



President Iajuddin Ahmed exchanges Eid greetings with foreign diplomats at Bangabhaban in the city on Eid day.

DU extends vacation until Nov 9

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities extended its vacation until November 9 in view of the mounting political tension in the country.

At an urgent meeting on Thursday, the DU Syndicate decided to extend the month-long vacation as many students may not return to campus in time, meeting sources said.

The vacation began on September 30 on the occasion of Durga Puja and Eid-ul-Fitr and the university was scheduled to reopen on October 29.

There will be no classes and examinations during the period from October 29 to November 9. The authorities will announce fresh dates for the postponed examinations.

However, the university offices will remain open from October 29.

Prof Dr Mohammad Akhteruzzaman, general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, said it was not clear to them that why the authorities extended the vacation.

PHOTO: PID

Cops asked to thwart attacks on politicians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector general of police (IGP) yesterday instructed law enforcers to prevent vengeful attacks on politicians as the numbers of such incidents shot up on the eve of government changeover.

IGP Anwarul Iqbal sent an emergency message to all deputy inspector generals and superintendents of police to take necessary steps in their respective areas to check violence, especially attacks on the politicians.

Security has been strengthened significantly across the country and in the capital.

Large contingents of police were posted at major intersections in the city since yesterday morning, the last day of the coalition government. Security has also been

beefed up at the diplomatic enclave and key points in the capital and elsewhere.

Police sources said 15,000 policemen including Armed Police Battalion personnel are working along with 22,000 members of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to ensure law and order.

The Rapid Action Battalion men are also working to ensure peace and calm.

Requesting the politicians to refrain from any violent programme, the IGP said, "We hope the politicians will act wisely."

Talking to reporters at his office yesterday, he also asked people to cooperate with the police to ensure law and order.

Morshed felicitates Pranab Mukherjee

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan has congratulated Pranab Mukherjee on his appointment as external affairs minister of India.

The appointment of Mukherjee, a respected and experienced political leader, would contribute to the regional and global peace and stability, Morshed Khan said in a message of felicitation on Tuesday.

He also hoped that Mukherjee's appointment as Indian external affairs minister would "especially contribute to the promotion of neighbourly and bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India".

Five killed in city during Eid vacation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five people were killed in separate incidents in the city in the last four days during Eid vacation.

Three victims were identified as Abdur Razzaq Sheikh, 54, Meem, 2, and Monwar Hossain Sarkar Suman, 26, while the identities of the rest two people could not be known.

Sources said a group of six to seven criminals entered Razzaq's house at Fayedabad in Dhakhin Khan in the early morning on Monday and slaughtered him with sharp weapons.

Victim's brother alleged that his brother's wife Farzana hired the goons to kill his brother, as she had an extra-marital affair with one of his neighbours, sources said.

He filed a case with Dhakhin Khan Police Station in this connection and police arrested Farzana and her lover Ahsanullah.

In another incident, a minor girl Meem, daughter of Mohammad Ali, of South Khilgaon, died from poisonous food at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Relatives said a group of criminals lured Meem to eat poisonous food in a packet of chocolate and took away her gold ring leaving her

unconscious.

Family members rescued her from the spot and rushed to the DMCH where she died on Thursday morning.

In Shyampur, a local terror group numbering seven to eight called Suman, owner of Suman Enterprise, a cement retailer, and took him to Lal Mian Sarker Road at around 8:30pm on the Eid day.

They hit him on the head with a hammer leaving him dead on the spot.

Sources said a local scoundrel Russel took some cement from Suman and refused to pay. When the victim asked for the payment, Russel threatened to kill him.

In Uttara, police recovered a body aged about 30 from Uttara Rail Gate on Tuesday morning.

Police said a killer group abducted the youth and strangled him.

Meanwhile, Motijheel police recovered a body in a sack at Post Office Lane on Thursday morning.

Dhaka Medical College Morgue sources said the criminals abducted the youth aged about 25 and strangled him before stuffing him into the sack.

A case was filed in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina exchanges Eid greetings with US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis at her Dhanmondi office in the city on Eid day.

PROTEST AGAINST GOVT DECISION TO MAKE HASAN CG CHIEF

Indefinite strike in Ctg from tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong unit of Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine yesterday announced that it will enforce an indefinite general strike in the port city from tomorrow protesting the government decision of handing over power to a caretaker government headed by Justice KM Hasan.

Chittagong Divisional Coordinator of 14-party combine and Chittagong City AL President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury made the announcement in his presidential speech at a protest rally at Laldighi Maidan in the afternoon.

The combine postponed its today's scheduled strike in the city to facilitate workers of different garment factories and industrial units to receive their monthly salaries.

Mohiuddin, also the mayor of Chittagong City Corporation, blamed the 4-party alliance government for betraying the people by taking the decision of handing over power to "controversial" KM Hasan at the elev-

enth hour of its tenure and for wasting time in the name of dialogue.

He also threatened to occupy the Laldighi Maidan from this morning to resist any rally by the ruling party claiming that the 14-party combine got the booking of the ground for 10 days since yesterday.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chittagong unit earlier declared to hold a rally at the ground this afternoon.

Mohiuddin also announced a blockade of the railway and highway today.

He urged the combine leaders and activists of three thanas Pahartali, Halishahar and Bandar to gather at the city's Olankar intersection at 10:00am to make the blockade a success.

"No buses or trucks would be allowed to pass through Olankar intersection during the blockade," he added.

The mayor urged the activists of different parties under the combine to gather at the Laldighi Maidan at 9:00am and participate in the Janatar Mancha.

Former labour and man-

power minister MA Mannan urged the law enforcement agencies not to harass the opposition party leaders and workers.

Former city AL president MA Mannan, AL Central Organising Secretary Bir Bahadur, AL north district President Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, south district President Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Executive Committee President Mainuddin Khan Badal, city AL Joint Secretary Dr Afsarul Amin, Gono Forum city unit President M Kafil Uddin Chowdhury and city Workers' Party President ATM Nizamuddin also addressed the rally.

Meanwhile, leaders of AL north and south districts at a press conference at the Chittagong Press Club yesterday announced a simultaneous blockade programme to be enforced on the highway and railway in their respective areas from today.