Exams at

deferred

release.

DU CORRESPONDENT

The examinations of Dhaka

University scheduled to be

held at Curzon Hall have

been postponed until tomor-

row due to unavoidable

circumstances, says a press

Fresh dates for the deferred

Other parts of the examina-

exams will be announced

tion schedule will remain

Alhaj Abdul Wadud Mondal, a

senior member of Gaibandha

Bar Association, passed away

due to a cardiac arrest at Sadar

Hospital on Tuesday night at

He left behind his wife,

two sons, three daughters

and a host of relatives to

unchanged, it added.

Obituary

BSS, Gaibandha

the age of 63.

Curzon Hall

2 abducted businessmen rescued, seven arrested

Israeli air strikes on Gaza

demician Prof Serajul Islam

Choudhury said America and

some European states are

mainly responsible for the

killings in Gaza because these

countries always patronise

Dal (BSD) held a protest rally at

Muktangan in the city con-

Bangladesh Samajtantrik

Israeli invasions.

demning the attacks.

BSS, Chittagong

The police arrested seven kidnappers and rescued two real estate businessmen in the early hours of yesterday.

The police arrested the seven after intercepting a Dhaka-bound microbus near Daudkandi, a CMP press release said.

The police said the kidnappers released the businessmen -- Haji Delwar Hossain and Abu Zafar -- from the microbus when the law enforcers were chasing them. Haji Delwar is the chairman of RF Properties Ltd and Abu Zafar is and sped away. director of RF Buildedrs ltd.

The arrestees are Dewan Koushik Ahmed Nadim, Jahangir Nazim, a physician, Mohammad Sohel, Mirajul Islam alias Miru, Mirza Shafayet Jahan, Mohammad Sharif, and Nurunnabi, driver of the microbus.

condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

strikes on Gaza.

for the heinous act.

theattack.

BSS, Dhaka

Different political and socio-

cultural organisations yester-

day condemned the Israeli air

America and the European

countries are also responsible

Writers and cultural activ-

ists under the banner of 'Jana-

Sanskriti Mancha' staged a

demonstration on Dhaka

University campus to protest

stamp available

The government has urged the

valued customers to purchase

non-judicial stamp from post

of the Postal Department, the

non-judicial stamp is readily

available in all post offices and

anyone can buy it at fair prices.

supply of non-judicial stamp

was recently slow due to dearth

of printing papers, giving an

advantage to some vendors as

well as vested quarters to make

money through selling it at

judicial stamp is steady as the

government has handled the

"Now the supply of non-

The press release said the

According to a press release

offices across the country.

at post offices

Non-judicial

At the rally, renowned aca-

They said Israel as well as

They were brought to the port city along with the microbus and kept into custody in Panchlaish police station for interrogation.

One laptop, two bank cheques with signatures of the victims, several office files, 13 cellular phone sets, Tk 28,500 were also seized from their possession.

According to the case filed in this connection, the kidnappers had dragged Haji Delwar and Jafar into an awaiting microbus in front of the office of RF Properties in Nasirabad Housing Society on Thursday noon at gunpoint

On receiving complaint from Omar Faruk, son of Haji Delwar, the CMP sent wireless message to all corners of the country asking the law enforcers to remain alert. Following the message, Daudkandi police managed to arrest the kidnappers.

adding that the cadres also threatened to kill him. The police, however, said some unruly youths made the attacks as they were driven away after they gathered in

Attack on

BNP leader's

house in city

Two houses of a ward commis-

sioner of Dhaka City

Corporation (DCC) were

vandalised twice allegedly by

Awami League activists at

Talking to The Daily Star,

Ward Commissioner Golam

Hossain, a former vice-

president of Ward 27 BNP,

alleged that local AL cadres

ransacked his houses at about

"Over 30 cadres damaged

doors, windows and furniture

of my two houses," he said,

5:30pm and again at 8:30pm.

Madhya Basabo yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

front of the house. **BNPLEADER STABBED** Our Correspondent in Netrokona reports: A local BNP leader was stabbed allegedly by Awami League activists at Arinagar village in

The victim, Md Afza Hossain, vice-president of Sandikon union BNP, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Kendualast night.

