### Lest we forget



Munir



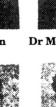








Faizul Mohi



Dr Alim



Chowdhury



Dr Rabbi

Dr Sadeque



Santosh

Bhattacharya



Shahidullah



Sirajuddin

Zahir Raihan



Saidul Hasan

FROM PAGE 12

the marks.

Rajuk's plot

ment as it found its capacity below

Members of the committee,

from both treasury and opposition

benches, came down heavily on

Rajuk staff's corruption and irregu-

objections to Rajuk between FY

1998-99 and 2000-2001, saying the

low point was the plot allocation to

the Society at a rate of Tk 3 lakh an

acre, much below the market

prices of Tk 10.70 lakh a katha in 1994 and Tk 15 lakh a katha in 1998.

The CAG's office earlier raised

objections to the cut-price sales

and asked the secretary of the

ministry to explain reasons for

such actions, but the ministry is yet

The CAG's office raised 10

## Martyred Intellectuals Day

#### FROM PAGE 1

Dr Muktadir

ties were hand picked from the city and were massacred at Rayerbazar and other killing fields.

Political, cultural and civil society organisations will reminisce about the great tragedy that took place only two days before the fall of the Pakistani army in Bangladesh at the end of a ninemonth war.

To mark the day, different socio-cultural and political organisations have planned elaborate progra-mmes, including discussions and wreath-laying at Mirpur and Rayerbazar monuments.

The Awami League, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) will hold discussion meetings on the occa-

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi will hold discussion meet-ing and cultural function to mark

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the eve of the Martyred Intellectuals Day.

In his message, the president described the brutal killing of the country's intellectuals by the occupation forces with the help of local collaborators on the eve of victory as a black chapter in our national history.

"The nation will never forget the evil design of the killers, and the supreme sacrifice of the intellectuals will inspire all to be imbued with patriotism," the president said.

He paid homage to the martyred intellectuals and prayed for eternal peace of their souls

Khaleda in her message said.

'The supreme sacrifice of the intellectuals will be meaningful only if we can work together for the welfare of the country, sinking all differ-

Dr Aminuddin

She conveyed sympathy to the members of the martyred intellectuals' families

Sheikh Hasina called upon the people to build a vigorous movement against "unholy forces" to uphold the spirit of the War of Independence to pave the way for a democratic and non-communal

statement yesterday also paid tributes to the martyred intellectu-

# Chowdhury defended the allotments, saying the moves were aimed at welfare of the Society.

"As the Society does not work for the welfare of people, there is no need to allocate them government plots." said Sultan Mahmud Babu a committee member. Other members of the committee echoed his

Responding to a query of the CAG's office, the secretary about 200 kathas of the Gulshan-Banani lake fell to grabbers hands. Of the land, 142 kathas have been recovered, he added.

### BB fines

FROM PAGE 1

among banks of taking deposits at high rates, which pushes up lending rates as well.

declared rates on deposits.

practices to managers often scurrving to fulfil their deposit target by paying high rates. Sometimes, high

age point more than their declared rates.

Sources said the central bank will also warn the chief executive officers of the banks to avoid such practices in future.

### Block 9 drilling

early December.

This exploratory well drilling that fell under the second round block bidding two years back also marked the maiden venture for any Bangladeshi company to operate alongside foreign oil giants with a share of 10 percent.

second well in the Gumti river area a month after the Kashimpur operation. As per the PSC, which was signed on April 11, 2001, they are scheduled to drill another well before April 2004.

The oil companies would spend about 6 million dollars for each of these wells.

## A case for justice

ministry," Munshi Atiqur Rahman, investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star last night. "The file was sent to the law ministry. don't know what happened to it.'

Prof. Farida accused two Al-Badr members -- Chowdhury Mainuddin and Ashrafuzzaman, now living in London -- for the killing of her brother.

The CID conducted an intensive probe during which it talked to the families of the martyred teachers of Dhaka University, other teachers and students of that time and watched the sensational British Channel 4 programme, War Crimes File, to get cues on more

The CID also sought Interpol's help and the British government assured it of help in the investiga-

The CID made 40 persons as

witnesses to the case. According to the witnesses, Chowdhury Mainuddin, who then worked at The Pakistan Observer, and Ashrafuzzaman, a student of

wielding firearms. I went to a local

stall to have some food when local

people and Muktishenas (freedom

fighters) encircled us. Some youths

placed a garland in my neck, which

was the happiest moment of my

"'Joy Bangla' (Long live Bangla), 'Amar Sonar Bangla' (My Golden Bangla) and 'Amar Neta Sheikh

Mujib' (My leader is Sheikh Mujib)

were the three slogans the liber-

ated Bangalees mostly chanted just

tant foreign assignment of my life,"
Usui says. "I have seen the joys of
the people of this country a day
after the surrender of the occupa-

He was working with Ryudo, a

monthly Japanese magazine on political and social issues, and

National Radio Network of Japan.

