

## PM to host reception at Senakunja Dec 1

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who also holds the portfolio of the defence ministry, will host a reception at Senakunja, Dhaka Cantonment on December 1 on the occasion of Armed Forces Day in the evening.

All vehicles except those carrying cantonment residents and the invited guests have been requested to avoid the roads inside the cantonment area from 4-00 p.m. to 9-30 p.m. on that day, with a view to keeping the roads free of traffic jam, says an ISPR press release.

The Armed Forces Division regrets the inconvenience to be caused due to the restriction on vehicular movement through the Cantonment area, the press release added.



## Appeal for help

Shahida Begum, a mother of three children, has been suffering from cardiac problems with one of her valves already damaged and the other one is in a critical condition, says a press release.

She might also suffer a brain stroke if her treatment is delayed.

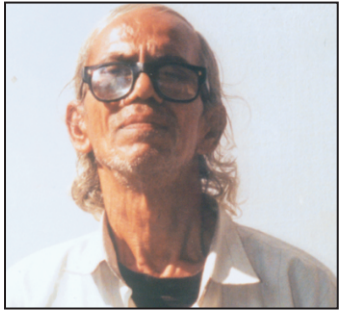
She needs an urgent open-heart surgery at an estimated cost of over TK 1 lakh at the initial stage, according to the physicians.

But it is not possible for her husband Mohammad Yusuf Khan, a retired schoolteacher, who had already spent about Tk 50 thousand for her treatment, to arrange the fund.

The family has therefore made a fervent appeal to the well-off people of the society, social welfare organisations and the government to provide financial assistance to save her life.

Contributions can be deposited to Mohammad Shahajad Imran Khan, Savings Account No 34089932, Sonali Bank Head Office, Dhaka-1000 or Mohammad Ibrahim Mia, Savings Account No 13175, Janata Bank Godnail branch, Siddhirganj, Narayanganj.

Besides, persons willing to help can contact directly to Mohammad Yusuf Khan, C/O Alhaj MN Khadem, High Court Mazar Sharif, Dhaka.



## Khorshed Alam

Khorshed Alam, a renowned folk singer and a member of National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh, sustained major hip injuries in a road accident three years ago, says a press release.

He needs Tk 70,000 for his hip operation which he is unable to manage due to his impoverished financial condition.

He has appealed to members of the affluent section of the society to come forward for his treatment.

Assistance can be deposited to Bangladesh National Unesco Club Association, Savings Account No 0834029461, IFIC Bank Federation Branch, 60 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.



## Md Naeem Hossain

Md Naeem Hossain, a two-year-old boy, was attacked by hydro-cephalus, an accumulation of serous fluid within the cranium, shortly after his birth, says a press release.

He underwent two neurosurgery operations at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the city on two different occasions but was not cured.

As a result, his head has been enlarged to such an extent that it has become more heavier than his entire body.

Doctors said he should be sent to abroad and several lakhs taka will be needed for his treatment.

So, his poor father, who is a madrassah teacher, has appealed for financial assistance which can be deposited to Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Savings Account No 1830, Uttara Bank Haragachha Branch, Rangpur.



The Sammilita Nari Samaj formed a human chain at Muktangan yesterday protesting the arson attack in which 11 members of a family were killed at Banskhali, Chittagong.

PHOTO: STAR

## Withdraw case or face death

### Alfred Soren's killers threaten elder brother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The killers of tribal leader Alfred Soren of Naogaon have been threatening his elder brother to withdraw the murder case when it is about to move in the court after three years of his murder.

Alfred was killed in a violence unleashed on the tribal families in Vimpur village under Mahadebpur thana on August 18, 2000.

Komol Soren, elder brother of Alfred, filed a case against 90 people after the killing.

The case is due to be heard or

November 30, but the killers are threatening Komol with death if he do not withdraw the case.

Komol has been running away from his house in fear of his life since November 1 when a gang of accused appeared in his home to issue the death threat, according to an investigation report by Brotee, an NGO working for democracy and civil rights.

Not only Alfred's family, but also other tribal families of the village are living in fear of more attacks.

Over past two weeks, at least

20 families have reportedly left their homes in the face of constant harassment. Alfred's sister Rebeka Soren and two other families of the village are staying back braving all fears of attack.

Tense is running high since the police camp set up in the area after the Alfred's murder was closed in April 2003.

Brotee has appealed to the home minister to step up security in Vimpur village to protect the life and property of tribal families.

