

What's on today....

Roundtable: Dhaka MBA Association will hold a roundtable conference on 'Management of Education in Bangladesh'. Chief guest: A S H Sadeque, Minister for Education. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 2.30 pm.

Dress exhibition: Exhibitions of ready-to-wear garments by Kay Kraft, Henry's Heritage and Damara are going on. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Jewellery exhibition: An exhibition of jewellery designed by Abrarur Rahman is going on. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Dress exhibition: A 8-day dress exhibition by Munmun Collection will be inaugurated. Venue: Cafeteria of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

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

Fog may occur along river basin of the country during the morning and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country, according to Met Office.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 27.5 degree Celsius at Chittagong and the lowest 10.8 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:19 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.4	13.9	76	61
Chittagong	27.5	16.8	85	74
Rajshahi	25.2	13.4	82	79
Khulna	27.2	14.4	90	76
Barisal	26.4	13.7	96	90
Sylhet	25.8	15.0	56	57
Cox's Bazar	27.0	18.8	81	70

Bombs explode in front of Ctg Circuit House

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: Two bombs exploded in front of Chittagong Circuit House at Kazir Dewri tonight, but no casualty was reported, police said.

Police said some miscreants hurled bombs in front of the Circuit House at 8:30 pm in a bid to create panic.

Additional police force was deployed around the Circuit House after the incident.

However, none was arrested in this connection till filing of this report at 10:30 pm.

Attack on Siddique's convention nothing but an arranged game: BCL

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday protested newspaper reports, which held BCL responsible for the attack on supporters of Kader Siddique in the convention of his new party on Friday, reports BSS.

BCL President Bahadur Bepari and General Secretary Ajoy Kar Khokon in a statement yesterday said that the attack on the "so-called" convention of Siddique was nothing but an arranged game.

Bird hunters

From page 1

The incident took place at village Char Simla village. The dead was identified as Saiful Islam (30) of Kherbandi village under Kazipur thana. The name of the Bangladeshi teacher is Askar Habib Chowdhury.

The bird hunters were travelling in a mechanised boat and were hunting guest birds in the Jamuna.

The villagers suspected them to be dacoits and asked them to stop. As the hunters did not respond, one of the villagers opened fire. The hunters retaliated, killing Saiful on the spot.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, by arresting eight of the villagers. A case has been filed with the Sadar thana.

Nasim visits Azmir Sharif

CALCUTTA, Dec 25: Home Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim visited Azmir Sharif and offered munajat at the mazar of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti. He also offered Jumma prayer there yesterday, reports BSS.

Earlier, Mohammad Nasim was taken to the holy mazar by a special aircraft of the Indian government.

BCL, Shibir call siege programme at CU from tomorrow

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) have separately called siege programme for indefinite period at the university from December 27.

Shibir called the programme protesting killing of its two leaders on the campus on December 19, and demanding immediate arrest of the killers.

BCL called siege programme protesting arrest of its leaders and activists from the campus. BCL also demanded reopening of all dormitories of the university immediately.

Meanwhile, BNP chairman backed White panel teachers at the university demanded immediate removal of the Vice Chancellor and Pro-Vice Chancellor. The teachers at a rally held in front of the local press club in the city said during the tenure of this administration as many as eight students were killed on the campus. But the authorities failed to take any effective measure in this regard, they added.

However, Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA) in a statement today expressed concern over the announcement of siege programme at the university separately by two student organisations.

Nepal

From page 1

"Nepalese security lapses," said Biju Kumar Gachhadar, minister for civil aviation. "The question is who was responsible."

The government had ordered an inquiry into security at the airport and would bring to book anyone responsible for negligence, Gachhadar said.

Heavily armed men hijacked the New Delhi-bound Indian Airlines Flight IC 814 on Friday with 178 passengers and 11 crew on board. The plane is now at the airport in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar after an odyssey across South Asia and the Gulf.

STAR Television News reported that four officials of Kathmandu airport had been arrested. Gachhadar did not confirm the report.

A Home (Interior) Ministry spokesman said he did not know of any arrests at the airport. "I have no knowledge of this but no one will be spared during the investigation," he said.

He said all employees of various agencies who were on airport duty when the airliner took off from Kathmandu had been suspended for the duration of the enquiry.

Hasina attends children's function

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended a colourful children's function yesterday morning at her Ganobhaban residence, reports BSS.

The function, dedicated to the children of the next millennium, was participated by a good number of children including toddlers.

The prime minister also addressed them briefly.

Christmas Day celebrated

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 25: The Christian community today celebrated Christmas Day with due religious fervour and festivity, reports BSS.

To mark the occasion, the Christian devotees chalked out elaborate programmes that included decoration of Christmas trees, rendering carols and offering prayers at churches.

After special prayers, priests distributed the Holy Communion among the devotees.

We did it

From page 1

Some top BCL leaders when contacted denied this, but the activists and cadres confirmed that the 'operation' was done as per plan of their bosses. "Contradiction by top leaders is just a party strategy", one activist said.

At least 50 people including four journalists and four policemen were injured as the activists blasted crackers, fired shots and ransacked the podium making the participants flee the convention venue.

Kader Siddique Bir Uttam, expelled from Awami League for his tirade against the party chief, called the convention on the premises of the Engineers Institution to launch a new party, Krishak Sramik Janata League.

