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Nation pays homage to intellectuals

By Staff Correspondent

The nation yesterday paid homage to the martyred intellectuals with fresh vows to remember their supreme sacrifice and realise their ideals.

With the rising of the sun yesterday, the Martyred Intellectuals' Day, thousand streamed to the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in Mirpur to honour the valiant sons of the soil, martyred in the War of Independence.

People from all walks of life placed wreaths at the memorial and recalled through speeches the glorious contributions.

The Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams groups, local supporters of the Pakistan occupation forces in 1971, began picking up university teachers, doctors, journalists, writers, philosophers and other intellectuals in the dark of the night from December 10 until the Victory Day, December 16 and brutally killed them in a bid to cripple the country intelligentsia.

The largest massacre was carried out December 14, just

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People crowding Martyred Intellectuals Memorial to place wreaths. — Star photo



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia paying homage to martyred intellectuals after placing wreaths at Mirpur Memorial yesterday. — Star photo

None has right to distort Mujib's 7th March speech: Huda

Information Minister Barister Nazmul Huda yesterday called for consolidating the national independence and building a self-reliant nation to show respect to the shaheed intellectuals who had laid down their lives for country's independence, reports BSS.

The Information Minister was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organised by Bangladesh Chhatra Kalyan Sangstha in observance of the Shaheed Intellectuals Day at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium.

Jatiya Sangsad member, Matia Chowdhury, noted journalist Nirmal Sen, Prajasa Chatterjee of Dhaka University, Dr Wakil Ahmed, President of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Shahjahan Miah and President of the Sangstha Mujib Khan participated in the discussion.

Paying tributes to the memory of the shaheed intellectuals the Information Minister said, "we shall have to project the true history of the War of Independence to the present and future generations."

He said the Awami League leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his March 7 of 1971 speech, gave a call for non-cooperation movement demanding

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13-party anti-communal body demands ban on Jamaat, FP

By Staff Correspondent

The 13-party combine styled 'All-party Committee for Communal Harmony' yesterday demanded that the government immediately ban the Jamaat-e-Islami and the Freedom Party for activities detrimental to humanity.

The demand came in a resolution read out by committee Joint Secretary Nirmal Sen at a rally yesterday afternoon at Bangabandhu Avenue with the chairperson of the committee Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The resolution observed that the communal forces in the country had resorted to indiscriminate attacks on temples, homes and business establishments of the minority Hindu community of Bangladesh while retaliating to the demolition of the Babri Mosque in India by Hindu militants.

Strongly condemning the demolition of the Babri Mosque, the resolution said that there was no difference between the Hindu militants attacking the Mosque in India and the communalists' attacking temples in Bangladesh.

Both the forces use religion to realise their parochial political ends, the resolution added.

The resolution observed that the Indian government's failure to take timely steps had led to the demolition of the Mosque while the Bangladesh government's failure to take adequate measures made communalist attacks on the Hindu minority in the country possible.

The 13-party Committee demanded that both governments compensate the victims.

The All-party resolution called upon all sections of people to form all-party committees for communal harmony in all villages, thanas, and districts and build up strong resistance against fundamentalists.

Sheikh Hasina in her presidential speech termed the destruction of the Babri Mosque a heinous act and condemned Indian fundamentalists.

She demanded immediate reconstruction of the Mosque and compensation to the Indian Muslims affected by the incident.

Hasina said that people belonging to different religious beliefs had unitedly fought for the country's independence in 1971 with a view to living in communal peace. But the anti-liberation communal forces were taking advantage of the situation arising out of the Babri Mosque demolition to destabilise communal harmony in the country, she added.

Hasina, strongly accused the government of backing fundamentalist forces including the Jamaat in its activities against the minority Hindu community.

Conducted by the CPB (Communist Party of Bangladesh) leader Nurul Islam Nahid, the rally was also addressed by Khalequzzaman of the Five-party combine, Zillur Rahman of the Awami League, Pankaj Bhattacharya of the Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF), Afzal Hossain of the Ganotantri Party and Lutfor Rahman of the Ganotantri Biplobi Jote.

The rally was followed by a peace procession that chanted slogans for communal harmony in the country.

