

South Asian women form human chain for peace

Local women hand in hand with women from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India initiated a 2-km long human chain as a campaign for peace in South Asia for the new millennium at the Proshika Human Resource Development Centre yesterday, says a press release.

The women from five South Asian countries, at present participating in a month-long workshop on gender equality and sustainable development, initiated the human chain as part of their workshop programmes. The workshop was organised by Proshika and NGO-FAO Programme, India in cooperation with UNIFEM.

"Peace for Empowerment and Empowerment for Peace" was the slogan that marked the event. Slogans like "The 21st century has to be violence free," "Food security is national security" and "Peace is our religion" were also chanted in Sinhala, Hindi, Bangla, Urdu, Nepali and English.

"Violence is neither sustainable nor worth sustaining," said Kamla Bhasin, a renowned feminist of South Asia in her speech on the occasion. "Economic injustice is the root of most conflicts and wars. Economic development and peace have to go together."

Fawzia Khondkar, a feminist from Bangladesh said that for peace in the world there should be peace in the home. "If we don't have peace in the fam-

ily and in the workplace there will be no peace in society," she said.

Proshika President Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed, senior vice president Mahbubul Karim and others were among the participants of the human chain.

Two killed, 10 hurt in Jessore road accident

Jessore, Dec 19: A bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Mohakal Alpur in Abhoynagar thana here Saturday night leaving two people dead and 10 injured, reports UNB.

Police said the Kushtia-bound bus skidded off the Jessore-Khulna highway while giving side to another bus, killing a cyclist and a bus passenger in the morning.

The dead cyclist was identified as Motiur Rahman, 27, son of Nawab Ali Sheikh of village Daikora in Abhoynagar thana. Of the wounded, eight were rushed to Thana Health Centre and two to Khulna Hospital in critical condition.

Police seized the bus, but its driver and helper fled the scene immediately after the mishap.

Another report said: A man allegedly killed his one-year-old daughter at village Jalari in Monirampur thana on Saturday night following family feud, police said.

DCCI signs MOU with two Chinese chambers

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and two Chinese chambers aiming at exploring and stimulating the potentialities of bilateral trade and economic growth, reports UNB.

DCCI signed the MOU with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Hangzhou Sub Council (CCPIT) and the China Chamber of International Commerce, Hangzhou Chamber (CCOIC) at its board room yesterday.

The signatories to the MOU appreciated the scope for further expansion of trade relations and the prospects of setting up industries in Bangladesh under joint venture. The chambers also felt the need to foster a spirit of better cooperation and coordination between business communities in general and their respective members in particular.

The MOU is to exchange regularly market information, assist visits of commercial and economic delegations, help in participating and organising exhibitions, including training, seminars, symposia and conferences taking place in their respective countries aimed at expansion of trade and investment between the members.

Rotary News

Weekly meeting

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held today at Hotel Sonargaon at 4:30 pm, says a press release.

Members have been requested to attend the meeting in time.

2 train services under private management

RAJSHAHI, Dec 19: Two express train services of the Western Zone of Bangladesh Railway will be handed over to private management on Tuesday, reports UNB.

All commercial functions, including ticket booking, of the trains operating on Khulna-Parbatipur and Parbatipur-Chilahati lines will now be handled under the management of Islam Ship Builders and Heavy Engineering Company.

An agreement to this effect was signed between Bangladesh Railway authorities and Islam Ship Builders and Heavy Engineering last Wednesday.

The services were handed over to private management with a view to reduce huge losses incurred every year by the Railways, said a Railway official.

He said more trains of western zone would gradually be handed over to private management.



BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia flanked by Shafiq Rehman, Editor, Jay Jay Din (R) and Motiur Rahman, Editor, Prothom Alo (L) at an iftar party for journalists at her 29, Minto Road residence yesterday.

— Star photo

JS body meets Implement WDB projects timely

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources in a meeting yesterday discussed construction of four groynes at Dhunat in Bogra with World Bank funds to check river erosion, reports UNB.

