

Ekushey Book Fair Hartal mars festivity

By DU Correspondent

The day-long hartal in the city yesterday marred the festivity at the Ekushey Book Fair. The number of visitors was less as well as the sale of books.

With this the month-long fair was disrupted for the fourth time yesterday by BNP-led opposition alliance enforced hartals since it was inaugurated at the Bangla Academy premises on February 6.

Publishers and booksellers at the fair regretted the hartal, which they claimed, prevented many visitors from attending. "The hartal has caused great loss for us as many people could not come and buy books at the fair which is scheduled to close tomorrow. Sales on these concluding days are usually the largest," one of them pointed out.

Bangla Academy authorities also expressed disappointment over yesterday's hartal. Earlier, the Academy authorities called upon the political parties to keep the fair out of the purview of all political programmes.

Y2K centre open today

The Y2K Emergency Centre will remain open today just in case computers forget there are 29 days this month, since 2000 is a leap year, reports UNB.

The centre is carefully observing the matter, said a press release of Bangladesh Computer Council, Coordinating Office of National Y2K.

If there is any trouble in any computers, affected persons were asked to communicate with Coordinating Office of National Y2K, Bangladesh Computer Council, Ministry of Science and Technology, House No 23, Road No 9/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

They are also asked to communicate over Telephone Numbers: 8124910, 8125440 or Fax: 880-2-8125366 or E-mail: ny2khd@bdonline.com.

Kamaluddin new envoy to Malaysia

Muhammad Kamaluddin, Director General of the Foreign Ministry, has been appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Malaysia, said an official announcement yesterday, reports UNB.

Kamaluddin, a career diplomat, joined the foreign service in 1973.

He served, in different capacities, at Bangladesh missions in India, Poland, UAE, Italy and Saudi Arabia at different times.



City's Farmgate area during hartal hours yesterday. This picture was taken at noon.

— Star photo

'Clinton's visit will strengthen relations with US'

CHITTAGONG, Feb 28:

Mayor of Chittagong ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury has said the coming visit of President Clinton to Bangladesh will open up a new horizon and add a fresh dimension in the relations between the two nations and help boost US investment in the country, reports BSS.

Chowdhury, welcoming President Clinton for his maiden visit to Bangladesh, expressed firm optimism that this [visit] would further strengthen the existing good relationships between the two countries.

Describing the visit as a "important and historic one," the mayor said this is an excellent gesture from the US President to Bangladesh.

Chowdhury, in an interview with BSS at his office here, sees great prospect in boosting trade and economic activities between the two countries as a result of the visit. "There is no alternative to international trade and investment in developing a country like Bangladesh," he added.

The mayor hoped that during the US president's visit, two important issues — export of gas and construction of a private port — will come up prominently in the discussions.

Sources in diplomatic and trade circles here said construction of a private container terminal at Chittagong is being given importance by Washington during Clinton's visit. Other issues like export of gas, in-

vestment in energy sector and approval of trade union in the Export Processing Zones are likely to come up for discussions, the sources added.

President Clinton will arrive in Bangladesh on March 20 to start the official part of his South Asia tour.

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