



Opposition Leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses Bangladesh Jatiya Party leader and former state minister Korban Ali and his supporters who joined the Awami League at a function at the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

'Take action against communal forces'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad yesterday expressed deep concern at the rise of communal and fundamentalist forces in the country.

At a meeting in the city, the parishad leaders called on the government to take stern action against these elements.

They also urged all political parties, civil society leaders, and socio-cultural organisations to be united against the activities of fundamentalists.

The meeting was held in two sessions at Tejgaon Church Community Centre. Major Gen (Rtd) CR Dutta presided over the first session and Advocate Siril Shikder the second session.

The meeting also expressed concern at the amendment to the Vested Property Return Act as this has deprived a minority community of its land rights.

It also condoned the deaths in building collapse at Shankhari Bazar in the city.

The meeting decided to hold the sixth triennial national conference of the parishad in November or December, says a press release.

Robbery in Ctg: Four arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested four alleged robbers after a gang looted valuables worth about Tk three lakh from a house at Boyelgaon in Banskhali upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

Police and witnesses said a gang of 15 robbers, reportedly led by one Hossain Rashid Sohel, broke into the house of one Shahjahan at around 2am.

They looted electronics goods, gold ornaments and money at gunpoint.

Later, police arrested Sohel, Jasim Uddin Salim, Abul Kalam and Nazrul Islam.

One shot dead, two bodies recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the bodies of two unidentified men in the city yesterday while criminals gunned down a man in Dhamondi on Thursday night.

Ramna police found the body of a victim, in green shirt and black trousers, on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue at around 4:00am.

Police suspected the killers had dumped the body there after killing him in another place. The body, bearing stab injuries in the head, chest, stomach and hands, was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Uttara police recovered the body of another victim, aged about 25, at Sector 7 at about 5:30pm.

In a separate incident, Mohammad Selim Sharif, 28, was shot dead at Mitali Road in Rayer Bazar, Dhamondi at around 8:30pm on Thursday.

His wife Minu Begum said a gang of criminals attacked Selim when he was going to his sister's house at Maneswar Road to bring her (Minu) back home as she was staying there for a couple of days.

'People's expectations not reflected in budget'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties, trade unions and student organisations yesterday criticised the proposed national budget for 2004-05 fiscal year, saying it did not reflect the expectations of the people.

Five Left Party, an alliance of left-leaning political parties, held a rally at Muktangan in the city to protest the budget.

Speakers at the rally rejected the budget terming it 'anti-people.'

They said the budget reflected the views of imperialist powers and it has been tailored to deceive the people.

Tipu Biswas, Mahbubul Haq, Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, Abdus Salam and Shahidul Islam Sabuj addressed the rally.

The Jatiya Party (Manju) in a statement said there is no direction in the proposed budget on how to fight against poverty, illiteracy and unemployment and to improve health services.

The budget did not touch the current national problems includ-

ing downslide in law and order, widespread corruption and unnecessary expenditure, said the statement signed by party Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam.

In another statement, Acting President of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Moinuddin Khan Badal and General Secretary Syed Zafar Sazzad said the budget would not bring any positive change to the fate of poor people.

President of Bangladesh Chhatra League Liakot Shikdar and General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu, in a joint statement, said the highest allocation for education sector is an eyewash.

Leaders of Jatiya Gono Front, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Biplobi Oikya Front, Gonotantrik Mazdur Party, National Teachers-Employees' Front and Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra also criticised the budget.

Burn unit opens at Abdul Wadud Memorial Hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A burn unit has been opened at Rupsha Reverend Abdul Wadud Memorial Hospital to treat the patients with acid burns.

This is the first burn unit in the southwestern region of the country to give free treatment to poor patients.

Principal of Khulna Medical College Dr S M Zafarullah formally inaugurated the unit on Thursday.

The burn unit will be run with the financial assistance of the daily Prothom Alo.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Zafarullah highly spoke of the noble move by the Prothom Alo and termed it a milestone in the treatment of acid-burnt patients at private level.

He also appreciated the hospital authorities for setting up the burn unit.

The hospital is run by the Christian Service Society, a non-governmental organisation.

Head of the burn unit Dr Samanta Lal Sen, Deputy Editor of the Prothom Alo Sazzad Sharif, Chairman of Summit group Md Aziz Khan and Superintendent of KMCH Dr Matiar Rahman also spoke.

Later, a team of doctors headed by Dr Samanta Lal Sen operated upon the faces of two patients.

Salesman shot dead in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed muggers shot dead a salesman of a bakery and looted a confectionery shop in separate incidents in the port city on Thursday night.

