

# 25 injured as JCD factions clash at Manikganj

UNB, Manikganj  
Two factions of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal clashed in the town yesterday, leaving 25 people, including police and journalists, injured. The clash ensued at 11am when supporters of Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain prevented the supporters of Minister without portfolio Harunur Rashid Khan Munnu from joining a meeting. Police said a faction of JCD arranged the rally in the town at 11am yesterday. On the other hand, another group, supported by the Chief Whip announced meeting at the same venue same time demanding expulsion of Munnu from the cabinet and the party. Both the groups chased each other, fired gunshots, blasted crackers and damaged vehicles during the clash. In Satkhira, at least 10 people were injured in a clash between activists of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir at Tala Government College yesterday. Police and witnesses said the clash between the student fronts of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami erupted at noon after a group of JCD activists attacked



A violent clash between two factions of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal brought vehicular movement on the Dhaka-Aricha highway to a stop yesterday.

# Atmosphere not congenial for upazila polls

AL delegation tells CEC  
UNB, Dhaka  
Awami League leaders yesterday told the Election Commission that there was no congenial atmosphere for holding election to upazila parishes due to drastic deterioration of law and order. "Such deterioration in law and order was never seen in the past... it will turn worse if election is held now," they said during an hour-long meeting with Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed at his office. Tofail Ahmed, who led a six-member delegation to the meeting, said that since the October election, Awami League leaders and workers "have faced thousands of false cases while many lost their homes and businesses, and left their areas to protect their lives under the BNP-Jamaat government." "The situation has reached such a pass that BNP cadres looted at least five police stations in Dhaka in last 45 days," he said. Other members on the AL delegation were Abdul Jalil MP, Rahmat Ali MP, Abdul Mannan, Abdul Mannan Khan and Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed. Briefing reporters on the meet

## Udichi Murder Case Fresh probe likely to begin soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna  
A fresh investigation into the sensational Udichi Murder Case recorded with Jessore Sadar thana is likely to begin soon. According to sources, the IO of the case has been asked to hand over documents of the case to higher authorities as judicial inquiry under a committee headed by a retired High Court Judge is likely to begin soon. The Udichi tragedy occurred on the midnight of March 6, 1999 when ten people were killed and 200 others injured in a powerful bomb explosion at a its cultural function of the group at the Jessore Town Hall Maidan. ASP of CID Dulaluddin Akand, IO

## Regional office of British HC opens at Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet  
A regional office of the British High Commission in Sylhet will start functioning in Sylhet from today. The British High Commissioner in Dhaka Dr. David Carter at a simple function inaugurated it last night. The High Commissioner in his speech said the newly established office will provide advisory services and receive visa applications. The entry clearance officials will interview a few number of visa applicants here, he said. With this, the long standing friendly relation between the two countries will be strengthened further, he added. The function was also addressed by the president of Sylhet Chamber of Commerce Safwan Chowdhury.

# AL move for all-party nat'l convention hits a snag

Left-leaning parties prefer a convention of their own  
REAZ AHMAD  
The Awami League move for an all-party national convention denouncing violation of human rights across the country has hit a snag with left-leaning political parties expressing unwillingness to get directly involved in the process. The left-leaning parties are instead contemplating a separate programme from an independent platform beyond the purview of the traditional AL-BNP polarisation. The AL conceived the idea of organising an all-party national convention on "crimes against humanity" to denounce atrocities, perpetrated against its leaders and workers, the religious minorities and

## PM asks DCC Launch cleanliness drive, mosquito eradication programme soon

BSS, Dhaka  
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday directed the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) authorities to immediately launch a cleanliness drive and mosquito eradication programme in the city on urgent basis. The directives came when Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif called on her for the first time since her assumption of the office. The prime minister said that the garbage collection from different points of the city should be carried out from midnight to early morning each day. As regards mosquito eradication drive, Khaleda asked the DCC authorities to take measures right now to check breeding of mosquitoes. During the meeting, the prime minister underlined the need for taking steps to ease the traffic congestion and also improve law and order. The issue of budget of the corporation and government grants also came up for discussion.



Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

## Businessman, JCD leader killed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
A businessman and a Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader were killed in separate incidents in the city yesterday. Nuruzzaman, 40, a businessman, was shot dead by a gang of extortionists at his shop at Babul Market at Swamibagh in Sutrapur area. Father of two sons and two daughters, Nuruzzaman was the son of one Abdur Rob of Pakundia in Barisal. Sutrapur police said armed extortionists went Nuruzzaman's New Green Metal Engineering Workshop and demanded toll. After a brief altercation the gang fired at least eleven shots in his chest, head and hands. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.



Wife and children of Nuruzzaman (inset), gunned down by toll collectors in the city's Sutrapur area yesterday, grieve his death.

## AL should join parliament: Dr Kamal

BSS, Dhaka  
Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said here yesterday that his party wants to see that the major opposition Awami League plays a strong role in parliament. "Of course, we want to see Awami League as a powerful opposition both inside and outside parliament," the Gano Forum president told a press briefing at Jatiya Press Club yesterday. He said, "Awami League should join the parliament as we want to see effective role of parliamentary democracy." The Gano Forum President in his written statement said that only 47 days has elapsed after the new government took over. "It is too short a period to assess performance of a government," he said. He called upon the government to set an example by combating terrorism and said that the confidence of the people could be attained only through politics of

## Prices of essentials remain high

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Prices of essentials went up before Ramadan but did not climb down after a week or so unlike the previous years. This year, the coinciding of Ramadan with winter has pushed the price curve up, as prices of winter vegetables usually remain high in the first quarter of the season, traders pointed out. Although winter vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, radish, beans, carrot and lady's finger have appeared in the city markets before Ramadan, but their prices are still high. According to a random survey in different kitchen markets in the city, the price of one kilogram tomatoes ranges between Tk 55 and Tk 60, beans Tk 20 and Tk 26, potatoes Tk 8 and Tk 10, cucumbers Tk 30 and Tk 40 and brinjals Tk 16 and Tk 20. Per kg patal sells at Tk 12, pea at Tk 28 and bitter gourd at Tk 20. A standard sized cauliflower sells at Tk 10 to Tk 16, a cabbage at Tk 8 to Tk 15, pumpkin at Tk 25 to Tk 40 and bottle gourd at Tk 15 to Tk 20. In the spice market, the price was on the same curve. Onion sells at Tk 26 per kilogram, garlic at Tk 40 to Tk 50, green-chilli at Tk 30 to Tk 35, dried chilli at Tk 55 and ginger at Tk 30 to Tk 35. The prices of coriander, cumin, capsicum, cardamom, cinnamon, cassia-leaf and other spices have also soared ahead of the Eid. However, prices vary between wholesale and retail markets. Prices of vegetables are a bit higher at the New Market, Palashi market and Kathalagan market than at Karwan Bazar, the country's largest wholesale kitchen market. The price of per kg soya bean oil

## Rehabilitation of DU BCL activists begins today

DU CORRESPONDENT  
The process of rehabilitation of ousted Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists in different residential halls of Dhaka University begins today. Some 57 BCL activists will be rehabilitated at the Zahurul Haq Hall after leaders of the two rival parties, JCD and BCL, meet the VC in the morning. The move comes following a joint meeting of the university authorities with the DU unit leaders of BCL and Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Sunday. The meeting decided to rehabilitate the BCL activists of the Zahurul Haq Hall and Jagannath Hall, who were ousted following a gunfight with JCD on November 13, in the first phase. The newly appointed Vice Chancellor Prof. Anwarullah Chowdhury was present at the meeting along with other high officials. The process will continue in other residential halls after discussions with all concerned, DU officials said yesterday.

## DC Customs at ZIA suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The Deputy Commissioner of Customs at Zia International Airport, Ahsanullah, was suspended on Sunday for not seizing cassettes and CDs from Shahriar Kabir and for not filing any departmental case following the detention of Kabir. A report by the Special Branch of police said that the SB police seized the cassettes and CDs from Kabir and not the Customs officials. Shahriar Kabir, a writer, columnist and acting president of Ektattur Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, was detained by SB at the immigration desk on his return from Kolkata on Thursday night.