He is now a freelancer-cumeditorial advisor of Science-News,

About the present-day Bangladesh, Usui says, "I am really

impressed that Bangladesh has

come a long way over the last 32

The Japanese journalist is

exhibiting the photographs themed, "Amar Dekha Bijoy" (The victory I have witnessed), at the

Liberation War Museum gallery at Segun Bagicha in Dhaka. The exhibition starting on December

10 will remain open to public until

the overwhelming joys of the victorious Muktibahani and com-

moners including boys, girls and

Thirty photographs capturing

"It was the first and most impor-

life," Usui fondly recalls.

a day after the victory.

tion forces in 1971".

a magazine.

December 17.

FROM PAGE 1

Smiles of victory

Dhaka University, picked up eight university teachers -- Dr Murtaza, Dr Fayezul Mohi, Dr Abul Khayer, Prof. Rashidul Hasan , Prof. Anwai Pasa, Prof. Serajul Haq, Dr Santosh Bhattacharva and Dr. Gias Uddin -on December 14.

Mainuddin Ashrafuzzaman, armed with rifles, came to the campus by a East Pakistan Road Transport Corporation bus and took the teachers to an unspecified place. Their mutilated bodies were found on January 5 at Mirpur killing field.

While the investigation was going on, a former top criminal awyer late Serajul Haque said "a fruitful result cannot be expected if the trial of the case is conducted under the existing law of the land". Therefore, the trial of the case should be conducted under the International War Crimes Act, he

Under the act, a complaint may be lodged or trial may be conducted regarding all crimes against humanity such as murder, exter-

youths have been put on display.

the ones of a hand-sewn flag flying

atop a shop at a village bazaar of Jessore, Mitra Bhahini boarding a

moving tank, Bangalee teenagers celebrating the victory in a colour-

ful procession and locals congratu-

lating the triumphant allied forces.

Besides, photos of refugees

lining up for meals at a camp in India, a mentally deranged old woman at the Salt Lake refugee

camp, a local leader announcing the news of the surrender of

Pakistani army and victory on a megaphone at the Race Course

Maidan in Khulna and defeated

Pakistani soldiers being taken to

Usui will share his memories of independence with different

professionals today at the

beration War Museum premises

before leaving for Japan on

Division Sarak Paribahan Malik Sramik Oikya Parishad yielded nothingresult.

The major demand of the Parishad is stopping Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) services in Sylhet.

Meanwhile, the people of Jaintapur, Kanaighat and Gowainghat upazila said they will continue the boycott of bus and minibus services until resumption offull-fledged BRTC services.

Moves so far taken by the

administration and the political

leaders to settle the stalemate went

elsewhere on a car.

December 18.

Sylhet

Among the 30 photographs are

mination, enslavement, deportation, imprisonment, confinement, torture, rape or other inhuman acts committed against any civilian population on political, racial, ethnic or religious grounds.

The government may, by an official gazette notification, set up one or more tribunals each consisting of a chairman and not less than two and not more than four other members, Haque noted.

It is not the only time that a

After the independence, the government ordered an inquiry into the killings and a deputy superintendent of police started investigation. But he could not complete the probe after the August 1975 killings and change of government.

#### Police

#### FROM PAGE 1

UNDP," said State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar, who received the 'Project Support Document' from Jorgen Lissner, the resident representative of the UNDP in Dhaka.

"We're very much hopeful that we'll be able to bring a total change to the police administration."

In November, the UNDP submitted a 100-page need assessment report, Strengthening of Bangladesh Police, prepared by national and foreign experts.

The UNDP proposed to develop the existing police force, giving new assignments to constables.