Bhola Mia, 40, a salesman of Gausia Bakery, was returning home in his van after collecting money from different shops when the muggers intercepted him at Kalirhat in Pahartali at around 9:30pm and tried to snatch the money.

The gang shot him when Bhola tried to resist them, police said. He died on his way to hospital.

In another incident, about eight muggers stormed into Kohinoor Bakery at Chawk Bazar and looted Tk 40,000 at gunpoint at around 9:00pm.

The prime accused in the case Abdur Rashid Shahid alias Tapu was killed in a gunfight between police and outlaws at Fakirhat on May 21.

Investigation Officer Dewan Koushik, who is also a sub-inspector of Khulna Police Station, submitted the charge sheet to the CMM's Court on Thursday.

Former vice-president of Batiaghata upazila unit of BNP and chairman of Amirpur union parishad Amir Azam Khan was gunned down in front of his residence at Sarkarpura under Khulna thana on January 29 this year.

SI Anwar Hossain lodged a FIR with Khulna Police Station as a complainant.



Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised a publication ceremony of a book titled 'Manzoomat-e-Mumtaz Renu' at a city hotel yesterday. From left are Privatisation Board Chairman Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, author Mumtaz Renu, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, folklore expert Dr Ashraf Siddiqui and Executive Director of the Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam.

AMIR AZAM MURDER

Police press charges against five accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police have pressed charges against five accused in UP chairman Amir Azam Khan murder case.

They are Bulbul Hossain, Sumon alias Nuruzzaman, Shaikh Belal, Disco Sattar and Shawkat Hossain alias Shakha.

The prime accused in the case Abdur Rashid Shahid alias Tapu was killed in a gunfight between police and outlaws at Fakirhat on May 21.

Investigation Officer Dewan Koushik, who is also a sub-inspector of Khulna Police Station, submitted the charge sheet to the CMM's Court on Thursday.

The exhibition will provide information about subjects and courses of the university, costs and the living conditions, he said at a press conference. The university offers 13 subjects.

WEATHER TODAY

Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and Bogra and the lowest of 23 degrees at Dhaka.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at 5:10am 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	31.6	23.0	96	65
Chittagong	34.0	25.0	71	75
Rajshahi	34.3	27.2	76	78



Police intercept a procession of 11 Party alliance near Muktangan in the city as its leaders and activists tried to demonstrate against the national budget for 2004-05 terming it 'anti-people'.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show

The Academy Film Society will screen a British film titled 'City of Joy'. Venue: Film Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6:30pm.

Short story reading

Annyadin Pathak Forum organises a session of short story reading, with litterateur Rahat Khan as chief guest. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Child workers' gathering

A child domestic workers' gathering will be held on the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labour. The SUF, CDS, PMK, Nari Maitree and Shoisab Bangladesh organised the event. Venue: Manik Mia Avenue. Time: 4:00pm.

SSKOP meeting

Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) will hold a joint meeting of BFUJ, DUJ, Federal Union of Newspaper Press workers and Sangbadprata Karmachari Federation to discuss its seven-point demand. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Memorial meeting

Bangladesh Short Film Forum will hold a meeting in memory of Tareque Shahriar to mark his first death anniversary. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:00pm.

Seminar

The Leather Sector Business Promotion Council, Ministry of Commerce, organises a seminar on 'Create awareness on tannery effluent: Introduction of cleaner technology inn tanneries'. Venue: Royal Lagoon Convention Centre, Rifles Square, Dhanmondi. Time: 9:00am.

Meet the Reporters

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman will give a talk on 'Problem and prospects of sports in Bangladesh' at 'Meet the Reporters' programme of Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Venue: DRU auditorium. Time: 12:00 noon.

World Day Against Child Labour

Hazaribagh Tannery Workers' Union and Bangladesh Extension Education Services have organised a colourful procession and a rally to mark the World Day Against Child Labour. Venue: Gajmatal Shishu Park, Hazaribagh. Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable

Sramabikash O Paribesh Samabaya Samity in collaboration with the International Forum for Healthy Cities Networking and Research will hold a roundtable on 'Healthy homes, healthy workplaces and healthy environment for children' to mark the World Day Against Child Labour. Venue: DPHE conference room, Kakrail. Time: 10:30am.

Rotary Dhaka

North West

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Member are requested to attend the meeting on time. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Rotarians are invited to attend the meeting for fellowship and make-up. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Launching

ceremony

The launching ceremony of 'Story Books Based on Oral Literature' will be held. 'Story Books Based on Oral Literature' is a joint initiative of Save the Children, USA, and Friends in Village Development Bangladesh. Venue: Brac Centre, Mohakhali. Time: 3:00pm.

Film show

The Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Stuck on You'. Venue: Film Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6:30pm.