HABIGANJ GRENADE ATTACK

AL concerned at govt's failure to nab culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International affairs sub-committee of the main opposition Awami League (AL), at a meeting vesterday, expressed its deep concern over the government's failure to arrest the perpetrators of January 27 grenade attack on Habiganj rally.

The meeting was held at AL's Dhanmondi office in the city with sub-committee chairman and former foreign secretary Faquk Ahmed Chowdhury in the chair.

The meeting observed that the investigators have become busy to find out AL's link with bomb and grenade attacks rather than arresting the real culprits.

It said the attacks across the country are aimed at killing AL leaders and workers as well as eliminating progressive individuals. The sub-committee meeting said

the government's failure in governing the country forced the development partners to hold Washington meet excluding Bangladesh. The meeting also demanded

proper investigation into all bomb and grenade attacks and find out the criminals behind those attacks.

Syed Abul Hossain MP, Promod Mankin MP former ambassador Mohiuddin Ahmed, Wali-ur-Rahman, Mostafa Faruk Mohammad, Akramul Kader, M Mizanur Rahman, Manjurul Alam, Mohammad Zamir and Mohammad Ziauddin attended the meeting.

One beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was beaten to death in the city yesterday.

Farid Bepari, 42, a carpenter at Katasur Namar Bazar in Mohammadpur, was fatally injured when Mohammad Yusuf, another carpenter, hit him in the head with a stick during an altercation.

Farid was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Locals caught and beat Yusuf before handing him over to police.

WPB Congress Ends Menon

reelected president

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

The Workers' Party of Bangladesh (WPB) yesterday elected its 37member central committee, with Rashed Khan Menon as president and Bimal Biswas as general secre-

The committee was announced at the party's 7th congress that ended in Jessore yesterday.

The politburo members include Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Abul Bashar, Nurul Hasan, Fazle Hossain Badsha, Anisur Rahman Mollik, Mahmudul Hasan Manik, Shafiuddin Ahmed, Igbal Kabir Zahid, Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, Azizur Rahman and Nur Ahmad

And the eight alternative members are Rafiqui Islam Piarul, Liaquat Ali Liku, Anwarul Hague Bablu, Nazrul Islam, Mohiuddin Mohon, Mizanur Rahman, Dr Akhtar Sobhan Mashrur and Korom Ali.

'Pranta Swar' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamunnay, a non-government organisation (NGO), yesterday launched a magazine with the objective to raise the voice of marginalised people in the process of poverty reduc-

The half-yearly magazine 'Pranta Swar'(voice of the marginalised), was launched at the National Press Club in collaboration with the Manusher

Jonno, another NGO. Speaking at the launching ceremony, noted economist and editor of the magazine Dr Atiur Rahman said the marginalised people cannot participate

in the budget making process. The magazine will disseminate budget-related information to common people in an easy and simple manner so that people can understand the budget easily, he added.

Farzana Naim of Manusher Jonno Shakhawat Hossain of Power and Participation Research Center and iournalist Mahmudul Hasan Dara addressed the ceremony.



Chhatra Dhara, student wing of the Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, stages a demonstration on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting the BCS question paper leakage and demanding cancellation of the exam.

Skop announces fresh programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad (Skop) yesterday announced fresh programmes demanding full implementation of the agreements that it signed with the government on January 8 of last year.

The programmes include rallies in all district headquarters and industrial areas on March 6, a grand rally at Paltan Maidan in the city on April 1, and a countrywide 48-hour strike on April 5

The programmes were announced by Skop leaders at a press conference at its office in the city. They also demanded restarting of

all closed mills and factories and payment of all arrears to the employ-

The leaders said Skop signed the agreement with the government demanding declaration of national minimal wage, stoppage of privatisation of public industries, and restarting of the closed mills and

"But none of them were implemented in last 13 months though the government had pledged to do that in four months. More over, the government violated the agreements by closing and privatising the running industries." said Jativa Sramik Jote President Abdul Kader Hawlader.

The government has formed pay commission for the government officials and employees, but is indifferent to the employees of private sector he said.