It said the 1.9 lakh-member police force had 80,000 constables and lacked in investigation officers that leads to a stack of non-probed

"The quality of investigation is also suffering for want of investiga-tion officers," the UN agency observed. According to sources, the World

provide loan for the project. The UNDP report also asked to cut political pressure on the force and promote efficient people as

Bank expressed its readiness to

officers Every officer-in-charge should be trained to deal with media professionals, the report said,

asking the police to do homework before any arrest. Home Secretary Muhammad Omar Farooq, Inspector General of Police Shahudul Haque, UNDP Programme Officer Manjurul Kabir

were present at the document handover event. Sources said the document would be discussed at a workshop on police reforms and criminal justice at the Prime Minister's

Office on December 19.

and senior Special Branch officials

probe into the killings has run out of steam.

the project were stopped after the BNP-Jamaat coalition came to

#### Benazir

that a meeting between Musharraf, the man who wields the "real power" in Pakistan, and the Indian Prime Minister would take place.

"This is just as well as the Pakistani Premier's position is presently ceremonial and will remain so until power is transferred to parliament," Benazir, who was dismissed as prime minister in 1996 said

### Poura chairman

appeal and directed him to surrender before the special tribunal

At this, he filed a petition seeking leave to appeal with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court but it was also rejected.

Absar has been absent from the pourasava for the last three months. Official sources said more than a dozen corruption cases against him are now either under trial or investigation.

FROM PAGE 1

The victims alleged they went half-fed every day, were tortured for expressing inability to do hard jobs and given no pay. People guarding them also subjected them to sodomy, the boys alleged.

hideouts maintained by fish trad-

### Jamal's son

#### FROM PAGE 12

before. So he cannot die just because he was 'scared' while on police remand or during questioning. No-one will believe that Amar died a natural death," the source

Meanwhile, a three-men committee headed Deputy Commissioner of Čhittagong Metropolitan Police's Riot Control Division Noor Mohammad vesterday started probing Amar's death.

### 2 more flyovers

posal involving Tk 3.43 crore.

Official sources said the government would soon award contract to the selected firm for carrying a detailed feasibility study.

A high-profile meeting held yesterday with Local Government Division Secretary AYBI Siddiqui in the chair agreed to expedite the construction of the flyovers.

Official sources said the KFAED is expected to provide loan for the project, as well.

### Beneficiaries

FROM PAGE 12 will determine the number of

the benefits. The previous Awami League government introduced the scheme in July 1997 with an initial

fund of Tk 26 crore and a monthly

senior citizens to be eligible for

allowance of Tk 100 each. The BNP government put further emphasis on the scheme by including it in its Poverty Reduction Programme. The allocation for old-age allowance this fiscal is Tk 180 crore.

At present, a committee of two locally reputed persons headed by a ward member or ward commissioner selects persons for the

Noted researcher of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Binayak Sen said Gram Sarkar cannot be fully entrusted with the selection job. "Gram Sarkar bodies were formed hastily and if they prepare a list, there is a great chance that it will have political preference. It will not be desirable at the present stage of formation of Gram Sarkar to hand over the responsibility to it," he pointed

Sen said he also proposed to the cabinet committee to give more emphasis on areas like Rangpur, where poverty is severe.

But Saifur said it might not be possible to do so right now. He however added it could be possible to divert more funds to the poorest districts from budgets of the old district level or A-grade municipal

## Left-alliance hartal

FROM PAGE 1 was treated at the DMCH.

Rashed Khan Menon, coordinator of the 11-party left alliance and president of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh, also came with other senior leaders tried to rescue fellow workers. During the police swoop Menon fell on the street. However, he did not receive

serious injury. Police were seen clubbing and kicking the pro-hartal pickets indiscriminately during the attack Some of the pickets lay on the street to prevent traffic movement.

Left-wing leaders blamed police for attacking the hartal pickets, specially women, without any provocation. But Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ashraful Huda at a press briefing refuted the allega-tion and said policemen were compelled to chase the pro-hartal pickets as they were pelting stones

at vehicles. Addressing a post-hartal rally at city's Muktangon, 11-party alliance leaders announced a fresh action programme including twohour rail and road blockade from 12:00 noon to 2:00pm on January 8 as part of their continuous anti-

government agitation programme. The hartal hours in Dhaka were marked by the movement of few motorised vehicles on the roads, closure of business establishments, shopping malls and educational institutions. Inter-district buses stayed off the road. Activities in government offices and banks went on with poor staff attendance.

Armed policemen stood guard at various points to crack down on troublemakers.