The relatives of the victim alleged that the AL activists attacked Afzal at about 8:00pm over previous feud. Sub-inspector Shah Jahan said they could not identify the attackers.

10 INJURED IN NOAKHALI ATTACK UNB adds: At least 10 activists

of BNP-led four-party coalition were injured in an attack allegedly by grand alliance supporters at Nayanpur in Chatkhil, Noakhali last night.

Witnesses said the Awami League-led grand alliance supporters stopped a bus carrying the four-party activists rerunning from an election rally addressed by BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia at Chatkhil upazila headquarters at about 7:00pm.

They then beat up the BNP activists, leaving the 10 people injured Three of the injured -- Jubo in front of Ziaur Rahman

Dal leader Kamal Uddin, 35, and activists Ershad, 30, and Nazim, 32, -- were admitted to a private clinic.

The election rally was arranged in support of BNP candidate Barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon.

61 Bangladeshis FROM PAGE 16

Bangladeshis told the Coast Guard that they were wandering in the sea for three days without ration and water after losing their way to Thailand.

"The boat carrying the Bangladeshi nationals did not have a compass, which could tell the direction in which they were moving and were wandering for three days in the sea. They had exhausted their ration and drinking water," he

said. Giving details of the operation, Jain said "a coast guard helicopter on surveillance sortie at 1030 hours on January 8 sighted a black coloured mechanised boat near Rutland Island south of Port Blair with 50-60 people on board waving for help after they had lost their way to Thailand."

The boat, he said, had sailed from Cox's Bazaar on January 1 towards the South-East Asian country and lost its way and came close to the Andaman islands.

hours in the evening.

nary investigation of the

Bangladeshi nationals, the

After locating the boat, the helicopter sent a message to the Coast Guard regional headquarters in Port Blair, which dispatched a C-140 fast interceptor boat towards the AL government. mechanised boat to bring it

safely to the shore. "A Dornier surveillance aircraft and a helicopter along with a Coast Guard ship were look out for any other such boats," the officials said.

The ship reached the boat observed. at 1400 hours and after taking the boat in its custody, interrogated the men and escorted them to the Coast Guard facilities in Port Blair at 2130 "After carrying out prelimi-

he should have an immediate and detailed assessment of food consumption, production target and current production in the country to cope with price hike," he observed.

Agriculturist Dr Abdur industries ministry is to Razzak is a new face in the food ministry who is a first-

once the assessment is ready the government must take measures to import rice if there is a probability of short-

backing up identified JCD activ- weapons. however, denied the allegation

demonstration demanding the 1/11 changeover. resignation of the provost. They also vandalised glasses of the provost's room. Denying the allegation of his involvement provost Prof Borhan told the reporters that he, being a civilized man, would quit and neverto come backagain.

Injured BCL activists—Shohag and Sumon, 4th year students of Sociology Department, Himel, first year student of Finance and Chunnu, another first year student were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Two groups of devotees scuffle at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque over a dispute over appointment

BCL factions fight at DU Zia Hall

ists and Islami Chhatra Shibir

activists in the dorm, Badsha

group at around 2:00am staged a

of the new Khatib yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

"I have submitted my

resignation letter today

afternoon to the VC and hope it

would be accepted", Prof

Borhan confirmed The Daily

erupted when a group of BCL

men loyal to DU unit BCL

president Sohel Rana Tipu

launched an attack on another

group loyal to its general secretary

Sajjad Saqib Badsha with sharp

weapons over establishing

supremacy in the dorm at around

alleged that Kamal and Salman

who had recently been migrated

to BCL from BNP's student front

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)

BCL activists also ransacked

out of their rooms at

Shahidullah and Shaheed

Ziaur Rahman halls and

clashed with Shibir activists

As the news of violence

spread, BCL and Shibir

regrouped themselves and

locked in a two hour-long

clash, which continued till

ledtheTipugroupintheclash.

BCL men backed by Badsha

Hall sources said the clash

FROM PAGE 1

Staryesterday.

