



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Tangail, Mymensingh and Sylhet in the next 24 hours till 6pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the period, the Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Mongla and Teknaf and the lowest 20.0 degree Celsius at Tetulia.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:21 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:36 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	33.5	23.2	49	50
Chittagong	31.5	24.8	74	64
Rajshahi	33.7	21.0	68	63
Khulna	34.5	22.0	62	65
Barisal	33.4	21.6	80	56
Sylhet	32.6	22.4	65	51
Cox's Bazar	33.5	24.0	80	69



Film Show

Zahr Rahman Film Society will screen two movies 'Life on a String' and 'The Horse' as part of its film festival on contemporary Asian cinema. Venue: German Cultural Centre, House No. 10, Road No. 9, Dharmondi. Time: 3:30pm and 5:30 pm respectively.

BFUJ joint meet

A joint meeting of the outgoing and new committees of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will be held. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 10 am.



Film Show

Zahr Rahman Film Society will screen three movies 'Chungking Express', 'Nang-Nak' and 'Perfumed Nightmare' as part of its film festival on contemporary Asian cinema. Venue: German Cultural Centre, House No. 10, Road No. 9, Dharmondi. Time: 4 pm, 5:45 pm and 7:30 pm respectively.

IT seminar

Institute of Computer Communication and Technology (ICCT) will hold a seminar on 'Sun Java 2 (310-025 Exam Preparation)'. Venue: ICCT premises, 18, Green Road (1st floor). Time: 6:30 pm.

Celebrations turn into protests

FROM PAGE 1

Live telecast of the Batamul programme by the state-run BTV aired the news of explosion quickly all over the country.

As the news of bomb blast reached the port city of Chittagong, the people who gathered at the footstep of the DC Hill to celebrate the new year instantly took to the streets to protest the barbaric and cowardice carnage.

The programme at DC Hill under the auspices of the Combined Pahela Baishakh Celebration Committee was the pivot of the festival.

Grief-stricken people joined a series of processions brought out by different socio-cultural forums including Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad and Sammilita Pahela Baishakh.

Though the Ramna incident cast a pall of gloom, the jubilant people celebrated the Pahela Baishakh with due fervour and gaiety.

Musical soirees, colourful processions, dance programmes, poetry recitation, drama, book fair and photographic exhibitions characterised the day.

Withdrawing themselves from the Pahela Baishakh celebrations, hundreds of students brought out processions on the Dhaka University campus denouncing the incident that reeks of medieval barbarity. The Bangladesh Chhatra League, the Chhatra Union and other student bodies brought out processions in protest.

Many students as well as general people donated blood and money for the treatment of bomb victims.

Proshika, an NGO, celebrated Pahela Baishakh on the Sangsad Bhavan premises. The three-hour programme included patriotic songs, dance, poetry recitation, story telling and other literary pursuits.

Khaleda: Punish them

FROM PAGE 1

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament She said barbaric incidents like this are increasing as the government failed to identify the terrorists and punish those involved in bomb explosions in the Udichi function at Jessore and CPB's public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city.

Bitterly criticising the government for 'complete failure' to ensure security of life and property of the people, she said now they are not safe even at cultural programmes.

Khaleda said such tragic incidents would not have occurred repeatedly had the government taken proper action against those involved in barbaric acts in the past.

The BNP Chairperson said it was the duty of the government to ensure security at the Pahela Baishakh function. "The barbaric killings proved that the government was reluctant to do so and it is unpardonable."

She demanded of the government to arrange proper treatment of the injured and urged all to come forward in aid of the victims.

The Opposition Leader called upon the people to build strong resistance against such heinous acts.

She expressed sympathies for the bereaved families of those killed and prayed for salvation of the departed souls.

She called upon the people to build strong resistance against such heinous acts.

Khaleda visited the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue on Saturday evening to see those killed.

Sense of insecurity prevails

FROM PAGE 1

ing BNP leader and former minister Tariqul Islam and a number of members of a regional smuggling syndicate. But initially, the investigators as well as other government agencies concerned had held 'fundamentalists' responsible for the incident.

The chargesheet said the bombs were exploded at the Udichi programme to embarrass the government and to cause deterioration of law and order in the country.

A top police official preferring anonymity said, "Whenever such an incident happens, the law-enforcing agencies remain alert for the next few weeks and that is all".

When such heinous incidents are taking place repeatedly, investigation into those should not be the only step by the agencies concerned. But there has been little progress in this regard so far, he added.

Investigation into the two cases concerning bomb explosions at a

CPB rally at Paltan Maidan and at the adjacent Bangabandhu Avenue in the city on January 20 has also made no headway. Seven people were killed and more than 50 injured.

Investigators suspect that the four incidents are 'inter-linked' although they are yet to have concrete evidence in support of their suspicion, sources said.

