

What's on today

Biennial Conference: The 12th biennial conference of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh will be held. Chief guest: Begum Motia Chowdhury, Minister for Agriculture. Venue: Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) at DU campus. Time: 9:00 am. Seminar: The College of General Practitioners of Bangladesh will hold a seminar on "Asthma". Venue: College premises at 215/A, Outer Circular Road, Boro Moghbazar. Time: 9:00 am. WVA meeting: The general meeting of Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) will be held. Venue: WVA auditorium at house No 20, Rd No 16 (New), 27 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 10:00 am. Conference: The 12th annual conference of the Bangladesh Society of Ultrasonography will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Lt General Mohammed Noor Uddin Khan PSC (Retd), Minister for Science and Technology. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10:30 am. Exhibition: A 2-week solo exhibition of Alinoor will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Rafiqun Nabl. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 5:30 pm. Exhibition: The first solo painting exhibition by Maya, an amateur artist will be inaugurated. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 4 pm. Chief guest: Chairman of Prime Bank Limited Nader Khan will inaugurate the exhibition. Some 32 pieces of work in oil by the artist will be on display at the three-day exhibition. Rose festival 2000: Bangladesh National Rose Association will hold "Rose Festival 2000". Venue: Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 10:00 am. Painting competition: Community Development Library in association with Focus on the Global South will hold a children's painting competition on the theme "Peace Builds, Bombs Destroy, let's make Asia Nuclear Free". Venue: Shishu Academy premises. Time: 10:00 am. Film show: Four French movies will be screened to celebrate the birth centenary of poet and scenarist Jacques Prevert. The movies are les enfants du paradis (The children of paradise), le pair se leve, lumiere d'ete (Summer light) and les visiteurs du soir (The visitors in the evening). Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Biman shooting competition: The 7th Biman inter-club shooting competition will begin. Venue: Gulshan Shooting Club. Time: 4:30 pm. Cultural evening: Shanan, a cultural organisation will hold an evening of music by Shimul Yusuf on occasion of Amar Ekushey. Venue: Natmandal auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 6:30 pm. Annual general meeting: The AGM of Bangladesh Civil Service (Taxation) Association will be held. Chief guest: Shah A M S Kibria, Minister for Finance. Venue: Officers Club, Bailey Road. Exhibition: A 11-day long solo painting exhibition of Jamal Ahmed begins. Venue: Designers Den Art, Crafts Gallery, CEN (B) 20, Rd No 99, Gulshan. Time: 4:00 pm. Annual convention: The 3-day long 76th annual convention of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Bangladesh will begin. Venue: 4 Bakshi Bazar Road. Time: 3:00 pm.

11-party alliance rally Feb 15

By Staff Correspondent
Eleven party alliance will hold a public rally on February 15 in the city to protest against the newly enacted 'Public Safety Act', said a press release of the alliance. Besides, a couple of other organisations yesterday demanded scrapping of the PSA. A press release issued by the Bangladesh Democratic Lawyers Association yesterday said that certain provisions of the law is ultra vires the constitutionally guaranteed rights of the citizens. Another press release issued by the Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) found the law to be devoid of human rights. Both the organisations demanded repeal of the 'repressive law'.

Yet another incident of police harassment

By Court Correspondent
Eighteen-year-old Sumon is being dragged in and out of courts for four months, just because he shares a name with another wanted accused. Four months after the magistrate's order, the police are yet to trace the actual wanted. Ramna thana police arrested Sumon from his residence at Nayatola in the city on October 9 last year and he was sent to the jail the next day after being produced in the court. He was arrested on the basis of a warrant of arrest issued against another person of the same name. Two days later he, however, was released on bail. The metropolitan magistrate in his bail order observed that the Sumon arrested was not a minor whom police was looking for. Coincidentally, the father's name of both the Sumon is Golam Molla but their addresses are different. The arrested Sumon belongs to the village Shilarchar of Madaripur, while the 14-year-old wanted Sumon is from Chandpur. Sumon is wanted along with three others for the assault of one Mohammad Masud's son Saiful Islam on January 14, 1998. The complainant, a resident of Nayatola under Ramna police station, accused Sumon, 14, Azizul 14; and Ali 13 of the assault. The three accused were arrested the same day the FIR was lodged and produced in the court the next day. Police also submitted the chargesheets in connection with the case on January 16, recording statements of eight witnesses. The three accused, however, were granted bail the next day. The charges were framed in their absence cancelling their earlier bail. The court also issued warrant of arrest against them soon after.