12:20am.

FROM PAGE 16

Shohag was later shifted to city' orthopedic hospital while around 10 rooms at the hall. Hall Himel was admitted to a city authorities immediately rushed to the hall compound and brought the situation under group alleged that Tipu's men goon.

Ruet BCL men ousts Shibir

Medical College Hospital

(RMCH) for treatment. Two

Thursday postponed all

classes and scheduled exam-

injured in the clash.

Accusing hall provost of after assaulting him with sharp

handed over six Zia hall residents--Zakaria Rahman Ziku, a student of English, Selim Reza of Sociology, Shafiullah Shihan of Psychology, Bullet of Peace and Conflict, Touhidul Islam of Political Science and Ruhul Karim of History, and Kamal, a Dhaka College student to police for their involvement in the violence, police sources said.

Students belonging to BCL politics feared the recurrence of such incident at Sir AF Rahman Hall and Salimullah Muslim Hall if the migration of identified JCD hospital. Activists of Badsha men to BCL politics continued to

had confined Sumon to a toilet

and said Salman has been involved in the BCL politics since BCL university unit leaders

Jahangir Hossain said addi-

ers and police jointly raided

Rajshahi Medical College in

the early hours Thursday but

On December 3 last year,

indefinite period following

a clash between BCL and

further trouble.

RMCRAIDED

mourn his death. He was buried at Gaibandha municipality graveyard on DU unit president Tipu, Wednesday.



Death anniversary METRO DESK

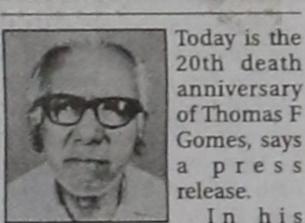
Today is the first death anniversary of veteran photojournalist Mohammad Alam, says a press release.

On the occasion, Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association will hold a discus-

sion at its office. In a letter sent to the DCC mayor yesterday, the association called for naming a city

street after Mohammad Alam.

Thomas F Gomes METRO DESK



anniversary of Thomas F Gomes, says a press release. In his

lifetime, he worked to help late Mother Teresa to start her

congregation. On the occasion, prayers will be offered for his departed the RMC was closed for an

soul at family residence at Kakrail in the city at 5:30pm. All his admirers are

requested to attend the services and pray for his soul.

68 73 matter quite efficiently," the 16.0 30.2 Cox's Bazar press release also said.

27.5

Sylhet

higher prices.

Team' to curb vehicle theft in the capital.

the capital.

They apply new methods bike. including the use of sedatives to steal vehicles and sell those on the black market.

methods they use.

a new gang that uses a unique method to steal

member of the gang, Faria Mejbah, 20, also a student of a private university, who admit-

ted that she develops relation- vehicles at different places in ship with any youth having a Madaripur, Shariatpur, motorbike. She asks him to

motorbike there, she takes motorbike and Tk 5,000-

Mohammadpur, said, "We knock down a biker hitting with our private car from behind. Then we point firearms at the rider and force him after getting released from the to go away leaving the motor-

vehicles parked at various ers with fake papers with the places in the city and sold help of a section of BRTA plates and colour.

mechanics and duplicate key

They hide the stolen

DHAKA

International Council for Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Bangamata Parishad organises a discussion marking the home coming day of Bangabandhu. Venue: National Press Club. Time:

Musical soiree

Bengal Foundation organises a musical soiree. Venue: Bengal Shilpalay. Time: 7:00pm.

Reception

National Crafts Council of Bangladesh will accord a reception to Unesco Craftsperson Award winning Bangladeshi craftspersons. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

inations of the university for no outsider was found. 3:00am. Both the groups used wood sticks, brickbats, BCL leaders alleged that an indefinite period. Campus sources said BCL police did not go to Shibir and iron rods during the staged a big showdown and cadres rooms during the

A huge number of police During interrogation, the and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) later rushed to the Thursday morning. Shibir campus and brought the situation under control. They also raided Shaheed Salim and Ziaur Rahman

went to different dormitories raid. in search of Shibir activists

also staged a demonstration with outsiders, rejecting the

decision of Ruet Syndicate. Assistant Commissioner of ing a hostel seat. The colhalls but no one was Police (Motiher zone) legereopened on January 5.

