



PHOTO: STAR  
An army man runs a metal detector on the ground of Bangla Academy, the venue of Amar Ekushey Book Fair, in the city yesterday as part of security measures. The month-long book fair will be inaugurated today.

# Ekushey Book Fair begins today amid tight security

DU CORRESPONDENT

The month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair-2005 begins on the Bangla Academy premises today amid tight security.

Six opposition-backed student organisations, including the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), yesterday vowed to resist the visit of the prime minister to the Dhaka University campus who is expected to inaugurate the book fair.

The prime minister has no right to inaugurate the book fair as she has formed the government with the anti-liberation elements, said BCL President Liakat Sikder at a press briefing.

The leaders of the student bodies also threatened to go for an indefinite student strike at Dhaka University (DU) if the student leaders and activists arrested during the 60-hour hartal are not released by 5:00pm today.

The book fair organising committee has completed all preparations and taken strong measures to avert any untoward incident.

The Bangla Academy authorities have already met the law enforcers and security agencies in view of the present political situation. The agencies have assured it of ensuring security in and around the fair venue.

"We have had several meetings with the law enforcers who assured us of a foolproof security during the fair," said Monsur Musa, director general of the academy.

DU teachers, publishers and writers have expressed their concern over security as last year's brutal attack on Prof Humayun Azad in front of the Academy still haunts them.

Md Nurul Huda, chief of the fair organising committee, said the members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) might be deployed to prevent recurrence of heinous

attack.

Plainclothes police have already been deployed at the fair venue to keep a vigil. And a number of security personnel are patrolling the university campus to check any untoward incident during the inaugural ceremony.

In a statement yesterday, Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and General Secretary Prof Mohammad Aktheruzzamana demanded that the government ensure security of the teachers, students and visitors at the fair venue.

They also expressed deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the country.

Rabin Ahsan, publisher of Sraban Prakashani, said they want security for the writers, teachers and the visitors.

## JSD calls 12-hr hartal on Feb 3, 36-hr Feb 5, 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At the end of a 60-hour country-wide hartal yesterday, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) announced a series of fresh programmes to protest the killings and arrests of opposition leaders by the government.

At a press conference in the evening, JSD President Hasanul Huq Inu said, "We will observe a 12-hour country-wide hartal on February 3, and again a 36-hour hartal on February 5 and 6. Besides, on February 2 and 4, we will take out mourning processions across the country while on February 7 and 8 we will hold mass demonstrations at district and upazila levels protesting the series of killings of opposition leaders and their arrests."

"Today we are living in a state of insecurity as the government has failed to prevent cold-blooded murders that took place over the years one by one, Kibria being the latest victim," he added.

Earlier, JSD leaders held a closed-door meeting with Awami League President Sheikh Hasina. "We came to a consensus on the programmes with AL leaders," said Inu.

In reply to a question about the ensuing Saarc Summit scheduled to be held on February 6 and 7 in the capital, Inu said, "We have full support for the conference, but we think that resolving the issues like rising domestic violence, planned killings and organised terrorist activities including bomb attacks on opposition leaders is more important than the conference."

## Tk 105cr Mixed Credit from Denmark

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive 14.5 million euro equivalent to about Tk 105 crore as Mixed Credit from Denmark.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the Nordea Bank, Denmark A/S of Denmark, signed an agreement to this effect at ERD office here yesterday, an official handout said.

The Mixed Credit includes 11 million euro (Tk 85 crore) as loan and 3.5 million euro (Tk 20 crore) as grant.

The amount will be utilised for procurement of equipment for the Joydevpur-Kabirpur-Tangail 1.32 KV transmission line project, the release said.

Nargis Islam, joint-chief of ERD and Jan-Olaf Letman, vice-president, Nordea Bank Denmark A/S, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

## Faizur new chief engineer of RHD

BSS, Dhaka

AKM Faizur Rahman has been appointed chief engineer on current charge of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) on Sunday.

Faizur Rahman replaced Sheikh Rabiul Islam, who retired from the service the same day.

He joined RHD as assistant engineer in 1973 after graduating from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). He has special training on bridge engineering from Japan in 1982 and traveled several countries, including Finland, Philippines and the United States.

# Face conspiracy against nation unitedly

## President urges govt, opposition parties

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said any heinous conspiracy or any destructive activity against the nation should be faced unitedly by the government and the opposition parties to ensure democratic rights of the people.

"Causing injury to state or personal properties, malicious activities and clashes drive the nation towards uncertainty," he said addressing this year's first session of parliament.

"Our political ideals, strategies and opinions may differ, but we all have a common destination: The development and progress of the nation and attaining self-sufficiency," the President

reminded.

"This country of ours have enormous potential," he said calling upon all to work together with the spirit of patriotism in the march towards peace and prosperity.

All activities of the government will not always get people's support, but those should be criticised with constructive attitude, the president said calling for change of language and method of protest.

He said that instead of negative political activities, positive objections are to be raised peacefully, decently and with wisdom.

"Everybody is required to contribute to the making of a prosperous Bangladesh with honesty, dedication and devotion remaining above all personal gains or realisa-

tion of petty political scores," Iajuddin said.

He expressed his belief that those in the leadership of political parties are patriotic and believers in the service of humanity.

"An individual expires, a party has ups and downs, but ideals have no death," he pointed out asking to devote oneself in unending welfare activities keeping in mind the spirit of the victory of mankind.

"By practising healthy politics, one should stand steadfast against all harmful activities, indecencies and injustices," he said.

On the necessity of a transparent administration, the president said there is no alternative to a corruption-free, trained and effective administration, which forms the

foundation of a democratic institution.

He mentioned that the government has set up an independent anti-corruption commission to curb corruption and ensure transparency in the administration.

An efficient and welfare-oriented administration is needed to face the challenges of this world in the backdrop of globalisation, he said.

President Iajuddin, in his nearly hour-long prepared speech, highlighted the government's successes in various sectors, including social, economic and external affairs.

Foreign diplomats and representatives of international organisations were present in the VIP gallery to listen to the president's speech.

## More bodies condemn Kibria's killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More organisations yesterday condemned the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and four Awami League (AL) activists in a grisly grenade attack at Boilder Bazar in Habiganj on Thursday evening.

The city unit of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh demanded proper inquiry into the killing of Kibria along with all other grenade and bomb attack incidents and punishment to the culprits.

The Geneva branch of Bangladesh Awami League held a rally on Sunday to protest the killings. It also held the government responsible for the carnage.

Bangladesh Sewing Thread Manufacturers and Exporters Association, in a press release, condemned the brutal killings.

Sammito Peshajibi Parishad, a forum of engineers, held a protest rally in the capital condemning the

grenade attack.

Sammito Nari Samaj expressed deep concern at the grenade attack and demanded immediate arrest and trial of the culprits.

Civic Watch Bangladesh, at a meeting, condemned the grenade attack and said in the death of Kibria, the country had lost a dedicated diplomat turned politician.

Ruling BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad held a rally in the capital protesting the killing of Kibria. Speakers at the rally said a vested quarter launched the attack in a planned way to destabilise the country's democratic process.

M Selim Newaz Chowdhury, publicity secretary of Sylhet Bhag Unnayan Parishad will observe a hunger strike at Muktangan in the city this morning demanding trial and fair international probe to the killing of Kibria.

## 11-party demands free probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left leaning 11-party alliance yesterday declared a dawn to dusk country-wide hartal on February 3 demanding independent inquiry of the brutal killings of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and four other Awami League (AL) activists in a grenade attack at Boilder Bazar in Habiganj on Thursday.

The alliance leaders at a press briefing at the Workers Party office yesterday demanded resignation of the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government for what they said was failure to provide security to life and rule the country.

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Azizul Islam Khan of Gonotanti Party, Diliip Barua of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal, Mostaq Ahmed of Gono Forum, Abdus Samad of Gono Azadi League and Zakir Hossain of Gonotantir Majdur Party were present, among others, during the briefing.

DHAKA  
TODAY

**Drama**  
Prachyanat, a theatre group, will stage a drama titled 'A Man For All Seasons' authored by Robert Bolt. It has been translated by Shahed Iqbal and directed by Azad Abul Kalam. Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6:30pm.

**Certificate awarding ceremony**  
The certificate awarding ceremony of Madrasa-e-Alla will be held with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid as chief guest. Venue: Madrasa premises, Bakshsi Bazar. Time: 3:00pm.

**AL meeting**  
An emergency meeting of Dhaka City Awami League will be held. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 5:30pm.

**Discussion**  
Gonotantir Biplobi Jote will hold a discussion on the 'Unity in the struggle against imperialism'. Venue: 68/2, Purana Paltan. Time: 5:00pm.

**Rally**

DHAKA  
TOMORROW

**Rotary meeting**  
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5:00pm.

**Discussion**  
Islami Insurance Bangladesh Limited will hold a discussion on the 'Role of Islami insurance in the Islamic economy' with Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 6:00pm.

**Roundtable**  
National Foundation for Disabled Development organises a roundtable on the 'Role of the family towards the disabled' with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid as chief guest. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 11:00am.

## Changes in admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday made some changes in the top level of the administration.

According to an official notification, Rafiqul Islam, secretary-in-charge of primary and mass education, has been transferred to shipping ministry.

AKM Shamsuddin, additional secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, has been made acting secretary of primary and mass education ministry.

## Sramik Dal leader held with bomb making materials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police Sunday arrested a Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal leader in Chitalmari upazila in Bagerhat, suspecting his involvement in making bombs.

Police also seized a lot of bomb making materials from the house of Gazi Atiar Rahman, 45, convener of Chitalmari unit Sramik Dal, in Kharhom Khali village.

Police and locals said Sabita Rani Mondol, 26, wife of fish trader Gouranga Mondol, was injured in a bomb blast near Atiar's house Saturday.

The bomb was planted there to kill Gouranga, they added.

## Bogra admin bans all nighttime cultural programmes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The Bogra district administration has banned all nighttime social and cultural programmes there because of fears of bomb attacks.

The district authorities will not permit any such programmes even during the day in open areas, said a high police official, adding that organisers will have to obtain a police security clearance report to arrange any programmes.

The authorities have cancelled all such applications seeking police clearance, including the British Tobacco Corporation (BTC)-sponsored concert scheduled to be held at the Parjatan Motel today.

Police authorities have ordered thana level officials to make sure that no one carries out any cultural programmes without their clearance.

The district administration will soon announce the ban-order over loud speakers, said the high police official.

Meanwhile, police said they are almost certain about the presence

## Need for curbing noise pollution stressed

BSS, Dhaka

The parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Environment and Forest at a meeting yesterday underlined the importance of preventing 'noise pollution' near the hospitals, schools and colleges.

It also discussed the progress of the previous decisions and steps undertaken by the ministry for checking environment pollution.

The meeting was presided over by committee chairman Mohammad Nazimuddin Alam.

Committee members Environment and Forest Minister Tarikul Islam, Kalim Uddin Ahmed and Hafiz Uddin Ahmed were present at the meeting.

The committee also discussed a proposal to realise service charges for transferring woods from one district to another for increasing government revenue.

Secretary of the ministry Dr Shoab Ahmed and concerned high officials were present.

## Sramik League leader murdered in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Badsha Sheikh, vice-president of Digholia upazila Sramik League, succumbed to his injuries at 6:30am yesterday at the Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH).

Badsha was seriously injured in an attack by the miscreants near his house at Farmaish Khana village under the same upazila on Sunday night. Motive behind the murder could not be known. None was arrested and no case was filed in this connection till writing of this report.

## Obituary

Alhaj Md Abdush Shakur, former Superintendent of Police and Director of now defunct Bureau of Anti-corruption, died of old age complications at a local clinic in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 91, says a press release.

He is survived by his four sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence at 19/1, Lake Circus (North Dhanmondi) Kalabagan after Asr prayers on Friday.

## BOMB ATTACK

# Injured shop employee helps avert train tragedy dies in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An employee of a shop at Chawk Bazar in the city who was injured critically in a bomb attack on Sunday morning died at Chittagong Medical

## Bhuiyan Academy certificate award ceremony held

The annual certificate award ceremony of Bhuiyan Academy, a pioneering institute in introducing the LL.B. (Hons) degree and diploma in law in the country, was held at Hotel Sheraton recently, says a press release.

Speaker Muhammad Jamiruddin Sircar attended the ceremony as chief guest.

More than 130 students of the Academy have successfully obtained the Bar-at-Law degree from London, UK.

Presided over by the Academy's Principal Barrister Rabia Bhuiyan, the ceremony began with an introductory speech by the Dean of Law, Barrister Aneek R Hoque.

Dr June Rolinson, director of the British Council, Prof Dr Wayne Morrison, head of the External Programmes, University of London, and Enam Ahmed Choudhury, chairman of the Privatisation Commission,

College Hospital (CMCH) in the early hours of yesterday.

Bishu Aich, 32, who works at Pratidin Store, was injured when a gang of muggers hurled bombs on a mob chasing them in front of Mannan Market to make their escape.

In a critical condition, Bishu was rushed to the hospital where he died at around 12.15am following a lengthy operation.

Protesting the killing, the traders of Chawk Bazar and adjoining areas wore black badges and held a rally in front of Mannan Market yesterday, with president of Chawk Bazar Traders' Association Abul Kalam Azad in the chair.

They demanded immediate arrest of the criminals and immediate steps to ensure safety of the traders and others in the area.

The sudden death of Bishu left his wife Mita Aich, 28, devastated and speechless. "My happy little world has been destroyed by a bomb," were the only words she could utter before the journalists.

Bishu and Mita, who works as a shift-in-charge at a garments factory, were married five years ago.

They had no child, yet they were a happy couple, said her father Ranjit Dey at his house at Haji Colony at Fultali, Chawk Bazar.

Police filed a case with Kotwali Police Station in connection with the bomb attack.

## Teenage boy helps avert train tragedy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

The presence of mind of a teenage boy helped a packed commuter train narrowly escape a serious accident at Jhikargachha yesterday.

The train carrying several hundred passengers from Benapole to Khulna via Jessore might have faced a disaster had the 17-year-old Monirul not warned the train driver of a possible danger, railway sources said.

Monirul, who was walking along the rail track at around 12.15pm, suddenly noticed that the fishplate of the railway line had been removed by some miscreants. Then he started waving a piece of red cloth to stop the approaching train and the driver followed accordingly to save the lives of the passengers.

The train was the only transport for the passengers travelling from and to Khulna, Jessore and Benapole as all other transports were off the road because of the 60-hour hartal.

Local people suspected that pro-hartal activists might have removed the fishplate to cause disruption in train service.

However, the train communication resumed after the repair of the rail line.

WEATHER  
TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country, having chances of light rain or drizzle at places over Rajshahi, Sylhet and Dhaka divisions till 6.00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office forecast, predicting light to moderate fog during morning.

Highest temperature 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 10.3 degree Celsius at Srimongol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:45pm today and rises at 6:39am 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	28.5	15.7	69	55
Chittagong	32.8	16.5	61	47
Rajshahi	25.2	12.2	91	65
Khulna	28.5	15.4	88	58
Barisal	29.5	14.8	90	--
Sylhet	30.0	14.2	61	48
Cox's Bazar	29.5	16.8	77	61