Eighty lakh workers and employees in private sector are passing an inhuman life, said Shahidullah Chowdhury, acting president of Bangladesh Trade Union Kendro.

When contacted, Shajahan Ali Sarder, deputy secretary of labour ministry, could not say anything on the

ONE YEAR OF ATTACK ON HUMAYUN AZAD

Govt's inaction blamed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Family members, different student bodies and Sammilita Nagorik Samaj yesterday reiterated their demand for immediate arrest and of the culprits who critically chopped eminent writer and Dhaka University (DU) teacher Prof Humayun Azad a year ago.

Prof Azad came under attack on February 27 in front of Bangla Academy while he was returning to his DU residence from Amar Ekushey Book Fair. Later he was found dead in a Munich apartment in Germany on August 12, four days after he went there on a research fellowship.

Addressing a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar, leaders of Sammilita Nagorik Samaj, a combine of citizens from all walks of life. condemned the government for its inaction to bring the culprits to

Family members including Prof Azad's wife Latifa Kohinoor and daughter Mouli Azad said the fundamentalist forces killed him in a

DU Teachers' Association President Prof AAMS Arefin

Siddique said the government failed to arrest any culprits though one year has passed as the fundamentalist forces inside the government launched the attack.

Dr Muhammad Samad, SA Malek, Salauddin Badal, Kama Lohani also addressed the rally. Later a procession was brought

out lighting candle from the Shaheed Minar and ended at the place where Prof Azad was chopped. Six opposition-backed student organisations and left-leaning

Bangladesh Chhatra Union also demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits responsible for the attack on Prof Azad. The student bodies lit candles at

the place where he was chopped in

Progressive Student Alliance took out a procession and held a rally on DU campus.

Speakers at the rally said the attack on Prof Azad was not only an attack on a person but also an attack on the freedom of speech

Rab team off to Malaysia for training

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A twenty-member team of the elite force, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). left Dhaka for Malaysia on Saturday night to participate in a weeklong training programme.

The Rab team has been sent as part of its training programme in home and abroad to enhance skills of the force, said a Rab press

The team includes four directors six deputy directors, five senior assistant directors and five assistant directors

The training programme will be held at North Brigade General Operation Force Head Quarters at Ulu Kinta Perak State in Malaysia from March 1 to 7.

QUESTION PAPER LEAKAGE Cancellation of a BCS exam demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

General students of Dhaka University (DU), BCS examinees and six opposition-backed student organisations yesterday demanded immediate cancellation of the examination of Elementary Mathematics and Everyday Science paper of the 25th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) exam.

They also demanded resignation of the Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairman Prof ZN Tahmida Begum for repeated leakage of guestion papers under her administration.

The student leaders made the demand from separate rallies on the DU campus.

Meanwhile, the PSC has decided not to cancel the examination.

A Press Information Department (PID) handout yesterday termed the allegation of leakage unacceptable as the PSC did not find any proof of the leakage before the starting of the examination.

"We will not cancel the examination as the commission did not find any proof of the allegation," Prof Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman, a PSC member, told The Daily Star on Saturday night

The question paper was allegedly leaked out on the night of February 23, about 10 hours before the examina-

PM happy over Dhaka's election to UNCRC

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed her happiness over Bangladesh's election to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and termed it a "victory of the people".

She made the remark when Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui briefed her about Bangladesh's achievement at the UNCRC through his election to the UN body with an overwhelming support of the voting nations.

"Bangladesh's election to the UNCRC is an international recognition of the good jobs and childfriendly policies of the government," Dr Siddiqui told the journalists after briefing the PM.

"The recognition is a great victory when a section of people are out to tarnish image of the country abroad," he said. Dr Siddiqui has returned home from the UN headquarters vesterday.

Dr Siddiqui was elected by an overwhelming majority at the elections held in the UN headquarters on Wednesday.

British MP castigates Blair in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting British opposition lawmaker George Galloway yesterday said Prime Minister Tony Blair has put Great Britain on top of the three most hated countries in the world.

