

Vow to bring war criminals to book

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in a meeting yesterday vowed to bring the war criminals to book, if AL-led 14-party combine and LDP together are voted to power in the next general election.

Islamic Conference (OIC) Arshaduzzaman also joined LDP in yesterday's meeting. Now politicians are being killed by the 'crossfire of law', said LDP President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury in the meeting. On the High Court verdict on former president HM Ershad, he said the verdict raised questions. He also demanded to defer the election by a month.

because the bank did not approve a loan proposal by his son, he alleged. LDP Executive President Col Oli Ahmed said BNP government has rewarded the Jamaat leaders who were collaborators during our liberation war. He pledged to bring the war criminals to justice if LDP and 14-party combine together win the upcoming election.

Call to ratify UN Convention on rights of persons with disabilities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion have urged the government to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. They said the Convention, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in New York on Wednesday, sets out in details the rights of physically challenged persons, including their civil and political rights.

Country Representative Mosharrif Hossain, at a press briefing, said the Convention is the result of a prolonged struggle to eliminate discrimination against the persons with disability. He also called upon the authorities to ensure a supportive environment in the polling centres so that 75 lakh physically challenged voters can exercise their right to franchise in the upcoming election.

parliament. Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University said the government would not have to face much financial involvement to implement the Convention. "If the government ratifies the Convention, it will help get financial assistance from the donor organisations," he added.

Robbery in 11 houses in Narsingdi

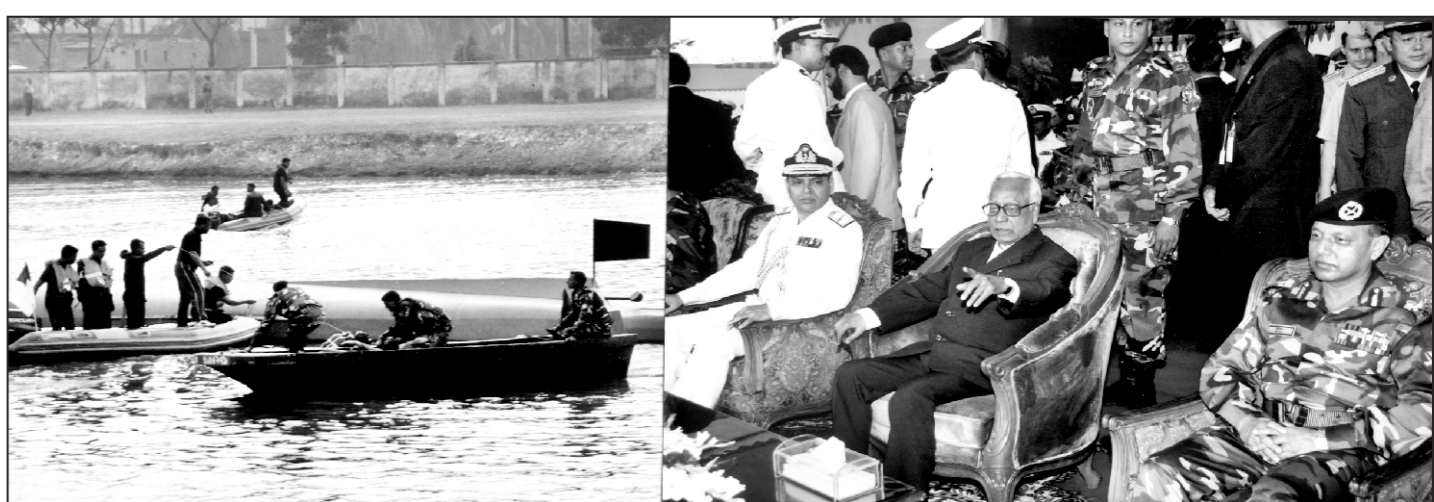
UNB, Narsingdi

Armed robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 20 lakh from 11 houses in Kandapara area of the town in the early hours of yesterday. Sources said a gang of 30 or 40 robbers swooped on the houses of Dulal Saha, Tara Banik, Suvash and Boley -- all traders of Narsingdi Bazar -- at Dakkhin Kandapara area at about 1:30 am. The robbers also stabbed Dulal and Tara when they tried to resist the gang. The injured were rushed to Sadar hospital.

