### ■ News ■

# 'A society is not civilised if women can't move freely'

character assassination.

mighty local leaders.

indicators

**Preparations underway** 

for SMF rally Jan 27

The former chief justice said:

He said: "The growth of a coun-

try is determined by certain indica-

tors. I've no interest in the lifeless

indicators. Whatever upward trend

the indicators show, development of

education and educated people is to

be measured by different objective

people to feel helpless and guilty

due to the pressure by terrorists and

narrow political minded people,

Abdullah, Minister of Barisal Divi-

addressed a rally at Patuakhali

Sadar yesterday, said the grand rally

of Barisal will true assembly of the

contact programme

democratic elements.

Nobody wants the educated

Former Chief Justice Mostafa Kamal has wondered how this society, where women cannot move safely, can be called civilised, reports UNB.

"I agree on the growth rate of development. But if the indicator of civilisation is that no woman can move safely anywhere in the country, then how this society and country can be called civilised," he said.

The former Chief Justice was well as security of people and their delivering the convocation speech property. And this is the first duty of at Bangladesh University of Engithe state. We should ask ourselves neering and Technology (BUET) whether that obligation of the state during its 6th Convocation Cerehad evaporated.' mony yesterday.

Justice Mostafa Kamal said a number of positive steps have been taken for empowerment of women. "But our mothers and sisters still can't move safely during daytime or at night.

Referring to the situation in some neighbouring countries, he said there he saw women move alone even at night and their security is not hampered. The former Chief Justice told the

Justice Mostafa Kamal said, adding BUET graduates that dignity of that nobody can feel proud if edupeople "came down to the level of cated people are cornered by noneducated and half-educated people our politics." He said: "I believe a strong and firm political will can and maastans. protect us from this law and order situation and the hated game of

Massive preparations to hold a grand rally of freedom fighters and

people (Muktijoddha-Janata) at

Barisal on January 27 have gener-

ated enthusiasm among the pro-

liberation forces, reports BSS from

Muktijoddha Front (SMF), the

grand rally will be held at

will address the grand rally as chief

hectic mass contact programme in

five districts of Barisal Division from

January 18 to organise the biggest

ever FF-people's rally, the sixth in a

As part of the mass contact

programme, Chairman of SMF and

Political Adviser to the Prime Minis-

ter Dr S A Malek exchanged views

with different pro-liberation politi-

cal parties, socio-cultural and

professional organisations and

addressed nine rallies in Barisal,

Barguna and Patuakhali during the

row in divisional headquarters.

Bangabandhu Uddavan.

Organised by Sammilito

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Leaders of SMF has launched a

Barisal.

guest

last 48 hours.

#### land in Faridpur: Four killed FARIDPUR, Jan 20: Four people

were killed in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at village Dobra in Boalmari upazila of the He said the cancerous crime district yesterday, reports UNB. cannot grip a country without The dead were identified as

Clash over possession of

patronisation from the "powerful Ratan Sheikh, 56, his brother and influential political leadership Daliluddin, 52, day labourers whatever politics it may be, and Abdus Salam, 25, and Billal, 19, of from police administration, industhe village. Police said two rival groups one trial stalwarts, business tycoons and

led by Alim, Nannu and Chand Mia clashed with another groups led by "The state ensures law and order as Ratan Sheikh in the morning over possession of 56 decimal land. Both groups used lethal weap-

ons during an hour-long clash. Police arrested one person in this connection and sent the bodies to the Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Boalmari upazila.

#### Lalon's shrine

From Page 12 "We appeal to the authorities to remove all under-construction structures from the shrine area and install those at an alternative site." the statement said.

Sources in Kushtia said the huge project involves 'some influential men of the ruling party' who would never like to see it slip away from their hands.

