

What's on today

Seminar: The Zoological Society of Bangladesh will hold a seminar on "Primate Conservation in Asia." Dr David J Chivers of the University of Cambridge will be the guest at the event. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

Certificate awarding ceremony: Bangladesh Bar Council and Legal Education and Training Institute (LETI) will hold the "Call to the Bar Ceremony 2000" in which certificates will be awarded to new lawyers. Chief guest: Chief Justice Latifur Rahman. Venue: Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 6:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Film show: Three movies *Le Juge et assassin* (Judge and the Assassin), *Farwell my concubine* and *The White Balloon* will be screened. Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Weather

Dry weather may continue

Prevailing dry weather is likely to continue over the country in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over Rajshahi division and the river basins of the country and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during morning, said the Met Office.

Slight rise in night temperature is expected over the country, during the period.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 32.0 degree Celsius at Teknaf and the lowest 8.6 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:30 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44 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	
Dhaka	27.5	14.5	73	61
Chittagong	30.2	14.1	76	68
Rajshahi	27.1	9.9	88	72
Khulna	29.0	13.6	94	76
Barisal	29.0	12.4	87	76
Sylhet	26.1	12.8	74	57
Cox's Bazar	29.7	16.1	61	67

HERE and THERE

Masterda Surya Sen Parishad

The hanging day of revolutionary leader Masterda Surya Sen was observed in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

In observance of the day Masterda Surya Sen Parishad organised a rally at the central Shaheed Minar.

Speaking on the occasion president of the parishad Faiz Ahmed said Surya Sen drove the British from this territory by fighting against them and being imbued by his inspiration the people of this country established independent Bangladesh through armed struggle in 1971.

He urged the government to telecast and broadcast through state media the heroic stories of the revolutionary life of Masterda Surya Sen.

Among others Mahfuz Khanam, Premranjan Dev, Hari Sadan Debbarman, Swami

Silent procession protesting killing of trader at Mirpur

By Staff Correspondent

Residents of Mirpur area brought out a silent procession in protest of killing of a business man. The trader was shot dead by an armed man at Mazar Road on Monday.

Syed Sajidul Islam Alami, 35, son of late Ali Ahsan and a resident of Mirpur Section-1 was shot allegedly by Abu Baker Siddique. In a critical condition he was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died on Tuesday evening.

A case was filed with Pallabi police accusing Abu Baker Siddique but police failed to arrest him till writing of this report till late last night.

According to the family sources a gang of extortionist came to Alami's shop few days back and demanded toll from the employee of the shop. Employee of the shop contracted over phone with owner Alami and conveyed the message but Alami asked them not to pay anything to the gang.

Later on Monday Abu Baker appeared to Alami's residence while he was watching cricket match on Monday. Alami was taken to the Chalantika Club and was shot on his head.

Killing in Sirajganj

Hunters file case against 9 villagers

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 12: The four bird hunters who fired on pursuing villagers, killing one of them and injuring twelve others in the district recently, have filed a case against nine villagers accusing them of snatching their guns.

The four hunters were however still in custody after their bail prayer was rejected. The crew of the boat in which the hunters were travelling, Tayeb Ali and his son Jamat Ali, were freed on bail last Thursday.

In their petition the hunters accused one Rafiqul Islam with eight others of Vatipari village of having snatched their licensed guns. Most of the accused are relatives of the deceased. Following the incident police recovered the guns from the villagers.

The villagers on their way to a market by boat on December 25, had challenged the four armed hunters' boat in the Jamuna river near Betgari village and chased them, mistaking them as robbers. After a two-hour chase the hunters were pinned down at the village.

Thieves loot goods worth Tk 4 lakh from Bagerhat

BAGERHAT, Jan 12: unidentified thieves looted valuable worth of Tk 4 lakh from a shop at Main road in the town on Monday night, reports UNB.

Owner of the shop Sheikh Masum Billah filed a case with Sadar police.

In another incident in Satkhira a gang of robbers looted valuable worth over Tk 1 lakh from a house at Balakota village in Kaliganj thana early today.

Police said the gang numbering 10, stormed into the house of Dr Santosh at about 1:30 am, looted several hand bombs and decamped with the booty.

A case was filed and police arrested one of the bandits, Abdul Aziz, from his residence at Kullo in Ashashuni thana and recovered four pipe guns and five bullets from his possession.

Bangladeshi diplomat dies in Colombo

Feroze Hayat, Bangladeshi First Secretary in Colombo, died on Monday at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, official sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

The deceased, who joined BCS (Foreign Service) in 1991, served Bangladesh missions in Warsaw and Stockholm in different capacities.

Foreign Secretary C M Shafi Sami in a message expressed profound sorrow at the untimely demise of the young diplomat. He was known to all as a hardworking, honest and a man of amiable disposition.