Jubo Dal leader shot dead

UNB, Narsingdi

A Jubo Dal leader was shot dead by unknown assailants in Ghoshpara area of the town early yesterday. The dead was identified as Badal Khan, 38, a member of the executive committee of Jubo Dal district unit and general secretary of ward-7 of Sadar pourashava unit. Witnesses said the assailants wearing masks stormed into the house of Badal breaking open the door at about 3:30am. They stabbed him indiscriminately and opened fire on him, leaving him dead.



President/Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed witnesses rescue operations demonstrated by the armed forces after inaugurating a military hardware display at the National Parade Square in the city yesterday.

Deferring election date impossible: Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is quite impossible to defer the date of general election, reiterated former law minister Moudud Ahmed at a roundtable yesterday. The constitution does not give anybody the power to hold election after 90 days of the caretaker government, he added. The roundtable titled 'Democracy and Judiciary: Current Concern' was organised jointly by National Integration and Development Council (NIDC) and Caucus of Young Legal Professionals at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Court (SC) on November 30 by pro-Awami League (AL) lawyers, he said the Chief Justice's (CJ) order to stay the proceedings of writ petitions challenging the legality of the president's taking over as chief adviser was not unprecedented. Such stay order also took place earlier, and what the senior lawyers could do on that day was to request the CJ to review the stay order instead of creating a bad example for the young lawyers by vandalising different sections of the Supreme Court, Moudud added.

the speakers said it was a criminal offence and it took place under the direct provocation of a group of senior lawyers. Demanding their exemplary punishment, they said the pro-AL lawyers attacked the institution which is the safeguard of the constitution. NIDC Executive Director Dr Mahfuj Parvez presided over the discussion while former general secretary of Bangladesh Political Science Association Prof Hasan Mohammad presented the keynote paper.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion organised by AL at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday marking the Martyred Intellectuals Day.

RU campus tense over holding of cultural function at same venue

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University (RU) unit of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote yesterday protested the cancellation order of the director of the Teachers Students Cultural Centre (TSSC) to hold its scheduled function on the campus. Taking a written permission from the TSSC authorities on December 10, the Jote decided to hold a two-day cultural function on the premises of Martyred Memory Archive on December 16 and 17 to observe the Victory Day. However, in the morning the TSSC authorities sent a letter to Jote president and general secretary mentioning that the Bikalpa Sangskritik Sangstha, a cultural organisation of Islamic Chhatra Shibir, will hold their functions at that venue on December 16 and 17.

CA blamed for trying to hold polls as per BNP-Jamaat design

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Manjurul Ahsan Khan yesterday said the chief adviser (CA) to the caretaker government (CG) is working to hold the election according to the design of the BNP-Jamaat alliance. At a discussion at the party office in the city, he said the CG is yet to implement the demands of reconstituting the election commission (EC). Manjurul said the EC is also dilly-dallying to correct the updated voter roll.



BNP leaders at a discussion organised by BNP at Ramna Botomul in the city yesterday on the occasion of the Victory Day.

C'wealth photography competition

UNB, Dhaka

Commonwealth Press Union (CPU) has invited photographs for the '2006-07 Commonwealth Photographic Awards'. The theme for the award this year is 'Achievement'. This is an open competition for all Commonwealth residents. The deadline is January 17, 2007. The photographs will be judged on the interpretation of the theme as well as technical quality, said a press release.

WEATHER TODAY. No change in temperature. UNB, Dhaka

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature, Humidity in percentage, and Humidity in celsius. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, and Cox's Bazar.



Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited awarded scholarships to 160 meritorious and needy students, including 10 visually impaired students, who passed SSC examination this year and are studying at HSC level in different colleges. Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, governor of Bangladesh Bank, gave away scholarship awarding letters to the students at a simple ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city on Wednesday. Md Yeasin Ali, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank, presided over the function. Additional Managing Director of the bank AHM Nazmul Quadir was also present.

Chhadim High School students finally get back SSC certificates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Madhaiya Chhadim High School at Chandina in Comilla finally got back their Secondary School Certificate (SSC) certificates and mark sheets recently, thanks to the intervention of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), says a press release. The headmaster of the school kept the certificates and mark sheets of 50 students under his possession in order to force them to enrol in a college established by a former lawmaker.

