

What's on today . . .

FEMA roundtable: Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) will hold a roundtable discussion with journalists on "Free & Fair Election 2001". Venue: VIP Lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time : 10.00 am-12.30 pm.FEMA roundtable: Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) will hold a roundtable discussion with journalists on "Free & Fair Election 2001". Venue: VIP Lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time : 10.00 am-12.30 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Patuakhali and the lowest of 10 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:39 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.42 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were :

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.7	15.7	69	61
Chittagong	27.0	11.5	68	71
Rajshahi	27.6	14.2	76	41
Khulna	29.0	13.6	94	83
Barisal	29.5	11.4	89	80
Sylhet	21.0	14.5	75	78
Cox's Bazar	29.0	11.0	66	82

Census programme

From Page 12
During his enrolment at Bangabhaban Tuesday morning, he sought active cooperation of all in making the programme of head and household count a total success.

This census will continue until January 27 with a view to collecting information for national planning. This year separate information on the disabled and their diseases will also be collected.

The budget for the fourth population census is estimated at Tk 50 crore. The United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) will provide Tk five crore for the programme, with the government bearing the rest of the amount.

The minister said the ongoing population census would be more realistic than ever as enumerators for the first time would be able to reach the remote areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), where they were not allowed to enter before.

"The CHT treaty has created a scope for reaching the remote areas of CHT," the minister said.

He said the survey would be carried out in a greater way in different enclaves of the country to have the actual figures.

The data culled from the census would be marshalled to help set a policymaking strategy for economic emancipation and poverty alleviation, he said.

"It is difficult to take up a target project for development without a real data," Alamgir said. The country's present birth rate is 1.34 per cent per annum, informed the minister.

The minister, however, said there might be some errors in the census process but we have also kept provision for correcting the errors.

About three lakh people have

CID makes little progress

From Page 1
Maidan explosion, another bomb went off at the nearby Bangabandhu Avenue, killing two and leaving four others injured. One of the four injured succumbed to his injury yesterday.

The home ministry committee questioned Monzurul for an hour starting from 11 in the morning.

There could be a number of reasons behind the explosion, Monzurul told the three-member committee, headed by Additional Secretary Afzar Uddin.

A member of the committee, who requested anonymity, told The Daily Star that Monzurul gave the committee all the information required but it provided no clear clue for the investigators. Nevertheless, the committee is analysing his statement, he added.

Monzurul told the investigators that Himangshu, suspected to have carried the bomb to the CPB rally in his bag, was loyal party member.

He did not rule out the possibility of a link between transport-sector politics and the bomb incident, the probe committee member said.

However, while talking to The Daily Star, Monzurul dismissed the suggestion of a connection

Bomb blast

From Page
Majid, 25, were killed and four others critically injured when a bomb exploded at Bangabandhu Avenue on Saturday.

The incident took place only a few yards away from the CPB meeting venue at Paltan Maidan where, just half an hour before, a powerful bomb explosion killed four people and injured over 50.

Milon with critical bomb injuries in his chest and legs was undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries at about 1:45 pm.

The three others injured in the same explosion, identified as Aslam, Karim and Razzak, have been undergoing treatment at Ward No: 32 of DMCH. Aslam's condition was stated to be critical last night while the rest were improving.

The body of Milon was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Forest dept

From Page 12
Research officer, one Law Officer, one Public Relations Officer, two posts of Liberian, three posts Senior Instructors and 12 posts of instructors.

Officials concerned told the meeting that the ministry earlier wrote to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for recruitment of 17 officers. Thirty-three per cent of the recruitment would be made through promotions and the rest by direct advertisement.

Presided over by Committee Chairman Mohammad Tabibur Rahman Sarder, the meeting decided to conduct a country-wide investigation into attempts at making ecological imbalance by depleting forest resources.

A four-member sub-committee, formed earlier, will conduct the investigation on the basis of newspaper reports, meeting sources said.

The meeting thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for inaugurating the eco-park in Chittagong recently.

Work on the second eco-park at Madhabkundu in Molvibazar district is nearly complete. The Prime Minister is expected to inaugurate the eco-park sometime next month, the meeting was informed.

Among others, Committee members Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sazeda Chowdhury, Habibur Rahman M o l l a h , M o h a m m a d Shahabuddin, Mujibur Rahman and Waheduzzaman Sarker attended the meeting.

State Minister for Forest and Environment H N Ashkur Rahman attended the meeting on special invitation.

