

## What's on today....

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**Lucky draw of bankers' quiz:** The lucky draw of quiz competition for bankers and the prize giving ceremony will be held. The Daily Prothom Alo, a leading Bangla daily and Standard Chartered Bank jointly organised the quiz competition. Chief Guest: Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Chameli House, 17, Topkhana Road. Time: 5 pm.

**Seminar on insurance:** Bangladesh Insurance Academy has organised a day-long seminar on 'Islamic Insurance: Theories, Practices and Prospects in Bangladesh.' Keynote paper: Dr. Ma'sum Billah, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Malaysian International Islamic University. Venue: Insurance Academy Bhaban, 53, Mohakhali C/A. Time: ?

**DU Alumni Assoc meet:** A joint meeting of the newly-elected Executive Committee and outgoing committee of Dhaka University Alumni Association will be held. Venue: Teachers' room of TSC on DU campus. Time: 4:30 pm.

**NSU seminar on XML:** Professional Development programme of the North South University has organised a seminar on 'Extensible Markup Language (XML).' Keynote paper: Abir Qasem, a software engineer at NASA, USA. Venue: NSU campus. Time: 4 pm.

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**Seminar:** The Centre for Human Rights will hold a seminar on Violation of Human Rights in Chechnya. Venue: VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 3:30 pm. Dr. Afaf Ahmed, Professor of Political Science of Dhaka University will present the keynote paper.

**Film show:** Chalachitram Film Society will screen 'Farewell My Concubine' (China) on the 4th day of its 3rd programme on the series 'A Tribute to the Great Filmmakers of the Century: A Selection of Films.' Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:30 pm.

**Musical Soiree:** The first solo musical soiree by Nizam Uddin Al Khasru (Uzzal) will be held. He will render English Pop, Nazrul Geeti, Gazals and Hindi songs at the programme. Venue: Bishwa Shabtiya Kendra auditorium. Time: 6:30 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow .....

## BKL reception to PM today

By Staff Correspondent  
Bangladesh Krishak League has arranged a reception to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 3 pm at Paltan Maidan today. The reception has been arranged to mark the awarding of the award to the PM by FAO.

## Left-leaning student bodies processions on JU campus

By JU Correspondent

Left-leaning student organisations brought out separate processions and held rallies at Jahanagar University (JU) yesterday to drum up support for their today's *gherao* of Secretariat demanding a scientific and secular education policy.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) brought out a torch procession from the Prantik gate in the evening, which paraded through campus. The procession dispersed at the Supuritala near transport office.

Demanding abolishing of madrasa and cadet education, BCU leaders, while addressing the rally after the procession, asked to introduce a uniform policy of education for all the citizens of the country.

They also asked the government to accept their 10-point demands on education policy immediately.

BCU JU unit president Saikat Subhra Mannan and general secretary Monishankar Das Gupta, among others, addressed the rally.

Meanwhile, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), another left-leaning student organisation, also brought out a procession from Prantik gate yesterday evening. The SCF procession, marching through the campus, ended at the starting point.

SCF also held similar rally there after the procession.

## Ananda Mohan College closed sine die

MYMENSINGH, Feb 13: The Ananda Mohan College has been declared closed *sine die* following Saturday's attack and ransacking of halls by a section of Honours Part-3 examinees, reports UNB.

The examination was already cancelled following the trouble in which a number of students and teachers were injured. The troublemakers had also snatched away answer scripts of some 300 examinees out of about 750 who sat for the examination.

The college authorities asked the resident students to vacate the halls and sought help of the district administration to implement the decision.

Protesting the hooliganism in the examination hall, the teachers of the college today brought out a silent procession and staged a sit in on the road in front of the press club. They demanded punishment to the troublemakers.

He said the FEMA hopes that the free and frank discussion

## AFDC rally today

By Staff Correspondent

The Anti Fascism Democratic Committee (AFDC) at a meeting yesterday decided to mobilise public opinion against the Public Safety Bill (PSB) and organise a rally today in front of the BSS near the Paltan crossing at 3 pm.

Condemning the killing of Sumon at Shyampur by the DB police, it was stated in the meeting that there was no security of life and property of people due to the repression and terrorism of the government, police and administration.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by T Ali, Tipu Biswas, Faizul Hakim, Ravi Shankar Chakma, Hasibul Rahaman, Jafar Hossain, Jonaid Saki, Nazrul Islam, Saikat Dewan, Faizur Rahaman, Khokon, Milton Chakma and Masud with Abdur Rahim in the chair.

