



Police beat students of Jagannath University College as they brought out a procession at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding implementation of the government's pledge to upgrade the college to a university.

TRANSPORTATION OF SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS ON EID

Police asked to take stringent steps to stop extortion

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday directed police to take stringent steps to stop extortion during trans-

Police club JN College students: 20 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 students of Jagannath University College were injured in a clash with police at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday.

Scores of students brought out a procession at 11:00am demanding implementation of the government's pledge to upgrade the college to a university.

As the procession headed towards the Secretariat to submit a memorandum, agitating students ransacked about 10 vehicles in Rayshaheb Bazar.

Ranna police barred the procession at Mukhtangan but students made an effort to proceed, triggering the clash. As police clubbed the procession, at least 20 were injured.

Police also picked up 14 students but later released them.

1,396 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,396 people on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday.

ABORTION

Teenager found dead at a clinic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage domestic help was found dead at a clinic on Elephant Road in the city Wednesday after her admission for an abortion.

Jasmine Akhter, 13, daughter of Marfat Ali, died of excessive bleeding at Dosh Nursing Home while having the abortion. She used to work at Ashraf's house in Narabagh in Demra.

Her sister Laboni admitted her to the clinic Monday, said her mother Marjina Begum.

She told reporters that they went to the clinic Tuesday but authorities did not allow them to visit Jasmine. They returned to the clinic the next

day and found all the gates closed with no staff around.

On information, police broke the gate and recovered Jasmine's body. Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) and seized a few pieces of furniture.

DMCH sources said the body bore a four-month-old embryo in her uterus.

Meantime, the body of another teenage, Rozina Akhter Rosy, who was allegedly forced into an abortion and died in Badda Wednesday, still remained at the DMCH morgue. Her father refused to take her for his inability to perform her funeral.

portation of sacrificial animals on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha. The directive came at a high level meeting on law and order at the registry with Lutfozzaman Babar in the chair.

Babar also asked Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police to strengthen joint patrol to prevent snatching of animal hides and coercing to sell those at low prices.

The meeting asked police to motivate people, using the media if necessary, to take assistance of the law enforcers in transporting their money from bank.

The meeting was told that special measures have been taken to halt extortion in transportation of sacrificial animals from various parts of the country. Police will provide security to the vehicles carrying animals.

Besides, Rab and police will launch a special drive in tannery areas in the city to check extortion, forceful sale of hides at low rates and looting of hides.

Some 37 mobile courts will be set up at bus, train and launch terminals and about 20 temporary police camps and 35 check posts will also be set up at important points in the city to ensure security.

US Embassy offices closed on Jan 16

The American Embassy offices, including the American Centre, Information Resource Centre (IRC) and the Student Advising Centre will remain closed on January 16 in observance of the anniversary of the birth of the slain civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King, says a US Embassy press release.



Winners of an art competition for children pose with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at Bengal Shilpalaya in the city yesterday. The competition was held as part of the festival marking the birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin.

Tipaimukh Dam project protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday protested the Indian River-Linking Project (IRLP) and Tipaimukh Dam project.

They said it implemented both the projects would adversely affect the country's ecology, bio-diversity and navigation.

The rally was organised by the left-leaning five-party alliance at Mukhtangan in the city. The speakers urged the people to come forward to protest the Indian projects for the greater interest of the country.

They said the projects would also affect the country's agricultural and industrial productivity.

Moreover, these would create a rehabilitation problem by displacing more than one million people, they added.

The speakers urged the government to take effective measure so that the Indian government cannot build up.

They also called upon the government to include the river-linking issue in the agenda of the upcoming summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (Saarc) for detailed discussion.

Death anniversary

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Syed Nurul Alam, a social worker and industrialist, says a press release.

Lion Anwara Begum

Today is the first death anniversary of Lion Anwara Begum, former joint secretary of Lions Club of Chittagong Panorama City, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and memorial meeting will be held at the Royal Garden Community Centre in Chittagong.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Md Shah Alam Khan, an officer of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the Bara Mosque, South Banashri (Goran) in the city after Asr prayers today.

Sadia Khatun

Chehlum of Mosammat Sadia Khatun, mother of AKM Sirajul Islam, an educationist living in America, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at her village home Sree Narayanpur at Ramganj upazila in Laxmipur district today.