Case against Khan

From Page 1
The full bench of the APD headed by Chief Justice Latifur Rahman gave the stand over on the Civil Miscellaneous Petition (CMP) filed by the state on January 11.

It asked the state attorney to file regular leave petition within 10 days and said that along with regular petition the CMP will be heard.

The APD order came after hearing on the petition. Additional Attorney General Mahbub-e-Alam appeared for the government. Morshed Khan was represented by Barrister Syed Ishiaque Ahmed.

The government filed the CMP after the High Court issued a rule on January 11, asking the government to show cause why the PSA shall not be declared ultra vires the constitution.

It also gave an order that till hearing of the rule, the petitioner, Morshed Khan and his son Faisal Khan should not be harassed, arrested or disturbed.

Morshed Khan and his son along with others were implicated a case filed under PSA on charges of rioting and looting a sweetmeat shop in Chittagong on December 26.

Mass Upsurge Day

From Page 12
The day represents a milestone in the country's struggle for self-determination, stained with martyrs' blood.

Family of Matiur and teachers and students of the institute have chalked out various programmes to observe the day.

A function to inaugurate 'Shaheed Matiur Memorial Museum, Library and Science Laboratory' will be held at Nabakumar Institute at 3pm. Father of Matiur, Azhar Ali Malik will inaugurate it while chairman of the National Museum will chair the function.

Gulshan Lake

From Page 12
Rajuk sources said the CSKS started filling the Gulshan Lake early in the last month and continued up until the Rajuk officials threatened to file a case under the Protection of Playground, Open Space, Park, Natural Water-body and Low-lying Area Act.

At the lake site the Rajuk officials said it might take about three days to clear the water-body from encroachment.

"We will work even at night to remove earth from the lake," said an official.

The officials also said when they started removing earth, one Rahim approached them with some documents of ownership. Rahim had made an advance deed with the CSKS to sell the lake. Rahim claimed to have obtained a de-acquisition document for the lake area from the Deputy Commissioner's office.

"We told him that Rajuk was the owner of the lake and under the protection law it is our responsibility to safeguard the lake from encroachers," said the Rajuk engineer.

up by people holding responsible offices will definitely influence their subordinates in setting the course of investigation," he said.

Expressing doubt regarding the modus operandi of the investigators, Selim said, "They were linking the incident at Paltan with that at Bangabandhu Avenue right from the beginning and suspecting our men of carrying bombs in a black bag."

He laughed this off and also brushed aside another suggestion that some CPB men might be behind the incident because of the internal feud among leftist forces.

Selim said, "That day (January 20) we gathered at Paltan to announce programmes against plunderers of national wealth and black money holders. I can't rule out the possibility of their involvement in the killing."



The 4th national census began in the country yesterday with President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed being counted as the first citizen of the nation.

No more high-rises

From Page 12
areas have emerged over the last decade. Employing almost an identical tactic, these 'enclaves' were created by de-acquisition of government controlled lands through the Deputy Commissioner's office under the Land Ministry.

Rajuk officials said the emergence of tall buildings has adversely affected utility services in six-story zones. Telephone, water, gas, electricity, sewerage, drainage, parking and other utility services in those areas have come under renewed constraints due to sudden appearance of tall buildings.

"All the utility services are already badly constrained in those areas because single or double unit houses are being rapidly converted into multi-unit apartment blocs with a six-

storey structure," said a Rajuk expert.

"All of a sudden you find a dozen 20-storey buildings coming up in the same area and you do not know how to provide those homes with the vital services they will need," said the expert.

A top Rajuk official said that the ministerial decision would help them to clamp down on under-construction high-rise buildings, which were approved earlier.

"In most cases those building plans in restricted areas were approved on the basis of false declaration such as width of the adjacent roads and clearance spaces. Now with this new directive we will be able to review the plans and cancel them if necessary," said the Rajuk official.

Rajuk sources said whenever

someone wants to build a tall building these days, the developer is required to obtain a clearance certificate from the Department of Environment, WASA, DESA, Titas Gas, Fire Services, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh and the Dhaka City Corporation.

"With Rajuk's current policy anyone owning a piece of land anywhere in the city could get a building plan approved for a tall building if the person produced clearance certificates from those seven organisations," said a Rajuk source.

He added that with the new directive, standard height restrictions would be applied on everyone, regardless of the nature of land ownership.

