



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at the foundation laying ceremony of Dhaka Leather Industry City at Savar yesterday.

4 opposition parties demand govt's resignation

RU CORRESPONDENT Leaders of four opposition parties yesterday demanded immediate resignation of the government. Addressing a joint meeting in front of the Rajshahi Press Club, they said the people have lost their faith in this government. The parties were Awami League (AL), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) and Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB). The opposition leaders urged their party workers to get ready for an all-out agitation to oust the government. They also urged all progressive political parties to take to the streets to quicken the fall of government. Rajshahi city AL President Mahabubul Haque Dulu presided over the rally addressed by AL city General Secretary Khairuzaman Liton, Pro-liberation Doctors' Association President Sayed Shafiqul Alam, JSD city General Secretary Abdullah Al Masud, CPB city unit President Abul Kalam Azad, BSD city General Secretary Lutfuzzaman Babu, Bangladesh Chhatra League central committee members Rashidul Islam, BCL city unit President Abdul Momin, and Chhatra Union General Secretary Sajal Biswas. Earlier, a procession was brought out in the city. The processionists paraded the main city streets chanting various slogans against the government. Rajshahi Peshajibi Parishad also took out a procession and held a rally at zero point. Speakers at the rally demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria. They also demanded resignation of the government if it fails to punish the killers.



Awami League leaders chant anti-government slogans at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city during hartal hours yesterday.

Bomb attack on DU debate programme condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Different organisations and individuals yesterday condemned the bomb attack on a friendly debate competition organised by Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) on the campus to mark the Valentine's Day. The society held a protest rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla sculpture and brought out a silent procession participated by about five hundred debaters. Present and former office-bearers of the society also called for exemplary punishment to the perpetrators terming it a barbaric attack on the freedom of knowledge and democracy. Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk condemned the attack while visiting the injured at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He asked the hospital authorities for their proper treatment. Bangladesh Communist Party President Monjurul Ahsan Khan and Member-Secretary of Jatiya Oikya Mancha Abdur Rouf, in separate statements, condemned the attack. The attack is a consequence of government's failure to make any



Debaters stage a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to protest the Monday's bomb attack on a friendly debate competition on the Dhaka University campus.

'Political conflicts obstacle to achieving MDG'

UNB, Dhaka Political conflicts and constant political turmoil that cause international aid fatigue might impede Bangladesh's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal, said Erna Witoelar, UN special ambassador for MDG for Asia and the Pacific, yesterday. She explained that hartals and conflicts between the government and the opposition parties impede the development efforts aimed at the poor and vulnerable groups. Erna is now in Dhaka to see the country's progress in reaching the MDG targets by 2015. "Bangladesh as a country can generate better understanding of international community and generate more support for long-term development plans," she said. In an interview with the UNB, the ambassador said in a democracy, the party in power should be allowed to implement its development plans for the poorest and vulnerable to improve their livelihood. "I think the essence of the opposition is to constantly correct whoever is in power and that is democracy. But if the opposition becomes an obstacle to the development for the people, then it will be a loss for all, especially for the ordinary people," Erna said. Responding to the opposition's complaints against denial of democratic rights, killings and repression, the UN ambassador said, "It takes two to cause this situation... It is counterproductive." "I'm not blaming the opposition, and not blaming the government in power either. I am stating that constant political turmoil is counterproductive for development efforts," she said. The envoy said any country needs a stable political environment, normal internal trade, indus-



Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal took out an anti-hartal procession in the city yesterday.

Death anniversary

Today is the 6th death anniversary of journalist Motahar Hossain Siddiqui, says a press release. A milad and doa mahfil will be held at his home at village Bahadurpur in Shibchar, Madaripur after Zohr prayers. Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad.

Anwara Begum

The 8th death anniversary of Anwara Begum will be observed today, says a press release. Quarnkhwani and milad mahfil will be held at House # 15, Road # 5, Block # Kha, Nawab Fayeunnesa Waqf Estate, Pallabi after Asr prayers on Friday. Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Rana Hossain Kabir will be held at his ancestral home, Miah Bari, in Ghorasal after Juma prayers on Friday, says a press release. The mother of the deceased, his daughter Tasmin and son Rajan have requested the relatives, friends and well-wishers to attend the chehlum and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours till 6.00pm today. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the country, Met Office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Patuakhali and the lowest of 13.7 degree at Rangpur. The sun sets in the capital at 5:54pm today and rises at 6:30am 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 | 31.1 | 20.3 | 52 | 34 |
| Chittagong | 31.5 | 19.0 | 70 | 84 |
| Rajshahi | 30.2 | 15.6 | 44 | 45 |
| Khulna | 32.0 | 17.2 | 77 | 77 |
| Barisal | 31.6 | 17.5 | 86 | 61 |
| Sylhet | 31.3 | 16.2 | 66 | 41 |
| Cox's Bazar | 29.0 | 19.0 | 81 | 88 |

DHAKA TODAY

- Orientation: The orientation of executive participants in Master of Business Administration Programme of University of Information Technology and Sciences will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 6.00pm.
Triennial conference: The triennial conference of Bangladesh Awami Ainjibi Parishad Supreme Court Bar unit will be held. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.
Roundtable: South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communism will hold a roundtable on successive bomb/grenade attacks and the duty of civil society. Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 4.00pm.
IFC meeting: International Farakka Committee organises an opinion sharing meeting. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.
IUBAT workshop: International University of Business Agriculture and Technology organises a workshop on 'Current issues in nursing education and practice.' Venue: University conference room, Uttara. Time: 9.00am.
CUP workshop: Coalition for the Urban Poor organises its central workshop. Venue: CUP secretariat, Mohammadpur. Time: 11.00am.
Memorial discussion: A discussion will be held in observance of 21st death anniversary of Bangabir General M A G Osmani. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.
DAB discussion: Doctors Association of Bangladesh will hold a discussion in protest against hartal with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Shaheed Dr Milon auditorium of Dhaka Medical College. Time: 12.00noon.
Eye camp: Bangladesh Jatiya Jubo Council in collaboration with Lions Club of Dhaka Dhanmondi organises a free eye camp. Venue: Dhahpur Community Centre, Golapbagh. Time: 9.00am to 4.30pm.
Painting exhibition: An exhibition of paintings by Fahamida Akter Kakoli will be inaugurated. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till February 22 from 11.00am to 8.00pm daily.
Unesco exhibition: On the occasion of the International Mother Language Day, a two-day Unesco Book and Publication Exhibition-2005 will be inaugurated by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Central Public Library premises, Shahbagh. Time: 11.00am to 6.00pm daily.
Musical evening: Bishwasahitya Kendra organises a solo musical evening of Ferdous Ara. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 6.30pm.
Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Papi Nakkhatrer Galpo' by Rita Chowdhury will be held. This is a translation work from Asomia language by the author herself. Venue: Lekhok Kunja, Ekushey Book Fair, Bangla Academy. Time: 5.00pm.
Art exhibition: The inaugural ceremony of an art exhibition by Ludmila Yakovleva, a Russian artist, will be held. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House-510, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till February 23 from 11.00am to 7.00pm daily.
AEB discussion: Association of Engineers, Bangladesh organises a discussion to protest successive hartal calls. Venue: Engineers Institution, Bangladesh. Time: 3.00pm.