

# Immediate trial of Ershad rejected

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Tuesday rejected the demand for immediate trial of deposed President Ershad, saying "laws will take care of the trial," reports UNB.

"Laws are equally applicable to all. I'm a judge and so it is not possible for me to accept a demand which is incompatible with law," he said.

The Acting President stated this in his address to the nation over radio and television tonight responding to demand raised by people, students and political parties for sending Ershad to jail and putting him on trial within a few days.

He however said that a three member inquiry commission was investigating the charges of corruption and abuse of power against Ershad.

The commission has so far received nearly 1,000 allegations against Ershad and his associates. It was impossible for his interim government to dispose of all these allegations immediately. Justice

Shahabuddin said.

Explaining the reason for placing Ershad under house arrest, he said people's anger rose when the former President in a statement said he would return to power soon.

Ershad was removed from his official residence in Cantonment in the interest of national security.

An eight-member committee headed by a Metropolitan Magistrate made a seizure list of articles found at his Cantonment residence in presence of his representative, a close relative.

The committee recovered taka one crore 91 lakh and 8 unlicensed firearms.

Justice Shahabuddin said the Bureau of Anti-Corruption has charged Ershad for possessing illegal firearms and embezzlement of public funds.

He said next actions against Ershad will be taken after submission of report by the inquiry commission.



**A GULF WAR IN DHAKA CITY**— While the multinational forces and the Iraqi troops are at the moment poised to hit each other in the Gulf region, two rival groups for and against President Saddam Hussein in Dhaka city briefly fought a pitched battle, setting afire a dias. It was built by the returnees from Kuwait and Iraq for holding a rally condemning Iraqi annexation. The rally, scheduled to be held on Wednesday, was later put off (Story on Page 1)

## Call to pay dues to 6 ENA newsmen

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Tuesday urged the management of Eastern News Agency (ENA) to pay dues to its 6 journalists, reports UNB.

In a joint statement on Tuesday, DUJ President Zahurul Haq and General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi noted that the ENA management had not been paying salaries of these journalists for a long time.

They said the Managing Director and Chief Editor of the news agency had even refused to accept a letter from the union.

## Plan not to turn HBFC into bank hailed

Khandkar Rakibuddin Ahmed and Md Fazul Huq, President and General Secretary respectively of the association of the borrowers of House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) on Wednesday hailed the government decision not to turn the HBFC into a commercial bank, reports BSS.

In a joint statement, they said the HBFC being a public utility organisation should rationalise its system of realisation of loan money from its thousands of borrowers by discarding many faulty, untenable and complicated procedures. The HBFC should realise loan on simple interest basis and deduct the loan money from the principal instead of interest. Overwhelming majority of the loanees are becoming defaulters because of the faulty, irrational and cumbersome procedures being pursued by the HBFC in the realisation of loans, they added.

They suggested institution of a sub-committee comprising the representatives of the association and the senior officials of the Finance Ministry, HBFC and other organisations to look into the genuine problems and grievances of the loanees.

## Children cultural competition held

RAJSHAHI, Jan 17: The concluding function of three-day Rajshahi Divisional Competition under Bangladesh Islamic Foundation, National Children and Juvenile Cultural Competition '90, was held here at Islamic Foundation auditorium Wednesday, reports BSS.

Presided over by Director of Rajshahi Islamic Foundation, Abdus Salam Khan Pathan, the function, was attended by Divisional Commissioner, Saidur Rahman as chief guest.

About 800 children and adolescents from all the sixteen districts of Rajshahi division took part in seven items of the competition. The items were: Poetry recitation, qirat, humd nath, Islamic songs, azan, extempore speech, essay and Islamic knowledge.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner gave away the prizes and certificates to the winners.

## Dateline Khulna

### 11 guns, one revolver recovered in Khulna

**Our Staff Correspondent**

KHULNA, Jan 16: Police recovered one revolver and 11 guns after a search in a vegetable-loaded van at Motlapota area of the city early Monday.

Two persons were arrested. The police also recovered a revolver from the Gallamari area.

with its President Anil Kumar Dey in the chair. A new committee was formed with Anil Kumar Dey, as President to safeguard their interests.

## Science fair at Notre Dame College

**By Staff Correspondent**

A three-day science and technology fair begins at the Notre Dame College in the city today (Thursday).

It is the district level programme of the 14th National Science and Technology Fair.

Education Advisor Prof. Zillur Rahman Siddiqi will inaugurate the fair at 3.30 pm. Secretary of the Science and Technology Department of the Education Ministry will be the special guest.

Food and Cultural Affairs Advisor Prof. Yeazuddin Ahmed will be the chief guest at the concluding session while the Director General of the National Science Museum Dr Mobarak Ali Akhand will be the special guest.

Principal of the College Mr. J.S. Pexotto will chair both the sessions.

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**THE DAILY STAR**

**Zoological Society**

The Executive Council of Zoological Society of Bangladesh has decided to honour the national and international award winning members of the Society at its annual general meeting to be held on January 29, at the Dhaka University, a Press release of the society said, reports BSS.

### Attack on BNP condemned

Two leaders of Freedom Party, Khulna unit Mohammad Tanvir Azam and Sharif Nurul Moshed have condemned the attack on BNP workers in the city on Sunday and Monday.

In a joint statement issued to the press, the Freedom Party leaders described as baseless a statement of the local Awami League which blamed the Freedom Party for the incidents.

They said the statement of Awami League was false and motivated.