Shibir activists over captur-

All the injured persons tional police were deployed

were taken to Rajshahi on the Ruet campus to avoid

BCL activists were also Hostel supers, college teach

Following the campus Shaheed Shah Mainul Ahsan

violence, the Ruet Syndicate Pinku and Shaheed Kazi

at an emergency meeting on Nurunnabi hostels of

Urgent steps to cut rice price He also suggests reducing

FROM PAGE 1

commerce ministry control commodity price by reducing duty when required.

The commerce minister should have discussions with all the business chambers and traders at first to have a clear conception of the entire sector. The top priority task of the commerce minister would be forming a good coordination with the finance ministry, he observed.

Tofail also said a lot of homework would be wise for new Commerce Minister Col (retd) Faruk Khan for smooth functioning of his ministry regarding some highly technicalissues.

Another heavyweight AL lawmaker Amir Hossain Amu has also been dropped from the cabinet. He served as the food minister during the last

"As people's expectations soar, the main target of the government should be to curb food prices, especially the cally once the price of rice is under control," Amu

"As soon as the new food minister takes over his office,

time minister as well.

fall in production and build a

stock to face future crisis. He emphasizes the neces-

right time. senior BNP leaders who have won the election, said though

trialisation by the public sector it would not be wise to totally exclude the sector. minister for a few years until he became the agriculture

her grand alliance. Barua has the import process is time

Hasina's cabinet. From his experiences in running the industries ministry MK Anwar said as the fertiliser industry requires huge investment, the private sector stays away from it. He

industrial financing is much higher and it is a big challenge to deal with for industrialis-

infra-structure for industrialisation mentioning that supply of power and gas is not ensured in the country. "Another challenge for the

ensure the infra-structural Tofail also from his experi-

ence as an industries minister suggests immediately making domestic industries vibrant, expanded and functional.

duty on raw materials besides increasing the duty on fin-

Tofail holds Bangladesh MK Anwar, one of two Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) as an important institution for the industries ministry.

He said the industries minister should have a clear knowledge about present Anwar was industries status of fertiliser production and demand, probable demand and production, and should import the required Jamaat-led four-party govern- quantity as soon as possible.

He said the process of Hasina has chosen import should be initiated at Industries Minister Dilip least six months before a years. Barua from the left-block in certain material is required, as Maintaining law and order

by removing extortion and criminal activities is another challenge and one of the most important things for uninterrupted industrialisation.

Talking about agriculture MK Anwar put emphasis on ensuring farmers' full-time concentration on agricultural ally," he said.

"Nowadays farmers have the opportunity to shift their profession to many other jobs, small businesses and trades, which are more profitable. So agriculture must be made profitable to keep farmers stick to their profession," he added.

He puts importance on the necessity to reduce prices of agricultural materials through providing subsidy.

Motia Chowdhury is made the agriculture minister once again since she had success-

land becomes nonagricultural every year due to

other usage of land. There would be no land left for agri-

trend continues," MK Anwar

observed. He prioritises efforts to keep agricultural land intact. He also thinks complex problems like Farakka Barrage and climate change must be addressed.

importance of generating employment opportunities, former finance and planning minister Saifur Rahman suggests bringing back businessmen, who left the country in fear of backlash in last two

any major crisis for the present government as prices of essentials are coming down "I don't think there will be a

crisis for the new government. Everything is in their favour and there is no challenge for them as prices of essentials including rice and wheat are coming down internation-

Renowned economist AMA Muhith is the new finance minister who had the same portfolio during HM Ershad's regime.

will not bring much help for the people unless they have an income to purchase. So creating employment opportunities is important," Saifur added.

sity of taking massive programmes, strengthening expansionary monitory policies and promoting investment to tackle the unemployment problem. He also suggests increasing energy production.