Clinton's visit High-level meet discusses allout preparations

A high-level meeting of the Foreign Ministry Wednesday decided to take allout preparations to make US President Bill Clinton's visit to Bangladesh a success, reports UNB. Clinton will visit Dhaka on March 25 as part of his South Asian trip that will also take the US President to India on March 20. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad chaired the meeting attended by acting Foreign Secretary Dr Toufique Ali, DG (America) and the Pacific Sargil Hasan and senior Foreign Ministry officials. The Foreign Minister took necessary advice and instructions from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, now in Brussels, about Clinton's planned tour. BNP welcomes visit
Meanwhile, BNP has welcomed US President Bill Clinton's scheduled visit to Bangladesh on March 25. Clinton is coming to Dhaka at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as part of his long-expected South Asian trip. "We welcome his visit," BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told newsmen at 29 Minto Road on Tuesday. BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia also addressed the newsmen. Bhuiyan said relationship between Dhaka and Washington is excellent.

Obituary

Noted businessman, former member of Parliament (MP) Afazuddin Fakir died of cardiac arrest at a local hospital. He was 75, says a press release. He left behind his wife, three daughters, and two sons and a good number of friends, relatives to mourn his death. His quikhwani will be held today at 4 pm at House No 13, Road No 11, Baridhara. Md Sha-habuddin, Deputy General Manager, working in International Division, Agrani Bank, head office, died of cardiac arrest on January 31. He was 54, says a press release. His quikhwani will be held at his residence at 24/3, West Malibagh (Doctor's Road) after Asr prayers today.

CIRDAP activities discussed

A meeting on CIRDAP activities was held yesterday with State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives Advocate Mohammad Rahmat Ali in the chair, reports BSS. The meeting discussed repair of CIRDAP headquarters here, housing facilities of its staff and increase of annual subscription. Deputy Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division Secretary Aniyangun Sen and other concerned officials were present.

Cyral Sikder new envoy to Nepal

The government has decided to appoint Cyril Sikder as ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Nepal, an official announcement said yesterday, reports BSS. Born in 1938, Sikder was a lawyer in the Supreme Court prior to his new assignment. He is a member of the working committee of Dhaka Mohanagar Awami League and one of Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Unity Council. He was also president of Bangladesh Christian Association.



Actvists of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Dal (above) and Jatiya Party (below) brought out separate processions in the city yesterday in support of the 36-hour nationwide shutdown. —Star photo



Only a few buses plied on the streets yesterday on the 2nd day of the 36-hour countrywide hartal. The above picture is from city's Jatrabari area. —Star photo

Nasim seeks support to PSA

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim sought support of businessmen to Public Safety Act when the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry Wednesday recommended measures for maintaining law and order, reports UNB. However, DCCI leaders preferred not to say anything about the "controversial" law before they receive opinion from their members on the matter. The DCCI delegation submitted a set of recommendations to the home minister at his office for improving the mechanism to maintain law and order. DCCI president Atab-ul-Islam said they sent the opinion-seeking paper of the FBCCI regarding the law to the DCCI members yesterday and asked them to reach their reply within three days. "We could come up with a concrete observation about the act after receiving our members' opinion. However, desire of all is law and order for trade and industry," he was learnt to have told the minister. Nasim elaborated provisions of the Act and said it will ensure law and order, a prime condition for boosting business and industrialisation in the country. He also assured the DCCI delegation that the Act would not be used politically. Rather it is aimed at safety of people and creating a congenial atmosphere for the businessmen. Sources said the DCCI submitted a memorandum to the Home Minister with an 11-point short-term and a three-point long-term measure for law and order and well-managed traffic to run their businesses smoothly. "A sense of uncertainty and insecurity prevails among the