Textbook scam

From Page 1
book for class VI contains a chapter on Social Science for the same class and the Bengali book contains a chapter of the Bengali book for class VIII.

Three concerns of Beximco Pustaka, Shuktara and Free Press failed to print and distribute around eight crore textbooks within the stipulated time, November 30 last year. The NCTB extended the time twice. But they could not do the job even within the extended time.

Pustaka on Sunday started distribution of 14 compulsory secondary level textbooks in the capital and elsewhere in the country through its 54 dealers. But the supply is too inadequate to the demand, sources concerned said.

Pustaka has distributed only 6.5 lakh books against one crore, without depositing royalty to the NCTB, they claimed.

Students and guardians are thronging book stalls in the city but most of them have to return without full sets.

The sources said Pustaka is yet to inform them when it will start distribution of the rest 46 textbooks. There are 60 books for the secondary level.



Parent and guardians of students throng a bookshop in the city after reports that some textbooks have gone on sale.

CPB demands 'open hearing' for transparency in probe

From Page 1
"The behaviour of law enforcing agencies is mysterious.

"The explosion took place near the spot where they (police-men) were positioned. But they stepped back from the site just three minutes before the bomb went off and did not respond to our call for ambulance to take the victims to hospitals. Instead of cordoning off the explosion site, police charged batons on our party workers immediately after the incident," Selim alleged.

He declined to term the incident 'just another criminal offence'. "It is a deep-rooted political conspiracy".

The CPB general secretary expressed his utter disappointment at the Home Minister's 'premature' statement that rightist elements were behind the blast. "This sort of summing

up by people holding responsible offices will definitely influence their subordinates in setting the course of investigation," he said.

Expressing doubt regarding the modus operandi of the investigators, Selim said, "They were linking the incident at Paltan with that at Bangabandhu Avenue right from the beginning and suspecting our men of carrying bombs in a black bag."

He laughed this off and also brushed aside another suggestion that some CPB men might be behind the incident because of the internal feud among leftist forces.

Selim said, "That day (January 20) we gathered at Paltan to announce programmes against plunderers of national wealth and black money holders. I can't rule out the possibility of their involvement in the killing."

About the role of ruling Awami League and Opposition BNP after the incident, he said, "The

two major political parties are readily blaming each other for the bomb blast. In the process, they are giving the real culprits an escape."

"Structures of both the ruling Awami League and the opposition BNP are such that conspirators can always intrude into those."

"Unless we've evidence, we'll not blame any quarter. But all parties should restrain themselves from blaming one another just to shield the real perpetrators."

Referring to his telephonic conversation with the Prime Minister on Saturday, Selim said, "I said, if the state fails to protect us, we have the right to protect ourselves. But, of course,

it is not desirable that each party would build its defence."

He said the ruling elite and the neo-bourgeoisie are destroying the nation's wealth to make their own fortune.

Selim referred to the loan defaulters who have become 'book-defaulter' now and said, "There are many political parties in the country to serve the purpose of defaulters, black-money holders and godfathers."

The CPB leader regretted the leftists' 'wrong move' of an electoral rapprochement with Awami League in 1991 and said, "We'll not go for any alliance with any of the major political blocks in 2001 general elections."

Referring to the leftists' movement to free the election process from the clutches of loan defaulters, mafia dons and black money holders, he said, "Unless some

sort reforms are made in the election process, don't take our participation for granted."

He, however, declined to say whether the leftist parties would boycott the upcoming parliamentary election.

His attention was drawn to press reports after the incident and inconsistent statements of Mashiur, one of the injured. He said, "I have seen some of the names in the press. They are not our workers. We do not know details about them. I expect a more responsible and careful role from the press in this case."

Saturday's rally was aimed at creating awareness among the poor against plunder of national wealth by the ruling elite and rise of fundamentalism and terrorism.

"It was the biggest rally arranged by CPB since inde-

Contractor murdered

From Page 12s
Police quoting the family members said a gang of seven led by Jamal, Selim, Azmat and Dulal called Sharif out of his residence after two hours of filing the case.

The gang took him near a mosque at Demra ghat and stabbed him indiscriminately. They also severed his tendons, sources said.

Later, he was thrown into the river Shitalakkha. Local people recovered him from the river and sent him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Victim's mother filed a case with Demra police in this connection.

Mohammad Badsha and Shah Alam were arrested for their alleged involvement in the killing.

Meanwhile, a young girl was found in an unconscious state at Banani rail crossing yesterday morning.