BNP front bodies

FROM PAGE 1 Earlier, addressing party

leaders and workers at Comilla Circuit House, she said, "Don't get frustrated. Keep working together. Committees of BNP and associate bodies down to the grassroots level will be disbanded and rebuilt through elections." Canvassing at

Noakhalí-1, Khaleda said, "The caretaker government worked for a particular party, and the fourparty alliance was forcibly defeated in the polls. In last two years, they [caretaker administration] tortured people, so much so that everyone wanted to get rid of them.

She warned the Election Commission and the administration against rigging in the January 12 vote. "At least hold this election in a free and fair manner. Otherwise, people will wage a movement against the commis-

She said her party would cooperate with the new government so that it can fulfil its pledges.

"We want peace, discipline and development. But we won't tolerate any antipeople activities," she continued. The BNP chairperson accused the AL government

of persecuting her party

men. "They are killing our leaders and activists. "In 1996, Awami League began their rule by killing Sumon and this time they have killed Nazrul."

She said the government

must stop 'political repres-

sion' immediately if it is to

get cooperation from the opposition parties. Selima Rahman, Mojibur Rahman Sarwar, Barkatullah Bulu, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anny, Mosharraf Hossain, among others,

spoke at the rallies.

and demanded an end to the

mass killing immediately. Human Rights Review Society formed a human chain in front of National Museum at Shahbagh in the city protesting

the killings. Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree will hold a rally and bring out a protest procession on Dhaka University campus In a statement, BNP also at 10:00am today demanding



Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during late night till morning, Met Office said in a forecast. Night temperature may fall by 2-3 degree Celsius over the country, it added.

was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 9.7 degrees at Srimongal. The sun sets in the capital at 5:29pm and rises at 6:44am

Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.2 degree Celsius

The highest recorded in some	and low	est temp	perature and	humidity nywere:
-Gity/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.0	15.8	67	49
Chittagong	28.0	15.8	74	58
Rajshahi	25.4	14.5	84	74
Khulna	27.2	16.6	90	73
Barisal	27.6	15.0	90	80

14.0

73

Narayanganj, Gazipur and

Munshiganj, he said adding

that each gang member gets

Tk 4,000-5,000 for stealing a

Suman, who has been

Another car thief Joynal,

involved in car theft for the last

12 years, said his gang steals at

arrested recently by the DB

officials, said Ramna police

arrested him two years ago on

charge of stealing vehicles but

he resumed his activities soon

Both Suman and Joynal

10,000 for a car.

63

Stolen cars sold between Tk 1-2 lakh

FROM PAGE 16 get released from jail easily," he said adding that the DMP has a 'Vehicle Theft Prevention

DMP officials said about 400 car thieves from over 30 gangs are active in and around

Talking to The Daily Star, several vehicle thieves, who were arrested by the police at different places, disclosed the

The 'Vehicle Theft Prevention Team' led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Masudur Rahman has unearthed the existence of

vehicles. The team arrested a female take her to a specific place where her accomplices wait. When the youth parks the

him some distance away from the spot. Her accomplices then get away with the motor-Vehicle thief Suman least 10 vehicles a month. Hawlader, who was arrested on October 18 in the capital's

He said they also stole said they often provide buy-

those changing their number officials. Suman, who hails from Shariatpur, said his gang has six members including driver,

ODAY

Media award

The media award giving ceremony for excellence in investigative journalism will be held. Advancement of Bangladesh will confer the award. Venue: National

10:30pm.

Coast Guard handed them over to the local police for further interrogation," Jain On December 26 2008, the Coast Guard rescued another batch of 105 Bangladeshi and Myanmarese nationals who were also going to Malaysia.

sity to ensure that imported rice is well-distributed at the ished goods. there is no scope for indus-

minister during the last BNP-

never been a lawmaker and is consuming. a technocrat minister in

price of rice. Prices of essen- said the public sector should sent to sanitise the area and tials would reduce automati- come forward in this regard. "The interest rate for fields.

> ation," he added. He also underlined weak

Amu also suggests that he observed.

support as these issues are dealt by different ministries,"

fully held the same portfolio.

"One percent agricultural

cultural use after 50 years if the

Repeatedly stressing the

He however does not see

"Only reducing the price

He emphasises the neces-