## Obituary

Murad Abdullah, son of late Dr. Mohammad Abdullah of Salar, Murshidabad breached his last yesterday at Belli Veille Veue Clinic in Calcutta, says a press release.

His *namaz-e-janaza* will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Asr prayers today. He will be buried at the Banani Graveyard.

Born on September 10, 1932 in Calcutta, he was educated at the Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun, Atchison College, Lahore and St. Xavier's College, Calcutta. He started his career in Standard Vacuum Oil Company and later served in PIA.

He later joined J&P Coats as Manager, East Pakistan and Madura Coats India. He was a member of the Handloom Board and served in Export Promotion Bureau as Director, Rotterdam Office.

In 1987 he returned home to join Posh Garments as the Managing Director.

He left behind his wife Hasina Abdullah, daughter Dilkash Ahmed, Son-in-law Ziauddin Ahmed, son Fazul Abdulla, two grandsons and his grand daughter. He also left behind his sisters Sheela, Tauseef, Nilufar D Banu, brothers M A Zakariah and Hasan Abdulla and a host of relatives.

The body of Khan was later taken to the Supreme Court Bar premises.

Jalmut Ali Khan was laid to rest

Jalmut Ali Khan was laid to rest at the Banani Graveyard in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

A former Ambassador, Language Movement leader, DUCSU-GS and a former chairman of the BSS Board of Directors died on Saturday at his Dhanmondi residence.

A lawyer and a politician, late Khan was a member of the Standing Committee of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

His *namaz-e-janaza* was held at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque after the Zohr prayers. It was attended, among others, by former President Abdur Rahman Biswas, MP, politicians and biswars besides the relatives.

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Jano Sanghati Samity members to get easy-term loans

An inter-ministerial meeting related to easy-term credit for self-employment projects as submitted by the Parbatty Chhatram Jano Sanghati Samity, was held in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Presided over by Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Hill Tracts Affairs M Shakhawat Hossain, the meeting decided to request the Ministry of Finance to provide Taka 25 crore for the self-employment projects.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of Bangladesh Krishak Bank, Employment Bank, Sonali Bank, Agrani Bank, BSCIC and Bangladesh Bank.



Female students of Dhaka University attired in black saree protesting the assault of a woman on the New Year's eve on the DU campus.

## Calling it a Money Bill

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matters specified in the foregoing sub-clauses.

Article 81(2) A Bill shall not be deemed to be a Money Bill by reason only that it provides for the imposition or alteration of any fine or other pecuniary penalty, or for the levy or payment of a license fee or a fee or charge for any service rendered, or by reason only that it provides for the imposition, regulation, alteration, remission or repeal of any tax by the local authority or body for local purposes.

In addition to the above articles of the Constitution, the Jatiya Sangsads (Parliament) Rules of Procedure 127 states as follows:

‘Finance Bill means that bill ordinarily introduced in each year to give effect to the financial proposals of the government for the next following financial year and includes a Bill to give effect to supplementary financial proposals for any period.’

Understood in its totality can there be any doubt in the minds of any rational individual as to what constitutes and what does NOT constitute a Money Bill. It is abundantly clear that the provisions concerning Money Bills deal with the annual budget and matters related to it that may subsequently arise. To use this loophole to pass a bill which deals with our fundamental freedoms is nothing less than considering the people as nothing but fools, the Constitution as nothing more than a scrap of paper, and the President, who has to assent to it, as nothing more than a robot. The Constitution DOES NOT permit the use of the Money Bill provisions to bulldoze any Bill through the parliament or pressure the Head of State and forcing him to assent to a Bill.

The question that the government must answer is WHY THIS BILL was classified as a MONEY BILL? The unofficial explanation has been that since the implementation of the provisions of this Bill will entail spending money from the public exchequer therefore this has been classified as money Bill.

Such an explanation stands neither on logic, nor on facts and much less of legal grounds. If we accept this rational then we should be ready to accept each and every bill as a Money Bill because almost all Bills passed in the parliament will be bulldozed through the parliament or pressure the Head of State and forcing him to assent to a Bill.

The leaders said that this is the high time to initiate this sort of discussion meeting which will be useful and effective in mitigating the confrontational politics between the government and opposition parties.

The FEMA leaders expressed

that the civil society representatives would be able to explore their role and articulate the ways of resolving the present political deadlock as they did in the past.

Munira Khan, Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Shawkat Ara Hossain, Chairperson Media Committee were, among others, spoke in the briefing.

## PM defends

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The Prime Minister said newspapers must reflect objective condition of society maintaining honesty, neutrality and objectivity in reporting.

Sheikh Hasina was happy to note that eight dailies were coming out from Bogra. The dailies would play their due roles in implementing her government's plan to attain balanced development of the country, she hoped.

“We believe in balanced development and not making hollow speeches,” she said.

The Prime Minister said, “We want to ensure two square meals for every citizen through balanced development of the country.”

She said the power sector received a blow during the last regime as foreign donors stopped financing the country's power sector because of widespread corruption.

The government resumed negotiations with the donors successfully and brought back the flow of financial assistance in the power sector,” the Prime Minister said.

The 60-member delegation was headed by Bogra Press Club president Mozammel Hossain and general secretary Mahamud Alam Nayan.

The Prime Minister said, “The Speaker must have known that to certify the Public Safety Bill as a Money Bill was an important law that will have a widespread impact on our lives? If it is going to be such a good thing for the public then why was it hidden from the public at the preparatory stage? Is it the view that we-the public do not understand what is good for us, and therefore we do not need to be consulted but only told what to do? Haven't we heard that before and haven't we rejected such views in the past.”

We cannot but express our amazement as to how the Speaker, the custodian of our Parliament and our legislative process could certify this as a Money Bill? How far will he go to accommodate every whim of the ruling party even if it means destroying the norms and trust on which the parliamentary democracy has to ultimately depend? The Speaker must have known that to certify the Public Safety Bill as a Money Bill was a gross abuse of a provision that was meant to provide flexibility to the government in dealing with money matters.” It was NEVER meant for the passage of Bill such as the one at hand. Why play tricks with legal provisions and thereby set precedents that only weakens our parliamentary tradition? Has not our parliamentary system suffered severely by one of our Speaker's previous ruling dealing with the two defecting BNP MPs? How much lower will the Speaker's position be brought down?

Both because of the method in which the Bill was bulldozed through the parliament, and by the fact that it was most logically and unjustifiably shown as a Money Bill we are forced to seriously doubt the real intention of this law. By taking this route the government has deliberately curtailed the options of the President. To that extent the government has not been honest to him and has knowingly created a most embarrassing and ethically conflicting situation for him. As the opposition leader Sheikh Hasina called BNP's anti-terrorism bill “Mini-Martial Law”. Just because she is proposing a different version of it, are we suppose to welcome it as “Mega-Freedom Law”? Sorry NO.

## Sylhet hartal

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ernment and private offices was thin.

There was no report of any

untoward incident during the hartal hours from anywhere of the district.

Police arrested six persons from Chowdhikhi area on the Airport Road while they were extorting money from the airport goers at others in the afternoon.

Shafiqullah Mona, Cultural Secretary, Barisal district unit of BCL went to Zila Parishad along with his associates today for information about some contract works, police and witnesses said.

A group of armed men dragged him and chopped indiscriminately with Chinese axe and other lethal weapons when he was returning home riding a motorcycle.

## Hartal

From page 1

said gunshots and tear gas shells were fired and bombs exploded indiscriminately.

Bhuiyan said at the same time police and terrorists attacked JP procession at Kakrall crossing, Jamaat procession at Paltan and IOJ procession at Zero Point.

This simultaneous attacks clearly proved that it was a pre-planned attack, he added.

In support of the Tuesday's partial, Bhuiyan announced that opposition parties would bring out processions and stage demonstrations in all districts, thanas and district headquarters. In the capital city, the four parties will organise joint procession.

The court will again sit tomorrow for hearing Noor-e-Alam. He will also be cross-examined by defence lawyers, said a special court source.

But the trade unions of Chittagong port opposed the proposal and declined to attend today's meeting.

The leaders of the trade unions have also threatened to launch movement if the proposal is accepted.

Twenty-two union bodies of Chittagong port have already opposed the installation of proposed container terminal at Patenga by an American company.

## News

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