

FedEx
Federal Express
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee Of Federal Express Corporation
Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

CHITTAGONG
Hotel Hawaii Building
39, Agrabad C.A., Chittagong
Tel # 712127 Fax# 710106

CEPZ
Ctg. Export Processing Zone
Old Admin Building
Halishahar, Chittagong
Tel # 740108 Fax# 710106

KHULNA
K.D.A Building
Khan A. Sabur Road, Khulna
Tel # 725008 Fax# 731932

Whirlpool
HOME APPLIANCES
Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA
Dhaka: 815307-10, 819425-9 Ctg: 714353, 723578
Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215
CF50T - 475 Litres

Refrigerator & Freezer
Instalment facility available

50 hurt, 100 houses damaged Followers of 2 religious bodies clash in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 4: At least 50 people were injured, 12 of them severely, in a clash between the followers of 'Ahle Hadis' and 'Mazhab' at about 3 pm today at Chitrali Cinema Hall maidan under Khalishpur thana at around 3 pm today.

Over one hundred houses were looted and damaged during the clash which spread in the entire Khalishpur Industrial belt.

Police fired 30 tear gas shells and rubber bullets to disperse the clashing groups.

Police arrested 24 people for their alleged involvement in the clash.

According to police and witnesses, the rally of Ahle Hadis came under armed attack from the followers of Mazhab which led to the fierce clash after Jumma prayers.

The alleged attackers were using banner of Khulna Zilla Imam Porishad, police said.

Both the rival groups used firearms and chased each other during the clash that continued for an hour.

A mosque near the place of occurrence was also ransacked, police and witnesses said.

Additional police have been deployed in Khalishpur town.

Shahjalal Varsity Hartal called in Sylhet Feb 13

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 4: The All-Party Students Action Committee (Opposition), has announced a weeklong agitation programme to press for immediate withdrawal of the names of different halls and buildings of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

The programme was announced at a press conference at the Sylhet Press Club this evening.

The programmes include, procession, rally, strike in the educational institutions and hartal in Sylhet district on February 13.

Central Vice-President and Sylhet district President of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury announced the programme at the conference while district leaders of other organisations - Islami Chhatra Shibir, Chhatra Majlish and Talamij were present.

The leaders threatened to launch greater movement if the demand for withdrawal of names of halls and buildings was not met immediately.

The leaders also demanded immediate release of 38 activists of the action committee. They held Shahjalal varsity's VC and Dr Jafar Iqbal responsible for the death of two of their activists during the movement.

The All-party Action Committee (Opposition) will hold a grand rally on February 7 at the Court Point in Sylhet town. Former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will be the chief guest at the rally while some central leaders of Jatiya Party, Jamaat, Khelafat Majlish and others will address.

Death of a dream

From page 1

"My wife and I were in panic," said Haq. "It was about 5 a.m. and the entire city was still asleep. I quickly called for an ambulance."

When they arrived at the hospital, the doctor on duty admitted Nasrin to a delivery room, despite plans to perform a caesarean section.

"After about 40 minutes, Dr. Ruhi came out and I asked her why she admitted my wife to the delivery room instead of the operation theatre," said Haq. "Dr. Ruhi charged me for asking the question. She asked me who told me to bring my wife in for a caesarean delivery when she wasn't fit to be operated on."

Three hours after Nasrin's water broke, Rahman arrived at the clinic and rushed her to the operating theatre. An hour later he announced the baby could not be saved.

Nasrin was in shock. She could hardly bear the mental pain at a time when she was expecting a baby to arrive.

"The doctors in the labour room repeatedly asked me to push the baby out but it was impossible," said Nasrin. "Dr. Ruhi accused me of not co-operating but experts said that after water breaks, pushing out a baby well inside the womb is not normally possible. The only option is a caesarean delivery - a theory believed by many expert gynaecologists."

The couple alleged there was serious negligence on the part of the duty doctor, since she didn't call Rahman as soon as Nasrin arrived at the clinic. In addition, the hopeless attempts to push the baby out of the womb might have displaced the placenta - a lifeline of the baby.

Rahman said he hasn't investigated what he'd preferred to call an "accident."

"I have not talked to the doctors who were present during the delivery," said Rahman.

"Based on reports, mother and child were doing well although there were some risks involved. If there were any major risks it would have appeared on the monitor. So, initially, there was no indication of danger."

