

Bomb blast at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A hand-made bomb exploded on the rooftop of Fazlul Haque Hall of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.
No-one was injured in the blast. The bomb went off on the rooftop of main building at about 4:00pm.



PHOTO: STAR
Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

Advice for Hajj pilgrims

UNB, Dhaka

The Religious Affairs Ministry has advised the pilgrims intending to perform Hajj under private management to contact 160 Hajj agencies approved by the government.
The holy Hajj is likely to be held on January 21, 2005 depending on moon sighting.
The agencies will submit the lists of pilgrims to the deputy commissioner, police super and civil surgeon by October 15, said an official handout.
However, the government has cautioned pilgrims not to deposit money to unlisted agencies to avoid harassment.

Develop proper food security system in Saarc region

Minister tells board meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday called upon the Saarc countries to develop proper food security system to meet the demand of the poor during man-made and natural calamities in the region.
He made the call at the inaugural session of the 10th meeting of the Saarc Food Security Reserve Board at a city hotel.
The minister said some hundreds of millions of people in Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) region continue to suffer from malnutrition which deteriorate further during the time of disasters.
He said the problem could not be

solved yet due to lack of cooperation among the countries in food storage, supply and management.
"We must emphasise the extension services in horticulture, poultry, livestock and fisheries sectors to ensure the access of the neglected people to food," he added.
The minister said Saarc food security reserve, that stands at 241 thousand metric tons, is not adequate, but it could contribute significantly to protect the needy at times of disasters if managed properly.
Since the establishment of the reserve, no Saarc country has used any of its food grain, he added.
Deputy Minister for Food and Disaster Management Asadul Habib Dulu said the idea of addressing the demand of food through food security is very appreciable.
Md Amjad Hossain, joint secretary of the ministry, said Bangladesh made a notable development in the production of food grain, but the ultra poor people have limited access to food due to low per capita income (US\$407).
He noted that about 44.3 percent people in the country are below the food-based poverty line.
So the government has laid emphasis on the programmes like Food for Works, Vulnerable Group Development, Vulnerable Group Feeding, Food for Flood Rehabilitation, Test Relief and Gratuitous Relief, he added.
"These will help reduce poverty, create employment opportunities and develop human resources," he noted.