'The Lalon Academy which did nothing to preserve Lalon's shrine and his works is in charge of the project. The Academy has involved ruling party men in lucrative deals. Now they do not want the project stopped," said a source in Řushtia

"Lalon's followers are not Convenor of Barisal Division people to sit inside an SMF and Chief Whip Abul Hasanat auditorium. For over a century bauls and other followers of sion and Chairman of Muktijoddha Lalon preferred to sit under trees, sing Lalon's songs and meditate. Sangsad Central Command Council are also taking part in the mass The idea of constructing a 500seat auditorium is nothing but a Talking to BSS Dr Malek, who pretext to make money out of a weird thought," said a lawyer in exchanged views with the leaders of Kushtia over phone. different professional bodies and

#### The bomb

freedom fighters and pro-liberation From Page 1 forces as they have already gated iron. It was not a dynamite expressed their firm determination with analogue timing devise, he said

to foil the evil design of antiliberation, autocratic and anti-"The devise was fused probably with oil-soaked cloth, or a card The special significance of the board with gun powder around it,

rally is that the freedom fighters he said belonging to Muktijoddha Sangsad "The person who threw it had to ignite it earlier," he said. "Had it been an analogue timing devise, the causality would have been much more in a crowd like this."

been

# Law Minister

"The Constitution was not vio-

appointment. If top lawyers of the

country want to meet her even after

her public statements at two rallies,

**PM shock** 

From Page 1

part of a design to disrupt stability

before the next general elections. "We

hope a clear picture would emerge

shortly after a high-level inquiry into

for its inaction after the bomb blast at

Paltan Maidan, saying even they did not come in aid with ambulance

despite fervent request for carrying

Melancholy

From Page 1

announced a disbursement of

federal funds: at least dlrs 110

years, the president

the injured people to hospital.

The CPB leader also blamed police

they are welcome", he said.

filing of a case under Public Safety Mahant Ramchandra Paramhans, a Act (PSA) against 16 lawyers and a BNP MP and a writ by them.

প্রথাম জালো খাতে সঙ্কট: উত্তরণের উপায Lines Service কবি সফিয়া কামাল মিলনায়তন জাতীয় জাদুঘর শনিবার, ২০ জানুয়ারি ২০০১

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Rafiqul Islam speaking at an open dialogue on 'Crisis in power sector: Ways to overcome', organised by the daily Prothom Alo, in the city yesterday. From left (sitting) are Nuruddin M Kamal, former chairman of PDB, Md Aziz Khan, Chairman of United Summit Power Co, Brig (retd) MA Malek, Chairman of PDB, Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Chairman of REB, Azimur Rahman, former vice-president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Kazi Zahirul Azam, Member of DESA.

**Estrada forced out** 

# **Commercialise PDB**

From Page 12

Aziz Khan disclosed that the country is deprived of ten to twelve percent of its total industrial production due crisis in the sector which is equivalent to about Tk 500 crore.

Due to absence of investment. the sector is not getting tk 15 billion for maintenance the total asset of country's power sector which worth about Tk 250 billion, he said.

Aziz Khan mentioned that the country's private sector, which is interested to get involved in the power sector, should get the same opportunities as the foreign companies.

K A Saleque, a Petrobangla official, opined that a movement should be launched against industries which are responsible for nontechnical systems loss.

Mohammad Alauddin, general secretary of the Jatiya Biddyut Sramik League, said that only one lineman is discharging his duties at Shariatpur Municipality where there are about 11.5 thousand consumers. He also accused authorities of abusing PDB's 'reward and punishment scheme.

tic action against the culprits

responsible for the bomb attack on

CPB rally, killing four people yester-

day.

He along with some other employees' association leaders opposed the idea that privatisation can improve the situation in power sector

Nuruddin Kamal said, "The government has no clear commit ment in the power sector which has resulted in its poor condition."

He also said all the prescription of the consultants were not correct. He put emphasis on structure, discipline and motivation for improvement in the sector alleging that extreme indiscipline is prevailing in the PDB.

