

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote team meets Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all concerned including cultural activists to forge strong resistance against those who are out to create an unstable situation in the country, reports BSS.

She was talking to a 12-member delegation of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote at her office.

Led by president of the jote Ramendra Mazumdar, the delegation condemned the bomb attack on Udichi function at Jessor and Kazi Aref killing at Kushtia. They urged the Prime Minister to find out the persons responsible for these heinous incidents and bring them to book. They thanked Sheikh Hasina for making all possible arrangements for the treatment of the injured persons of the Jessor bomb blast.

Sheikh Hasina told the delegation that immediately after hearing the bomb incident at Jessor, she directed all government agencies including the army field hospital to take measures for treatment and rescue of the injured people.

The other members of the delegation were Sanjida Khatun, Aly Zaker, Asaduzzaman Noor, Mamunur Rashid, Ataur Rahman, Rafiqunnabi, Naisuruddin Yusuf, Laila Hasan, Liakat Ali, Lucky, Mosiful Haque and Golam Qudus.

Jubo Dal leader stabbed in police custody

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Mar 22: A local Jubo Dal leader was stabbed allegedly by police in custody at Boalia thana this afternoon.

Relatives of the Jubo Dal leader Sultan, 28, said, police arrested Sultan from Dargapara area this noon and took him to Boalia thana. He was beaten and later stabbed on the belly allegedly by some policemen. He was shifted immediately to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

PM's political secy redesignated

By Staff Correspondent

The position of political secretary to the Prime Minister has been redesignated as "speech writer", a PID handout said Sunday night.

The handout said that the position of political secretary having the rank of State Minister/Deputy Minister will now be transformed to that of "Speech Writer".

Dr S A Malek would continue to hold his position as Political Adviser to the Prime Minister with the rank and status of a full minister.

FEJB Award to be introduced

The Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) in its 15th annual general meeting (AGM) yesterday stressed the need for immediate programmes to mitigate the environmental hazards like lead polluted air in the cities and arsenic contaminated groundwater in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The AGM also decided to introduce FEJB Award for environmental reporting, photography and writings.

Held at the National Press Club, the meeting was presided over by FEJB chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury.

FEJB general secretary Bakhtr Rana presented the general secretary's report and Hasan Hafiz presented the treasurer's report in the AGM.

FEJB vice-chairman Gaziur Rahman, founder member Mashir Hossain, Shehabuddin Ahmed Nafa, Khondker Monirul Alam, Syed Akther Yusuf, Nurul Huda, Sarwar Jahan, Sheikh Enamul Huq, Rosy Ferdous, DK Fuad Hasan, Mohammad Quamruzzaman and Lutfur Rahman Binu took part in the discussion on reports of general secretary and treasurer.

Bathing festival at Langalbandh March 24, 25

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 22: The holy bathing festival and mela (fair) of the Hindu community will be held at Langalbandh on March 24 and 25, reports BSS.

Thousands of Hindu devotees of all ages from home and abroad will perform the holy bathing in the Shitalakshya River at historical Langalbandh under Bandar Thana and take part in the fair.

JU holiday Mar 24- Apr 1

By JU Correspondent

Classes and offices at Jahangirnagar University (JU) will remain closed from tomorrow to April 1 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha and Independence and National Day, official sources said.

The examinations scheduled during this time will however be held as per schedule, the sources added.

New envoys to Egypt, Thailand appointed

The government has appointed Sirajul Islam, a Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to Egypt, reports BSS.

Islam, a career diplomat, has served country's various missions abroad in different capacities.

Suhra Hossain, a Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, now posted in the Prime Minister's Office, has been appointed Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Projonma's demand

By Staff Correspondent

Projonma '71, an organisation of the children of the martyrs of the Liberation War demanded trial of a section of so-called intellectuals who has been misguiding the young generation by distorting the history of independence.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club on Saturday, Saidur Rahman, the founder President of Projonma '71 said that the youths should be protected from such misguided elements who are making use of the Liberation War for their personal gains.

