

Protests against BCL attacks continue

DU CORRESPONDENT

Pragatisheel Chhatra Jote, an alliance of left-leaning student organisations, yesterday brought out a procession on Dhaka University (DU) campus, protesting the recent Bangladesh Chhatra League attacks on their activists across the country.

The procession started from Madhur Canteen and ended in front of Ducus building where a rally took place.

At the rally, Bangladesh Chhatra Union General Secretary Liton Nandi said, "Chhatra League activists are carrying out repetitive attacks on our activists and general students to establish their supremacy in different educational institutes."

Students will prevent their reckless activities and our demonstrations cannot be suppressed through attacks or filing of cases," he added.

On January 23, several

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Pragatisheel Chhatra Jote, an alliance of left-leaning student organisations, brings out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, protesting attacks on them carried out by Bangladesh Chhatra League men in different educational institutions.

PHOTO: STAR

Buddhists celebrate Maghi Purnima

BSS, Chittagong

Buddhists yesterday celebrated the Maghi Purnima, one of their major festivals, in the port city and elsewhere in the district.

Maghi Purnima is celebrated on the full moon night in the month of Magh, commemorating the day on which Gautama Buddha announced his impending death.

In other words, the significance of this day is to develop inner strength and acquire power to overcome all sorrows.

The Purnima was celebrated in all monasteries, respective offices of the religious organisations and educational institutions. The day's programmes began with hoisting of the national and religious flags atop all monasteries at dawn and chanting of the sacred verses from the Tripitaka.

In the port city, the main religious congregations were held at Nandankanan Buddhist temple, Agrabad Shakyamuni Moha Swashan Vihar, Katalganj Nabapandit Vihar, Purnachar International Buddhists Monasteries at Devpahar and Sarbajanina Bouddha Vihar at Momin road.

Traditional fairs were also organised at Buddhist populated regions of Chittagong including Tagorepuni mela (Patiya), Parinirvana mela of Binajuri village (Raozan), Buddha mela of Lathichari village (Raozan), Shakyamuni mela of Abdullahpur village (Hathazari) and Aryamitra Mahaparinirvana mela (Raozan).

SSC exams start today

FROM PAGE 3

A total of 20,31,899 students from 28,551 educational institutions are appearing in this year's SSC and equivalent examination from 3,412 centres across the country.

Written tests will be held till February 25, while the practical exams are scheduled from February 26 to March 4.

This year, the number of examinees has increased by over 2.45 lakh.

The education minister further said whether Facebook will be blocked for limited time during examination hours will be decided after considering the situation.

"We have never said that Facebook will be blocked. We don't have the capability of blocking it," the minister added.

He said they have discussed with the authorities concerned and spoke to the chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in this regard and they replied that "effective measures" will be taken.

The minister said a total of 10,23,212 boys and 10,08,687 girls will appear in the SSC and equivalent examinations under 10 education boards.

SSC candidate, 4 others killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and six others injured in road accidents in three districts.

SSC candidate Serajul Islam, 16, was killed after his bike lost control and collided with a roadside tree on Parbatipur-Badarganj road, reports our Dinajpur correspondent quoting police.

Two other seriously injured students -- Rokon, 17, and Milton 17 -- are being treated at Rangpur Medical College Hospital, police said.

Our Gazipur correspondent reports, an unidentified man was killed when a Gazipur-bound bus ran him over while crossing the road

at Tongi's Milgate area.

In a separate incident, Syed Abdul Halim, 50, and Ashiqur Rahman, 20 and Jamal Uddin, 30 were killed when a covered van collided with a pickup on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, police said.

Two others were also injured, police added.

Meanwhile in Joypurhat, Khoka Mia, 50, and his assistant Shakil Hossain, 30, were seriously injured when their vehicle collided with a train in Akkelpur upazila, police said.

The injured were sent to Joypurhat Modern Hospital for treatment.

A case was filed in this connection with Santahar GRP Police Station, police added.

DSCC suspends two engineers, blacklists firm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday suspended two engineers and blacklisted a construction firm for substandard work at four unions, which have recently come under DSCC.

Assistant Engineer of DSCC Kholilur Rahman and its Deputy Assistant Engineer Fariduzzaman were suspended for their negligence in duty, said a press release.

