

DHAKA
TODAY**Lecture programme**

Department of Women's Studies, University of Dhaka in collaboration with the British Council will hold a lecture programme on 'Women's Studies: Linkages between Academia and Community'. Venue: Centre for Advanced Social Science Research, DU. Time: 9.30am.

Installation ceremony

The 1st installation ceremony of the newly elected Executive Committee for 2001-2002 of Seafood Export Buying Agents Association of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 7.00pm

Regional workshop

A 2-day regional workshop on 'Rethinking Social Reintegration of the Child victims of Trafficking and Sexual Abuse: South Asian Perspective' will open. ILO Director in Dhaka Gopal Bhattacharya will be the chief guest. Venue: BRAC Centre, Mohakhali. Time: 9.00am.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Murtaza Bashir: Murta & Bimurta' will be held. Venue: Biswa Sahitya Kendra auditorium. Time: 5.00pm.

Certificate award Ceremony

DataSoft Systems Bangladesh Limited will hold its certificate award ceremony for computer programmer training course with State Minister for Science and Technology Lutfor Rahman Khan as chief guest. Venue: 73-D, Airport Road. Time: 11.00am.

Open discussion

To observe the 6th National Training Day, Bangladesh Society for Training and Development organises an open discussion meeting. Venue: BIBM auditorium, Mirpur. Time: 5.00pm.

Protest rally

A protest rally under the auspices of different women and human rights organisations demanding trial of those responsible for Simiti's death will be held.

Venue: TSC road island, Dhaka University. Time: 3.00pm.

Education tour

The annual education tour of the children of Balyashiksha, an educational institution for children will be held. Venue: Wonderland, Gulshan. Time: 9.00am.

Foundation stone laying ceremony

The foundation stone laying ceremony of the tennis court of the National Press Club will be held with State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman Patal as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

DHAKA
TOMORROW**DUJ AGM**

The annual general meeting of Dhaka Union of Journalist will be held with former prime minister and leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.30am.

Tagore song

Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha will hold a session of Tagore song. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre. Time: 6.30pm.

Award ceremony

Transparency International Bangladesh organises an Investigative Journalism Award ceremony 2001. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 5.30pm.

Dialogue

Centre for Policy Dialogue will hold a dialogue on 'Energy Sector of Bangladesh: what are the knowledge gaps?' with State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharrar Hossain as chief guest. Venue: CIRDP auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Genocide: Women, War and Justice' will be held. Venue: Liberation war Museum, Segunbagicha. Time: 4.00pm.

Memo demanding increase in women's seats in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has submitted a memorandum to the Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, demanding increase in the number of reserved seats for women in parliament and direct election to those.

A delegation led by president and general secretary respectively of the Parishad Hena Das and Ayesha Khanam met the minister, Moudud Ahmed, and handed over the memorandum yesterday.

The minister said the present government has not forgotten its pledge in this regard and that discussions on the issue with noted legal experts are going on.

The delegation included Parishad leaders Selina Khalek, Hasna Banu, Dr Maleka Banu, Khaleka Mahub, Rekha Chowdhury and Masuda Rehana Begum.

Some secys

FROM PAGE 1 with their performance and seniority.

A number of senior bureaucrats, who are scheduled to go on leave prior to retirement (LPR) in next few months, may have their services extended.

Officials said about 29 additional secretaries serving under different ministries would go on LPR this year. Moreover, nine additional secretaries have been made officer-on-special-duty (OSD) for their alleged allegiance to previous Awami League government.

They said ministers have asked for their chosen officials for their respective ministries. A section of officials have started hectic lobbying for better posting in important ministries and departments as well as extension of their services.

At present, there are 57 posts for additional secretary in the administration. A number of additional secretaries are now discharging duties as secretary in-charge while a few others are heading various department and autonomous bodies.

A cabinet minister, preferring anonymity, told The Daily Star yesterday that there was an acute crisis of "efficient" officers in the administration. He also said that the ongoing spate of transfer, posting and forced retirement of officials has caused stagnation in the administration.

Natore police

FROM PAGE 1 January 16, 2000.