Former NATO chief calls on Hasina

BRUSSELS, Feb 4: Former NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, who is now working with European Commission, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite here yesterday evening, reports UNB.

Solana narrated his experience in Kosovo where his organisation was working and said people were still suffering there.

He lauded the role of Bangladesh in peacekeeping missions around the world.

The Prime Minister said her government was committed to peace and had concentrated on peacekeeping operation under the UN peacekeeping forces.

24 shops gutted at Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 4: Some 24 shops were gutted in a fire at Baro Bazaar in the town after midnight Thursday night, reports UNB.

Fire brigade sources said the fire originated from a burning cigarette at about 2 am and soon engulfed the whole area.

Fire fighters extinguished the blaze after two hours of frantic efforts.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 62 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 8616772-4, Commercial: 8616771, Fax No: 88-02-8613035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net



Running against time
With the Amar Ekushey Book Fair set for inauguration tomorrow, workers are busy giving final touches to the stalls.

Doctor of Law conferred on Hasina

BRUSSELS, Feb 4: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was conferred upon honorary Doctor of Law by the Catholic University of Brussels (KUB) today in recognition of her contribution to democracy, peace, the rule of law and human rights, reports UNB.

Receiving the *honoris causa* degree from the rector of the University, the prime minister said democracy cannot be successful and effective without establishment of the rule of law.

Rector of the University Prof Dr Constant Metheussen handed the degree to the prime minister at a lively function attended by scholars, teachers, students of the varsity and Bangladeshi nationals living in Brussels.

Prof Marc Van Hoecke read out the citation of awarding the degree to Sheikh Hasina, saying she was awarded with the doctorate for her contribution in recognising democracy, and helping institutionalise democracy and economic liberalisation.

The main reason, however, for awarding her the *honoris causa* is her decisive role in the process of democracy and the protection of human rights in her country," says the university citation.

Hasina suggested strict enforcement of law to counter national and international terrorism that poses dangerous threat to peace and sustainable development.

"I believe that we can effectively counter this threat through stricter enforcement of law, nationally, regionally and internationally."

The Prime Minister said democracy cannot work, nor human rights flourish without the rule of law. And there cannot be the rule of law without an independent judiciary.

However, she said in a plural society divergent views of the opposition are to be tolerated so long as they do not infringe upon national safety, security and integrity.

"We ardently believe that the rule of law ensures the basic rights of the people and protects the citizens from discrimination, coercion and fear," the prime minister said.

Kibria talks tough on tax assessment

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria warned the officials concerned yesterday against any abuse of the newly introduced spot-assessment system in direct tax on which the exchequer pins much of its hope for revenue, reports UNB.

Receiving the *honoris causa* degree from the rector of the University, the prime minister said democracy cannot be successful and effective without establishment of the rule of law.

Rector of the University Prof Dr Constant Metheussen handed the degree to the prime minister at a lively function attended by scholars, teachers, students of the varsity and Bangladeshi nationals living in Brussels.

Prof Marc Van Hoecke read out the citation of awarding the degree to Sheikh Hasina, saying she was awarded with the doctorate for her contribution in recognising democracy, and helping institutionalise democracy and economic liberalisation.

The main reason, however, for awarding her the *honoris causa* is her decisive role in the process of democracy and the protection of human rights in her country," says the university citation.

Hasina suggested strict enforcement of law to counter national and international terrorism that poses dangerous threat to peace and sustainable development.

"I believe that we can effectively counter this threat through stricter enforcement of law, nationally, regionally and internationally."

The Prime Minister said democracy cannot work, nor human rights flourish without the rule of law. And there cannot be the rule of law without an independent judiciary.

However, she said in a plural society divergent views of the opposition are to be tolerated so long as they do not infringe upon national safety, security and integrity.

"We ardently believe that the rule of law ensures the basic rights of the people and protects the citizens from discrimination, coercion and fear," the prime minister said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is being awarded Doctor *Honoris Causa* by Rector of the Catholic University of Brussels.

Bangabhaban From page 1

From page 1

"Dispelling confusions, the Bangabhaban rejoinder said a representative of Jamaat on February 2 telephoned Bangabhaban saying a delegation of the party wanted to meet the President to discuss the new law.

Bangabhaban received a list of an 11-member Jamaat delegation on February 3. Golam Azam was among them.

The same day, the release said, Bangabhaban sent a letter to Jamaat-e-Islami giving consent to a five-member delegation. Names of six others, including Golam Azam were omitted from the list.