Duja convening committee formed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) yesterday formed a nine-member convening committee with Masum Al Zaki of The Bangladesh Observer as convener and Sheikh Adnan Fahad of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) as member secretary, says a press release. The committee was formed at a general meeting at Duja office on Thursday night, after announcing the executive committee dissolved, as its tenure expired on October 22.

DHAKA TODAY logo.

- Musical evening 3:00pm. Asia Shilpa O' Sanskriti Sabha organises a musical evening with Tagore songs. Venue: 62 Science Laboratory Road. Time: 6:00pm. Cultural programme. Swid Bangladesh and Khilgaon Girls' High School will present a cultural programme at the last day of the weeklong Victory Festival organised by Liberation War Museum. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 10:00am. Concert. Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment (ARISE) presents the first ever concert by street children. Venue: In front of Wasa Bhaban, Karwan Bazar. Time: 3:00pm. Photography exhibition. A photography exhibition on liberation war, organised by High Commission of India, will begin. Venue: dance and Music Teaching Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 12:00noon. The exhibition will run till December 31 from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Commemoration. With the theme 'Peace', United Nations organises a programme commemorating the 35th Victory Day of Bangladesh. Venue: Plenary Hall, Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:00am. Vaccination programme. Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital (JBFH) organises a vaccination programme to mark the Victory Day. Venue: Vaccination centre, JBFH. Time: 10:00am.



Police picked up a number of Jatiya Party activists who vandalised vehicles at Paltan intersection in the city yesterday to protest High Court's verdict that handed party Chairman HM Ershad two year's imprisonment.

Military hardware exhibition opens

BSS, Dhaka

Army paratroopers descended from the sky while air force jets staged spectacular flypasts as President Iajuddin Ahmed opened a military hardware display yesterday marking the Victory Day. Three F-7 and A-5 air force fighter jets flew past in low altitude releasing coloured smoke to salute the president as soon as he inaugurated the military hardware display releasing colourful balloons and cutting a red ribbon at the National Parade Square in the city. Army chief Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed, Navy chief Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan, Air Force chief Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam and Principal Staff Officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces Division Major General Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury received the president at the display venue organised jointly by the three services. "Dare devil army commandos" came down hanging in ropes from makeshift high towers while navy troops demonstrated their under-sea operations as the president went round various stalls and pavilions set up by the three services and witnessed both light and heavy weapons and equipment in different stalls. The Bangladesh Navy erected a model ship BNS Ali Haider at the display site where the Air Force demonstrated their fighter jets, helicopters and transport planes, and the Army showed their war hardware, including tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery guns. Meanwhile, an ISPR press release said the display would remain open for all from 9:00am to 5:00pm on December 16-18 and 20-22.

47 Armed Forces personnel get honorary commission

BSS, Dhaka

A total of 47 Armed Forces personnel, 41 from Bangladesh Army and six from Bangladesh Navy, have been granted honorary commission and promotion on the occasion of the Victory Day. Fifteen Honorary Lieutenants were promoted to the rank of Honorary Captain in the active list of the Bangladesh Army. On the other hand, 26 Master Warrant Officers of the Bangladesh Army and 6 Master Chief Petty Officers of the Bangladesh Navy received Honorary Commission. These honorary promotion and honorary commission will be effective from December 16, an ISPR press release said yesterday.

TRIPLE MURDER 3 arrested in Joypurhat

BSS, Rangpur

Police arrested three members of a notorious robbers and muggers gang from village Baroil in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat in the early hours of yesterday in connection with the Khetlal triple murder case, official sources said. Police said that the motive behind the three on-duty village defense police (VDP) personnel killing at village Fanshitola under Mamudpur union of Khetlal upazila is now becoming clear. A joint police team of several thanas picked up suspected killers Anisur Rahman, 25, Shahadat Shomajder, 26, and Kamruzzaman, 26, of village Baroil in nearby Akkelpur upazila in the small hours of today. The arrested persons are being interrogated at Khetlal police station, the officials said. Three on-duty VDP personnel were slaughtered by some miscreants in the village Fanshitola in the early hours of Thursday. They are Abdul Jalil, 45, of village Aymapur, Bachchu Mia, 46, of village Rasulpur-Mamudpur and Roich Uddin, 48, of village Baroil under the same union.