Good governance

From Page 1

The Budget Cycle as an instrument of accountability: The South Asian Experience.

In his presentation, Dr Langdon noted that the Parliament should not collide with the executive branch of the government.

With the launching of SPG programme, Dhaka Sheraton has become the only hotel in Bangladesh to offer guests such a choice of Starwood's which has a network of more than 600 hotels around the globe and more than 20 international air-links.

He felt the Parliament has an important role to play in the process of budgeting but found the parliaments in South Asia are unable to get effectively involved with the planning process. "There is no accountability at the planning level of the budget and also there is limited financial reporting (in the newspapers) on the issue."

Dr Langdon made some recommendations to address the problem. They include enforcing accountability in all areas of the budgeting process, ensuring openness and free flow of information about different phases of the budget cycle, identifying the problem areas and dealing with those, allowing civil society groups to provide for a check and balance and the relevant parliamentary committees to review the draft budget.

Akhtaruzzaman, MP and Prof Muzaffar Ahmad of Bangladesh, Senator Aftab Sheikh of Pakistan, Rabindra Chakrabarti, MP and Shree Bhadra Sharma of Nepal discussed on the keynote paper.

Membership is free and open to all, Amalan said adding that the purpose of SPG is to increase revenue and stays at any of the six participating hotels while building customer loyalty through personal recognition, benefits and rewards for staying at Starwood Hotels and Resorts.

All the hotels in Starwood portfolio of six brands of distinctive hotels worldwide such as Westine Hotels and Resorts, Sheraton Hotels and Resorts, The Luxury Collection, Four Points Hotels, W Hotels and Caesars are participating in this programme.



WHEN IS THIS GOING TO END? Traffic jams on the road leading from Dainik Bangla Square in Motijheel area to Paltan Square seem to be become a regular pattern for the drivers on this road who have to spend a miserably long period in the scorching midday heat. This snap was taken from the area yesterday noon.

—Star photo by SK Enamul Haque

Dhaka Sheraton launches SPG facility for journalists

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, a brand hotel of the Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide Inc.

will launch the Starwood Press Club Programme for journalists to offer them 50 per cent discount on rooms and 25 per cent discount on food and beverages at 600 hotels around the globe.

San Amalan, General Manager of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, said this at a press conference while launching Starwood Preferred Guest (SPG) programme yesterday. The programme has been introduced with a view to make it the most frequented guest programme in the world.

With the launching of SPG programme, Dhaka Sheraton has become the only hotel in Bangladesh to offer guests such a choice of Starwood's which has a network of more than 600 hotels around the globe and more than 20 international air-links.

The customer who spends at least ten dollars earns two points for his single dollar. But with an special offer upto May 31, a person will earn four points for each dollar," Amalan said.

He said with these points, the members can enjoy free nights across the globe, free flights, room upgrades and other offers.

All active members of Sheraton Club International and Westin Premier will be automatically enrolled in SPG.

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7 to die for killing child

PIROJPUR, Mar 22: A court here today sentenced seven people to death with fine in the sensational Shithil Murder Case, reports BSS.

The convicts are: Ashok Saha, Sekender Ali, Nur Khan, Sajiduzzaman, Eskandar Billal Hossain and Shamsul Haq. Of them, Billal and Shamsul were tried in absentia.

Additional District and Sessions Judge SMA Rouf, in his verdict, fined convict Ashok with Tk 50,000 each.

The judge directed the government to realise the money from movable and immovable property of the convicted people before executing the capital punishment.

The court also asked them to give 75 per cent of the money to the victim's father as token compensation and the rest 25 per cent to the government fund for meeting the expense of the case.

The brief case story was that Shithil, 5, only son of District Bar Association member advocate Ratan Lal, was kidnapped and killed by the convicts inside the Maternity Hospital on December 9, 1996.

We are launching the programme with a view to making the countrymen more conscious about these religious fanatics and resist their threat to peace in the society," said veteran artist Abul Khayer.