The court earlier directed the then home secretary and district and police administration of Natore to submit an inquiry report on the allegation after a primary hearing on the petition. But the report yet to be submitted.

A division bench comprising Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Mohammad Araesh Uddin yesterday asked Attorney General AF Hassan Arif to take appropriate measures so that the report is submitted within the stipulated period as the matter came up for hearing.

The court also directed the attorney-general to apprise it about the current whereabouts of the then administrative officials, who were to submit the report following the 2000 order.

The court fixed the next date of hearing on March 10. Meanwhile, the same court, which also hears another such petition on the alleged repression on the minority community following the October 1, 2001 general election, extended the deadline for submitting a report on the allegation up to March 20. The deadline expired on January 15.

Dr. Kamal Hossain moved the petition on behalf of the Ain-O-Shalish Kendra, while the attorney-general stood for the state.

JCD swoops on BCL rally

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The JCD men searched the rooms of the Arts Building for the BCL leaders and ransacked some offices of the departments of sociology and Islamic studies and the room of AKM Jamal Uddin, assistant professor of the department of sociology. At that time, general students and teachers ran for cover fearing JCD attack.

Soon the JCD activists found Ajay Kar Khokon, snatched him from the police and allegedly beat him up severely in front of the Arts Building. However, the police rescued him and sent him for treatment. The police also rescued the besieged BCL leaders from the Arts Building and provided safe exit for them.

Earlier, the BCL took out a procession from the Madhu's canteen at about 12:00 in the noon protesting changes in the textbooks.

However, when the procession moved towards the Jatiya Press Club after parading the campus, police intercepted it near Doel Chatter. The processionists returned to the campus and held a

rally at the Aparajeo Bangla. After the incident, the BCL leaders in the press conference demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the JCD men. They also demanded of the university authorities to immediately expel the JCD men involved in the attack.

The injured BCL leaders include President Bahadur Bepari, General Secretary Ajay Kar Khokon, Law Secretary Prashanto Bhushan Barua, Shabuddin Farazi, Balaram Poddar, Liakot Sikdar, Anisur Rahman, Ashrafur Azim Ruban, Farhad Hosain Sangram, Nazrul Islam Babu, Rafiqul Islam Kotwal, Abdul Wadud Khokon, Morsheduzzaman Selim, Moinul Islam Mostak, Chowdhury Saifunnabi Sagor, Riva, Beg Shahin Jahan, AKM Azim, Delwar Hossain, Alamgir Hasan and Pankaj Saha.

Meanwhile, the JCD leaders in a statement yesterday accused the BCL of violence on the campus and termed the incident 'an internal feud of the BCL'.

The statement signed by Monir Hossain and Mostafizul Islam Mamun, president and general

Food-aided programmes

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there for giving suggestions and directives with regard to project selection but the authority remains primarily with the Union Parishad."

He said, "we've decided that all projects under FFW and TR have to be finalised by February 28 and definitely, we'll try to expedite their implementation."

Meanwhile, as prices have exceeded that offered by the government, the public sector procurement drive is now virtually stalled.

Aman procurement drive launched on December 7 is due to be completed by February 28. But till Sunday government could buy only 27,000 MT of rice against the procurement target of 1.5 lakh MT and only 8,500 MT of paddy against the target of 1.45 lakh MT.

A high official at the Food Ministry, however, reasoned that as long as farmers get good price for their produce, it really does not matter whether government's procurement target is fulfilled or not.

"Government's procurement drive is basically targeted for providing price incentives to the growers. If they get higher price in the open

market that's good for them. Now they can invest more on crops in the IRR1-Boro season," the official explained.

He said the government's food reserve situation was satisfactory. "We already have over 11 lakh MT in government silos, which is 1.5 lakh MT higher than last year."

AL activists

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of a fish enclosure.

According to local people, Anis is one of the accused in a murder case recorded with Rupsha thana in 1991. He is now on bail in that case.

No case was filed in this connection till 6 pm yesterday.

In another incident on Monday, a timber trader, Sirajul Islam, 28, of Debipur village under the same police station was slaughtered by unidentified miscreants.

His body was recovered from a bush of the same village yesterday.