DCCI recommendations to maintain law & order

business community due to deterioration of law and order situation. Investors and entrepreneurs are hesitating to take decisions. All these are hampering employment and production," said the memorandum. Termining political stability as a prerequisite for trade and commerce, it said with deterioration of political situation, law and order is also worsening which is not good for anyone. Citing fall in industrial growth and foreign investment last fiscal, the DCCI memorandum said, "we all have to show foresightedness and competitiveness for the sake of business and production and democracy. The DCCI delegation, led by its president Atab-ul-Islam, also raised issues relating to Internet, high-speed data transmission and tele-link to Mohammad Nasim who is also the Minister for Post and Telecommunications. They urged the minister to link Bangladesh with submarine cable immediately and take steps to decrease cost of Internet connection and increase the speed of data transmission from 64k to 2mb/ps. During the meeting at the Home Ministry, Nasim assured them of taking steps in both law and order and traffic management and telecommunications sectors. The DCCI suggestions a out law and order included special police squad and mobile court led by magistrates in the industrial and commercial areas, an effective police camp at internal container depot at Kamalapur, proper orientation of police and pragmatic step for police and security forces in private sector.

Scrapping of Public Safety Act demanded

By Staff Correspondent
A number of organisations yesterday demanded scrapping of the newly enacted Public Safety Act. A press release issued by the Bangladesh Democratic Lawyers' Association yesterday said that certain provisions of the law in ultra vires the constitutional rights of the citizens. Another press release issued by the Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) found the law to be devoid of human rights. Both the organisations demanded repeal of the 'repressive law'. The DAB will stage a silent procession from Shaheed Minar at 3 pm on Saturday and submit a memorandum to the President in this regard.

Death anniversary

The second death anniversary of Hamida Mohiuddin, wife of late M Mohiuddin, member Board of Directors, Bangladesh Bank and mother of Rashida Mohiuddin, TV newscaster and Director Public Relations, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel will be observed on Saturday after Asr prayers at her residence at House No 5/1, Road No 13, Kalyanpur, says a press release.

BNP offices turned into dens of terrorists: Sayeed

PABNA, Feb 3: The Minister of State for Information Prof Abu Sayeed said here today that the party offices of the main opposition BNP have been turned into dens of terrorists, reports BSS. Referring to recent explosions in BNP offices at Dhaka and Chittagong while making bombs on the eve of hartal, Prof Sayeed said that the real face of the BNP has once again been unmasked to the people. The State Minister was addressing public meeting at Talat under Shanthi thana. Local Awami League leaders also spoke on the occasion. Criticising the BNP's bid to shift the responsibility of the bomb explosions through falsehood, Prof Sayeed said none would be able to mislead the conscious people of the country. He branded BNP as the patron of the politics of killing, coups and conspiracy and held it responsible for hurling bombs, opening gun shots at police, rickshawpullers, autorickshaw, tempo drivers and killing and injuring many bus and tempo passengers. He said that the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to improve the law and order situation by ensuring economic and social security. He said that the Public Safety Act has been adopted by the Jatiya Sangsad to eliminate the anti-social elements for establishing rule of law. Prof Sayeed said that the anti-social forces who provide shelter to terrorists and extortionists would naturally oppose the Public Safety Act. He pointed out that people from all walks of life have extended their full support to the Public Safety Act. He urged the opposition parties to refrain from misleading the peace-loving people of the country.

Credit cheques distributed among youths

RAJSHAHI, Feb 3: State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Abaidul Quader today said the country has been achieving silent economic progress through providing training and credit to unemployed youths for taking income generating projects, reports BSS. "Coordinated efforts of all concerned are needed to involve the youth community in the development activities of the country in a planned way," he said while distributing credit cheques among trained youths in the Shishu Academy Auditorium here.

New Municipality in Naogaon

NAOGAON, Feb 3: Patnitala thana of the district was declared as a new Pourashabha today, reports UNB. Commerce Minister Mohammad Abdul Jalil at a public meeting today announced the new municipality. A 19-member governing council of the municipality was formed with a former UP chairman as its chairman to run the pourashava.

