

News

What's on today....

Lecture: Swadesh Chinta Shangha will hold a lecture on "Crises and Solution of Creativity in Bangladesh..."

Fair at Kanchi-Kanchar Mela: Kendriyo Kanchi-Kanchar Mela will hold a fair to mark the birth anniversaries of artist Zainul Abedin...

Film show: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will screen documentaries on writers Claude Simon and Michel Butor...

Milad mahfil: Shaheed Anowara Begum Smriti Parishad will hold a milad mahfil to mark the 32nd death anniversary of Shaheed Anowara Begum...

BJA founding anniversary: Bangladesh Journalist Association will hold a programme to mark its founding anniversary...

Photography exhibition: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will hold a photography exhibition titled Bhromon-e-Bangladesh...

BPS AGM: Bangladesh Photographic Society will hold its annual general meeting...

Art exhibition: Shilpangan begins a special water colour exhibition of seven water colour artists of the country...

Pabna Samity AGM: The 2-day long 75th platinum jubilee annual general meeting and Pabna Utso of Pabna Samity will be inaugurated...

Conference: Bahumukhi Srangjibi O Hawker Samity will hold its second conference...

BPWC founding anniversary: The Dhaka Business and Profession Women's Club will hold a programme to mark its 40th founding ceremony...

Weather

Moderate cold wave forecast

Weather will remain dry over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Mild to moderate cold wave may continue at most places over Khulna, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions...

Textbook: SCF announces agitation programme

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), a left-leaning student organisation, yesterday announced agitation programme to press home its various demands including immediate supply of textbooks for secondary level students...

'Repeal black laws to protect human rights'

Political leaders of different parties at a discussion meeting yesterday said that all black laws should be scrapped to protect human rights in the country. They observed that the political parties, when they are in the opposition, demand repeal of the black laws...

Security beefed up

Backdrop of alleged harassment of passengers at ZIA by "outsiders" in collaboration with a section of employees and loss of luggage. During the "service week", loop-holes will be detected and steps will be worked out for better coordination among the 19 agencies to improve the overall security and passenger service at ZIA, the sources said...

Pro-AL panel sweeps JUTA polls

From JU Correspondent SAVAR, Jan 25: Pro-Awami League Panel has swept the election of Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association, capturing 14 out of the 15 posts. A total of 256 teachers cast their votes in the election held at the university club today...

3 godowns of textile mill gutted

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 25: Three godowns of a textile mill were gutted in a fire here today, reports UNB. Witnesses said, the fire originated from a spark in a spinning wheel at Ujan Textile Mills at Godnal in Shiddhirganj upazila at noon and soon engulfed the adjacent area...

AL: Paltan blast

From Page 12 sponsored propaganda linking the ruling party with the bomb incident. Sources close to both the party and the government told this correspondent that a number of ministers and party heavyweights were on the way to Barisal for another political showdown tomorrow (Saturday). A grand rally of the people and freedom fighters would be held in Barisal tomorrow under the aegis of the Combined Freedom Fighters Front (CFFF)...

Tk 50cr revenue

When a diplomat leaves the country, he can take his car or sell it to a local person. But the latter has to pay duties and taxes for changing its yellow number plate and using a black one. But a section of local people buy luxurious vehicles for diplomats at cheaper prices and use those without changing the number plates. Even if they change those, they allegedly submit forged documents to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) regarding payment of duties and taxes for fresh registration...

Obituary

Brigadier General (Retd) Mokhlesur Rahman Khan died of cancer at the Combined Military Hospital in the city yesterday. He was 60, reports UNB. He left behind his wife, one daughter, and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. His namaj-e-janaza will be held at the Dhaka Cantonment Central Mosque (Alhau Mosque) after Juma prayers today. He will be buried at Banani graveyard, family sources said...

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Alhaj Mohamad Abdur Rashid, a retired government official, will be held today at his residence at 328 Elephant Road, says a press release. Relatives, colleagues and friends are requested to attend the qulkhwani.



BNP leader Sadek Hossain Khoka speaking at a discussion meeting on 'Democracy Killing Day' in the city yesterday. -Star photo

Worst traffic jam in city

The city experienced the worst traffic jam of this month in the last two days from early morning till late night. Hundreds of motor vehicles and rickshaws got stuck up on different city roads, many of those even for hours. The worst affected roads and road crossings included Syed Nazrul Islam Road (Tongji Diversion Road), Moghbazar crossing, Sonargaon Road, Mirpur Road, VIP Road from Shahbagh crossing to Firmgate, Mouchak crossing, the road from Malibagh to Khilgaon rail crossing and Green Road. Traffic movement had eased to some extent from the first week of this month following the authorities' drive to evict hawkers and demolish unauthorised shops on roads and pavements. Besides, the ban on plying of trucks on city roads during day time from the 0th of this month also contributed to this. But the situation deteriorated on Wednesday and DMP traffic control personnel looked helpless in tackling the massive traffic jam...