Police said the alleged killers are cadres of PBCP.

Separation of judiciary

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ment to separate the judiciary from the executive.

Attorney General AF Hasan Arif in a petition sought a three-month extension of the deadline and said all tasks for the separation are at the final stage. Opposing his petition, Barrister Amir-ul-Islam argued that had it been so, the time extension was not at all necessary.

Separation of the judiciary has been a long-time demand of the legal profession. After the fall of the autocratic Ershad government, all political parties including the Awami League and the BNP had promised to act on the judiciary if voted to power.

After the BNP formed government in 1991, AL lawmaker Salahuddin Yusuf placed a bill in this regard in the parliament. It was then sent to the selection committee, but was soon sent to the backburner as the BNP forgot its election pledges.

The issue came in the limelight again as 1996 election pledges of all the parties. But the AL followed the suit of its predecessor and separation of the judiciary remained a far cry.

In such circumstances, some judges filed a writ and the High Court on May 7 1997 instructed the government to separate the judiciary. According to the verdict,

amendment of the constitution was necessary to execute the order.

The government appealed against the verdict and the Appellate Division amended its earlier observation and said the constitution need not be amended for separation of the judiciary. It also issued a 12-point guideline to the government.

The government again filed a review petition against two of the 12-point directives formation of a judicial service and a separate pay commission for judges. But the court on June 21 2001 rejected the review petition and instructed the government to separate the judiciary within eight weeks.

However, this eight weeks stretched into months as the government repeatedly sought extension of the deadline.

The caretaker government finalised the drafts for setting up the judicial service, a separate pay commission and a service commission to guide the judges. In addition, a draft ordinance to amend some provisions of the CrPC was finalised.

The drafts were to be approved at the last meeting of the Council of Advisers on October 2. But after the October 1 election victory, BNP chief Khaleda Zia asked caretaker chief Latifur Rahman to keep the issue for the next government to act upon.

secretary respectively of the DU chapter of JCD, said the BCL activists left the campus "in the face of resistance by general students".

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) has condemned the alleged JCD attack on the BCL rally.

Meanwhile, DU authorities formed a six-member 'high powered' committee headed by Provice-chancellor ZN Tahmidia Begum to probe the incident. The committee has been asked to submit its primary report within next two days and the final report by seven days.

The other members of the committee are newly appointed Treasurer Prof. Sayed Rashidul Hasan, Prof. AFM Yusuf Haider and Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan, president and general secretary respectively of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association, Dean of the Arts Faculty Prof. Kazi Shahidullah and Proctor Prof. Nazrul Islam.

The JCD suspended activities of the JCD on December 17 last year following allegations of criminal activities by its leaders and activists.

This is not true, says BNP

UNB, Dhaka

The ruling BNP reacted to a report, published in different dailies yesterday, relating to the 14th National Council of Bangladesh Minority Welfare Association.

In a rejoinder, BNP said that in the report former Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Prof Golam Azam described as 'architect' of the four-party coalition government, which is not true.

"This is not true. Prof Golam Azam, in fact, had retired from his party and politics long before the formation of the four-party government," BNP said.

UNB said the report made by it was based on the programme of Bangladesh Minority Welfare Association and invitation sent by its chairman SN Goswami advocate and secretary general Gobinda Chandra Pramanik.

The association leaders in the invitation card described Prof Golam Azam as "Architect of the four-party coalition government and veteran politician", who is scheduled to inaugurate their national council on January 31.

UNB duly quoted the Bangladesh Minority Welfare Association and so the language exclusively belongs to the association.

JUTA polls today

JU CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The election of the Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) will be held today.

Thirty candidates from two panels -- pro-BNP and pro-Awami League -- are vying for 15 posts in the executive committee.

Dr Amin M Ali of Economics Department is contesting from pro-BNP panel for the post of president while Dr Abdul Motin of Statistics Department is running for the same post from pro-Awami League panel.

M Shamsul Alam Selim (BNP) of Government and Politics Department and Ahmed Reza (Awami League) of English Department are contesting for the post of general secretary.