Some other participants questioned the rationale behind formation of DESCO when DESA itself proved a failure. Member Engineering of DESA said that this year the suffering of

the people due to power in the city would be lesser, as some projects were likely to be completed soon. Besides, he hoped that the

situation would improve to a great extent by 2002 when the Ninth Power Project, financed by ADB finance, would be completed

### **Fundamentalists behind** bomb attack on CPB rally: Nasim

Home Minister Mohammad some killings. Nasim asked police to go for a dras-

In support of his contentions, the Home Minister said the Hawker's Kalyan Samity is linked with Jamaat politics and the two vendors who were killed shortly after the incident died in front of that Samity office.

"Police have been asked to dig out the conspiracy and bring the cul-"The communal and fundamenprits to book," he told UNB soon talist forces who were responsible after a meeting with the senior for eight murders in Chittagong, police officials at his residence over killings at Udichi function in Jessore the deadly incident. and who had planted explosives to assassinate Prime Minister Sheikh

He said an inquiry committee would be formed and the primary Hasina at Kotalipara are involved in indication was that the fundamenthis incident," he said. talist forces were behind the grue-

### **Bush to live and lead**

Americans are limited by failing schools, hidden prejudice and the circumstances of their birth."

"And sometimes our differ-

He disputed those who "seem

tude. that there must be leader-

ship to strengthen education, and

to make sure that the economy

were: Action to "reclaim Amer-

ica's schools." Reform of Social

Security and Medicare, tax cuts

"to recover the momentum of our

economy" and reward the effort of

working Americans and a national

defense "beyond challenge," and

mass destruction," the national

missile defense system he advo

action to confront

cates.

His most specific promises

does not "drift and decline."

ences run so deep it seems we share a continent but not a country," Bush said. "We do not accept this and will not allow it ... I will work to build a single nation of bility, and try to live it as well." justice and opportunity.'

you do is as important as anything government does

"I ask you to seek a common good beyond your comfort, to defend needed reforms against easy attacks, to serve your nation, beginning with your neighbour.

'I ask you to be citizens," he social development and conservasaid, "Citizens not spectators. Citizens not subjects. Responsible degradation leads to significant citizens, building communities of service and a nation of character."

In the inaugural address, Bush taken into consideration while offered a special message to Americans who "doubt the promise, even the justice of our

try," the minority, and especially

From Page 1

Different socio-cultural and

political organisations have also

condemned the bomb incident at

members of the bereaved family.

From Page 1 In excerpts of the inaugural address released in advance, Bush said he will "live and lead" by firm principles: "To advance my convictions with civility, to pursue

the public interest with courage, to speak for greater justice and compassion, to call for responsi-

He told Americans that "what to believe that our politics can afford to be petty," saying the stakes are too high for that atti-

speech laid emphasis on greening the national budget to help achieve She said equal attention must be paid to economic development,

and Muktijoddha Sanghati Parishad and NAP, CPB and JSD, who took arms to free the motherland from Pakistan military subjugation, have supported the initiative, he said. However, a witness said that the bomb might have

wrapped in a bag and planted under the carpet on which the participants were standing. It might have exploded due to sudden pressure, the witness said.

government has offered loans for CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) From Page 12 Court by pro-opposition lawyers,

conversion of two-stroke engine auto-rickshaws through the Sonali Bank. Another window will be opened at Janata Bank for providing soft term credit for this to

From Page 1 His highly charged opponents ing issues said to have included his departure from the nation as well and smaller groups of supporters as requests to take some of his got into shoving matches early fortune demonstrators began the march that symbolized his defeat. Saturday near one roadblock. Some rode in trucks and waved where rocks and one small explosive were thrown. Police fired at least one warning shot but there

were no reports of injuries. The end was inglorious for the man who won popular support as a champion of the poor but ended up being tried on corruption charges. The situation worsened Tuesday as senators serving as judges narrowly refused to open bank records that prosecutors say would have proven Estrada's guilt, and the impeachment trial collapsed.

Protests swelled and Estrada was devastated Friday by a string of high-level defections. At least a quarter million people demanded his resignation during a raucous rally at the site of the "people power" revolt 15 years earlier.