The meeting of the five-member Jamaat delegation with the President has been fixed at 10:30 am on February 6 at the Bangabhaban.

"This information was intentionally suppressed in briefing the newsmen, which is undesirable," says the release.

Meanwhile, Jamaat has against appealed to the President to allow party chief Golam Azam to call on him as the head of a party delegation.

The appeal was made in a letter sent yesterday by Jamaat secretary general Matruur Rahman Nizami to the military secretary of the President.

It said the President is the guardian of the Constitution and he is expected to be above any party opinion.

Book Fair

From page 1

The Bangla Academy authorities at a press briefing at the Academy bhaban yesterday afternoon expressed their determination to maintain the sanctity and law and order during the fair.

"We have taken some strict measures this year so that no untoward incident takes place," said Dr. Syed Anwar Hossain, director general of the academy.

"There will be plain clothed policemen who would guard against eve-teasing," the DG said, adding if anyone is caught so doing, he will be handed over to the police and his name and photograph will be published in the newspapers and aired through the television.

Giving special emphasis to this year's book fair, he said "we have taken up some programmes to observe the International Mother Language Day and highlight the Bangla language and culture in the international arena."

As part of the special arrangement, a small fair for the children with 39 bookstalls will be arranged during this year's fair. Books for the children will be available in encouragingly large quantities, the DG added.

There will be separate *chattras* (square) to be named after the seven martyrs of the language Movement - Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Shafiq, Zabbar, Anwar and Obaidullah. Two *chattras* will also be named after the National poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and the Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore.

Apart from this, Dr Anwar said, discussions, cultural functions and other programmes will also be held to highlight the significance of the International Mother Language Day and achievements of the country during the last century.

The fair premises will be declared an entirely 'polythene and smoking-free zone' as part of the environmental safeguard. Food shops and stalls for sale of snacks would, however, be allowed inside it, the DG said, adding that some food shops would be set up inside the fair ground under the direct supervision of the Academy.

Some 39 new books, along with other books, will be put on sale at the 319-bookstall fair, Dr Anwar Hossain said. "The budget for this year's fair has been estimated at Tk. 18.50 lakh, which is bigger by Taka two lakhs compared to that of the previous year."

Noted authors, Selina Hossain, Fazlur Rahman, Farhad Khan, Moinul Hasan and Lutfar Rahman Riton were also present at the press conference.

A huge digital screen will be built at the Academy premises for the first time ever to give all necessary information to the visitors at the fair. Information relating to the fair will also be available in Website while visitors would be able to place orders through the cyber net.

Challenges are what he likes

ISLAMABAD, Feb 4: Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf said Thursday night he revelled in taking up new challenges and believed in democracy, reports PTI.

"I like accepting challenges," he told PTI in an interview.

Musharraf said true leadership to him was "People should love you and you should be able to motivate them. Then they will always be with you. It is the essence of leadership that you carry people along with you."

Asserting that he believed in democracy, the chief executive said the final decision is made by the leader, but this should come through a democratic process.

Ansar shot at Lalmatia

By Staff Correspondent

An Ansar was shot at Lalmatia in the city yesterday, said Mohammadpur police.

The incident took place when Sarwar, an on duty Ansar stopped a vehicle and challenged its owner on Lalmatia road early Friday.

The car owner refused to stop the vehicle and sped away firing gunshot at Sarwar, police said.

Ansar officials, when contacted, confirmed it saying that one of their on duty staff was injured at Block B of Lalmatia early Friday.

CPI (M) smells rats in Clinton's visit

BJP comes under fire for being 'servile'

NEW DELHI, Feb 4: CPI (M) yesterday expressed apprehensions over President Bill Clinton's visit in March saying it may lay the foundations for complete subservience of the country to US imperialism, reports PTI.

Accusing Vajpayee government of a servile approach, politburo member Saitama Yechury alleges that it is bending over backwards to appease the US and virtually suggesting that India is willing to replace Pakistan as the US surrogate in this region.

In an editorial in the party organ people's democracy, he said never before has an Indian government so shamelessly begged for a US president to visit the country while American sanctions and technological blockades, including dual

use technology, imposed after Pokhran tests, remain in place.

Nearly 150 institutions continue to be barred from having any contact with US agencies. Stating that US had shown the most vacillating attitude during the Kandahar Hijacking and treated India's request to declare Pakistan a terrorist state with scornful contempt, he said despite this government has, for all practical purposes succumbed to US pressure on signing CTBT, rejecting national consensus ... in the sphere of economic policy it is likely to succumb to more.

