

Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela opens in Ctg peacefully

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Bijoy Shikha (victory flame) was lit peacefully in the port city yesterday amid a tense situation in a prelude to the 'Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela' (Liberation war victory fair).

The lighting of the victory flame marked the inauguration of a seven-day victory fair that starts on the Lalghati Maidan premises on December 10.

Elderly freedom fighter Mohiuddin lit the 'Bijoy Shikha' on the road island at the Circuit House intersection at 3.30pm.

Mayor and General Secretary of Chittagong city Awami League ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also the chairman of Bijoy Mela

Parishad, the organiser of the fair, and leaders of AL and left-leaning organisations were also present.

A tense was brewing over lighting of the victory flame at Circuit House intersection, only a few yards off the venue where a 21-day Victory Festival was inaugurated on December 5.

Earlier, the mayor threatened to enforce a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Chittagong if the pro-BNP organisers of the Victory Festival protested the lighting of the victory flame.

To avert any untoward situation, additional forces of police were deployed in and around the rally venue, restricting traffic movement along SS Khaled Road from Ispahani crossing to Kazir Dewry crossing.

After the inauguration, a rally was also held at the foot of the flame with Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury in the chair.

Mela Parishad Secretary General Abul Hashem, AL presidium member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, President of Chittagong city AL M A Mannan, veteran revolutionary Binod Bihari Chowdhury, AL leaders Moslemuddin Ahmed and M A Salam, Jasad leader Indu Nandan Datta and CPB leader Shah Alam also spoke at the rally.

They said the organisers of the Victory Festival on the Chittagong Outer Stadium premises has snatched the venue where the Mela Parishad has been organising the victory fair for the last 15 years.

They alleged that the pro-BNP organisers of the Victory Festival were harbouring the killers of freedom fighters and their collaborators, and trying to distort the history of the War of Liberation.

The leaders called for a united resistance against the bid to destroy the spirit of the liberation war.

Later, several hundred people paraded different streets in a procession led by the mayor.

10 injured in Ctg road accident

CU CORRESPONDENT

At least ten people were injured, three of them seriously, when a private car hit two auto-rickshaws and two rickshaws at Jamal Khan Road in the port city yesterday.

The accident occurred when the driver of a private car lost his control over steering.

Car driver Md Alam, passenger Johra and rickshaw driver Abul Hashem were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in critical condition.

The people caught the driver red handed and gave him a mass beating. The other injured are auto-rickshaw passengers Mahmuda and Mahmudul Hasan, rickshaw passengers Alamgir and Sufi Md. Ilias.



PHOTO: STAR

Artists of Bangladesh Lok Sangeet Parishad render folk songs on the second day of a folk song festival organised by the Parishad and the Unesco Bangladesh at the Public Library's Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

Mymensingh Bomb Blasts Tragedy Day Bring real culprits to book without any political motive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The people here observed the Mymensingh Bomb Blasts Tragedy Day yesterday.

On this day last year, 18 people were killed and over 100 injured in a series of bomb blasts in cinemas.

Mymensingh Bomb Blasts Tragedy Day Observance Committee in observance of the day took different programmes including hoisting of black flags atop the buildings, mourning procession and rallies. To mark the day cinemas in the district town remained closed.

People from all walks of life took part in daylong programmes.

The Committee in a procession submitted separate memorandums to the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina and Home Minister Altaf

Hossain Chowdhury through local Deputy Commissioner yesterday morning.

Earlier, a rally was held in front of the DC's office. Advocate Nazrul Islam Chunnce, Advocate Emdadul Haque Nilat, Advocate Badar Ahmed, Principal Reazul Islam and leaders of Cinema Halls Employees Union addressed the rally.

A human chain was formed at Shaheed Firoj-Jahangir Square in the afternoon. During the formation of human chain, movement of vehicles was stopped for a minute to express sympathy to the bomb blast victims. Lawyers, teachers, journalists, students and injured of the blasts, and family members of the incident joined the human chain.

The speakers during the human chain said police on suspicion arrested 30 people including 15 employees of the cinemas but the real culprits are yet to be nabbed.

They urged the government to bring the real culprits to book to reveal the facts without any political motive and to drop the charges against the innocent people who have been implicated in the cinema blasts cases. The investigation into the cases is yet to be completed even after a year of the incident.

Ajanta Cinema owner Salimullah Babu lost his one leg, operator Fazal Miah two legs, Babu two legs and Liton one leg during the blasts in four cinemas- Ajanta, Chhayabani, Aloka and Purobi. Addressing the human chain they demanded rehabilitation as all the victims and their family members had been leading a sub-human life.

Noor-Jahan, Baby, Rabeya and Rabia who lost their near and dear ones also attended the rally. They burst into tears while describing their miseries to this correspondent.

Tk 100 cr ADB project to make Rajshahi city a model abode

BSS, Rajshahi

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is planning to implement a big project to develop Rajshahi city as a model abode.

According to the official sources, the proposed scheme styled "Secondary town protection and development (phase-2)" is supposed to be implemented at a cost of about Tk 100 crore.