Some 75,000 marched on the palace Saturday with tens of thousands more lending their support along the roadsides or rallying elsewhere

As Estrada tried to negotiate as favorable an exit as possible rais-

From Page 12

stroke engines had been banned.

The government will not permit it

Kibria for 'eco-friendly' budget

plants and which have not. This would make the government's job easier, he said. development.

He urged members of FEJB to About the steps to clean the city's investigate other vital issues like environment, the minister said the impact of pesticides and fertiliser on agriculture. Kibria said improvement of tion of environment. Environmental environment was related to eliminaimpact on health and this should be

tion of poverty and expediting economic growth. In this connection, he pointed out that his predecessor had unusually expanded

weighing development, she noted. Quamrul Islam Chouhdury said credit facilities in 1994-95, asking since the inception of FEJB in the early eighties with active patronblack citizens who voted overage by SAMS Kibria, the then Execwhelmingly against him. He said the ambitions of some utive Secretary of ESCAP, the orgnisation has been contributing to improvement of environment. He called for more emphasis on environmental issues in the national budget. for salvation of the departed souls and expressed sympathy for the

tion.

against him and left-wing labor and communist

big flags and banners, but most some people leaving the country were on foot, shouting and giving thumbs-down signs for Estrada, known by the nickname "Erap." The emotional crowd eventually reached a barricade not far from ernment the palace gates and pushed

police who quickly retreated. "This is the only way to show President Estrada that he has to step down for the good of the country and the love of the nation." said

Estrada tried to buy time Friday with two appearances on national television. He offered to restart his

impeachment trial, then later urged Congress to call snap elections in May, saying he would stay out of the race.

It was a clear attempt to thwart Macapagal-Arroyo, the daughter of

a former president who headed an opposition group made up of such

in accordance with democratic and constitutional procedures," the statement said Minutes after Estrada went on television for the first time Friday, military chief Gen. Angelo Reyes

Chanting and dancing protesters jubilantly declared victory, after hanging the president in effigy and conducting a mock trial that found him guilty. The rally echoed demonstrations against Marcos, who fled when the military turned

Sources earlier said three air-

planes were put on standby at

nearby Villamor Air Base, and that

immigration officials were told to

go there and prepare to process

diverse elements as big business

The US Embassy issued a statement hoping for continued good relations with the Philippine gov-"The United States is pleased that the presidential crisis... has been resolved without violence and

through, yelling "Peace!" at the riot

one protest leader, Teddy Casino.

abandoned the president and joined the anti-Estrada demonstra-

Indian government until March 12 next year to "remove all obstacles" from the construction of a controversial temple on the site of a razed mosque, reports AFP

Construction of the temple to the Hindu warrior Lord Rama would begin on "any auspicious day" after March 12, which marks a major Hindu festival, on the site of the former Babri mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya, a statement issued at the summit said.

The 16th century mosque was razed by Hindu fundamentalists on December 6, 1992. The sacrilege sparked nationwide sectarian riots which left at least 2,000 people dead.

The deadline was imposed at a summit ponsored by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP World Hindu Forum) at the Maha Kumbh Mela Hindu pilgrimage on the banks of the Ganges River near the town of Allahabad. A resolution adopted unanimously by

the summit of 4,000 Hindu holy men and other religious leaders said 2002 marked the golden jubilee of the renovation of Somnath Templeto Lord Shiva.

**VHP** general secretary Pravinbhai Togadia said the temple "may not be an agenda of the government but surely it is an agenda of Hindusociety'

He was referring to a New Year warning by Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vaipavee that a status quo on the templemosquerowwouldhavetobemaintained.

"The parties which choose not to abide by our deadline or go against it will be finally wiped out from the political map," added

**BUET convocation ceremony** 

From Page 12 said. The government achieved a growth rate of 5.92, the highest in last 25 years, she added.

The poverty has reduced, per capita income increased and export is increasing day by day.

The Prime Minister said foreign and local investment has also increased remarkably during this present government.