Yechury said national interests will not be allowed any further submission and added this message must be conveyed to Bill Clinton when he visits our country, by building a massive campaign of mass mobilization.

PM returns this morning

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returns home this morning ending a four-day official visit to Belgium, reports BSS.

Clinton may visit Pakistan during South Asia tour

WASHINGTON, Feb 4: US President Bill Clinton has indicated that he has not ruled out a visit to Pakistan during his South Asia tour next month, reports PTI.

Besides holding meeting with the president of the European Parliament and the Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Development and Cooperation (CDC), Hasina also attended a reception hosted by Bangladeshis living in Brussels.

Clinton may visit Pakistan during South Asia tour

WASHINGTON, Feb 4: US President Bill Clinton has indicated that he has not ruled out a visit to Pakistan during his South Asia tour next month, reports PTI.

Besides holding meeting with the president of the European Parliament and the Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Development and Cooperation (CDC), Hasina also attended a reception hosted by Bangladeshis living in Brussels.

11-party wants govt to initiate talks with opposition

The 11-party opposition combine, as suggested by President Shahabuddin Ahmed, will not play the role of an intermediary between the government and the opposition to open a dialogue.

Talking to BSS after a meeting of the 11-party at the Gono Forum office yesterday evening, Dr Kamal Hossain speaking on behalf of the alliance said, "We want the government to take initiative for a dialogue and sit with the parties opposing the Public Safety Bill."

President Shahabuddin citing his constitutional obligation about giving assent to the Public Safety Bill, asked a delegation of 11-party alliance on Thursday to take an initiative for dialogue on the bill between the ruling party and the opposition when they met him at Bangabhaban.

Dhaka said the 11-party has profound honour for democratic process in the country and is in favour of discussion between the ruling and the opposition parties.

"If the government thinks the passage of the bill is not appropriate, it can reconsider the bill," he said.

Dr Kamal said the 11-party thinks "The President can send the bill back to parliament as it is not a money bill as per the definition in Article 81 of the constitution."

In reply to a question, he said, "The existing laws to try the criminals have no loopholes provided those are enforced honestly with good intention."

Responding to another query on how the 11-party termed the Public Safety Bill as a "black law" opposed by all opposition parties and mass people, the Gono Forum chief said the people are historically opposed to this sort of laws.

He said due to lack of proper paperwork, coordination between different government agencies and sufficient documentation, criminals always do not get proper punishment.

Former NATO chief calls on Hasina

BRUSSELS, Feb 4: Former NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, who is now working with European Commission, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite here yesterday evening, reports UNB.

Solana narrated his experience in Kosovo where his organisation was working and said people were still suffering there.

He lauded the role of Bangladesh in peacekeeping missions around the world.

The Prime Minister said her government was committed to peace and had concentrated on peacekeeping operation under the UN peacekeeping forces.

24 shops gutted at Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 4: Some 24 shops were gutted in a fire at Baro Bazaar in the town after midnight Thursday night, reports UNB.

Fire brigade sources said the fire originated from a burning cigarette at about 2 am and soon engulfed the whole area.

Fire fighters extinguished the blaze after two hours of frantic efforts.

All schools in Tamil Nadu closed

MADRAS, Feb 4: All schools in the southern state of Tamil Nadu were closed today to protest the death of three college students in a rampage by supporters of the state's former chief executive who was convicted of bribery, reports AP.

Students' streamers into Madras, the state capital, for a massive rally to condemn the death of the three women, who were trapped in a burning bus set ablaze by supporters of Jayaram Jayalalitha after she was sentenced to one year in jail on Wednesday.

The main suspect in the burning incident, DP Rajendran, a local leader of Jayalalitha's party, surrendered before a magistrate in Salem town early Friday, United News of India reported.

Five other people were arrested in Dharmapuri, 300 kilometers (180 miles) from Madras, and 5,000 others were detained for arson or other acts of violence after Jayalalitha's conviction.

Jayalalitha, who headed the state government from 1991-1996, was convicted of accepting a bribe to allow a hotel to be constructed in violation of building codes. She has been acquitted in two other corruption cases, but still faces another three.

On Thursday, a court hearing charges that Jayalalitha had accumulated wealth beyond her recognised sources of income had a glimpse of her fabulous collection of jewelry.