Expressing grave concern over the recent killings of a political leader and cultural activists, he said that religious extremists cannot be resisted if all does not unite against them.

Addressing the conference, actor Pijus Bandapadhyay said a vested quarter was conspiring to retard the ongoing democratic process and peaceful atmosphere of the country. He urged all concerned including the pro-liberation forces and cultural activists to join the rally. Pijus also urged the government to take effective measures to ensure security of political leaders, intellectuals and cultural activists.

Among others Afroza Banu,

Shahidul Islam, Sachchu,

Nasima Haque, Moshedul Islam,

Tarek Mahmud, Khurshed Kabir and Ruhul Kuddus Kajal were present at the press conference.

Reception accorded to freshers of JU English dept

By JU Correspondent

Freshers of the 27th batch (year 1997-98) of Department of English at Jahangirnagar University (JU) were accorded a reception on Saturday.

Organised at the seminar room of the central auditorium of the university, the reception ceremony was presided over by Ahmed Reza, chairman of the department. Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Bayes was present as the chief guest while Registrar Mohammad Ali was present as special guest.

The reception was followed by a cultural function performed by the students of the department.

Kabita Club discussion tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

A discussion on the writings of Poet Azizur Rahman Aziz will be held at the National Museum Agrani Bank auditorium at 5:30 pm tomorrow, says a press release.

Organised by Bangladesh Kabita Club, the programme will be attended by Prof Anisuzzaman, Poet Muhammed Nurul Huda, Rahat Khan, Dr Syed Anwar Hossain, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Rashid Haider, Rafiq Azad, Asad Chowdhury, Kaziul Islam Chowdhury, Ramendu Mojumder, Asaduzzaman Noor, Nasir Uddin Yousuf and Dr Md. Suduzzaman.

Renowned vocalists Subir Nandi, Shaheen Samad, Ferous Ara, Rafiqul Alam, Abida Sultana and Baby Nazneen will render songs composed by Azizur Rahman following the discussion.

He said law and order situation in the country deteriorated alarmingly and the government failed to ensure the security and safety of the people.

Terming the government as a "terrorist" one, he said, the ruling party leaders and activists are themselves engaged in violence to curb the opposition movement.

The agitating workers of Kasmir Jute Mills put up the barricade on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway and railway track to press home their demands for festival bonus and other dues, police added.

Later, with the intervention of police the barricade was removed at 1 pm today restoring communication.

Road link with Ctg snapped for two hours

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 22: Train and road communications between Chittagong and other parts of the country remained snapped for two hours from 11 am today when workers put up a barricade at Kumira point at Sitakundu industrial belt, police said.

The agitating workers of Kasmir Jute Mills put up the barricade on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway and railway track to press home their demands for festival bonus and other dues, police added.

With the intervention of police the barricade was removed at 1 pm today restoring communication.

Tk 47 lakh donation for NGOs

By DU Correspondent

A two-day long cultural rally to create mass awareness about the recent rise of the religious extremists in the country begins at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises tomorrow.

This was disclosed at a press conference by a group of renowned cultural activists who believe in the spirit of the Liberation War at the academy yesterday afternoon. The cultural rally is part of a massive cultural programme to be launched across the country very soon, they said.

The cultural rallies will include songs based on the Liberation War, poetry recitation, folk songs, screening of films and a photo exhibition.

Eminent cultural activists across the country will take part in the programme scheduled to begin at 3 pm and end at 10 pm on both days.

We are launching the programme with a view to making the countrymen more conscious about these religious fanatics and resist their threat to peace in the society," said veteran artist Abul Khayer.

Expressing grave concern over the recent killings of a political leader and cultural activists, he said that religious extremists cannot be resisted if all does not unite against them.

Addressing the conference, actor Pijus Bandapadhyay said a vested quarter was conspiring to retard the ongoing democratic process and peaceful atmosphere of the country. He urged all concerned including the pro-liberation forces and cultural activists to join the rally. Pijus also urged the government to take effective measures to ensure security of political leaders, intellectuals and cultural activists.

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