Voting will take place at the University Club from 9am to 1 pm. A total of 273 teachers are expected to cast their votes in the election.

Prof Kalipada Kundu of Chemistry Department will conduct the election as election commissioner.

Derailment**Train service on Dhaka-Ctg route disrupted for 4 hrs**

UNB, Bbaria

Train service on Dhaka-Chittagong route was disrupted for four hours following derailment of a bogey of container train near Akhaura at 11 on Monday night.

Railway officials said the bogey was derailed at a place between Akhaura and Gangashagar stations. A relief train rushed to the spot and cleared the line at about 3-30 am yesterday.

None was hurt.

9 held with bombs in Fatullah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Fatullah thana police arrested nine youths with bombs from Lamapara area yesterday.

A patrol team of police challenged a group of youths while they were moving suspiciously in the area yesterday morning.

As the youth tried to flee, police caught them and recovered two bombs from their possession. The arrested youths are Helal, Shajahan, Amin, Mohsin Hossain, Mojibur, Mamun, Nur Hossain and Amanullah.

A case was filed with Fatullah thana in this connection.

PM: NGOs bicker

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conference following Thursday's meeting with the prime minister said Proshika had campaigned for the AL in the last parliamentary elections.

In reply, Proshika said the statement was totally untrue and smacks of "conspiracy". It said the remark was intended to damage its image so that donors stop funding it. It also alleged that the move was an attempt to alienate Proshika from the government.

On the other hand, ASA countered Proshika's interpretation and said there are several proofs of the latter's involvement in politics.

"Proshika also involved other NGOs in politics through its NGO Linkage Programme and produced video tapes, audio cassettes and training handouts which proved its political involvement," ASA said in a statement Sunday.

It said ADAB's immediate past chairperson Khushi Kabir and director Shamsul Huda were forced to quit the association as Dr. Kazi Farook Ahmed wanted to turn the organisation into a platform for certain political parties.

It said Dr. Farook had once expressed his solidarity with Beximco Vice-chairman Salman F Rahman and took a stance against the then BNP government at a meeting at Shapla Crossing in the capital in February 1996.

Meanwhile, four NGO leaders protested the ADAB statement that those who attended the meeting with the prime minister on Thursday did not represent the country's NGO sector.

The signatories of the statement are: Azadul Kabir Arju, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Md. Shaidul Haque and Abdul Hasib Khan.

They said a wide range of NGOs working in sectors like education,

health, land, agriculture, microcredit and physically impaired people had attended the meeting.

They rejected ADAB's claim that many of the NGOs present in the meeting were not the association members.

AL demands

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The meeting also decided that the party would complete formation of village, ward, union and upazila committees by June 30 to pave the way for holding of the party's national council as early as possible. "A drive for recruitment of new members of the party is now going on," AL general Zillur Rahman told newsmen.

About joining of parliament session, the ALCWC did not did not take any final decision. After a brief discussion on the issue, the meeting referred it to the AL Parliamentary Party, which is likely to meet before the next session. Zillur however told the newsmen the atmosphere is not conducive for going to the House right now.

The main opposition party also decided to form a relief fund for helping the families of victims of the 'government sponsored violence' since the last general elections. It alleged that many party leaders and activists and other people came under attack by the BNP-Jamaat alliance.

A five-member committee was given responsibility to coordinate Sheikh Hasina's security matters as the government repealed the special law providing for security of family members of the Father of the Nation.

Pakistan 1-up

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seventh wicket between skipper Mashud and veteran Enamul Hoque.

Mashud scored a career-best 54 off 104 balls. His second fifty in one-day internationals contained five boundaries.

Enamul, seemingly the man for every crisis, scored a patient 32 off 63 balls after the top order crumbled against the much-vaunted new ball attack of Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar.

Tushar Imran with 21 was the other notable scorer for Bangladesh.

However, it was Shoaib who triggered the slide clean bowling opener Mehrab Hossain for a duck in the second over.

Mehrab's partner Javed soon set out for the players' lounge edging Shoaib in the slips for six.

Al-Shahriar ran himself out for six and when Sanwar Hossain (2) edged Abdur Razzak to Azhar Mahmud, the scoreboard despairingly read 32 for four in 12 overs.