The foreign secretary prayed for the peace of the soul and conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Obituary

Dr Ismat Ahmad Khan (Proloy), a Bangladeshi physician working in Oklahoma University, USA died in a road accident in Arkansas on Saturday. He was 39, reports UNB.

He was the only son of Mazharuddin Khan, brother of noted Rabindra Sangeet artist Rezwana Chowdhury Banya. He left behind his wife, a daughter and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

The body of Ismat is expected to arrive today (Thursday) evening by Bangladesh Biman. His *Namaz-e-Janaza* will be held on January 14 after *Juma* prayers and he will then be buried at Banani.

His *Qulhwani* will be held on January 15 after *Asr* prayers at his father's residence at 2/7 Lalmatia, Block-B, Dhaka.

State Minister for Jute AK Faezul Huq expressed his deep shock at the premature demise of Dr Isma. He prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

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Al-hajj Nader Zaman (Nadi Mial), commissioner of Chittagong Port, died on January 10 at night. He was 52, says a press release.

He left behind his wife two sons, four daughters and a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

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Former additional post master general Mdofizur Rahman Laskar died at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York on Tuesday. He was 65, reports BSS.

Laskar is survived by his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of friends, relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Family sources said his body will be brought home on the Bangladesh Biman flight on Monday. He will be buried at Banani graveyard.

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The *chehlu* of Haji Md Salim will be held tomorrow after *Zuma* prayers at his residence at 38, Md Asgar Lane, Churhutta, Chawk Bazar in the city, says a press release.

Haji Salim was a renowned politician, social worker, and ex-commissioner of Dhaka City Corporation.

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The *chehlu* of Al-haj MFK Khan Chowdhury, a retired director of the National Board of Revenue, will be held on Saturday noon at his village home in Pathkhaguri in Tangail, says a press release.

Khan, who died at the age of 76, is survived by his wife, only daughter and a host of relatives.

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Besides, steps have been taken to resume operation at Shamshernagar, Comilla, Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat, Tejgaon, and Ishwari airports.

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The government has also used the May 13 issue extensively to discourage people from voting for the opposition. Yet only the opposition is taken to court," TIAN said.

He urged the government to allow the public full access to historical archives "so that no party can use May 13 to provoke racial discord."

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A total of 627 persons were arrested and eight illegal weapons and 12 rounds of bullet were seized during the 259th day of the countrywide combing operation by police yesterday. Bangladesh Rifles and Ansar units, reports BSS.

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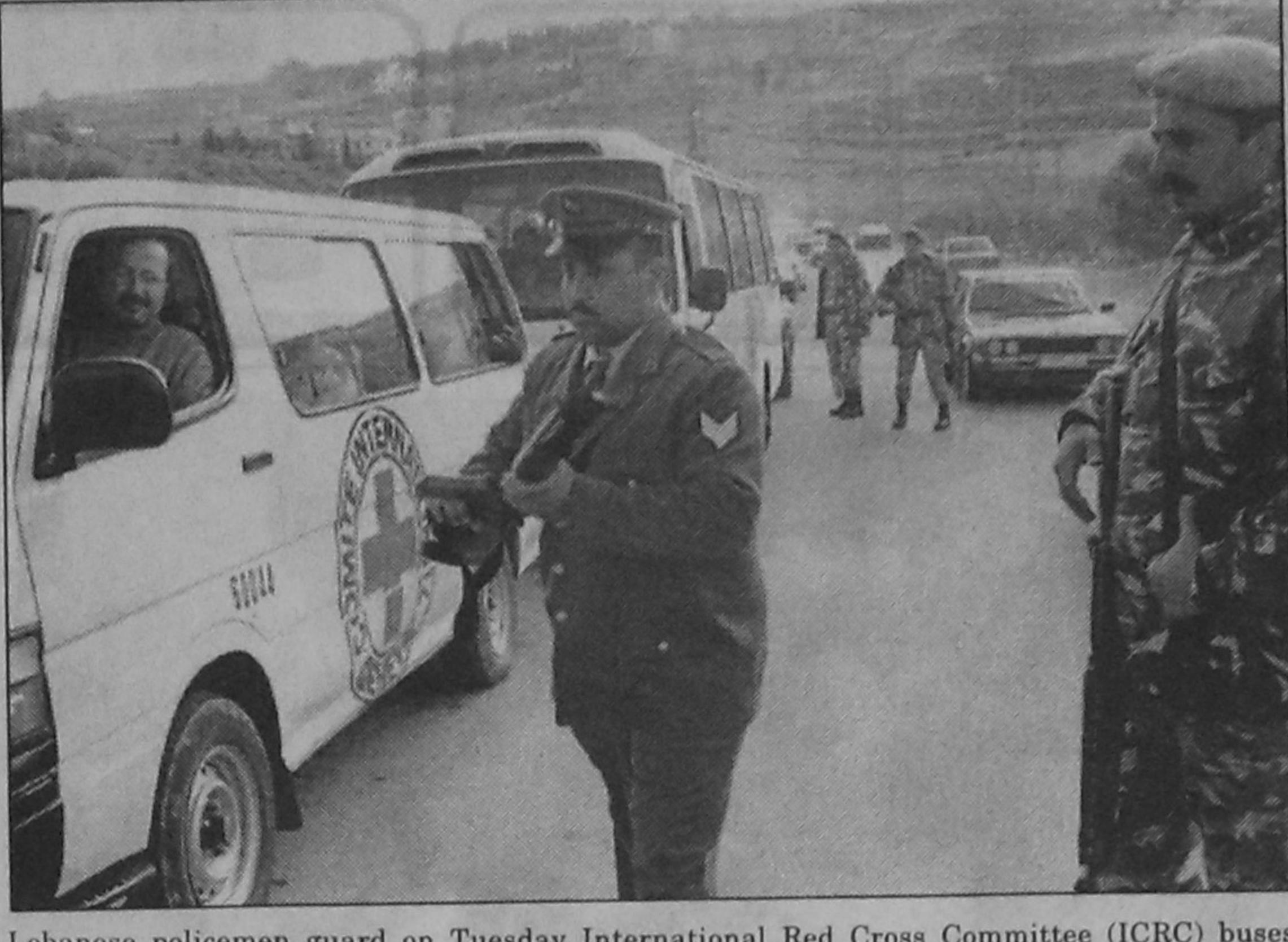
The combined force arrested 349 persons on different charges from across the country including four metropolitan areas and seized the arms and ammunitions. They also arrested 278 wanted accused during the operation.

