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10 days to the
3rd Millennium

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The Daily Star

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Cabinet okays list of holidays

The Cabinet yesterday approved the list of holidays for the 2000 calendar year with 26 days of general holiday, reports UNB.

The holidays include 15 days of public holiday and 11 days of government holiday, sanctioned through executive orders.

Besides, the Cabinet endorsed provision for optional holidays for devotees of different religious faiths.

The Cabinet also congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Nobel Laureate Prof Amartya Sen on their obtaining honorary doctorate degrees from Dhaka University.

The regular meeting of the council of ministers was held at the Cabinet Room with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Fresh violence, another killed in Feni

FENI, Dec 20: Fresh violence in the district today killed another man at village Joypur in Chhagalnaiya thana, raising the death toll to six in last four days, reports UNB.

Three people were injured in the violence at noon after a day's respite on Sunday.

Three others were killed on Saturday and two on Friday during gunfight between Chhatra League and Chhatra Dal activists in Feni.

Police identified today's victim as Nooresofa alias Shahabuddin, 45.

They arrested one Fatema Begum in connection with today's violence, but declined to give details.

On Friday, Chhatra League See Page 12 Col 1

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Two Jostling Strands of Bangladesh Politics

by M Rashiduzzaman

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Focus

Opposition summit: What does it transpire?

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
12	21	-	520
13	22	5:12	520
14	23	5:13	521

Prayer Timings

December 21

Azan	Jamaat
5:8	5:17
12:45	1:15
3:42	4:00
5:16	5:22
7:00	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Southeast Bank Limited Head Office, Dhaka

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Directors and Management of Southeast Bank Limited express their profound gratitude to the Almighty for successful subscription in the IPO of the Bank. The Company takes great pleasure in announcing that the applications for Shares have been over subscribed against Public Offering of Taka 5.00 crore.

The Management of the Company express their deep gratitude to the valued investors for their overwhelming support & confidence reposed on the Company.

The Management also gratefully acknowledges the co-operation extended and services rendered by Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd. (DSE), Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd. (CSE), Underwriters, Bankers to the Issue Manager to the Issue and others.

By Staff Correspondent

One convicted prisoner was shot dead and seven others were recaptured by police only two hours after they escaped from Sherpur jail breaking the gate yesterday morning.

Nine convicted prisoners disarmed a prison guard, looted three rifles and some 100 bullets from the armoury and escaped from the jail at 7:50 am, Sherpur DC M Noaif Mia told The Daily Star over telephone.

The looted arms and ammunition were also recovered but

them.

Mujibur Rahman of Katilakhora village in Sherpur, who was serving seven years' RI, died on the spot when a bullet fired by police hit his abdomen.

The seven recaptured convicts are: Sharafat Ali, Saidul Islam, Sujon Dalu, Swapon, Sohel, Manik Karmaker and Mistry Razzaq, all serving varying jail terms for murder and dacoity. They were admitted to Sherpur Sadar Hospital

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JCD activists go on rampage: Bombs exploded, vehicles damaged

By DU Correspondent

Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), BNP's students' wing, went on the rampage and damaged at least 12 vehicles as police dispersed their procession at Bijoynagar crossing in the city yesterday by hurling tear gas shells and using batons.

The police action followed explosion of five home made bombs when the procession was going towards the BNP central office at Naya Paltan after a rally at Muktangan.

The rally was held to protest the police action on JCD activists in the city on Friday and demand release of party leaders including its president Habibun-Nabi Khan Sohel and general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, arrested on that day.

Police fired at least 10 tear gas shells and arrested four JCD activists -- Mashur, Mamun, Nurul Alam, Talukder and Khorshed Alami -- from the spot yesterday.

A pedestrian - Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan - injured in the bomb blasts, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, hospital sources said.

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A JCD activist under police fire after fellow activists in a procession exploded homemade bombs and damaged vehicles in Bijoynagar-Naya Paltan areas in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Transhipment only if Delhi gives similar facilities, says Tofail

Star Report

BICCI, and convenor of India-Bangladesh Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry Goury Prashad Goenka also spoke.

Responding to demands by Indian businessmen that Bangladesh provide transhipment facility through its territory, Tofail said Dhaka has formed a special task force on the issue and that the decision will be taken on the basis of India.

They also underscored the need for maximum withdrawal of duty on Bangladesh goods to India.

UNB reports from Calcutta: Tofail urged Indian entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh even to meet demand of India's consumers through buyback system.

trities should be taken at the government level. The trade between the two countries is heavily tilted in favour of India.

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To watch the spectacle, the BAA has arranged an observation camp at the playground of

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It will be a 'full moon' which will last for 22.18 hours, triggering an upsurge in high and low tide, bringing the moon and the sun along a close parallel, a phenomena that is taking place after 133 years, Bangladesh Astronomical Association (BAA) sources said.

To watch the spectacle, the BAA has arranged an observation camp at the playground of

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President Tofail Ahmed Pintu said that the initiative to reduce trade gap between the two countries.

Abdul Awal Mintoo supported the views of the minister and demanded free entrance of Bangladeshi goods to the north-eastern states of India. He stressed the need for Indian investment in Bangladesh and increase in trade volume between the two countries.

Indian businessmen said that the initiative to reduce trade gap between the two countries.

Probe into alleged torture of JCD leaders ordered

By Court Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday ordered judicial inquiry into the alleged torture of JCD president Habibun-Nabi Khan Sohel, its general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and some other leaders in police custody on Friday.

The order followed filing of a complaint case against Additional Deputy Commissioner (East) Golam Morshed, OC of Motijheel thana, Mohammad Hanif and OC of Ramna thana Mohammed Rafiqul Islam for their alleged involvement in the torture.

The case was filed by Mohammed Ali.

The complainant alleged

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Time to watch full moon

Thus spake the Gopal at DCC

By Staff Correspondent

"How many stars are there in the sky?" asked a pensive king to Gopal, the legendary court clown.

Gopal thought for a moment before replying, "There must be twenty lakh five thousand and fifty, my lord. If you disbelieve me, please count them. You may punish me if the number is wrong."

A similar situation arose at the office of a top official of Revenue Department at the Dhaka City Corporation. Asked about the number of rickshaws in the city, the Revenue Officer flatly replied, "There are 88 thousand seven hundred and something rickshaws in the city."

When he was told that according to Dhaka Metropolitan Police there are more than six lakh rickshaws in the city, the DCC official coolly replied, "As far as we are concerned there are only 88 thousand seven hundred and something rickshaws in the city. If you disbelieve me, why don't you start counting?"

When he was told that according to Dhaka Metropolitan Police there are more than six lakh rickshaws in the city, the DCC official coolly replied,

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