## Unauthorised fishing on in Tanguar Haor: alleges Suranjit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet  
Awami league central leader Suranjit Sengupta MP has said unauthorised fishing on a massive scale is going on in the Tanguar Haor in Sunamganj and 'armed groups' sheltered by the ruling party lawmaker from the area are involved in it. Tanguar haor which has been declared a 'Ramsar area' is spread over Tahirpur, Dharampasha, Jamaiganj and Madhyananagar upazilas. The armed groups led by JCD leaders Ujjal and Kamrul, under the shelter of Nozir Hossain MP, have also ousted the lessees from the other fisheries, stone quarries and sand quarries in the region and are extorting money at will. They are moving freely in the areas, affecting law and order and creating panic among people. Suranjit made the allegations at a press conference at a local hotel yesterday. The parliamentary affairs advisor to the immediate past prime minister demanded deployment of

## NCTB sure of printing textbooks on time

BSS, Dhaka  
Printing of textbooks is on full swing as the government is determined to reach textbooks to primary and secondary school students by first week of January for the 2002 academic year, education ministry sources said. According to the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), 296 printing houses in the capital are working round the clock to print nearly 20 million copies of 60 textbooks for the secondary level. Meanwhile, 150 other printers are contracted to publish 473 million copies of textbooks for the primary level. The printers have a December 15 deadline to meet while binding of the books will begin the following week, NCTB sources said. The government has formed 20 monitoring teams to supervise progress of printing, binding, distribution and marketing of the textbooks. A seven-member high-powered taskforce, headed by the NCTB chairman, has also been formed to supervise the activities of the monitoring teams. The taskforce is taking on-the-spot decision to expedite the entire process of printing, binding, distribution and

## Muhuri murder Non-govt college teachers observe strike in Ctg

BSS, Ctg  
Teachers of non-government colleges yesterday observed strike protesting the killing of principal of Nazirhat College Gopal Krishna Muhuri. As part of the series of action programmes against the killing, Bangladesh College Teachers' Association (BCTA) and Bangladesh College University Teachers' Association (BCUTA) jointly called the strike. The teachers abstained from taking classes and examinations, associations sources said. In different colleges, teachers and students held protest rallies demanding immediate arrest of the killers and their exemplary punishment, sources added. BCTA will also submit a memorandum to the deputy commissioner today.

## Road accidents kill 7 in Gazipur, Jhenidah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Seven people were killed and 16 others injured in separate road accidents in Jhenidah and Gazipur yesterday. Of them, three were killed in Jhenidah and the rest four in Gazipur. Our Jhenidah correspondent writes: Three people were killed and six others injured when a truck carrying timber skidded off Kaliganj-Court Chandpur road and fell into a ditch yesterday morning, killing the three on the spot and injuring the six others. The dead were identified as Ashraf Ali, 30, and Ali Ansan, 25, of Arpara village and Heali village respectively under Kaliganj thana. The identity of the other person, aged around 28, could not be known. The bodies were sent to Jhenidah Sadar hospital for autopsy. The injured were admitted to Kaliganj health complex. All the victims were day labourers. The driver fled away. In Gazipur, four people were killed and 10 others injured in a collision between a tempo and a bus on Gazipur-Dhaka highway yesterday evening, according to UNB. Of the dead, two were identified as Mujibul Haq, 45, and Samiruddin, 60. Identity of two others could not be known. A seriously injured passenger was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital while injured police constable Roisuddin, 45, was admitted to Rajarbagh Police Line Hospital. The accident occurred when the tempo, travelling from Chandria, hit the bus in Tinsarak area. Intern of MMCH hurt in attack allegedly by JCD activists  
UNB, Mymensingh  
An intern of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital was seriously injured in an attack allegedly by JCD activists at a college hostel in the town early yesterday. Witnesses said JCD activists stormed the dormitory at about 1 am and attacked Belal Ahmed, former joint secretary of Chhatra League Mymensingh Medical College Unit. He was admitted to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

## Attack on minority Citizens' rally in Ctg blasts government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
Speakers at a citizens' rally here yesterday strongly criticised the BNP-led government's 'total failure' in ensuring security of the people in the country, especially that of the religious minority. Presided over by former pro-VC of Chittagong University Prof. Abu Yousuf the rally, held at Laldighi Maidan in the afternoon, was organised by newly-formed All Party Citizens Committee. The speakers denounced the murder of principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri and demanded immediate arrest of his killers and the 'mastermind'. They gave the government a 'one-month' ultimatum and threatened a tougher agitation if the repression on religious minority and opposition leaders and activists was not stopped within the period. The speakers said they will not

Prayer Timings Nov 27

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-58	5-04
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-14	5-20
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation