

ZIA SMRITI COMPLEX, WTC GROUNDBREAKING WORK INAUGURATED

Zia's dev plan for Ctg to continue: PM

UNB, Chittagong

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated the Shaheed Zia Smriti Complex at Kalurghat from where Ziaur Rahman had proclaimed independence of the country.

The prime minister also inaugurated the groundbreaking work of Chittagong World Trade Centre at Agrabad, the commercial hub of the port city.

Addressing the inaugural function of the Zia Complex, Khaleda said Zia had elevated himself above all breaking the boundary of a person and a family. "At his martyrdom the country as well as the nation had been affected much more than of a person and a family. So we're paying respect to him on behalf of the whole nation," she told the function.

Khaleda said the initiative to construct the Zia Smriti Complex was taken to preserve the memory of historic proclamation of the independence.

She thanked the Liberation War Affairs Ministry and other concerned for being able to implement the initiative in just one and half years.

She said 'Bir Chattala' was one of the favourite cities of Zia and he had played a significant role in ensuring development and welfare of Chittagong and the Chittagonians.

Khaleda assured that their efforts would continue in the future for full implementation of Zia's development plans for Chittagong.

She said Zia is the great proclaimer of independence and one of the successful heroic leaders of the War of Liberation.

She said late Zia restored multi-party democracy from one party autocratic system, presented the nation a new flag of dignified identity through establishing state sovereignty and gave all an identity of Bangladeshi nationality.

She said Zia had inspired the frustrated nation with a new working zeal and determination.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Rezaul Karim also spoke at the function.

**WORLD TRADE CENTRE**  
Addressing the World Trade Centre groundbreaking function, she said today's slogan would be "not aid, but

trade and production is prosperity".

She said there is no alternative to development of technology, building a knowledge-based society and maintaining the forward march for achieving the millennium development goals.

He said government and private initiatives have to be coordinated to maintain the congenial atmosphere of industrialisation, investment and law and order.

The prime minister said all concerned, including the ruling and opposition parties, will have to remain alert so that no one's activity, decision or step can encourage the terrorists and the lawbreakers to implement their evil designs.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury MP, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury also spoke at the function. Ministers, MPs, businessmen and investors were present at the function.

Khaleda spent a hectic day here inaugurating and laying the foundation stones of a good number of projects.



PHOTO: STAR

Zayed, a nine-year-old girl from Feni who works as a domestic help at the residence of a BDR official in Dianpur, was brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital by her uncle yesterday after she was tortured allegedly by the wife of the official.

SAVE COURT, SAVE COUNTRY

Lawyers stage demonstration today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad, a platform of lawyers, will stage country-wide demonstration today with a slogan 'Save the Court Save the Country' protesting ruling BNP-Jamaat alliance's recent moves for politicisation of the Supreme Court.

In a statement, they said the latest examples of politicisation are the appointment of Justice Md Zouin Abedin in the appellate division superseding three senior justices and appointment of Foyzal Mahmud Foyzi as justice only on political ground ignoring charges of certificate forgery against him.

It also said the ruling alliance has filed false cases against eleven prominent lawyers, including three former presidents of Supreme Court Bar Association to materialise their evil design.

1,475 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,475 people from across the country on various charges in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law enforcers also seized nine firearms, 20 bullets and 50gm explosives.



PHOTO: STAR

Angry clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents vandalise cranes and other vehicles inside the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Kamalapur in the city yesterday protesting serious backlog in delivering containers.

One third of countrymen have no access to media

Media experts tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Diversification of mass media is widening up the information gap between the rich and the poor, said the media experts at a national workshop yesterday.

They said almost one third of countrymen especially in rural areas have no access to regular media.

The experts emphasised that the diversification of mass media should take place in a pro-poor way so that the majority of media dark or media poor people have greater access to a wider array of broadcasting channels.

They said despite diversification of satellite TV channels, a large portion of countrymen have no regular access to them as only 0.6 percent of rural households have cable connection.

On the other hand, Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Bangladesh Betar enjoying the state monopoly have reduced the interest of people in having media access, they added.

The national workshop titled 'Diversification of broadcasting media in Bangladesh: Development implications' was organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) at its conference room in Gulshan in the city.

The media experts suggested establishment of a permanent and independent National Broadcasting Commission to regulate media and give autonomy to BTV and Bangladesh Betar so that they can broadcast people-oriented programmes.

They also urged the government to enact legislation for creating public service broadcasting, private commercial broadcasting and community broadcasting system.

Dr Golam Rahman, professor of mass communication and journalism department of Dhaka University, said print media is inaccessible to those who are illiterate or have low education level.

Besides, print media is often unavailable in rural areas while Internet remains primarily the preserve of the urban, wealthy and educated elite, he added.

Dr Rahman said only broadcasting media can cut literacy barriers for reaching information to poor and marginalised groups.

Shahab Enam Khan, lecturer in international relations department of Jahangirnagar University, said the recent growth of media has had very little impact on poor in rural areas.

"A total of 28.5 percent of all

Bangladeshis have no access to regular media," he said terming this group as 'media dark' in his research.

Shahab who presented the keynote paper titled 'Media in development: Linkages between socio-economic development and diversified media in Bangladesh', pointed out that only 10 percent of all households and 0.6 percent of households in rural areas have a satellite or cable connection.