A total of 154 persons including 19 warrantees were arrested from Dhaka metropolitan area and two illegal weapons and six bullets were seized while 14 persons from Chittagong metropolitan area.

Eleven persons including seven warrantees were arrested from Khulna metropolitan area while three persons from Rajshahi metropolitan area. A total of 131 persons including 74 wanted accused were arrested from Dhaka range with three weapons and four bullets while 118 persons including 86 warrantees were arrested from Chittagong range with three weapons and two bullets.

Seventy-seven people including 35 warrantees were arrested from Rajshahi range while 80 persons including 41 wanted persons were arrested from Khulna range. A total of 26 persons including nine warrantees were arrested from Barisal range and 13 persons including six wanted persons from Sylhet range.

A case has been registered under Siddhiganj thana.



Lebanese policemen guard on Tuesday International Red Cross Committee (ICRC) buses carrying 37 Bangladeshis upon their arrival in the southern port of Tyre, coming from the Israeli-occupied zone in south Lebanon. The Bangladeshis, who ended up in Lebanon after their ship got stranded in the Mediterranean, were transferred from the village of Naqoura, near the border with Israel, to Beirut International Airport by the ICRC, upon a decision by the Lebanese government to send them back to their country. — AFP photo

479 beggars, 450 illegal immigrants held in KSA

RIYADH, Jan 12: Saudi police arrested 479 beggars around the capital during the three-day Eid-ul-Fitr holiday marking the end of Ramadan, a newspaper reported today.

Women and children accounted for 47 of the beggars of varying nationalities who were detained from Friday, Al-Jazira daily said, reports AFP.

More than 12,000 beggars were arrested in the kingdom in 1998, of which 9,000 were foreigners, the authorities said.

Most beggars are arrested during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, a month of piety and charity. Many are also arrested during the Hajj, or annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

Al-Jazira also reported the arrest during the Eid of 450 foreigners living illegally in the kingdom.

Since Saudi Arabia launched a campaign against illegal immigrants in 1997 some 1.5 million people have been expelled while one million have formalised their stay.

These include fall in the revenue target, tough competition with renowned international airlines, non-receipt of rebate on aircraft fuel procured from internal sources and absence of wide-bodied aircraft for international routes.

Mosharraf said, to overcome the loss, one A 310-300 and one DC 10-300 aircraft were added to the Biman's fleet under three drylease contract to increase number of flights in profitable routes.

The Minister said there is no plan to buy aircraft for the Biman during the current fiscal.

In reply to another question by Mustafizur Rahman Fizul (AL), he said the government has plans to construct airports in important places of the country to increase stall service.

He said Bogra and Khan Jahan Ali airports are now under construction.

Besides, steps have been taken to resume operation at Shamshernagar, Comilla, Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat, Tejgaon, and Ishwari airports.

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The *Qulhwani* of Jahirul Alam Chowdhury, Wardmaster of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital, will be held at his village home in Charkhagarh, Satkania under Chittagong district after *Asr* prayers today, reports BSS.

Jahirul died of a heart attack at his village home on January 10 and was buried at his family graveyard the same day.

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