8 killed, 25 injured in road crashes

STAR NEWS DESK

Eight people died and 25 others were injured in road accidents in Sirajganj and Narayanganj yesterday.

In Sirajganj, a Dhaka bound bus from Thakurgaon skidded off the link road on the western side of the Jamuna Bridge and fell into a ditch, killing three passengers on the spot and injuring 28 others, according to our correspondent.

Two of the injured died on the way to Sirajganj General Hospital, while the rest are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Of the dead, two were identified as Zarina Begum, 28, of Thakurgaon district and Popy, 13, of Char Rupsha village in Sirajganj district. Identity of the other three could not be known.

BSS adds: A mother and her two children were crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Sanarpar under Siddhirganj Police Station of Narayanganj District early yesterday.

Police said the woman aged about 40, her son aged about 4, and daughter aged about 5, were run over by the truck while walking along the road at about 5:00am.

\$ 2.4 m Japanese grant for quality pry education

Children stay out of school, Unicef representative says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though Bangladesh made significant progress in primary education over the past decade, three million children are still out of any schooling programme in the country, said Unicef Representative Morten Giersing yesterday.

He urged the donors in primary education sector to help bring those children, large number of whom live in urban slums, into schooling programme.

Giersing was speaking at a function to mark the 'Signing and Exchange of Notes' between the Japan government and the Unicef in the city.

"Under the exchange of notes, Japan will make available 2.4 million US dollars in grant to Bangladesh through the Unicef in order to improve the quality of primary education," said the Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi.

The grant is meant for supporting the second phase of Primary Education Development

Programme (PEDP-II).

Japan also provided an aid of 2 million US dollars to support the Intensive District Approach to Education for All (Ideal) programme through the Unicef during the first phase of PEDP that ended in last December with encouraging success in improving the quality of primary education, the ambassador said.

According to the officials, around 10.3 million children have so far benefited under the Ideal project that started in 1996 covering 39.7 thousand schools in 38 districts.

The PEDP-II will benefit 17.5 million children in attaining quality primary education and make 3.15 lakh teachers of 65 thousand primary schools efficient in imparting quality education, said Giersing.

There are 79 thousand primary schools in the country out of which 39 thousand schools are run by the government, said Syed Jogul Pasha, joint programme director of the primary education department, adding that 18 million children in

the country need primary education.

He said the cost of PEDP-II has been estimated at Tk 5000 crore.

Designed by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, the Directorate of Primary Education is responsible for implementing the PEDP-II which was launched in September 2004.

Mahbub Ahmed, joint secretary of primary and mass education ministry, said the programme aims at increasing access to primary education and improving its quality in accordance with the government's commitments to Education for All, Poverty Reduction Strategy and Millennium Development Goals.

The Japanese fund will cover Unicef's activities in training on interactive teaching approach, capacity building of government officials at local levels, awareness campaign for quality education and situation analysis on educationally disadvantaged children.

Japan, the biggest bilateral donor of Bangladesh, is also supporting the PEDP-II through its international cooperation agency (Jica) for strengthening training of primary teachers on science and mathematics.

Schoolboy kidnapped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Criminals on Monday abducted a schoolboy of Jamalpur village in Daulatpur upazila and demanded Tk 2 lakh for his release.

Selim Hossain, 11, a student of class five at a local government primary school, is held hostage in India, police and family sources said.

According to paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and police, abductors led by notorious criminal

Lalchand stormed the house of Aslam Hossain to kidnap his son at around 9:30pm.

Selim's captors later trafficked him to India through Daulatpur border and handed him over to Anawarul, a close aide of Lalchand, police said. Lalchand later demanded the ransom over cellphone.

Sources said 9 Rifle Battalion in Mirpur in Kushtia is making preparations for a flag meeting with Border Security Force to discuss the issue.

Obituary



Tansen Khan, a music director and staff artist of Bangladesh Betar, died of cardiac arrest on way to hospital in the city on Wednesday at the age of 51, says a press release.

Tansen, son of Ustad Ayet Ali Khan, left behind his wife, a minor son, a minor daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at the Shahjahanpur graveyard after namaj-e-janaza yesterday.

Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad President Subal Das and Secretary General Ferdous Hossain Bhuiyan in a statement condoled the death of Tansen and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Badrul Alam Chowdhury



Engineer Badrul Alam Chowdhury, former director of WATA Chemicals Ltd. and chief executive officer of BSK Chemical Industries Ltd, died on December 14, says a press release.

Engineer Badrul, also general secretary of Chemical Engineering Alumni Association, survived by his wife and three daughters.

Meanwhile, Chemical Engineering Alumni Association at a meeting on January 6 condoled the death of Engineer Badrul.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon stages a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding compensation for the damage caused by Tengratila gas field fire in Sunamganj.

Govt to intensify drive against polybags

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will further intensify its drive to stop the use of polythene bags in the country.

This was decided at an inter-ministerial meeting on Wednesday with Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam in the chair.

Officials said the meeting was held apparently in the wake of government's failure to stop production, marketing and use of polybags despite enactment of law in this respect in March 2002.

The meeting decided that the ministries concerned, Dhaka City Corporation, customs, BDR and police, would launch joint drive soon to free the kitchen markets and shopping malls from polythene shopping bags.

About the allegation of smuggling out of raw materials for making

polythene bags from different bonded ware houses in the capital, the Customs Commissioner assured the meeting of taking necessary steps to stop such illegal activities at any cost.

The DCC Chief Executive Officer told the meeting that the corporation would instruct all shop owners to stop use of polythene shopping bags.

He said some 30 mobile courts now operating in the city to maintain traffic and law and order will be involved in anti-polythene drive if necessary.

He also assured stern action including cancellation of trade licenses against the shop owners using polythene bags.

The BMC representative informed the meeting that it would release 22 lakh jute bags for shopping in the market soon.

lying at BMC godowns for last two years due to lack of buyers.

Speaking at the meeting, Tariqul Islam laid emphasis on strengthening the coordination of all concerned including the civil administration and law enforcers for effective drive against polythene bags.

He asked the authorities concerned to apply the law strictly to stop production, marketing and use of polybags.

The minister also called for massive production of alternatives to polythene bags as well as their marketing so that the common people can get the environment-friendly bags.

Beside the State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, high officials from the ministries of jute and textile, home and industries, Customs, DCC, BMC and BCSIR attended the meeting.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country with light to moderate fog during the morning till 6:00pm today.

Mild cold wave may sweep Rajshahi division and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Mymensingh, Tangail and Srimangol, said met office.

Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

Highest temperature 26.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 07.7 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:32pm today and rises at 6:44am tomorrow.

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	22.2	13.3	81	68
Chittagong	25.2	13.5	71	55
Rajshahi	23.2	11.5	100	73
Khulna	23.5	12.5	95	73
Barisal	23.6	10.6	96	--
Sylhet	25.0	11.7	80	57
Cox's Bazar	26.0	16.0	72	56

MEET THE PRESS

Gambrian College, Canada
DHAKA CAMPUS
www.gambriancollege.com

KK Bashar, chief executive of Cambrian Collegem Canada, Dhaka campus, speaks at a press conference in the city recently. Shamsia Begum (Alice), ex-Immigration Programme officer, Canadian High Commission, Rashed Bin Sattar, director, and Selima Rowshan, executive director of the college, are also seen.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE BOARD

Office of the Director Procurement, Telephone Bhaban, Gulshan-1 Dhaka-1212

No. DP/F-8/IR/2004-2005/Part-1/29 Dated: 05-01-2005
Sub: Time extension of International Tender No. DP/F-8/IR/2004-2005/2 Dated 21-11-2004 for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of transmission links between Dhaka-Narsingdi, Narsingdi-B'baria, B'baria-Shahibazar, Shahjibazar-Moulvibazar & Moulvibazar-Sylhet on turnkey basis.

CORRIGENDUM

Due to the unavoidable circumstances the receiving and opening time schedule for the abovementioned tender has been rearranged as follows:

No.	Item	Previous date & time	Changed date & time
1.	Receiving and closing of tender	12-01-2005 at 11.00 hrs BST	26-01-2005 at 11.00 hrs BST.
2.	Opening of tender	12-01-2005 at 11.05 hrs BST	26-01-2005 at 11.05 hrs BST.
3.	Last date and time for selling tender document	25-01-2005 up to 14-00 hrs BST	25-01-2005 up to 14-00 hrs BST.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

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