Since the Udichi incident, there have also been four incidents of recovery of 'sophisticated bombs' from an Ahmedia mosque at Bakshi Bazar, the lanakantha office, a mosque at Mirpur and a madrassah at Mohammadpur, all in the city—according to police.

Besides, two other powerful bombs were recovered on July 20 and July 24 last year at Kotalipara in Gopalganj, where the prime minister was scheduled to address a public meeting.

CID has also been investigating the cases filed in connection with

President, PM condemn

FROM PAGE 1

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also visited Dhaka Medical College Hospital Saturday to see the victims of bomb explosion at Ramna Batamul during new year celebrations.

Hasina went round the intensive care unit and casualty ward to see the condition of the injured. She also inquired about their treatment and asked the authorities concerned for their proper treatment.

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Health Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Mayor Mohammad Hanif, State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and BMA secretary general Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin accompanied the Prime Minister.

BSS adds: Sheikh Hasina said the anti-liberation and communal forces are carrying out terrorist activities under the umbrella of a political party.

She strongly condemned the bomb explosion at Ramna Batamul. The prime minister was briefly speaking at a function organised on the premises of her Gonohaban residence to celebrate the Bengali New Year's Day.

The function, however, turned into a condolence meeting following the bomb incident at Ramna Batamul in the morning.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria and Sanjida Khatun of Chhayanaut also spoke on the occasion which was attended by the ministers, MPs, diplomats, intellectuals, educationists, litterateurs and cultural activists.

One minute silence was

Who was in charge?

FROM PAGE 1

blast that had instantly killed seven people and left several others injured less than an hour ago.

The sub-inspector, with no nametag on his uniform, serialised small pieces of evidence on a table. There were papers found in the pockets of the victims, shrapnel and splinters from the bomb, electric wires, broken optical glasses, wrist-watches, torn trousers and part of a hard-paper packet with shreds of a red giftwrap still on.

Lack of co-ordination among law enforcing authorities was evident, as junior officials from the National Security Intelligence, Directorate General of the Forces Intelligence, Special Branch, Detective Branch and Criminal Investigation Department tried to outpace each other in examinations of the available evidences.

A member of the NSI succeeded in having a look at the papers found in the pockets of the victims, some of whom are suspected to be the bombers themselves. While the NSI men checked the papers, others tried to peep over his shoulder and jot down whatever they could make out.

Five feet away, crows were feast-

ing on the patches of blood and parts of human skulls covered with brain.

Further 20 feet to the east, lay a can on the ground, suspected to be a bomb. There was no one to warn officials and newsmen, who were roaming about.

At around 9:30am some policemen with walkie-talkies said that the home minister was yet to be informed of the explosion. He was asleep, they said.

It was not until 10:45am, nearly three hours after the blast, that Major Mahmud of the Army Engineering Core and Major Osman of the Ordnance arrived at the scene with their bomb disposal team and equipment.

Having examined the shrapnel and splinters on the table, Major Mahmud checked the suspected bomb on the ground and declared that it was just an empty can.

At around 11 am, some top uniformed and civil clothed officials started to arrive at the scene. Several thousand shocked onlookers encircled the area while the evidences were put on the table from a polythene bag to show them to the officials.

Follow Constitution for election

FROM PAGE 12

and stability.

"You will have to give a tit-for-tat reply, you will have to take preparations for resisting the killer groups," she told her audience.

Indicating the opposition leader, Hasina said they joined hands with the "murderers" to kill people and disrupt peace. She called for a greater unity of pro-liberation forces so that none could destroy independence of the country.

Referring to the brutal killings in the bomb blast at Ramna Batamul on Saturday, the Prime Minister said Pahela Baishakh is a traditional festival of the Bengali nation but they even killed people by bombing such a festival.

Hasina bitterly criticised the opposition, particularly Jatiya League, for using mosques for political purposes. She observed that by unleashing terrorism in the mosques, killing people in the name of religion, they are tarnishing the image of Islam and called upon the people to resist them.

The Prime Minister introduced

Bangabandhu

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Ordinance (repeal), which said that no case could be filed with the repeal of the ordinance, should not be taken in a negative way.

"The repeal did not hamper anything rather the ordinance still existed," he submitted.

Pointing to sub-clause 6 of the 3 (Ka) of the 4th schedule of the Constitution, Khan submitted that repeal of the ordinance is violative to the law.

The sub-clause in the 4th schedule of the Constitution says: The revocation of the said proclamations and the withdrawal of Martial Law shall not revive or restore or right or privilege which was not existing at the time of such revocation and withdrawal.

Saitur said even repeal ordinance could take off the right and privilege of any condemned person, but did not create any opportunity that could give legal protection or to take forward the case, which came up following the August 15, 1975 morning incident.

Attorney General Mahmudul Islam was present in the court and would submit his argument today.

