

## News

**What's on today ....**

**Film show:** Zahir Raihan Film Society has organised a week-long film screening session for children to mark its 15 years in film society movement. Seven films 'Hook', 'Mouse Thunt', 'Flubber', 'Baby's Day Out', 'Home Alone', 'Short Circuit' and Indian film 'Uranchoo' will be screened at the session. Steven Spielberg's 'Hook' will be screened today. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 5 pm.

**Eid reunion and discussion:** Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangshad Mirpur Thana Command has organised a discussion meeting and Eid reunion programme. Chief guest: Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Chairman, Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangshad Central Command Council. Venue: Mirpur Upashahar Government Primary School premises, Section-1, Mirpur. Time: 2:30 pm.

**Seminar:** Bangladesh Computer Samity will hold a seminar on 'information security.' Venue: Hotel Sheraton's Ballroom. Time 9:30 am.

**BNWLA Workshop:** Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) will hold a training workshop on 'Prevention of Trafficking of Women and Children and Legal Steps.' Venue: Women's Affairs Directorate, 37/3, Eskaton Garden Road. Time: 10:00 am-4:00 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance will hold a discussion meeting in observance of its first founding anniversary. It will be followed by cultural programme. Venue: Sculptor Novra Hall, National Museum. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Education conference:** Dhaka University will hold an educational conference titled "Education in Aid of Human Welfare." Venue: TSC auditorium, DU campus.

**..... and tomorrow .....**

**Conference:** The biennial conference-2001 of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Mukti Joddha Dal Dhaka Metropolitan Unit will be held. Chief guest: BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia. Venue: Engineers' Institute Auditorium. Time: 2 pm.

**Film show:** Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 'Mouse Hunt' by Gore Verbinski as part of its week-long film session for children. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 5 PM.

**Weather****Cold wave may continue**

The moderate cold wave sweeping over northern and central parts and mild cold wave at places over southern part of the country may continue for another 12 hours, Met Office said, reports UNB.

Dry weather may continue over the country during next 12 hours till 6 pm today said forecasting little change in night temperature.

The country's highest temperature 26.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 05.3 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:31 pm and rises on Sunday at 6:44 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday.

City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity in Percentage

	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	22.2	12.2	61	47
Chittagong	25.0	9.0	74	60
Rajshahi	22.4	6.5	75	67
Khulna	24.0	8.2	72	53
Barisal	23.5	7.5	96	81
Sylhet	23.7	10.0	76	57
Cox's Bazar	26.0	13.0	58	64

**DSE threatens**

From page 1 system the weightings among different parameters are same as those used by the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) where one of the participating vendors of CDBL was a prime contractor.

"We also fail to understand why CDBL is presently negotiating with only one of the two shortlisted bidders with a much higher quote."

About user fee, DSE chairman said CDBL had formulated its own fee and deposit schedule for its users and considered these fees unrealistic.

He said any such fee structure needs approval of regulatory authority. "If this has not been done, we feel the fees shown in the business plan are misleading and can create serious problems in the successful implementation of the CDS."

**Jubo League leader**

From page 1 sioner of Ward No 99.

Police and witnesses said a gang of five attacked Taleb in front of Ronoda Pharmacy while he was returning home after offering Juma prayers at a local mosque.

The gang encircled Taleb, shot him point blank and fled the scene.

He was shot in the head and shoulder.

Hearing the gunshots, local people came out of their houses and found Taleb lying in a pool of blood in front of the pharmacy. They informed Tejgaon thana police about the matter.

A police van from Tejgaon thana took Taleb to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Local people said, Taleb might

**Loadshedding**

From page 12 resumed production and the other would resume in March. Combined Cycle Power Plant of Chittagong is yet to start generation.

Overhauling of the 150 mw third unit of Ashuganj power plant is likely to start this month at a cost of more than Tk 100 crore and it will take at least seven months, the sources said.

Meanwhile, negotiation is on with German donor KFW for financing overhauling of the fourth and fifth Ashuganj units, each with a generation capacity of 150 mw. A total of Tk 450 crore is needed for the overhauling.