The girl was identified as Parveen.

There were marks of injuries in her head and body. She was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the

attending doctors declared her dead.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Ministers, MPs

From Page 12
the programme last year from Chittagong to mobilise people against the anti-liberation forces and capitalise on their sentiment in the next general election.

Dr SA Malek, political advisor to the Prime Minister and chairman of the CFFF, is overseeing the preparatory activities for the rally. Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu, Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, State Minister for Textile A K M Jahangir, Deputy Minister for Food Dharendra Nath Shambhu will mobilise people of the six districts under Barisal Division to make the rally a success.

Muktijoddha Sanghati Parishad Chairman Col. (Retd) Shawkat Ali told The Daily Star yesterday that people from all the six districts Barisal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bhola, Pirojpur and Jhalakathi would come to make the rally a historic one.

Hawkers Fed denies

From Page 12
Press Club. Federation's organiser Sarwar Khan, central leader Sekander, president of Tupi Samity Shafiuallah and Ataur Rahman attended the meeting among others.

They said the federation has more than 600 organisations across the country with a total of over 14,000 hawkers as members but it has no affiliation with any political party whatsoever.

The leaders said that their office at Bangabandhu Avenue was sealed without citing any reasons and called the act unwarranted.

They alleged that the bomb was exploded near their office to create an alibi for a false case against them with a view to disabling their recent movement to rehabilitate the roadside hawkers.

"Abdus Sabur and Abdul Majed who were killed in the explosion did not belong to the federation and none of the federation officials know them", General secretary of the Federation Shahadat Hossain said.

Hawker leaders protested that before the investigation was completed, BTV and ETV and a section of newspapers commented irresponsibly on their organisation and its president.

They said offices of Baitul Mokarram Hawker Kallayan Samity and Bangladesh Hawkers Federation on the ground floor of 27, Bangabandhu Avenue were rented for the last ten years.

The same building houses the

Left parties' procession

From Page 1
activists of the alliance gathered at the central Shaheed Minar wearing black badges and carrying banners, placards and festoons with various slogans against the bomb attack.

Before concluding the mourning procession, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, General Secretary of Gana Forum, strongly condemned the bomb attack and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

He also demanded a "neutral" investigation into the incident so that the real attackers could be traced and punished.

Manik said a fresh

programme protesting the attack and demanding arrest and punishment of the attackers would be announced after the country-wide dawn-to-dusk hartal on February 1. He also urged all to make the programme a success.

Among others, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Munjurul Ahsan Khan, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Dr Kamal Hossain, Rashed Khan Menon, Khaliquzzaman Bhuiyan, Pankaj Bhattachariya and Fazlul Haq attended the mourning procession.

The 11-party alliance will also observe January 26 as 'black day' protesting the bomb attack.

SAPTA talks postponed

From Page 1
Board of Revenue (NBR) and Tariff Commission, was to attend the negotiations to hand over separate lists to delegates from the other SAARC member-countries, seeking duty-free access of the enlisted products to their markets.

Following the first, second and third rounds of discussions, India and Pakistan had issued a number of notifications, giving duty concession to goods from Bangladesh.

Other officials in the ministry hope that the negotiations under SAPTA would resume anytime. He was not surprised at the abrupt postponement of the talks, because it had been called off at least three times in the past.

According to a study conducted by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) under three rounds of SAPTA negotiations Bangladesh has so far received concessionary treatment on 1180 commodities from India, along with tariff preferences that range from 50 to 100 per cent.

Bangladesh herself has provided concessionary treatment to India on 313 commodities.

In another initiative Bangladesh sought duty-free access of 191 items under 25 categories to the Indian market to narrow the wide trade gap between two countries.

A recent study shows that the annual trade gap between Bangladesh and India has surpassed one billion US dollars.

Armed activists

From Page 12
probe report, said VC Prof Dr Nazrul Islam.

The prevailing situation does not permit holding of the convocation without meeting all our demands including removal of the politician-cum-treasurer Abdur Razzak Sarder, the agitating students said.

Today the treasurer issued a verbal order to security forces asking them to make the campus 'a forbidden area' for those who are agitating against the Vice Chancellor.

None but the VC is entitled to pass such an order on security forces, said some of the arrogant students who gathered in front of the varsity to oversee the situation.

"We are feeling quite insecure," said students hailing from outside districts. The agitating students have sought intervention of the highest authority of the government to resolve the crisis.