a rally held at the institute premises, the parishad leaders warned that they will continue their movement until the implementation of the 20-point demands.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor of the university.

GCO rally on JU campus

By JU Correspondent
Gonotantrik Chhatra Okkya (GCO), a combine of left-leaning student organisations, yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally on Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus protesting the rehabilitation of those involved in the rape incidents at JU.

At the rally, the GCO leaders alleged that some of the students who were found guilty by the "Fact Finding Committee" have been rehabilitated on the campus and are given permission to appear at the examination.

They also demanded cancellation of certificates of these students.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Monishankar Das Gupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and Shahed Reza of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF).

The GCO leader asked the authorities to file criminal case against all involved in the rape incidents.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor of the university.

Tk 20.23 lakh from Zakat Fund to be spent for various projects

The government has decided to spend Tk 20.23 lakh for implementation of different projects under the Zakat Fund in the current financial year, reports BSS.

A child hospital and a modern sewing training centre for employment generation of the poor and distressed men and women would be set up with this fund under the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The Zakat Board yesterday at a meeting, with State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam in the chair at the Islamic Foundation took the decisions.

Besides, according to a press release of the Islamic Foundation, the meeting decided that the State Minister for

Religious Affairs would negotiate with the business personalities and the diplomats of different Muslim countries in Dhaka to raise fund for the Zakat Fund.

Under the projects, poultry distribution programme for the distressed women and widows, scholarship programme for poor bright students and distribution of rickshaws among the poor neo-Muslims for their self-employment would be taken during the current fiscal year.

Secretary of the Religious Affairs Ministry Muhammad Murshed Hussain, Director General of the Islamic Foundation Maulana Abdul Awal and concerned officials attended the meeting.

3 muggers arrested

Police arrested three muggers from city's Kachukhet area after a brief gunfight yesterday, reports UNB.

Police said the snatchers fired shots and hurled bombs at them when they challenged them following their suspicious movement in the area.

Police also fired back at the muggers, leaving Shohag, 20, injured.

Ahsania Mission team calls on Salauddin

A delegation of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital called on Health and Family Welfare Minister Salauddin Yusuf yesterday, reports UNB.

Talking to the delegation members, the Health Minister said the government policy is to patronise private initiatives. He assured them of giving all out

support and assistance for establishing the hospitals. The delegation member were led by the Executive Director of the Mission, Kazi Shafiqul Alam. They told the Minister that the government has already allotted nine bighas of land at Utara for the cancer hospital.

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D-07



● What's on today . . . ●

Open discussion: Arthaniti Charcha Kendra of Economics Department of Dhaka University will hold an open discussion on human development. Chief Speaker: Economist Selim Jahan. Venue: IBA auditorium, DU campus. Time: 11 am.

Meeting: The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Flat No 301, House No 39, Rd No 6/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 pm.

Exhibition: CDS collection will present a week-long display of its Eid Collection of Tangail Saris and Salwar Kameez. Organisers: Gallery Tone. Chief Guest: Prof Abdullah Abu Said. Venue: Gallery Tone, House No 47, Rd No 1, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 10 am - 8 pm every day till January 15.

Discussion: McDonald Bangladesh (Pvt) Ltd will hold a discussion on 'Prospects of Hybrid Paddy' at an iftar-cum-dinner party. Venue: Panda Garden, Mohakhali. Time: 3 pm.

Weather

No change in temperature

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today. reports UNB.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, according to Met Office forecast.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 29.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest of 9.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets today at 5:26 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage		
	in Celsius	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka		28.1	12.4	63	71
Chittagong		26.7	15.0	86	73
Khulna		28.0	13.0	90	61
Rajshahi		27.5	13.5	78	75
Barisal		27.0	12.0	85	--
Sylhet		28.2	13.5	65	58
Cox's Bazar		28.0	16.0	76	69

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