Carbon monoxide

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Highways Division Syed Rezaul Hayat, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) Chairman Azmal Chowdhury, ADB Project Officer Albab Akanda, team leader Armando Balloflet and BRTC Project Manager Salahuddin.

The subjects of discussion were grouped into four sections having four leaders: John Core, Rajesh Binivale, K S Mahmud Mohammad Salam and Dr. Golam Rahman.

The participants observed that the government should take initiative for regular advertisement in the electronic and print media highlighting the pollution-related hazards.

The group also suggested that the autorickshaw drivers be given financial assistance for taking other professions before making any final decision on the removal of autorickshaws from the streets.

HC directive

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ZA Khan, Nazimuddin Alam MP, Joyntul Abedin Farooq MP, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, Khairul Kabir Khokan, Fazlul Huq Milon, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie and Chowdhury Alam, Commissioner of DCC.

The court also asked the government to show cause within three weeks why the case filed against them would not be declared without lawful authority and illegal and PSA itself would not be declared void and ultra vires to the Constitution.

Similar rules were issued on petitions filed by BNP leader Advocate Faruqul Islam and 54 others, including Bagerhat district BNP president MA Selim.

Shamsur Rahman

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spiry to murder Shamsur Rahman. These 14 include the alleged killers who shot the journalist.

The masterminds of the murder conspiracy are yet to be arrested. They are moving at large in disguises.

The charge sheet will be formally submitted after arrest of the absconding accused, Jessore CID official said. So far 18 people were arrested. Their statements were earlier recorded under 164.

Prompt probe should offset vigilance deficit

FROM PAGE 1

When nine lives are lost in a celebration of joy, it calls for the highest level of caution. There is need for putting up a high-powered enquiry commission in place, immediate involvement of the CID and setting up a co-ordination cell comprising the nearly half dozen intelligence agencies who are charged with maintaining safety and security.

The truth has to be unearthed not only for the sake of ensuring public safety, but for the benefit of the government and the law-enforcement agencies as well, so that they could take definite preparations to deter recurrence of such incidents.

None among the police or the litany of law-enforcement agencies were there to take charge of the completely chaotic situation after the device or devices went off at the Ramna Batamul.

It was the public that acted first to

send the victims to the hospitals. Low-tier police personnel were present but they could not act or take effective command as senior officers arrived at the scene at least an hour after the explosion although news of the ghastly killings were broadcast live through the visual media.

The area was normally expected to be littered by intelligence personnel, and the stage of the Chhayanaut and its immediate outer perimeter was supposed to be ringed with hundreds of policemen and personnel from different intelligence agencies.

If they were there, they were not on their guard. And if they were on guard, then the information has not been shared or disseminated properly.

The incidents of the recent past simply stare at the public eye.

Dhaka, January 20, 2001; Seven people killed in a public rally of the CPB at Paltan Maidan and in a separate explosion at the Bangabandhu Avenue. Several arrests made. CID yet to get any real clue of motive. Type or sources of explosive devices used not known. Police yet to get report of Army bomb experts. Broad conclusion linked with extremists.

Mohammadpur, Feb 3, 2001; Police said it detected a pair of sophisticated bombs at a Madrassah. CID yet to seek assistance of Army bomb experts. The bomb still to be examined and lodged in police Malkhana.

Khulna: Kadriani Mosque, October 8, 1999: Seven killed in a bomb explosion inside the mosque. Arrests made. Type or source of device not known. Investigation still inconclusive.

Jessore, March 6, 1999: Ten killed in Udichi explosion. Several arrests made and charge sheet completed. Type or sources of explosive devices not known.

Kotalipara, July 20 and 24, 2000: Two devices recovered. Lengthy enquiry says electronic device used was made locally. Charge sheet made. Broad conclusion handwork of extremists intended to kill the prime minister. No changes made in the organogram of the SSF charged with the protection of the prime minister and other VIPs.

It is the general notion that all the incidents involving explosive devices require enquiry at the highest level and setting up of judicial probe bodies.

In the case of the CPB and the Chhayanaut bombings, public hearings should be conducted so that witnesses could be called, and real clues and evidences found out before it is too late.

Observers felt that the chain of events are occurring without any real culprit being identified or sent for prosecution, which leaves room for recurrence.

Agency office of Tabani Beverage looted at Savar

UNB, Savar

Armed bandits swooped on the local agency office of Tabani Beverage Company Ltd at Jaleswar and looted Tk92,270 and other valuables Thursday, leaving a man injured.

Police said the robbers entered Janata Enterprise in the guise of buyers at 6pm and looted the money from the cash box. They snatched the key of the cash box stabbing in charge of the agency Anwar Hossain.

They also looted Tk 17,730 and two mobile phone sets from other businessmen present there during the incident at gunpoint.