The British are puzzled whether their country is a memberstate of the European Union or an outpost of the US, thanks to the role of Blair, said Galloway. The people now want a liberal

and equal Britain, he told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club. Galloway's visit to Bangladesh aims at showing solidarity with the Bangladeshi anti-war movement and is also part of a worldwide campaign to force Blair to withdraw

British troops from Iraq. The British lawmaker will meet Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina to discuss development programmes in Bangladesh.

He is likely to discuss his role to mitigate problems of Bangladeshi immigrants that have been intensified in the name of anti-terrorist movement in Britain.

He said, "Seven seventy-nine Muslims were arrested by the British police since 9/11 and the harassment makes the Muslims frightened and is spreading anxiety among

"Besides, the House of Commons is going to stop taking immigrants, although the country needs working people, and the birth rate is also declining in Britain," Galloway added

He went on to say that to put an end to the unilateral US policy, a strong, united and multipolar world is needed. A strong and united China, Middle East, Asia and Africa could have challenged the US now. The British MP from the Respect

Party has been elected from Tower Hamlets where 40 percent people are Bangladeshis. Galloway is also set to visit

1.889 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,889 people, including three listed criminals, on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours till 6.00am vesterday

Obituary

Alhai FKM Aminul Islam, former general manager of the Oriental Bank Ltd, died at his RK Mission Road (Islam Villa) residence in the city on February 22 at the age of 64, says a

He left behind his mother, wife and 4 daughters to mourn his death

Mostakim Sattar



Mostakim Sattar (Montu), a businessman and advisor to Nitol Motors Limited. died of a cardiac arrest in the city on Saturday morning, says a

press release He left behind his wife and two

Death anniversary



Today is the second death anniversary of Afia Khatun, wife of Moulvi Md Fakhrul Islam Bhuiyan of Narayanganj, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani will be held at her village home at Daudpur in Narayanganj. Foods will also be distributed among the poor.

Dr Md Nuruzzaman

Today is the first death anniversary of Alhaj Dr Md Nuruzzaman, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Darshana Keru Hospitalpara in Chuadanga after Asr prayers today.

National debate festival concludes

DU CORRESPONDENT

The 5th National Debate Festival ended yesterday with exciting rounds of intense arguments between media men and poets, sportsmen and sports

The two-day festival, sponsored by the Bangla daily Prothom Alo, was held at the National Museum auditorium in the city, with the slogan 'It does not suggest that everything has gone

At the first session, debaters from different districts took part in two debate contests.

debate was 'Poets are never

It was followed by an anti-drug rally organised by the Prothom Alo.

sports reporters Partha Tanvir and Utpal Shuvro.

'Politicians are successful as actors' was the motion of another debate in which actors Pijush Bandopadhya and Mannan Hira confronted Ehsanul Haque Milon, state minister for education, and Mahi B Chowdhury, a leader of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh.

AYUB ALI MURDER CASE

3 outlaws get death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three outlaws were sentenced to death in the sensational Ayub Ali

murder case yesterday. District and Sessions Judge Syed Ishtiaque Hussein handed down the verdict on Aimal. Helal and Shailen

All of them were tried in absentia. However, six other accused were acquitted as the charges brought against them were not be proved. They are Monirul Islam, Ajit, Hab Shaikh, Zakir, Kaizer and Gazi Kamrul, a ringleader of Biplob Communist Party.

According to the prosecution story, Ayub Ali, a shrimp trader, was gunned down on September 25 in 1995 at Arhonghata under Daulatpur thana of the city.

His mother Amina Begum lodged an FIR with Daulatpur thana the following day accusing nine people,

Art exhibition

were examined during the trial.

SI Sohrab Ali submitted charge heet against all the accused on

Twenty prosecution witnesses

JU CORRESPONDENT

February 29, 1996.