Departmental actions will be taken against them. A DSCC official said the firm, JK Enterprise, constructed roads, footpaths and drains in those areas.

The DSCC authorities also issued show cause notices to the project supervisor and its director and consultant.



Locals gather around a truck after it collided with a moving train at an unmanned level crossing in Akkelpur upazila in Joypurhat yesterday. Two persons who were in the truck were severely injured in the accident.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Unfriendly host, uninterested

FROM PAGE 5

and has to take steps for protection of this wetland.

Shuvon Rangsa, an executive magistrate in Tanguar Haor area, told the news agency that migratory birds are not visiting the haor this winter because of the high water level of the wetland and as the forages that birds feed on remained submerged under water.

Awareness is being built among the people to stop bird hunting, said Shuvon. He hoped that once the people are aware, they themselves will protect the guest birds.

On the other hand, Mehedi Hassan, assistant project officer of the International

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), told the news agency that birds do not visit the place if the temperature is not favourable for them.

High water level is also a reason behind the decline in visiting birds this season, he added.

Locals, tourists, bird lovers expected the government to undertake measures to solve the food scarcity problem of the migratory birds.

In addition, the government should put an end to illegal hunting of the birds in order to protect the environment of the haor and make it lively with the chirping of winged guests again, they demanded.

8 CU students

FROM PAGE 3

tests. All of them are students of different departments at CU.

Also, Shahidul Islam and Saidul Islam, two students of economics department, have been suspended for cheating in internal examinations.

The suspension has been made effective from yesterday, authorities said.

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Director General
Bangladesh Institute of Management
(4"x3)

NEWSIN brief

Jubo League man 'killed'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A local Jubo League activist was allegedly hacked to death by unidentified assailants at Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Zakir Hossain, 30, of Murtozabad area in Bhulta union, locals said.

Md Shahidul Alam, officer-in-charge of Bhulta police outpost said, Zakir was left injured after being hacked in Tat bazaar of Bhulta area.

On information from locals, police rescued Zakir and took him to Upazila Health Complex and then to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where he died.

Pop-up American Center at NSU

CITY DESK

North South University (NSU) has organised "Pop-up American Center", a programme to help students learn about opportunities to apply to American universities.

Mohammed Shajahan, chairman, BOT, NSU, inaugurated the event on Monday, where US Ambassador Marcia Bernick also spoke, says a press release.

The members of the US embassy, Dhaka gave information on academic exchange programmes, student exchange programmes, and English language programmes, consular services, and other services available at the American Center.

2 'JMB' men held in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested two suspected members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) with explosives in Rajshahi early yesterday.

Atiullah, 22, of Gaibandha, and Maksedul Islam, 23, of Dinajpur, are Gayre Ehsar (part-time) members. They were arrested in Kashiadanga when they reached the city in a bus, claimed Assistant Superintendent of police (ASP) Nure Alam of Rab-5.

They seized one kilogramme of gunpowder-like substance and bomb making materials including soda, circuits, and batteries from the duo.

Netrakona CPB leader passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Mustafa Kamal, president of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Netrakona unit, died of cardiac arrest at Netrakona Sadar Hospital on Tuesday night. He was 70.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter. He was buried at his family graveyard in Khamarhati of Purbadhala upazila in Netrakona after the Zohr prayers, said party sources.

HC bumps into forged

FROM PAGE 5

necessary steps to this effect.

When asked, Rafique's two lawyers told the HC that they had received the HC order in question from Advocate Mozaffar -- a lawyer for Selim Uddin in Cox's Bazar, DAG Fazlur also said.

Contacted, Advocate Azizur Rahman Mishu, one of Rafique's two lawyers, told this correspondent that when they received the document, they did not realise that it was a forged order of the HC.

On January 8 last year, police in Chittagong city arrested five people with 22,000 pieces of Yaba tablets in their possession. The arrestees were Apan Majumder Rupesh from Noakhali; Deepak Chandra, Selim Uddin and Rafique from Chittagong; and Shirin Sultana Aakhi from Comilla.

Police filed a case against them the same day with Bayezid Bostami Police Station.

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