PDB is still to go for overhauling of the 210 mw 4th unit of Ghorashal plant as some major units are under maintenance work. Machinery for the overhauling has already arrived, an official said.

have been killed by his rivals.

Other sources said Taleb was involved in toll collection in Karwan Bazaar area and rivalry with party activists over establishing supremacy in the area might be the cause of his tragic death.

Police said Taleb was an FIR-named accused in several cases including terrorism and extortion in Tejgaon area.

None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report at 7:40 last night.

**Business ventures**

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WEA President Rokeya Rahman, Maleka Begum and Neelufar Karim also spoke on the occasion.

Women entrepreneurs from the city and different parts of the country took part in discussions divided into three working sessions. They called for more government assistance to women entrepreneurs for prosperity of the nation.

The workshop adopted a series of recommendations including introduction of special loan for women entrepreneurs and opening of a capital and market information cell and a data bank.

The recommendations also include setting up of an Entrepreneur Development Institute (EDI) to train women entrepreneurs and giving bank loans on EDI certificates.

They demanded security of women entrepreneurs and accommodation facility in women's hostels for women coming to the capital for business trips.



A big hole on the middle of a road in city's Nilkhel area goes uncared by the authorities concerned. As a result any mishap may occur at any time.

-- Star photo

**Dacoit jailed for 10 years in Khulna****From Staff Correspondent**

KHULNA, Jan 12: A notorious dacoit Asgar Ali Biswas was sentenced to ten years rigorous imprisonment in a case recorded under Arms Act with Koira thana of Khulna district.

The judgement was delivered on Thursday by Abdul Quddus Mia, Judge of the Special Tribunal No. 3, Khulna.

The prosecution story in brief is that Koira thana police recovered five home-made guns, one pistol, one shotgun and one pipegun from Asgar's house on the night of June 11, 1999.

Police arrested Asgar Ali and his daughter Begum from their house at village Hadda under Koira thana the same night.

The court acquitted Begum as her guilt was not proved.

**Senior lawyers**

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After the oath-taking, the agitating lawyers decided not to attend proceedings in the SC from tomorrow.

The five-member team of lawyers led by Ishaque Ahmed continued its efforts to resolve the problem. It included Dr Kamal Hossain, Dr M Zahir, MA Malek and Mainul Hosein.

The team's meeting with leaders of the rival groups of lawyers yesterday morning was attended by Barrister Amirul Islam, Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, Ozair Faruq and Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder from the pro-government side. From the rival side, it was attended by Barrister Maudud Ahmed, Barrister Najmul Huda, Abdur Rob Choudhury, Khandaker Mahbub Hossain and Barrister Rabeya Bhuiya.

They will have another meeting today after meeting President Dr M Zahir.

Dr M Zahir said last night that they are trying to evolve a common stand, rising above partisan interests, to uphold the dignity of the court.

Sources close to the negotiators claimed that the Chief Justice had agreed to the formula.

Barrister Mainul Hosein, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, told newsmen that the CJ assured them of doing his best to resolve the crisis.

**Road accident**

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case was filed with Tejgaon police station in this regard. Police seized the bus and arrested the driver.

In another road accident in Mirpur, a minibus hit an auto-rickshaw on Darus Salam road at about 6:45pm, killing two passengers. The identities of the victims were known immediately.

The bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

An officer of Mirpur Police was yet to come back from the accident spot at the time of filing of this report.

**Land mine blasts**

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point this morning.

Panic-stricken Bangladeshi villagers are fleeing their homes.

Villagers said a series of land mines planted by Myanmar border forces Nasaka in the zero line of the border exploded near border pillar number 47 and 48 in the last three days.

BDR jawans requested the woodcutters and local people not to go near border pillars as Nasaka continued to plant land mines along the border.

Our correspondent from Bandarban reports, Nasaka imposed curfew along 20-kilometre bordering areas on their side on January 10.

The curfew was imposed in the backdrop of massing of troops along Myanmar border. BDR and Nasaka exchanged fire on January 18 over construction of a dam over river Naf by Nasaka.

BDR sources said, a flag meeting between the two sides will be held on January 14 at Ulubonia, Cox's Bazar.