Movement of rickshaws yesterday, unlike other hartal days, was thin on city streets as a strike called by Rickshaw Malik Oikya Jote (an alliance of rickshaw owners) coincided with the 11-party alliance hartal call. The rickshaw owners called the strike to protest government measures making different city roads off-limit to rickshaws and demanding renewal of rickshawlicences.

the present government by observing the hartal spontaneously. They announced a demonstration in the city tomorrow in protest of yesterday's police 'atrocities.'

wing leaders said people have expressed their no-confidence in

At Muktangon rally the left-

#### Iraqi army

FROM PAGE 12

40,000 members of light infantry battalions by next October. That contradicts reports that the U.S. military had scaled back that goal.

#### Hasina paid tribute to the martyred intellectuals and conveyed sympathy to their families.

Former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury in a

They also pledged to prevent anti-liberation elements from

visiting the martyred intellectuals'

graveyard and the national mauso-

Presided over by Rashed Khan

Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Dilip Barua,

Nurur Rahman Selim, among

Chittagong reports: The dawn-to-dusk hartal passed off peacefully in

normally with few passengers but motorised vehicles stayed off the

roads till late noon affecting city life

Chittagong Port was disrupted,

Bata Union Parishad and is now in

the custody of Char Jabbar Police

Earlier on Thursday night, he fled the jungle and took shelter at

Sikder told reporters he was

commander in-charge of

Banshkhali area and had five other

operatives with him. He also said

Bashar Majhi called all his opera-

tives at Janata Bazar before the

police raid on December 6 and

gang, paying them Tk 300 to Tk 500  $\,$ 

each. He then asked them to flee

Bashar kept all the arms, ammu-

Masum, 29, and Nabi, 15, two

nition and mobile phones with him

and fled to deep forest in Carring

Char. Police are combing the area.

operatives of Nabyachhora gang',

surrendered to Nabir Bazar Police

Meanwhile, Md. Selim, chair-

man of Char Clerk Union Parishad.

recovered an abandoned country-

made gun and a hand-mike of Red

Crescent from Kerani Bazar yester-

day. He handed those over to Char

Police and paramilitary

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in a joint

raid yesterday evening seized a

local-made gun, a pipe-gun, a rifle

and five bullets and as many

machetes and spears from Naler

irked by plans -- championed by

Paris and Berlin at the height of

strains over Iraq -- to establish a separate military headquarters, branding them "the most serious

Jabbar Police Station.

EU adopts

threat" to NATO's future.

dismissed' all members of his

Naler Char

his house at Char Bata.

the port city.

FROM PAGE 1

the area.

Camp.

Our staff correspondent from

Train service and flights ran

Delivery of goods to and from

leum today and on December 16.

to reply At the committee meeting yesterday, Housing and Public Works Secretary Aminur Rahman and Rajuk Chairman Iqbal Uddin

Earlier, the central bank instructed the banks that they cannot take deposits at rates higher than the declared ones. On the other hand, many bankers had complained to the central bank that they cannot cut rates as some banks secretly pay more than the

Banking sources put down such

rates are offered to bank insiders. The BB has found that the six banks had even offered 3 percent-

BB inspection teams had visited 37 branches of 26 banks to reveal the anomalies.

FROM PAGE 12 drilling programme ahead that was originally scheduled to begin from October 14, then shifted to mid-November, late November and

The block partners will drill a

Considered as a highly prospective zone, Block 9 is situated at the heart of country's gas pipeline network, a location that gives a built-in advantage to explorers to mobilise equipment as well as the access to the national gas grid.

### Hasina demands FROM PAGE 1

Addressing the meeting, Hasina strongly condemned police action on activists of the 11-Party Alliance, including Rashed Khan Menon, during yesterday's hartal.

She said the BNP-Jamaat coalition government could give nothing to the people but terrorism, corruption, politicisation and nenotice.

"They have made the country a safe haven for the communal groups... People are burnt to death, angry mobs lynch people and human rights are violated in every sphere of the society," she said.

People are now fed up as the coalition government has been "misusing" its power and has failed to establish good governance.

Referring to lynching incidents Referring to lynching incidents in Noakhali, Hasina asked why people in the constituency of the law minister would take the law in their hand. "People have lost their faith in the government and that's the cause of such brutal incidents," she said.

She said the previous Awami League government had planned to set up Swadhinata Stambha at Suhrawardy Udyan but works on

#### FROM PAGE 12

with "everyone" and this indicated

#### FROM PAGE 12 ment. The High Court rejected his

within a month.

### Coastguard

Saber Majhi brought the boys to Dublar Char from Chittagong promising lucrative jobs. Then they were forced to do hard works like fishing in the Bay.

Meanwhile, a combing operation by coast guards is going on in Dublar Char to unearth, such