The procession ended at the Bahadur Shah Park in the city.

UNB adds: The committee met at the Awami League office Monday evening reviewed the latest situation caused by communal disturbances in the country.

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina who is the Chairperson of the committee presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed formation of all-party committee

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1 killed, 4 hurt in Chhatak Cement Factory gas pipeline blast

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, Dec 14: An employee was killed and four others were injured seriously in gas pipeline explosion in the Chhatak Cement Factory this noon.

The injured were admitted to the Sylhet M A G Osmany Medical College Hospital.

According to a factory source, some people of Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution Systems Limited were working in the Distribution Regulation Station (DRS) in the gas pipe line of the factory an at one stage, at about 11 a today, the explosion suddenly took place.

Abu Hashim, 45, a fitter died on the spot. The four others injured include Alauddin, 35; Mohammad Rafique, 45; and Shahidul, 30. The victim Abu Hashim hails from Siddhesari, Dhaka.

One murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent

A hawker was murdered by a gang of hoodlums near Kataban slum at Sonargaon Road in the city Monday morning.

The victim was identified as Ramzan Ali (18).

Following the murder police arrested one Abul Kalam alias Kala alias Kala Babul from Babupura slum Monday and are looking for the other killers, said the investigating police officer.

Local people said that Ramzan — a petty 'Mastari' was murdered as a sequel to a rivalry between two groups of gangsters reportedly led by Kala Babul and Bada.

They said the murder might have link with an incident Sunday when followers of Kala Babul beat Bada and Ramzan intervened, said local people.

Ramzan's relatives said that one Anwar called Ramzan from his Islamnagar, Keraniganj residence and took him to Kataban slum at around 7 am Monday.

Eye witnesses said that a group of gangsters including Kala Babul, Shahjahan and

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21 hurt as BNP, BCL activists clash in Pabna

PABNA, Dec 14: At least 21 people were injured at Sujanagar on Sunday night in a clash between workers of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Chhatra League — the student wing of Awami League, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash ensued after some Chhatra League workers allegedly passed derogatory remarks about the BNP Chairperson.

Chhatra League activist Saiful Islam (19) was admitted to Pabna Sadar Hospital with serious injury, hospital sources said.

Nine others belonging to both the groups who were admitted to Sujanagar Health Complex with wounds are: Atzrul Huq Babu (18), Abdul Khaleque (26), Anwar Shikder (18), Mustaq Hossain (25).

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Indian High Commission library closed

By Staff Correspondent

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has indefinitely closed its library and reading room at 79, Motijheel Commercial Area which was burnt by a mob on December 7.

According to a press release, the Indian High Commission said: On the afternoon of Monday 7th December, a mob looted and burnt the premises of the High Commission of India at Motijheel, which housed the library and the reading room.

It said, apart from equipments, furniture and fixtures, an estimated 30,000 books were burnt, among them several priceless and irreplaceable volumes.

The press release added, a well-stocked library that has catered for the needs of students and general readers for nearly forty years has been destroyed.

The Indian High Commission, therefore, regretably declared the library closed for an indefinite period, it said.

Premadasa leaves, hopes a successful summit

President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka yesterday said communal harmony was prevailing in Bangladesh and appreciated peaceful co-existence of the people of all faiths, reports UNB.

"The people of Bangladesh, a Muslim country, are tolerant and compassionate," Premadasa told newsmen at the Zia International Airport before flying back home concluding a 4-day visit.

The Lankan President said he was happy to see the Muslims in this country living peacefully together with the people of other religions.

Referring to his talks with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during the visit, Premadasa said they held a detailed interesting discussion which, he hoped, would help stage a successful summit in January.

Foreign Secretary Reaz

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Tongue tells of renal failure risk

NEW DELHI, Dec 14: If you suspect your kidneys are not in working order, just stick your tongue out and gaze into the mirror, reports PTI.

If the tongue looks very large, pale and bears marked impressions of your teeth at its edges, run to a kidney specialist.

Also, the next time you attack that delicious carp on your dinner plate, just leave its gall bladder alone. It can give you acute renal failure.