DU authorities, when asked about alleged involvement of students in foiling Siddique's convention, said they did not receive any complaint in this regard.

Proctor Prof AKM Nurun Nabi rather asked why police did not take any action if students were found involved in violence.

Such activities by students definitely ruin the image of the university. The authorities can take action only if complaint is received from any quarter or the victims, he said.

IOJ hosts iftar for 4-party alliance

Islami Oikya Jote, a component of the 4-party opposition alliance, hosted an iftar party at Zafraan Restaurant in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

JP chairman HM Ershad, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Prof Golam Azam attended the party while BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia was represented vice-chairman Shamsul Islam and joint secretary general Abdulla Al Noman.

The BNP chairperson could not attend the party as she was pre-occupied with OCAB, Association of Overseas Correspondents in Bangladesh, IOJ assistant secretary general Abdulla Matin told reporters.

However, Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA) in a statement today expressed concern over the announcement of siege programme at the university separately by two student organisations.

44 arrested on various charges in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested 44 miscreants and recovered arms and ammunition and stolen clothes from different parts of the city during the past 24 hours ending at 6 pm today, reports BSS.

On a secret tip, Double Mooring police raided Matabbari Bar at Mogbutooly and recovered two American made guns and 82 rounds of 303 rifle bullets and two cartridges from the house. Abdul Kader and Madu Sowdagar, suspected terrorists, fled from the house sensing the presence of the police.

Double Mooring police also recovered one country-made gun and one cartridge and arrested Kamal Uddin, 25, in this connection.

CMP detectives and port police recovered stolen clothes and other goods worth about Taka 400,000 from a shop at Zahur Hawker Market under Kotwali thana and arrested one SM Golam Kibria in this connection.

The clothes and some other valuable goods were stolen from a foreign company inside the Export Processing Zone last night.

Other police stations rounded up 42 others on various charges.

Plea to reinstate UCBL employees

By Staff Correspondent

The Pubali Bank Employees Union (CBA) has alleged that a large number of employees and officials of the United Commercial Bank Limited (UCBL) have been sacked on allegation of support for Akhtarruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, according to a press release.

The CBA release has condemned its Acting President Baktiar Rahman and Secretary General Abul Kashem for their alleged hand in the sacking and appealed to the authorities to reinstate the officials and employees.

Cold wave felt in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, Dec 25: The district experienced a light cold wave for about half an hour yesterday, reports BSS.

The cold wave mostly swept through the outlying char areas from 5:10 am to 5:35 am creating panic among the distressed people.

Meanwhile, the district relief department has distributed 1,040 pieces of warm blankets and 3,000 metres of cloths in each thana.

However, a local source said the quantum of relief is quite inadequate to meet the demand.



Sylhet Bibhagiya Chhatra Sammilani brought out a procession in the city yesterday calling upon the authorities of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology to halt activities of extremists.

—Star photo

RU teachers hail decision of renaming halls

SYLHET, Dec 25: Government has taken up an 'Agar Forestation Project' at a cost of Tk 2.90 crore in the region to produce 'Atar,' an essence widely used by Muslim throughout the world, reports BSS.

The project, first of its kind in the country, was initiated by Forest and Environment Ministry in 1998-99 fiscal year and is expected to be completed by 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Official sources said under the project, Agar gardens will be created on 800 hectares in hilly lands of Moulibazar, Habiganj, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar and Chittagong districts.

Of the total land, 345 hectares will be brought under Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts and 200 hectares in Cox's Bazar and five hectares in northern Chittagong.



Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) held an iftar party at a local hotel yesterday for leaders of the opposition four-party alliance.

—Star photo

Sylhet violence: Hartal

From page 1

the town, officials said.

Janaza of the deceased will be held at the Court Point tomorrow. Action Committee sources said.

The Action Committee at a brief rally at Court Point in the afternoon declared Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad 'persona non grata.'

The Action Committee is comprised of BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat, IOJ, Khelafat Majlis and Jamiat.

The All Party Action Committee demanding withdrawal of names of different halls and buildings in the Shahjalal University of Science & Technology called the day long hartal in the district today while 'Muktijoddha-Janatara Mancha' backed by ruling Awami League and left parties called a Grand Rally in support of the names at the premises of the university.

Foreign Minister Alhaj Abdus Samad Azad was present as chief guest at the rally of 'Muktijoddha-Janatara Mancha' with district Muktijoddha Sangsads.

Commander Enam Ahmed Chowdhury in the chair.

The rally at the Registry Maidan was addressed, among others, by Syeda Zebunnesa Haque MP, Shah Azizur Rahman MP, Workers Party Secretary General Rashed Khan Menon, JSD General Secretary Hasanul Haque Inu, Samyabadi Dal Secretary General Dilip Barua,

and CPB leader Md. Faizul Islam.

The speakers said the spirit of liberation war should be upheld at any cost.

They demanded execution of the verdict of the People's Court.

They also stressed greater national unity against the anti-liberation forces and the fundamentalists for restoring the spirit of War of Liberation.

They are now out to create a state of anarchy in the country with a view to foiling the verdict of the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Ctg BCL leader shot dead

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: A BCL leader was gunned down allegedly by his rivals at Devarpar area near MES College today.

Kaisar Ahmed, also leader of the MES College students union, was attacked by his rival faction activists at 12:30 pm when he accompanied by