### Attack condemned

The leaders of Khulna district arid city BNP and Jatiatabadi Chattra Dal in a joint statement issued to the Press have strongly condemned the attack on BNP workers on Sunday and Monday last by rival political activists. They also condemned the attack on BNP and Sramik Dal office by Awami League supporters at Rupsa and Nutan Bazar area of the city.

The Press statement claimed that BNP workers were wounded and property worth several thousands destroyed. The BNP leaders called upon all democratic force to unite to resist such undemocratic activities in the interest of the nation's peaceful transition to democracy.

### Sramik Dal meet held

The Khulna Unit of Jatiatabadi Sramik Dal held a meeting Monday with labour leader Abdul Mannan in the chair.

BNP leaders Ashraf Hossain, Kazi Sekendar Ali Dalim, Asaduzzaman Babu, Matiar Rahman and Shaikh Faruq Ahmed spoke on the occasion.

A committee of Khulna Electric Supply was formed with Abdul Mannan and Kazi Israful Haq as Convenor and Joint Convenor respectively.

### Chattra union meet held

Workers meeting of Battaghata College unit of Bangladesh Chattrra Union was held Sunday in the college campus with Tapash Kanti Biswas in the chair. Later, a procession was brought out which paraded the upazila roads.

### Smuggled goods seized

BDR personnel and Khulna Customs recovered huge quantities of smuggled Indian goods worth about Taka 11 lakh from a Dhaka-bound night coach at Tapasidanga on the Jessore-Benapole road Sunday night.

The smuggled goods included saarees, readymade garments, cycle and cosmetics.

### Biennial elections

The biennial general election of Khulna Hard Board Mills Employees Union was held Monday in the mills premises.

A Kader Mostafa Parishad (panel) got nine seats out of 10 executive posts of the union.

### Footwear shop employees union

A general meeting of the Footwear Shop Employees Union was held here Monday

### BNP polls body meets

An emergency meeting of the election committee of Khulna BNP was held at Khalishpur Sramik Bhavan Monday with Sardar Atiar Rahman, a city Vice-President of BNP in the chair. The meeting called upon party workers to accelerate the election campaign to defeat the anti-nationalist forces.

## Quamrul Hasan Heritage Council formed

Artist Quamrul Hasan Heritage Council was formed at a meeting at Gharukala Institute in Dhaka Tuesday with Mr. Roknuzzaman Khan (Dada Bhai) in the chair, reports BSS.

The Council objectives are to preserve the late artist's works and uphold his ideals as a source of inspiration for spreading artistic practice in the country.

An ad-hoc committee was formed with artist Shahuddin Ahmad as president of the committee while Mr. Mizanur Rahman and Mr. Rabul Hossain will act as Secretary and Treasurer of it.

The meeting took a set of resolutions which include setting up a bust of late Quamrul Hasan at TSC road, preservation and publication of his "Khero Khata", establishment of a museum with Quamrul's works under the government initiative, release of postage stamps on the occasion of his death anniversary, extensive release of two famous paintings of him—"Bishwa Bahar

## Quamrul Hasan Heritage Council formed

Khoppare" and "Yahya in-71" and arrangement of a five-day art competition and rural art fair from next year on the occasion of his birth anniversary on December 2.

The members of the ad-hoc committee include Begum Sufia Kamal and Messers Shawkat Osman, Roknuzzaman Khan (Dada Bhai), Shamsur Rahman, A. M. Sharfuddin, Khan Sarwar Murshid, Zillur Rahman Siddiqi, Antisuzzaman, Wahidul Haq, Mazharul Islam, Qaiyum Choudhury, Belal Choudhury, Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Debdas Chakraborty, Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Santosh Gupta, Syed Shamsul Haq, Mahadeb Saha, Hashem Khan and Pijush Bandopadhyaya.

### Students welfare organisation

Bangladesh Students Welfare Organisation holds a press conference at 11 am today at the National Press Club, says a press release.

The conference will be addressed by the leaders of the organisation.

### JP extended meet

An extended meeting of the Central Executive Committee of Jatiya Party (JP) will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Gulshan, according to a press release, reports BSS.

Presidents and Secretaries of all District Committees of JP, Presidents and Secretaries of all fronts and associated organisations and all those who have applied for the party nominations to contest the parliamentary polls have been requested by the Acting Secretary General of JP A.B.M. Shahjahan to attend the meeting.

### Death anniversary

The fourth death anniversary of Mohammad Idris, Member, Legislative Assembly of undivided Bengal and eminent politician, will be held tomorrow, reports BSS.

Quran Khwani, "kangali bhoj" and Milad mahfil will be held after Jumma prayer at his residence at Idris Manzil, 21/9 Khilji Road (Shyamal) Block-b, Mohammadpur.

Friends and relations have been requested to attend.

### Urs sharif

The 85th holy annual urs sharif of the great saint of the Sub-continent Gousul Azam Hazrat Moulana Shah Sufi Syed Ahammed Ullah (RA) Matzbandari will be held at Matzbandar Dharbar Sharif, Gousia Ahammadi Manzil Chittagang on January 24, says a press release.

The programmes include discussion meeting and chema mahfil on January 23 after Eshsa Prayer, Jikri, chema mahfil, milad mahfil and Fateha sharif will be attended on January 24, the day of holy urs sharif.

All devotees have been requested to maintain peace and order to make the urs sharif a success.

### Doctors association

The Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) will open Shahid Ziaur Rahman Free Friday Clinic in the city tomorrow, say a press release.

Begum Khaleeda Zia will inaugurate the clinic.

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0855 BO08 DC-10	0600 RUP-DXB-DAC	0600 RUP-DXB-DAC	
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