



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina exchanges views with the engineers, agriculturists and physicians at the party's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

'Launch movement to raise standard of primary edn'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for launching social movement to raise the standard of primary education in the country.

They said the movement would have to be spread out across the country to create general public opinion in its support.

The discussion, organised by Sushikkha Andolon, an initiative by noted citizens and academicians, was held at the National Press Club in the city.

Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, an eminent economist, said the citizens are the only force to resolve all problems including education in the country. "They are not third force,

but the only force," he added.

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, an educationist and environmentalist, said it will not be difficult to involve the entire nation with the Sushikkha Andolon (movement for proper education) as everybody wants quality education.

"We have seen parents and guardians flocking to only a few schools in the city which provide standard education. This proves that how much anxious they are for quality education of their children," he added.

Prof Ainun Nisat said he had seen many boys and girls who could not write even correct Bangla and English which they were supposed to achieve at the primary level.

Shop owners fined Tk 70,000 for using polybags

UNB, Dhaka

Environment and Forest minister Shahjahan Siraj yesterday made a surprise visit to Shantinagar Bazaar and Liha Dry Cleaners at Purana Paltan to assess the situation following the ban on polythene shopping bags.

During his visit, a mobile court seized a huge quantity of polythene shopping bags from Mohammad Ali Stores at Shantinagar Bazaar and Liha Dry Cleaners and fined Tk 10,000 each. The mobile court also realised Tk 50,000 in fines from ten

shops for using the banned bags. The minister said stern lawful action would be taken against the shop owners and manufacturers if they are found using the banned shopping bags.

He urged all to use shopping bags made from jute.

The minister said

From now mobile courts will conduct drives regularly to take legal action against those who produce, market and use polythene shopping bags, the minister said.

DU admission tests begin today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Admission tests for first year honours courses under the 2003-04 session of Dhaka University begin today.

Today's test will be held for the candidates of 'Umo' unit, says a DU press release.

There are 110 seats under the unit and 8814 applicants will sit for the examination, with 80 students vying for each seat.

The seat plan for the test is as follows: Admit card Nos. 100001 to 101351 at Science Annex Building, 101352 to 105043 at the Arts Building and Lecture Theatre, 105044 to 106383 at Faculties of Business Studies, 106384 to 107143 at IBA building, 107144 to 107653 at Central Library, 107654 to 108203 at IER building and 108204 to 108814 at Food and Nutrition Science Institute.

Detailed seat plan will be displayed on the bulletin board of the examination centres. Candidates

have been asked to report to their examination hall by 9:30 am.

The admission test of Ga unit will be held on January 23, Kha unit on January 27, Gha unit on January 30, and Ka unit on February 13.

Hasina visits Sylhet today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will visit Sylhet today.

She is scheduled to arrive here by air at 11:15 am.

Hasina will meet the families of those killed in the bomb blast at the shrine of Hajrat Shahjalal (R) on Monday night. She will also offer fateha at the shrine.

The AL chief will address a press briefing in the evening.

WEATHER
T O D A Y

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country in the morning. Met office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged, it added.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 28.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna, Jessore and Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 8.8 degree at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:33pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest 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 | 25.0 | 14.2 | 88 | 75 |
| Chittagong | 26.2 | 16.5 | 71 | 61 |
| Rajshahi | 23.7 | 10.3 | 95 | 73 |
| Khulna | 28.5 | 14.5 | 90 | 79 |
| Barisal | 28.0 | 13.6 | 91 | 69 |
| Sylhet | 26.0 | 13.0 | 68 | 70 |
| Cox's\Bazar | 28.5 | 16.4 | 73 | 77 |



About 50 shanties were gutted in a fire that broke out at Diabari slum in Mirpur yesterday morning.

1,475 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested a total of 1,475 people, including five criminals, during their countrywide drive in last 24 hours ending at 6.00am



The Ex-students Association of Dhaka Residential Model School and College stages a demonstration in the city yesterday to protest the decision of the education ministry to start another school in the newly constructed building on the college campus.

RUTA election Yellow panel bags 10 posts, White 5

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Awami League-backed 'Yellow' panel won 10 posts while ruling alliance-backed 'White' panel bagged five posts in the Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) elections yesterday.

Election to the 15-member executive committee of RUTA was held at the Juberi Bhaban.

From the Yellow panel, Prof. Dr Md K h a l e q u z z a m a n, Dr Khondokar Farhad Hossain and Prof. Sadequ Arefin were elected president, treasurer and joint secretary.

The White panel candidates Dr Muhammad Shafi and Dr Mamunul Keramat bagged the posts of vice-president and general secretary.

Of the ten posts of members, seven were won by Yellow panel. They are Dr Mohsin Ali, Shaykhul Islam, Nasir Uddin, Abu Sadek Quamruzzaman, Dr M Rezaul Karim, Dr Abdul Bari and Sayen Uddin.

Dr Shamsur Rahman, Dr Aslam Hossain and Dr Habibur Rahman of the White panel won the three member posts.

Showcause notice on two JU JCD workers

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal served show cause notices on two activists of Jahangirnagar University (JU) JCD on Wednesday as they beat up a fellow worker last Sunday.

The decision to this effect was taken at a joint meeting between the central committee of JCD and its JU unit at the JCD central office, with its president Shahabuddin Laltu in the chair, sources said.

Ziaur Rahman Zia, assistant office secretary, and Sohel, joint convenor of Bangabandhu hall unit, have been asked to show cause why they should not be expelled from the JCD.

They beat up Akter Hossain, law secretary of Al-Beruni hall unit, following a dispute over establishing supremacy on the campus.

Shahabuddin Laltu also warned the JU JCD President Parvez Mallik and Secretary Harun-ar Rashid at the meeting for the untoward incident that took place during Tuesday's concert celebrating the silver jubilee of JCD.

Tk 80,000 looted from cell phone showroom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified hooligans stabbed an office assistant and looted Tk 80,000 from his mobile phone showroom at Shantinagar in the city yesterday.

The gang stabbed Kajal, 32, in his hands and back.

Two local hoodlums entered the shop at around 3:00pm and demanded tolls from Kajal. As he refused to pay, they stabbed him and looted the cash box containing Tk 80,000 and 50 pieces of mobile phone cards.

Urs

UNB, Chittagong

The 52nd Urs of Shah Sufi Hazrat Moulana Syed Sirajul Huq will be held at Kaukhali Darbar Sharif of Rangunia on Sunday.

The programme includes qurankhwani, zikir-ajker, milad and doa mahfil.