BNP lawmaker

From Page 12 out of Opposition boycott of parliament sessions, he said the government cannot avoid responsibility for such a situation. About a similar situation due to in the fifth parliament, the professor-turned-politician admitted that the BNP government had then committed a mistake. He however did not explain "We should evolve a mechanism to avoid such crisis in future." Dr Khan was also critical of civil society leaders who often blame politicians. "The civil society is not accountable to the people but the politicians are to seek people's mandate," he noted. "We have failed to live up to our commitment to the people for maintaining political stability... Let us sit together to find out a way out of the political crisis," he said amid thumping of desks by the Treasury Bench members. Responding to the BNP MP, Suranjit Sengupta denied having any crisis in parliament. "It's not a national crisis, the crisis is very much in BNP and its political culture. BNP created the crisis by staging a walkout on the very first day of the present parliament," he said, blaming the opposition party for trying all the time to 'topple' the government and not playing its due role. Rejecting the BNP lawmaker's proposal for dissolution of parliament, Sengupta asked if BNP is ready to sit in the Opposition Bench if the people want it. "We are ready to go back to the Opposition Bench if desired by the people." To justify Awami League's boycott of the fifth parliament's sessions, he said it was for a specific objective -- election under a caretaker government. "Unlike you people (BNP MPs), we never came back to the House to project membership while the boycott was on." Against the usual presence of 40 to 50 members, more than 70 were present during the Khan-Sengupta debate. Earlier, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid welcomed and the Treasury Bench members cheered Dr Khan as he entered the House at 11 am, 45 minutes after the sitting resumed. He stayed for three hours and 20 minutes and talked with a number of MPs belonging to AL and a faction of Jatiya Party. Home Minister Mohammad Nasim has said police cannot ensure security to all citizens as their number is too small compared to the requirement. "It's very difficult to maintain law and order and ensure security to all with the present strength of police," he said. He was speaking as chief guest at a function in the city yesterday, organised by the Rangers, a private security agency, on the occasion of its launching of "bodyguard and protocol service". Referring to various lapses by police, he said, "Total security is not possible till a large, modern and well-equipped force is built". "Police are always blamed for each and every criminal activity, but none thinks about their strength." Sometimes they fail despite discharging their duties honestly and efficiently because of the "multi-dimensional socio-political problems."

Bashpatti slum fire

From Page 1 phensidyl queen Monowara, the sources claimed. The land on which the slum was built is owned by the Roads and Highways Department. The slum was built by one Namu many years ago, they said. The conflict grew between the gangs after killing of one alleged terrorist - Baru -- at the BG press quarters in 1998, local people said. Commissioner Sarwar was the number one accused in the Baru murder case. Two others - Selim and Sobhan -- were also accused. But none was arrested. After Baru's murder, Sarwar went into hiding. Within one month of the killing of Baru, his younger brother Kiron was arrested for possessing illegal arms. After Kiron's arrest, his brother Taru took control of the gang that controlled the BG press staff quarter. Six months later, Kiron was released on bail. Soon after, Sentu, a close associate of Taru, was stabbed to death allegedly by members of Sobhan group. Fifteen days before the fire incident, the Khokon-Kiron group abducted the son of Kashiem Bepari and took him to Dipali Hotel area at Begunbari where he was shot. On Monday, Khokon and his gang again abducted the son of Sobhan and another boy from the slum. After the abduction, women residing in the slum brought out a protest procession, carrying sharp weapon. A police officer from Mohakhali police box, Mustafiz, rescued the two boys from the residence of one Shajahan and brought the situation under control.

Charred body

From Page 12 with the Sobhan group, which originated the fire on Wednesday afternoon. Police have arrested four people so far in connection with the incident on Wednesday night though Kiron and his accomplices are still at large. Sobhan, leader of Kiron's rival group and phensidyl trader in the affected slum, also went into hiding.

BNP trying to grab power thru' terrorism: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BNP was trying to grab power by creating law and order situation in the country, report agencies. "The BNP is trying to take a short cut to power by resorting to terrorism and creating law and order situation," she told a grand rally of the Bangladesh Chhatra League at the Ramna Batamul on the occasion of its 53rd founding anniversary. Criticising the previous BNP government, she said it had showed skills only in unleashing terrorism in the educational institutions and accumulating wealth at the cost of government exchequer. Besides, the BNP government had failed in every respect including tackling natural disasters of 1991," she added. The Prime Minister wanted to know from where both General Ershad and Khaleda Zia accumulated money. General Ershad was only a government servant while General Zia was reported to have left behind a broken suitcase only, she said. Sheikh Hasina urged the countrymen to remain alert against the unholy alliance of the four-party in the coming polls and resist their evil designs to disturb normalcy in the country. "You should build resistance against their activities," she said. "Time has come to build resistance against razzakar, vote thief and autocrat. Remain alert so none can disrupt democracy and snatch away the voting rights earned through blood and sacrifice," she told her cheering student activists. "We have laid the stone of a strong economic base... If we get the opportunity of running the country for another term, we will be able to remove poverty, build a self-reliant economy and further brighten the image of the nation," she said.