Athree-day art exhibition organised by Anandan, a cultural organisation of Jahangirnagar University, begins today at the corridor of the proposed

begins at JU today

Zahir Raihan auditorium on the cam-A total of 75 paintings will be on

Cop found dead in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A police constable was found dead in a narrow lane at Guptapara in

Rangpur town yesterday. Police claimed that Constable Rafiqul Islam, 50, died of a cardiac arrest while answering nature's call. His body was recovered yesterday

However, the death is still shrouded in mystery and has worried the law enforcers Police said Rafiqul Islam was

patrolling the area with two other constables on Saturday night.

The other two went back to the Nawabganj police barracks at dawn after their duty, but Rafiq remained missing until the local people found his

body at the lane from New Cross road Officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station Noor-e-Alam said, "Constable Rafiq parted from his two colleagues to answer nature's

call. But his heart failed while he was

urinating." Finding no trace of him, the two other constables came back to the barracks, he added

A resident of Dhangara of Rayganj, Sirajganj, Rafiqul Islam is survived by his wife, four sons and one daughter

An unnatural death case was registered with Kotwali police in this connection. His body was sent to his village home after an

Discussion

Bangladesh Human Rights Survey Committee organises a discussion titled 'Role of the civil society in establishing human rights' with State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Muhammad Shahjahan Omar as chief guest. Venue: VIP Lounge of the National Press Club. Time: 11.00am.

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of Fire Service and Civil Defence Week 2005 will be held with State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar as chief guest. Venue: Fire Service Training Complex,

Prize giving ceremony

The annual prize giving ceremony of National Bank Public School and College will be held with Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk as chief guest. Venue: Biam auditorium. New Eskaton, Time: 3.00pm.

ECOTA seminar ECOTA Fair Trade Forum will hold a

Promises and challenges.' Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9.30am Lions seminar Lions Club of Dhaka Central organises a

seminar on 'Women rights for

understanding: Bangladesh

perspective' with Law Minister Moudud

Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Lions

Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 6.00pm.

seminar on 'Crafts sector in Bangladesh:

Brac seminar

Brac university will hold a seminar on 'Agile approaches towards software development.' Venue: University campus, Mohakhali. Time: 5.00pm

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Practical Pathology' by Prof Tahminur Rahman Sajal and Prof Hosne Ara Tahmin Charu will be held. Venue: Birdem auditorium, Time: 7.30pm.

Lecture Darul Ihsan University organises a

Language Day.' Venue: House-9/B, Road-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 11.00am. Lawyers' meeting A meeting of the executive committee of

Bangladesh Democratic Lawyers'

Association will be held. Venue:

lecture on 'International Mother

Supreme Court Bar Association Hall. Time: 4.15pm

Maidan, Time: 10.00am.

JP council The central council session of Jatiya Party will be held with party Chairman H M Ershad as chief quest. Venue: Paltan

Rally

10.30am

Save Environment Movement will form a human chain demanding punishment to those responsible for launch disaster. Venue: Shahbagh intersection. Time:

TODAY Dry weather likely Weather is likely to remain dry over the country till 6.00pm today. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said. Highest temperature 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 12.8 degree Celsius at Srimongol The sun sets in the capital at 6:01pm today and rises at 6:21am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Temperature

17.6

19.5

13.5

16.6

17.0

16.2

19.5

Max

30.3

31.8

30.5

31.0

31.4

30.5

major cities and towns yesterday were

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Raishahi

Khulna

Barisal

Svlhet

Dhaka

WEATHER WAS



Humidity in

percentage

Morning Evening

45

57

55

37

60

69

81 67

A twenty-member Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) team poses for photograph at Zia International Airport on Saturday

night before leaving for Malaysia on a weeklong training programme

journalists, and actors and politicians.

to the devil's hand'

Later, poets Anisul Haque Mahmuduzzaman Babu and Tokon Thakur confronted media personalities Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul, Sumana Sharmin and GE Mamun at an interesting debate. The motion for the

'The works of the press box is easier than in field' was the motion of the debate where sportsmen Farook Ahmed and Gazi Ashraf Lipu faced

Media men Sudip Ranjan Deb, Rafigullah Romel and Galib Hamid competed against Rumi Noman. Shahanaj Munni, Munir Hasan in a debate with the motion 'Mass media does not reflect the mass people'.