Khaled Mahmud then became yet another run-out victim of the day after scoring five.

While Pakistani fielders backed their bowlers up in defending a not-

so-impressive total of 203, the hosts were left to rue three dropped catches.

Rashid Latif was given life on 46 when Javed Omar spilled a sitter at backward point. The Pakistan wicketkeeper went on to make a career-best 79 off just 83. His match-winning performance featured nine boundaries.

Latif, in the later stage of his innings, played with a runner having pulled a hamstring.

The injury also prevented him from keeping wicket. Younis Khan took over from him after 27 overs.

Abdur Razzak, Younis Khan and Inzamamul Haq contributed 24, 22, 20 runs respectively.

Although Latif won the man-of-the-match award, the star of the day was undoubtedly 20-year-old Tareq. His nagging accuracy and aggression put the fancied Pakistanis on the backfoot. Mohammad Sharif, who took three for 40, ably assisted the young right arm seamer.

Both teams are scheduled to fly to Dhaka on Wednesday morning to play the remaining two one-day matches under lights at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Thursday and Friday.

Gunmen attack US office in Kolkata

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been broken. The attack came when there was a change of duty taking place for the policemen who are posted in shifts for 24 hours outside the Centre, embassy officials said.

The bikes arrived from two opposite directions on Chowringhee Road and stood in front of the gate. The attackers opened fire on the policemen standing in a queue and drove away, witnesses said.

Initially, Police Commissioner Sujay Chakrabarty blamed the Harkat-ul Mujahideen for the attack. However later on he clarified his statement.

"We have proof that the attack was carried out by the commandos of the Harkat-ul Mujahideen and a group called the Asif Raja Commandos. We know about the first one, but we have no idea about the second one. We are investigating the matter."

West Bengal Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya told reporters at the Writers Building, "there are unconfirmed reports that the attack was conducted by Harkat-ul Mujahideen."

"They have called up a couple of newspaper offices and have taken responsibility for the attack," he said. He also said that 50 rounds have been fired. "Amongst the weapons used we have got bullets of AK-47 and AK-56."

In fact even the Chief Minister could not confirm how many attack-

ers were there.

He was quite sarcastic when he said, "I really do not know what to say. The police officers are giving conflicting reports. Some are saying that there were four people and that an Ambassador car was used in the attack. Others are saying that there were two attackers on a bike."

The US Information Centre is on one of the business roads in Kolkata, home to about 12 million people.

Immediately after the unpremeditated attack, police cordoned off streets around the centre, which houses the US press attache, a trade office and a library popular with local residents.

The consulate is in a separate building a few blocks away.

Pools of blood covered the ground outside the information office and the area was in chaos.

"There is definitely an extremist angle involved in the attack," a local police officer told a news agency, adding the attack was clearly aimed at US interests.

"We have tightened security at airports, railway stations, we are checking guest houses all over the city."

Pallab Bhattacharya from New Delhi adds: Security has been further beefed up around the American embassy in the capital city and all other US facilities across India following the terrorist attack in Kolkata.

New Delhi was put on a state of

high alert and additional security personnel deployed around all American establishments here as well in other parts of India, particularly in Bombay and Madras, officials said.

The attack came for an informal discussion at a meeting of the cabinet of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee who was scheduled to meet President K R Narayanan along with chiefs of diplomatic missions of some countries yesterday evening to review the situation arising out of the strike on the American Centre.

Minister of State for External Affairs Omar Abdullah said there was little doubt that it was a terrorist attack but refused to speculate on the involvement of any particular group in it.

Minister of State for Home I D Swamy said the nature of the incident pointed to the involvement of terrorists based in Pakistan.

Soon after the attack, Indian Home Minister L K Advani spoke to American ambassador to India Richard Blackwill and the two countries decided to work together to prevent recurrence of the type of attack that took place in Kolkata.

The attack on the American centre in Kolkata came even as India and the United States are busy discussing military cooperation between them against terrorism.

A two-day meeting of Indo-US joint working group began in New Delhi on Monday with the agenda including for the first time technol-