Construction of the groynes will help preserve and develop rivers and protect erosion-hit town. The meeting laid stress on timely implementation of the on-going projects under the Water Development Board (WDB).

The parliamentary body also discussed the issues of promotion and absorption of sub-assistant engineers of the Water Development Board and suggested the authorities to solve the prevailing problems as per rule.

Chaired by committee chairman Abdul Momini the meeting was attended by committee members Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq, M Anwarul Islam, Kazi Sekendar Ali, M A Bari, Sharuddin Ahmed, Oli Ahmad, Harun-al-Rashid, Dr Habibur Rahman and Golam Mohammad Siraj.

More establishments found to be Y2K compliant

The Y2K Emergency Centre has found some more important establishments ready to face the millennium bug after extensive visit by its audit and review teams, reports UNB.

The establishments included Zia Fertiliser Factory, Ghorasal Power Station, Ashuganj Power Station, Palash Urea Fertiliser Factory and the entire natural gas network.

A high-level team of the centre, led by Bangladesh Computer Council executive director Dr Abdus Sobhan, visited the establishments on December 17 and 18.

Another audit and review team yesterday visited Janata Bank, Dhaka Stock Exchange and Investment Corporation of Bangladesh here and found those to be Y2K compliant.

Dr Sobhan said the situation regarding the Y2K problem in the health sector is not so bad as speculated earlier.

A high-level expert team of the centre will also visit some important installations in the port city of Chittagong on Tuesday.

The audit and review team will check the computer system and microchips used in Chittagong Port, ships of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Eastern Refinery, Chittagong WASA, Ragoon Thermal Power Station and Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory.

Siltation threatens power generation at Kaptai hydro plant

RANGAMATI, Dec 19: Power generation in Kaptai Hydroelectricity Plant was threatened with siltation up of Kaptai Lake due to deposition of soil, reports UNB.

Experts said the depth of the lake is rapidly reducing as soil from the hilly areas easily deposits under the bed of the lake due to massive deforestation and hum cultivation.

The 350 square-mile Kaptai Lake was created by constructing an embankment on the mouth of the river Karnaphuli in the 60s. Depth of the lake was 109 msl at the beginning, but now reduced by 8 feet.

Five units of the power plant

15 hurt as AL, BNP clash in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Dec 19: At least 15 people were injured in a clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP in Tanore thana of the district today.

According to police and witnesses, the clash erupted over inauguration of Russel Smriti Cricket Tournament at Gollapara play ground.

The BNP leaders and workers intercepted local Awami League leaders while they were going to open the tournament. At this stage, the Awami League workers became agitated and ransacked a shop of Juba Dal leader Omar Ali at Gollapara Bazar.

The BNP men chased the AL activists that led to a fierce clash between the two rival groups.

The leading groups used lethal weapons and exploded crackers during the clash. At least ten shops of Gollapara Bazar were also looted.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control by resorting to lathi charge.

A tense situation is prevailing in the area. Riot police have been deployed to avert any further incident.

Hospital blames bad saline for eye damages

From Quazi Amanullah KHULNA, Dec 19: Authorities of Abdul Wadud Memorial Hospital have decided to take necessary action against the manufacturer for supplying Balanced Salt Solution (BSS) saline which allegedly damaged eyes of eight patients due to infection.

The saline bags were full of bacteria, said Dr Mohammad Shah Jamal, Project Director of the eye hospital run by the Christian Service Society (CSS).

He denied the charge of carelessness of hospital doctors and nurses.

The authorities of the hospital have lodged a written complaint with Rupsha thana against the manufacturer of the BSS saline.

Meanwhile, the Area Manager of the manufacturing company visited the hospital on Saturday and discussed matters relating to compensation of the victims who are still under intensive care, said a hospital source.

At least 75 per cent patients have already left the 60-bed eye hospital, he said.