She said the government has undertaken effective programmes for the spread of education and for raising the literacy rate. "In last four and half years, literacy has gone up to 64 per cent from 47 per cent.'

Country's export earning has reached to 5.75 billion US dollars in 1999-2000 while it was only 3.88 billion dollars in 1995-96, she said. The government would be able to exceed the export target in the current year.

For the development of science

Meanwhile, the Law Minister told a group of newsmen at his

is because of the Rama temple that he and The Babri mosque's razing and the emotive campaign for the Rama temple has

helped Vajpavee's Hindu nationalist BJP party, which has close links with the VHP, in Court. parliamentaryelections. lated in their (the two lawyers)

Paramhans added: "If he (Vajpayee) builds the temple and goes by what we say, then he will become PM for a fourth time. If the government does not comply with our demands and remove the impediments,

The construction plans are timed to coincide with state polls in Uttar Pradesh, India's most politically important state, where Ayodhyais located.

by Hindu saints will start from Ayodhya from February 18 next year and move to New Delhitopressure Vaipavee's government.

It said the march aims "to remove all obstacles in the way of the temple construction and hand over the disputed site to the Hindusforthepurpose."

The three-day religious summit opened on Friday at the Maha Kumbh Mela -- the world's largest religious gathering.

The VHP's campaign was initially challenged by senior holy men who stayed away from the summit and accused the forum of using the temple-mosque row for political ends

autorickshaw operators submitting necessary papers, he added.

any more

But he regretted that there had been little response to the governresidence vesterday evening that ment offer of loans and urged envithe Prime Minister already made ronmental journalists to write on her opinion clear on the appointthe operators' failure to avail the ment of judges in the Supreme opportunity.

On the alleged smuggling of CKD (completely knocked down) twostroke engines, Kibria urged journalists to investigate it so that the government could take steps.

The minister hoped that environmental journalists would continue to identify factories which have installed waste treatment

bank managers to fulfil their quota and its impact was seen in 1997-98 with so many defaulters. "Now we have restored banking discipline, strengthened Bangladesh Bank, set up Artha Rin Adalat , made legal provisions concerning bankruptcy and tightened legal steps. All these have led to positive results," he said.

The minister mentioned that Sonali Bank has now recorded a 10 per cent fall in defaulted loans and Agrani Bank 29 per cent. "By 2002, we would like to reduce it to 15 per cent," he added.

Ms Leigh Stubbleford in her

Later, the annual general meeting approved the general secretary's report, treasurer's report, audit report and amended constitution of FEJB

the Communist Party rally. Leaders of BNP, Dhaka City unit at a meeting yesterday expressed concern over the bomb attack at the rally. They condemned police action on CPB leaders and activists.

The BNP leaders demanded a judicial probe into the incident and punitive action against the persons responsible.

Convenor of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Jatiya Samannaya Committee Syed Hasan Imam and Member Secretary Abdul Mannan Chowdhury condemned the bomb attack at CPB rally and demanded arrest and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Khaleda, others condemn Advocate Elina Khan and Advocate Sigma Huda also protested the bomb attack.

Prosit Krisha, convenor of United People's Democratic Front (UPDE) in a statement yesterday condemned the bomb attack at the CPB rally.

Krisha in the statement said the government has been taking revenge on opposition elements all over the country including the Chittagong Hill Tracts in a fascist

United Labour Forum (ULF) Bangladesh Chhatra Moitry (BCM) Progotir Poribrajak Dal, Nari Progoty, Suchana Addhayan Chakra, Anneshon Addhayan Chakra, Bitorka Patrika Gosthy also condemned the bomb incident and extended support to the hartal call and other programmes announced by the left leaning alliance.

## **Blast at CPB rally**

From Page 1

tear gas shells on them. Three vehicles of Bangladesh Cricket Control Board also came under their attack.

Roads in the areas looked deserted for some time after the incident.

Later, CPB leaders addressed an impromptu protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club. They announced an eight-hour hartal from 6 am today protesting the incident.