Khaleda seeks vote for BNP-led alliance

JESSORE, Jan 25: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia has urged the people to vote for BNP-led opposition alliance in the coming polls to save the national economy and independence which she said are now at stake due to misrule of AL government, reports UNB. "If the Awami League government continues in power, country's economy, foreign exchange reserve defence system and independence will be destroyed" she said while addressing a tint rally of the four-party opposition alliance at district Eidgah Maidan here this afternoon. JP senior presidium member Begum Rawshan Ershad, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Matur Rahman Nazim and IOJ chairman Shaikhul Hadit Azzul Huq also spoke at the meeting with Nazrul Islam, district convener of the all-party action council of the alliance, in the chair. Blaming the Awami League government for pursuing wide-open-border policy Khaleda said that substandard Indian goods flooded the domestic market forcing local industries to close down. She said the government, instead of fulfilling its election commitments to the people, have resorted to activities against national interests and throw the country into uncertainty with the unemployment problem increasing day by day. The BNP chief also accused the government of destroying the youth by handing them illegal arms.

Policemen shot

From Page 12 slum and spotted a truck which apparently carried rice but actually contained a huge quantity of phensidyl. As the drug traders saw police, they hurled bombs at them. Police then opened fire and arrested the truck driver and two others, the sources said. On information, Kafrul police sent reinforcement. But during the gunfight, the two arrested escaped. Police later recovered some 1360 bottles of phensidyl. They also collected some spent bullets from the spot and arrested one Hafiz. The gang of drug traders was led by one Hannan, police said.

Strategic Partner

From Page 12 meeting yesterday to review the progress of the programme under which it would also offload nine percent of the shares to Biman employees and officials. This would leave the government owning 51 per cent of the shares. The Citibank Group is also acting as Biman's consultants in getting prospective investors and SP from among some of the top airlines. Only two airlines, Gulf Air and Qatar Airways have so far submitted their Request for Proposal (RFP) that Biman floated in December to acquire the 40 per cent of shares. The closing date for submission of the proposal was January 7. A number of airlines initially showing interests did not participate in the bid. Biman sources said there is a possibility of extending the RFP again in view of the consultant's report on the situation. The Biman Board of Management will take a decision on it soon, they added. Biman officials handed over Biman's term-sheet on draft agreement for shareholders. Information Memorandum, Investors Data Room Use Confidentiality along with the legal associates of the consultants.

Int'l IT conference

From Page 12 World in the New Millennium - is in keeping with the determined goal of Bangladesh to attain progress in the IT sector," he said. Professor Hafiz GA Siddiqui, pro-vice chancellor of the university, said, "IT has brought a remarkable change to everybody's life, no matter wherever he or she lives." "But the problem is how to utilise the advantages of this technology," he added. Computer education and training in Bangladesh, he affirmed, will expand due to participation of reputed scholars and computer experts. Mohammad Karim delivered the keynote speech on "Arithmetic for Fast Computation" at the inaugural ceremony while Abul L Haque and Rokonzaman also addressed it. For the first time in Bangladesh, a private university is organising such an international conference. One hundred and four papers were submitted from home and abroad including the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and India for the event, of which 14 were for the poster session. The conference will focus both on theory and application in areas like algorithms, computer architecture, artificial intelligence, software engineering, data communication and networks, parallel and distribution processing, pattern recognition and e-commerce. A web site, www.icit-2000.com, has also been launched at the conference. Meanwhile, DataSoft, a local IT firm, announced a gold medal for the best industrial paper for the conference.

ADP projects

From Page 1 and ensure punishment of the culprits responsible for it. It suggested framing of a timely and tough maritime law to check recurrence of accidents. Presided over by Enamul Haq, the meeting was attended by, among others, Science and Technology Minister Nuruddin Khan, State Minister for Planning Mullahuddin Khna Alamgir, G M Fazlul Haque and Zannatul Ferdous. Senior officials of the planning ministry also attended the meeting. The JS body found that in the first half of the current financial year, the Ministry of Shipping spent 44.46 per cent of the allocation for 24 projects. The total allocation is Tk 525.6 crore. However, the ministry spent 99 per cent of the ADP allocation in the previous financial year. Reviewing last month's launch disaster in the Meghna, the meeting asked the authorities concerned to compensate the victims

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Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO) 6/22 Block-E, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh. Invitation of Bid, Notice No. 05/2001. Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO) invites sealed Bids from the bonafide Suppliers, Distributors, Agents to supply New Microbus, Hydraulic Fork (8-10 Tons) Lifter and Double Cabin Pick-up Van from ready stock.