Talking to this correspondent, Bulon, manager of the kiln, said, "They (villagers) have lost all cases in the court. So we are sure the environment is not affected at all by the kiln."

Bulon also said that they invested Tk 15 lakh in the brick kiln by selling parental lands.

"Now if I have to wind up the business, I will be totally ruined," he said.

When contacted, Munshiganj DC, Nurul Haque said that he had issued the permission

**Indian Army chief favours extension of Kashmir truce**

puted Kashmir frontier had "quietened down" and "infiltration from the other side has definitely decreased."

He said some Pakistan-based rebel outfits such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed were still carrying out attacks in Kashmir, the cause of two wars and a 1999 border conflict between India and Pakistan.

"The foreign militant is the one who wants to fight," he said. "The home-grown militant is sick and tired of fighting."

Although the ceasefire had been marred by some dastardly attacks, Padmanabhan said: "Today a Kashmiri is out on the streets till 10:30 pm ... he is genuinely a more relaxed person."

"There is a lot of political activity which might lead to a peace process," he said, recalling a proposed visit to Pakistan by Indian Kashmiri's leading separatist forum for talks aimed at resolving the 50-year-old dispute.

The general said Pakistan had reduced its troops slightly along the Kashmir frontier after the initial ceasefire but stressed the reduction was not significant.

"No frontline troops have gone. They have pulled back some general forces and others who had come to give training ... We have also done a fair amount of pruning. At the moment it is like cheese paring."

**Clinton's tenure**

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Earlier, about 1,000 Palestinians in Hebron marched in support of demands that Palestinians be given the right to return to former homes in what is now Israel. "No peace without the return of refugees," one banner read.

The fate of nearly four million refugees and their descendants is a key sticking point in the negotiations.

At a chronic friction point, a traffic circle outside the West Bank town of Ramallah, several hundred Palestinians threw stones at Israeli soldiers. However, for the first time in weeks, there was no exchange of fire at the spot.

Israeli Cabinet Minister Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said no progress was made at the meeting. Lipkin-Shahak, one of the Israeli negotiators, said it was devoted to beginning of a discussion over both sides reservations about ideas Clinton raised to solve the remaining issues.

"There is much more to talk about, because the positions are not close to each other," Lipkin-Shahak told Israel radio. He said "there is no chance of achieving an agreement in the time remaining." The most that could be expected would be a document that lists the items where agreement can be reached, but "that isn't easy, either," he said.

**Another brick kiln**

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before the law came in force. But later permission was given to the Srinagar Bricks "only to prepare for installation of the kiln, not for lighting the furnace till Environmental Clearance is available".

OC of Srinagar thana SM Waliullah said police has nothing to do in this regard. "The kiln has been set up on an agricultural land. They should not have allowed a kiln on an agricultural land," he said. Waliullah said similar brick kilns have mushroomed all over the country without any monitoring.

Nurun Nahar, Headmistress of Mashurgoan Primary School, said she has been receiving complaints of eye irritation from her students since the kiln was lit.

Runa Akhtar, headmistress of another primary school in the area appealed to the authorities to stop operation of the kiln and save the villagers from health hazard, but to no effect.

Sobeda Khatun 80, Ayesha Khatun 70, Abdus Samad Molla, Abu Hossain and many other villagers said that the affect of gas coming out of the furnace is intense at night when fire and other banned fuel are burned.

"If you stay here at night you can feel the heat. It becomes very difficult for us to breathe," said Abu Hossain.

**Speaker's daughter**

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Bhuiyan, Official Reporter Rehana Akhter and Stenographers Shahidul Islam and Qudratul Haq.

The delegation is scheduled to leave Dhaka for the Cambodian capital on January 20 to attend the five-day conference where parliamentarians from 22 Asian nations are likely to adopt a proposal for sustainable peace in the region and address the issue of a Human Rights Charter for the Asian nations.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the current president of the regional body, will lead another delegation from Bangladesh and hand over the presidency to the host country.

A press release issued Thursday by the Director (Public Relations) of Jatiya Sangsad said several JS staff members included in the Speaker's delegation were requested by AAPP Secretary General Qazi Monzurul.