## Winter festival at Fantasy Kingdom

Fantasy Kingdom, an amusement park, has arranged a winter festival on the occasion of Eid, says a press release.

Music band Miles will perform on November 29.

Bobo, a new funny character, will appear on Eid day to join the family of Prince Ashu.

Dance show, acrobat show and parade show will also be held during the festival.

## Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Anwara Karim, wife of late Mahbubul Karim, died at Suhrawardy hospital early yesterday at the age of 71.

She is survived by two sons, three daughters and a number of grandchildren. Her eldest son Ihsanul Karim Helal is a news editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

Her body was taken to Kushtia for burial.

## Akhtar Hossain Khan



Akhtar Hossain Khan, a social worker and ex-administrative manager of Jiban B i m a Corporation, died at his home

Nawabganj, Singhora, on November 19 at the age of 67, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

His quikhani will be held at his residence at House # 34, Road # 4, Sector # 5, Uttara after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qul.

## Eid baksheesh--a source of income for JCD, BCL workers

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Senior leaders of both Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student fronts of ruling BNP and opposition Awami League, have kept themselves away from Dhaka University campus to avoid giving Eid baksheesh (tip).

No senior leaders of the two organisations were seen on the campus or at the Madhu's canteen yesterday, with their cell phones off.

Traditionally, the senior leaders give baksheesh ranging from Tk 200 to Tk 5000 to their workers during the Eid festival.

The DU unit leaders also receive a certain amount from the leaders of the central committee to give out the money to presidents and general secretaries of the hall units. Subsequently, the money was passed on to the workers.

Sources said three JCD leaders of each hall unit have got Tk 10,000 -- 4,500 for the president and general secretary each and 1,000 for the organising secretary. On the other hand, the BCL leaders received Tk 2,000.

The central leaders also give baksheesh to the DU unit leaders separately. Sources in the JCD and BCL said leaders of different factions of their organisations mostly spend a certain amount of money in Eid baksheesh for their followers. Shirt, trousers and punjabi are also given as baksheesh.

With the Eid drawing closer, the workers and hall unit leaders started approaching to the senior leaders, saying 'Bhai (brother) I am going home but...', an indication that he seeks baksheesh.

"I have got about Tk 1,000 and two shirts from a leader", a BCL worker said.

Some mid-level leaders usually go to the top leaders' residences to get baksheesh. A JCD worker said he was waiting for a leader in front of the Madhu's canteen to get baksheesh as he had no money to go home.

There are at least 10 leaders of the JCD and BCL factions who give Eid baksheesh to their followers.

A general secretary of a hall unit said the amount he received from the JCD is not enough as he had to give each worker of the unit.

A hall unit president of the BCL said, "I have got only Tk 1000 from the DU unit leaders and I have given Tk 500 to the general secretary."

BCL sources said an expelled BCL leader has spent more than Tk 50,000 on his followers and he has also given 60 shirts to the workers at Jagannath Hall and 20 shirts and 20 punjabis to the workers at Muktiyoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall.

The hall unit leaders of both the JCD and BCL have started leaving campus and few have been still staying at the dormitories to collect baksheesh from

## British HC closed Wednesday, Thursday

UNB, Dhaka

British High Commission in Dhaka and its offices in Chittagong and Sylhet will remain closed to the public on Wednesday and Thursday on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, says a press release.

different sources.

Most of the leaders also collect baksheesh from the businessmen of their home districts.

In addition, they collect tolls from the shops and business houses ahead of Eid, sources said.

## DUJ election Jan 29

BSS, Dhaka

Annual general meeting (AGM) and election of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will be held on January 28 and 29 at the National Press Club here.

It was decided at a meeting of the executive committee of DUJ with its President Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan in the chair at union office here.

DUJ General Secretary Omar Faruque, Treasurer Gulshan Akhter, Publicity Secretary Hasan Arefin, Public Welfare Secretary Hemayet Hossain, Cultural Secretary Aslam Sani, Executive Committee members Obaidul Huq Khan, Ahmed Sabbir Romeo, Rafiqul Islam and Prabir Dasgupta spoke at the meeting.

Earlier, the meeting conduced the death of Hasina Ashraf, a former senior reporter of now defunct Dainik Bangla, and Anwara Karim, mother of Ihsanul Karim Helal, a news editor of BSS.

Hasina Ashraf died of brain hemorrhage recently and Anwara Karim died of old age complications here yesterday.