Sources said, the government and the ADB signed a memorandum of understanding for financing the project.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) will implement their respective relevant components of the project under the supervision of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC).

The main objective of the project is to protect the city from erosion of the river Padma. In addition to construction of river preservation and a flood control embankment, some other infrastructures will be developed under the scheme scheduled to be started from August next year.

Besides, BWDB will also build a new embankment and the old ones will be renovated which will save the city from the river erosion.

Besides, proper management of the household waste under the project, existing slums and drains in the city will be developed.

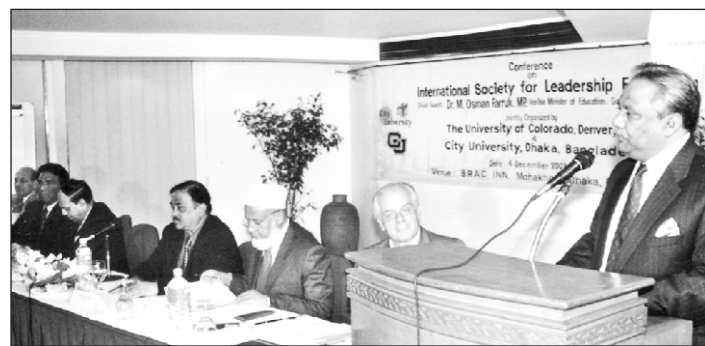
To maintain the pollution-free environment, the waste will be managed through a hygienic system and those used for producing organic fertilisers through setting up a compost plant. The RCC will

implement some other environment development programmes under the proposed scheme.

A six-member ADB team visited the proposed project sites here on Sunday and held a meeting with the officials concerned to formulate a feasibility report.

The team members included

Tony Aitken, Shafi Uddin Ahmed, Social Development Expert MS Christin Pamerlu, Hydraulic Engineer AKM Shamsul Haque, Drainage Engineer ASM Moazzem Hossain, Environment Expert Dr. Syed Latif. BWDB Chief Engineer Abdul Wazed was also present on the occasion.



Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk speaks as chief guest at a seminar on 'International leadership development' organised by the City University in collaboration with the University of Colorado at the BRAC Inn in Dhaka on Thursday.

DHAKA TODAY

Spanish film session

In association with Alliance Francaise, Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two contemporary Spanish films titled 'Intacto' (2001) by Juan Carlos Fresnadillo and 'Sex and Lucia' (2001) by Julio Medem. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Film show

The Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Charlotte Gray'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

SDEF discussion

In celebration of the Saarc Charter Day, Saarc Diploma Engineers Forum (SDEF) will hold a discussion with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Riaz Rahman as chief guest. Venue: CIRDP auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

SMRC programme

The inaugural ceremony of the programmes, taken by Saarc Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC) to mark the 19th Saarc Charter Day, will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Agargaon. Time: 9.45am.

BAPA rally

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon organises a rally demanding immediate ban on the use of insecticides on fruits and vegetables. Venue: In front of National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00pm.

Discussion

A discussion on 'Living with Acid', organised by Acid Survivors Foundation, will be held with Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: BRAC Inn, Mohakhali.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book, titled 'The Rainbow in a Heart' written by Sharmin Ahmad, will be held. Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segun Bagicha. Time: 4.30pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Spanish film session

In association with Alliance Francaise, Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two contemporary Spanish films titled 'The girl of your dreams' (1998) by Fernando Trueba and 'Goya in Bordeaux' (1999) by Gianni Amelio. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Film show

The Academy Film Society will screen a Japanese film titled 'Kwaidan'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

BNPS discussion

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) organises a discussion on the role of male in resisting repression on women in observance of Rokeya day. Venue: BNPS auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

Conference

South-South Centre, Bangladesh will hold a South Asia Conference for the prevention and treatment of Obstetric Fistula with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain as chief guest. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9.30am.

Symposium

The inaugural ceremony of the regional symposium on disability, organised by National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled, will be held with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ansar Mohammad Mojaheed as chief guest. Venue: BIAM auditorium. Time: 9.30am.

Lecture

A lecture on 'The Quranic Concept of Heaven', organised by Dev Centre for Philosophical Studies, will be held. Venue: Room no 2028, Arts Building of Dhaka University. Time: 4.00pm.

Condolence meeting

A meeting will be held to condole the death of Ahmedul Kabir, former chief editor of the daily Sangbad and veteran politician, will be held. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country till 6pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins and northern to central part of the country during morning, Met office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, it added.

Highest temperature 29.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and the lowest 12.3 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:30am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.5	15.9	88	77
Chittagong	29.7	15.8	64	51
Rajshahi	24.4	13.2	98	90
Khulna	27.0	14.8	99	86
Barisal	27.4	14.0	96	90
Sylhet	27.2	15.6	75	71
Cox's Bazar	29.5	15.5	70	74



Bangladesh Red Crescent Society delegates, including Chairman Major General (ret.) ZA Khan, attend the 14th General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at the Geneva International Seminar Room in Switzerland recently.