Speaking as chief guest Information Minister M Shamsul Islam said it is very important to establish National Broadcasting Commission and enact Broadcasting Act for the greater interest of the nation.

"Such initiatives should be implemented immediately in order to ensure many positive benefits of a diversified broadcasting media," he added.

Asafuddowlah, editor-in-chief of

The Bangladesh Today, said, "Cameras should move in search of news, not for the ministers."

Awami League leader and former legislator Saber Hossain Chowdhury said five private TV channels have been allowed to broadcast considering the political interest of BNP-led four-party alliance government.

Ramendu Majumdar, a cultural personality, said community radio should be launched to reach information to marginalised poor people in rural areas.

BEI Chairman Farooq Sobhan moderated the workshop which was participated by Chairman of the Press Institute of Bangladesh Sadek Khan, Naser Rahman MP, Assistant Editor of The Daily Star Zafar Sobhan, Media personality Aly Zaker and Amader Samoy Editor Naimul Islam Khan.

JANATA TOWER Hearing on petition for attachment of land Sept 28

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed September 28 for hearing on the petition filed by the decree-holder Uttara Bank Limited against Rawshan Ershad for attachment of 12 kathas of land along with its 14-storied building "Janata Tower" at Karwan Bazar and her residence at Gulshan on 33 decimal land.

After the Sunday's hearing from Rawshan's lawyers, Judge Khondaker Hassan Mohammad Firoz of Arthain Adalat-2 revived the petition filed by the bank on August 24 last year seeking an appropriate order for attachment of the suit lands.

The court also directed the decree-holder Uttara Bank Limited to publish advertisements in the national dailies—Amar Desh and Khobarpatra newspapers asking the Janata Publishers Limited and its three directors except Rawshan to explain why the decree of attachment of their properties would not be executed.

Rawshan and others took a house loan of Tk 3.5 crore from the Motijheel branch of Uttara Bank Limited, in 1990. But they failed to pay the money in time, even though there was a contract for payment of the money.

Later on January 1 in 2004, the bank filed a money suit against Rawshan and others for realisation of the loan money taken from it.

After taking statements of the bank officials, the same court on July 12, 2004 directed Rawshan and five others to pay Tk 5,09,87,472.65 against the house loan of Tk 3.5 crore.

The court also directed Rawshan and five others to pay the decreed money within 60 days from the day of delivery of the verdict. If they fail to pay, the bank can realise the money from them as per law, the court added.

On January 13 last year, the bank filed a suit claiming Tk 9,99,64,279.65 with interest as Rawshan and others failed to pay up within the stipulated time. The bank also gave the schedules of lands on Janata Tower and Rawshan's residence of Gulshan area for attachment.

US VISAS FOR BANGLADESHIS

Non-machine readable passports to make no differences

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Non-machine readable passports would make no differences to Bangladeshi citizens' chances of getting US visas, said Chief of Consular Section of American Embassy Elizabeth P Gourlay yesterday.

After 9/11, the State Department has been scrutinising the details of the bi-data of each applicant for security reasons, resulting in unusual delay in issuing visas, she said.

However, the embassy is trying to get the visa system up and running, she added.

Elizabeth P Gourlay was speaking at a luncheon meeting organised by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Bangladesh at a city hotel. She suggested Bangladeshis

seekers should contact the embassy far ahead of their deadlines.

Though the embassy gives priority to some cases, general applicants have been asked to apply with 90 days in hand and students seeking visas will have to prove that they qualify for it.

The rate of visas issued to Bangladeshi students is on the rise, said Gourlay.

Last year, 49 percent of the student applicants were granted visas, up by 10 percentage points compared to the previous year, she added.

AmCham President Andrew L Fawthrop moderated the meeting while US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis, AmCham Bangladesh Vice-President Syed Ershad Ahmed and Executive Director A Gafur were also present.



PHOTO: STAR

National Committee for Protection of Oil-Gas-Mineral Resources-Electricity-Port takes out a procession at Muktagan in the city yesterday in support of today's hartal and protesting police attack on people at Phulbari.

ASSAULT OF FEMALE STUDENT JCD cadres threaten JU cultural activists

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dai (JCD) cadres who assaulted a female student and injured three others on Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus on August 21 have been threatening cultural activists who are carrying out programmes in support of a two-point demand, including punishment to the culprits involved.

Sayed, the main accused, gave a threat to Shimul Salauddin, member secretary of Jahangirnagar Sangskritik Jote, over his cell phone as the Jote held a cultural programme yesterday to press the demand.

Sayed warned that Shimul would face dire consequences when he returns to dormitory. Both of them are students of Meer Musharraf

Hossain hall. Shimul did not go back to his hall since receiving the threat.

The JCD cadres staying in the hall also threatened other students not to attend any programmes against JCD activists.

The other demand is formulation of a code of conduct against repression and establishment of a cell to investigate the allegations of repression.

Students Against Repression on Campus, a platform of students, formed a human chain on the campus at 1:00pm yesterday to press the demands.

Jahangirnagar Theatre (JT) also staged a street play called 'Ekti Non-Fiction' at 11:30am. An open discussion on repression was also held.



PHOTO: STAR

Covering their faces with black cloths, employees of Ekushey Television (ETV) form a human chain in front of their office in the city yesterday to mark the 4th year of closure of the channel.