7 held for bus robbery

GAZIPUR, Dec 19: Seven robbers were taken into custody shortly after they looted the passengers of a Dhaka-bound bus from Kapasia at about 10 am today, reports UNB.

Police and passengers said the dacoits who boarded the bus in guise of passengers took control of the vehicle at Nagopara, looted cash from the passengers at gunpoint.

They also beat four passengers during the looting. The miscreants took away the key of the bus before they made away in a microbus that had been following the bus all along.

On lodging a complaint, police alerted all wayside police camps. The Konabari police put up road barricade, stopped the microbus and arrested the bandits.

Police recovered Tk 21,000, two revolvers, 11 bullets and sharp weapons from the robbers. They were identified as Tara Mia, Khokon Chandra Pal, Suruj Mia, Kamal Hossain, Debabrata Shaha, Titu and Mustafar from Ganderia and Fatullah.

Khaleda hosts iftar party for journalists

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chief Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday hosted an iftar party at her Minto Road official residence for the journalists, reports BSS.

Acting Secretary General of the BNP, Abdullah Al-Noman and Standing Committee members, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Dr Khondkar Mosharraf Hossain and Anwar Zahid received the guests.

Senior journalists including ABM Musa, Ahmedul Kabir, AZM Enayet Ullah Khan (Holiday), Atiqul Alam, Reaz Uddin Ahmed, Mahfuz Anam, Shafiq Rehman, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Matur Rahman Chowdhury, Khandoker Monirul Alam and Swapan Kumar Saha, President and General Secretary of National Press Club attended the party.

After the iftar, Begum Zia held a meeting with the Editors and senior journalists and exchanged views on the present situation.

DU convocation evokes mixed reaction

The 40th convocation of Dhaka University, the first after independence, evoked a mixed reaction among the teachers and students, reports UNB.

While some were critical of the presence of heavy contingent of police and pro-Awami League men on the campus during Saturday's mega event as "watchdog", others were happy to learn that the university would now hold regular convocation.

"It didn't look like a university programme. It degraded the image of my Alma Mater. It is disgraceful for us that such a grand programme is confined to some people," said a former student of International Relations Department of the University.

She said police and Chhatra League activists occupied the campus the whole day and the convocation ground was fully captured by them.

On the other hand, some Chhatra League activists were dissatisfied as they could not attend the programme. They said they were in and around the Arts Building as they were "on duty as watchdog".

Shilpi, an MFA student of the Institute of Fine Arts, said the convocation was meant for the affluent. "Don't you think Tk 1,000 is too high as registration fee?"

"I was not curious to read the details of the function in the newspapers. Rather, I was interested in the speech of Amartya Sen and of the Chancellor," said M Mazharul Huq, a third year student of Accountancy Department.

He said the ceremony should have been open for all the students of the University.

Many students who attended the ceremony were delighted to know that the convocation would now be a annual event.

One of the PhD degree holders alleged that she was not happy with the management of the convocation ceremony. "We could not watch all the programmes due to poor arrangements," she said.

Many students alleged that they did not get any souvenir despite repeated requests. Abu Hena Muhammad Quamrul Hasan, a third year student of the Arts Faculty, observed that the programme was not as attractive as expected.

He felt that there was neither any need for calling a haral on the day nor any necessity of making the campus a "restrictive zone" for many.

"I think the speech of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen indicated that we are politically impatient," said a teacher belonging to the "White" panel. He remarked that the speech of Sen should be the guidelines for our political leaders.

"Sen spoke of creative and constructive disagreement," he said. Amartya was the only attraction in the programme and our politicians will never follow his prescription as "they believe in destructive disagreement."

Janakantha reporter released on bail

BARISAL, Dec 19: Janakantha staff reporter Shawkat Milton was today released on bail by a lower court here today, reports UNB.

Shawkat was arrested on Saturday following a defamation suit filed by former chairman of Kashipur union parishad for publication of a report against him.



United For Peace: Women for Women, a research and study group organised a human chain at the Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday for peace in the new century.