Access denied

Party MPs Amanullah Aman, Nazimuddin Alam, Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, Ehsanul Haq Milon, Shamsul Alam Pramanik and another party leader and former DIG of police Ziauddin Ahmed Murad argued with police officials, but they did not allow them to cross the barricade. After about 10 minutes, the five MPs and some female party activists managed to cross the barricade to go to their party office, but police cordoned the MPs there and prevented them from proceeding further. At this stage, the MPs sat on the road and police cordoned them. City BNP Convener Sadek Hossain Khoka MP and Fazur Rahman Potala MP came there but police did not allow them to move further. They joined other party leaders who kept sitting there on the road. ADC Morshed who was leading the policemen was heard talking with a higher police official over walkie-talkie. Responding to an order from the other side, he was heard saying, "Sir, we will have to drag the MPs to remove them from the spot". He then instructed the policemen to take the barricade from in front of the sitting MPs and place those behind them to keep them cordoned. At about 3:10pm, Mahbubuddin Khokon supplied packet lunch to the MPs. BNP Standing Committee member Moudud Ahmed then appeared there and tried to go towards the BNP office alone, but police did not allow him to cross the barricade. He sat with the MPs. In the meantime, more BNP leaders including ZA Khan and Abdus Salam joined them. The MPs held a brief rally there at about 4:45 pm, and left the place for the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition at 5:05pm.

Hartal ends

From page 1
One Glasuddin, 30, was seriously injured at Killarnor at about 1:30 pm when unidentified persons exploded bombs in the area. BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote, Jagda Democratic League, PNP and NDA brought out separate processions in Kakrail, Bijoy-nagar, Nayapaltn, Malibagh and Mouchak areas. Activists damaged many rickshaws, autorickshaws and tempoes in these areas. Police and activists of BNP clashed in Kalabagan area at about 10:30 am. According to witnesses, the incident took place as police intercepted a BNP procession. Police arrested two BNP activists from the spot. A total of 12 opposition activists were arrested from different parts of the city yesterday on charge of exploding bombs and damaging vehicles. Some state-run BRTC buses, a small number of minibuses plied on specific roads during the hartal. Movement of rickshaws was almost normal. Long distance buses did not ply. Trains and launches operated as usual, sources concerned said. Civil Aviation sources said all international flights operated normally but some domestic flights were disrupted. Educational institutions, business establishments, shops and private offices remained closed. Attendance in government offices thin. BNP processions were not allowed to proceed towards its central office at Naya Paltan in the afternoon. Huge contingents of riot police and BDR were posted around the BNP office and in Bijoy-nagar area. Police were also seen guarding different lanes and by-lanes in Paltan, Bijoy-nagar and Nayapaltn areas. Awami League and its front organisations brought out separate anti-hartal processions in Bangabandhu Avenue, Press Club, Tophkhana, Motijheel, Dholaipur and Shahbagh areas. Reports of peaceful observance of hartal were received from our Staff correspondents in Khulna and Barisal and our correspondents in Narayan-ganj, Chuadanga, Siraganj, Kushtia and some other districts. Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement congratulated the people for spontaneously observing the 36-hour hartal. He said by observing the hartal, the people have given their verdict against the Public Safety Act.

Maersk

From page 12
to seismic survey in Block 8, Petrobangla will hold negotiations with Pangaea on February 28. The government took fresh moves last week to rejuvenate the Second Round Block Bidding process in view of the upcoming visit by US President Bill Clinton. The Second Round Block Bidding began in 1997 but the process is in a near-stall situation since early 1998.

Quotation for Project Assessment

Support to DSS for Sustainable Village Development (SDSDV), a project implemented by the Department of Social Services invites quotation for the Assessment of its program being implemented in 283 villages of 48 thanas throughout the country. Interested parties experienced on Assessments and Evaluation of Development Programs in the context of poverty alleviation and organizational development are requested to collect the Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details information on or before 10th February (2 pm) 2000 and the last date of submission of details proposal in sealed envelop by 17th of February (4 pm) 2000. The selection of the firm/individual shall be made by a committee under set criteria. The committee has the right to accept or reject any proposal. Any persuasion will be considered as disqualification. The address for collecting ToR and submission of proposal: Team Leader SDSDV C/O EDM Hs # 12, Road # 15 (New) Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka Phone : 9116943, 8114392 Shaheb Ali Mridha National Project Director, SDSDV