The dacoits disconnected the telephone line of the agency office, confined the businessmen in a room and then disappeared. A case was filed.

Another report added from Patuakhali: Armed pirates backed four people and looted cash and valuables worth Tk one lakh from two Dhaka-bound cargo vessels at Mathbaria Char of Tetuliachar on Thursday.

The injured Alam, 40, Nazem, 40, Shahidul, 26, and Altaf were admitted to a local health complex.

Imams

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When similar remarks come from imams," he said. "We all have to be careful and vigilant against such ill motivated quarters."

Imams of some mosques told this correspondent they are not against the Bangla New Year celebration but feel that the way it is celebrated does not represent the culture of the country.

One of them, who preferred not to be named, said they do not like candles being lit during celebrations or sandalwood dust applied on the forehead. This represents 'another culture', he said.

Victims

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Many of them thronged the emergency wing where the injured were being treated at Ward 32 and many others crowded the hospital morgue where the bodies of those killed were kept.

Tragic scenes were witnessed at different places in the hospital as parents, brothers, sisters, other relatives and friends of the victims or possible victims were seen anxiously moving between the emergency wing and the morgue.

Police and the hospital authorities were fighting to control the virtually unending wave of people. Police were seen requesting them to help maintain discipline at the hospital and doctors urged them to donate blood for treatment for the injured and help them in other ways.

People first rushed to the DMCH and then went to other hospitals where the injured were shifted later.

Identities of 7

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From Biramkandi under Daudkandi thana in Comilla district. Imran was a tailor who worked at a tailor shop in Hazaribagh area in the city.

Six of the bodies were handed over on Saturday and the other yesterday.

Identities of two other male persons could not be known. They were in their mid-thirties. During autopsy of the bodies, doctors found "pack" materials and other substances used for making bombs.

Shilpi, 18, one of those injured in the incident, is now under treatment at the intensive care unit of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital. She is on artificial respiratory system. Doctors said her condition is critical and there is a faint hope of her survival.

Haripur Power Plant

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Hasina said the three barge-mounted power plants having 350mw capacity at Gopalar in Khulna, Haripur in Narayanganj and Baghabari of Sirajganj had already added 310 megawatts.

Besides, Meghnad Limited is now working to set up a 450-mw Combined Cycle Power Plant.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Prof Rafiqul Islam, AED Managing Director Scott Kicker, US Ambassador to Bangladesh Mary Ann Peters and Power Secretary Mofazzal Hossain also spoke.

Bomb blast kills 9

FROM PAGE 1

remove the dead. At least two of the bodies were so badly mutilated that the ambulance men needed to wrap them up before boarding the vehicle.

The injured and the dead removed, riot policemen cordoned off the area while some police officials started to pick up bits and pieces of the carnage. The area was littered with shoes, slippers, optical glasses, watches and bits and pieces of cloths.

The evidences included the remainder of the bomb, which looked like a metal water pipe about six inches long with two inches in diameter. A part of the gift pack was also found.

From the pockets of the dead, police also recovered an application to the Home Minister by an unnamed person from Dohar, under Keraniganj thana. The application pleaded with the minister to help the person withdraw a false case under the Public Safety Act. Also found was the photocopy of a First Information Report (FIR). Police also found several telephone numbers including a mobile number, which The Daily Star also obtained.

Meanwhile, at round 10:45am two army officers of bomb disposal unit arrived there and declared a discarded container on the ground harmless. But a police officer soon informed the unit that an abandoned packet was found near the Baishakh Gate. The army experts

Chanchal murder

FROM PAGE 12

Detecting serious faults in the CID chargesheet, the former police commissioner Md Anwarul Iqbal wrote an official letter to IGP for sending back the case to KMP for fair investigation.

The case was, however, again handed over to KMP on January 25 this year for re-investigation.

Inspector Rumi of DB was assigned to re-investigate the case as IO. He took more than two months to submit the new chargesheet.

Meanwhile, none of the chargesheeted accused has so far been arrested. They are still at large. Chanchal was called from the party office to the paternal residence of Advocate Ruku where he was chopped to death.

DB picks up

FROM PAGE 1

Satu Hajr mess adjacent to the Dakshinpara mosque that they rented from the mosque imam.

Police suspected that the young men were carrying the bomb and belonged to a fundamentalist group.

Shahin was produced before the CMM's court yesterday and the court granted a five-day remand.

Sources in the DB said they got some important information about the bomb blast but refused to elaborate for the sake of the investigation.

Meanwhile, two cases were filed with Ramna police station in this regard - one by sergeant Anil Chandra under section 324/328/307/302/34, dated April 10 and the other by Sub-inspector Kabir Hossain under section 316 of Explosive Act, dated April 14.

Assistant Commissioner Aktaruzzaman of DB is the Investigation Officer of the case.