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তারিখঃ ১৫/১২/৯৯

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শিক্ষাবর্ষ ১৯৯৯-২০০০

ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিভিন্ন অনুষদে ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ১৯৯৯-২০০০ শিক্ষাবর্ষে প্রথম বর্ষ স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণীতে ভর্তি হতে ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ধর্মতত্ত্ব ও ইসলামী শিক্ষা অনুষদে আল-কুরআন ও ইসলামিক স্টাডিজ, দাওয়াহ ও ইসলামিক স্টাডিজ, আল-হাদীস ও ইসলামিক স্টাডিজ বিভাগ; মানবিক ও সমাজবিজ্ঞান অনুষদে ইতিহাস, রাষ্ট্রনীতি ও লোক প্রশাসন, আরবী ভাষা ও সাহিত্য, বাংলা ভাষা ও সাহিত্য, ইংরেজি, ইসলামের ইতিহাস ও সংস্কৃতি বিভাগ; ব্যবসায় প্রশাসন অনুষদে হিসাববিজ্ঞান, ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ; আইন ও শরীয়াহ অনুষদে আইন ও মুসলিম বিধান বিভাগ; এবং ফলিত বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি অনুষদে ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স ও ফলিত পদার্থবিজ্ঞান, ফলিত রসায়ন ও রাসায়নিক প্রযুক্তি, কম্পিউটার বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি, ইনফরমেশন সায়েন্স ও টেকনোলজি, ফলিত পুষ্টি ও খাদ্য বিজ্ঞান এবং বায়োটেকনোলজি বিভাগসমূহে ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ভর্তি করা হবে।

১। ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতাঃ ১৯৯৮ ও ১৯৯৯ সালের উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের (আলিম ও ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-কমার্স) ও ১৯৯৯ সনের ফাজিল পরীক্ষা যে সব ছাত্র-ছাত্রী উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছেন কেবলমাত্র তাইই নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বিভিন্ন অনুষদে ভর্তি হতে সক্ষম হবেন।

করতে পারবে। মাধ্যমিক/সমমান, উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমান ও ফাজিল যে কোন পরীক্ষায় তৃতীয় বিভাগ থাকলে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে না।

২। শর্তসমূহঃ ধর্মতত্ত্ব ও ইসলামী শিক্ষা অনুষদে ভর্তি হতে ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের দাখিল/সমমান ও আলিম/সমমান উভয় পরীক্ষায় দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ থাকতে হবে। মানবিক ও সমাজবিজ্ঞান অনুষদ, ব্যবসায় প্রশাসন অনুষদ এবং আইন ও শরীয়াহ অনুষদে ভর্তি হতে ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের দাখিল/সমমান ও আলিম/সমমান উভয় পরীক্ষায় দ্বিতীয় বিভাগ থাকতে হবে।

৩। উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমান ও ফাজিল (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) পরীক্ষার স্বর্ণপদক ও সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ছবি এবং মাধ্যমিক/সমমান ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমান ও ফাজিল (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) পরীক্ষার স্বর্ণপদক ও সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে যুক্ত করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বিভাগের বিভাগীয় পরীক্ষা কমিটির অফিস থেকে প্রবেশপত্র সনদ করতে হবে। প্রবেশপত্র বাতীল কোন ছাত্র-ছাত্রীকে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

৪। ভর্তির তারিখ ও সময়সূচীঃ ভর্তি সনদে অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাবলী ভর্তি নির্দেশিকা থেকে জানা যাবে।

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জিডি-১২১২

Aricha ferry services disrupted

MANIKGANJ, Dec 19: Operation of ferry services and plying of boats remained suspended for five hours this morning on Aricha-Daulatdia and Aricha-Nagarbari routes due to thick fog, reports UNB.

A large number of vehicles remained stranded at three ferry ghats and long queues of vehicles could not be cleared till 8 pm today.

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