They however said they were not blaming any quarters for the incident at the moment. They would first try to ascertain who were involved, they said.

CPB will also hold a protest rally at Muktangan this afternoon.

At DMČH, university students, cultural activists and many others donated blood for the injured. CPB leaders and workers appealed to all for blood and financial help for the

victims. Leader of the Opposition and BNP chief Khaleda Zia and many other political leaders visited DMCH last night to see the victims. In an instant reaction, CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim told The Daily Star, "It must

and technology, she said, the government is setting up 12 science and technology universities across the country. "We are considering to turn three of these universities into information technology and multi-

media based universities." Sheikh Hasina said allocation in the science and technology sector has been increased by seven times

convocation hall wearing the traditional convocation robe and following the convocation proces-

of new administrative building of BUET at West Palashi. The first phase of the 12-storied twin building will be completed at a cost of Tk 3.1 crore. Apart from administrafacilities of holding classes for 1000 students

by the present government.

The Prime Minister entered the

Earlier, she laid the foundation tive works the building will have

million to finance hiring of 1.400 police officers nationwide. Clinton also recalled his first radio address as president in Janu-ary 1993, in which he discussed the social challenges the country faced and his "abiding faith" in the people's ability to turn things around.

eight

"Now, my job as your president draws to a close, and the work of our new president begins," Clinton said "Thanks to your work, he takes the reins of a nation renewed, ready to

move into a new century and a whole new era in human affairs. I join every American in wishing him Godspeed."

Clinton did not mention the greatest travail of his presidency the investigation into his efforts to cover up his affair with Monica Lewinsky. That case concluded Friday with a deal through which Clinton avoided indictment by giving up his Arkansas law license for five years and admitting in writing that he gave false statements under oath about the affair.

From Page 12 improving, hospital sources said. Bahdur was son of one Anwar Hossain Pahari.

The sources said Javed returned from India on Friday after treat-

ment. Chanchal, the main associate of Subrata Bayen, is also an accused in

the Papri murder case. Papri, a model, was killed in Uttara in the city last month.

There may be more killings any

time in the city as both the gangs are consolidating their position following the incident, the sources said. Control over some city markets

for extortion, dollar business in the curb market and smuggling through Zia International Airport (ZIA) are the main reasons behind the rivalry between the two gangs

for years, the sources said. Both the gangs have strong links with top political leaders and enjoy their blessings, they said.

Members of the gangs are wanted in connection with multiple crimes. Police say they can not be arrested unless order comes from the top.

Sources said Maghbazar is "controlled" by Subrata Bayen, top leader of the Seven Star and Eskaton by Five Star's top leader Liakot Hossain. The gangs are locked in violent clashes frequently.

be an act by evil-forces who do not like the rise of progressive forces in the country." Workers Party General Secretary

Rashed Khan Menon, who also addressed the Paltan Maidan rally minutes before the explosion, said, 'Success of peoples' movement could not be stalled by exploding bombs and killing communist party

activists." The bomb exploded moments after CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan had embraced Menon on the dais amidst slogans by party

workers for unity of all left forces in the country.

Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury of Dhaka University, addressing the rally, called upon the left forces not to side with any big political party in the next general election.

Yesterday's bomb explosion was the second such incident at a political party rally in the city since 1980. Twelve people including a young journalist were killed in an explosion at a rally of the then opposition party Democratic League in front of Baitul Mokarram mosque on May 23.1980.

Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to mark the 65th birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman. -Star photo

### Underworld gang member shot dead

#### ALLAHABAD, India, Jan 20: Hardline Hindu sadhu who spearheaded the cam-Hindus at a religious summit today gave the paign for the temple, said: "It is time our prime minister starts working on this issue. It hisgovernmentareinpower"

**VHP sets deadline for** 

temple construction

thenitwillfall."

but did not rule out the involvement of The resolution said an eight-day march Jamaat-Shibir or bourgeois parties in and out of power who do not like the CPB and left parties emerge as the third force. He, however, said the incident was