Away from the technical discussion on the finer points of dialysis procedures, subcutaneous injection of genetically engineered erythropoieting drugs and hemolytic uremic syndrome, doctors at the fifth Asian Pacific Congress on nephrology, which

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V-Day festivities begin

By Staff Correspondent

Festivities in the Dhaka University area marked the beginning of a three-day Victory Day celebrations with a call to resist anti-liberation forces and to ban communal politics in the country.

Combined Cultural Alliance (Sammilita Sangskritik Jote) organised the "Victory Festival" at the Central Shaheed Minar, Shaola Square, TSC and Shahabag in the campus simultaneously.

The inaugural function was held at the Central Shaheed Minar where the alliance urged the government to take lessons from India and ban the fundamentalists organisations.

"The Indian government finally understood that what kind of harm the communal forces can do to the country," Foyez Ahmed, president of the alliance said at the function.

Ahmed chaired the function addressed by Jahanara Imam, Sirajul Islam Chowdhury and anti-British movement veteran Vinod Bihari Chowdhury, who also announced the festival open.

The three-day programme includes drama, recitation, exhibition of Liberation War documents, book fair, musical session short film show and blood donation. The Jote elected stages and stalls from Shaheed Minar to Shahabag areas for the programme.

Foyez Ahmed said that the government had failed to understand the plan of Jamaat-e-Islami. Jamaat was gaining power by exploiting the government and waiting for an opportune time to grab power.

Jahanara Imam said that the government was maintaining a liaison with fundamentalist Jamaat and helping it become

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On stage Natyakendra artistes with their drama Tuglak on DU campus yesterday. — Star photo



Hawkers selling migratory birds in a city street yesterday. — Star photo

Poachers' snares flout PM's order

By Asiuzzaman

Poaching and selling of guest birds continue despite Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's directive to apply the law prohibiting the hunting of winter birds, witnesses said.

The number of sellers had increased five-fold over last month's when the Prime Minister ordered the concerned authorities to take stern action against poachers and sellers, they said.

The PM's directive came following a meeting with a delegation of the Wildlife Society of Bangladesh November 8. So far only one person has been arrested for illegal hawking of guest birds.

"I saw only one seller at New Elephant Road early last month. The number has now increased to seven or eight," one witness told The Daily Star, adding that "the number of sellers has also increased in other city areas."

Netted mostly in the haor areas in Sylhet and Srimangal, the birds are shipped to the capital and other major cities where buyers can afford the prices the sellers demand.

Prof Sohrabuddin Sarker of the Wildlife Society who visited Hafl Haor in Sylhet last week said that the poachers were operating in the guise of fishermen.

Raids by law enforcing agencies were rare, and when the law enforcers did come the hunters fled to remote areas of the haor, Prof Sarker said.

The duck species like gargery, mallard, common teal from the Siberian region are available at Elephant Road, Manik Miah Avenue, Panthapath, Baily Road, Mirpur Road, Mouchak Market areas and some other city points.

The number of birds may increase in late December and in January as the winter set in late this year, wildlife experts said.

A pair of Siberian geese sells at Tk 500 to 600.

The law prohibiting hunting of winter fowl provides a penalty of up to two-year in jail and a Tk 2,000 fine for a person charged with killing or endangering wildlife.

A total of 632 species of birds are found in Bangladesh of which nearly 200 are migratory, according to Prof Sarker.

He said that of the migratory birds nearly 25 species were duck, that fell prey to poachers the most. The other duck species are pintail, brahminy, barheaded, shovel-ruddy, common poadar, common ruddy, shel, toped and laggoose, Sarker added.

He said that some five to six lakh migratory birds come to Bangladesh every year and live mostly in low lands and marshes.

Prof Sarker said that 18 species of wildlife had become extinct from Bangladesh and 67 others were on the verge of extinction.

Children's rally tomorrow

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will take salute in a children's march past at the National Stadium Number 1 on the occasion of the Victory Day on December 16. Later the Prime Minister will address the children's rally at 8.30 am. Radio will directly broadcast this programme from the venue and all other regional radio stations will relay the programme, reports BSS.

BNP emergency meet tomorrow

An emergency meeting of Bangladesh Nationalist Party will be held at 7 pm on December 16 at the party's central office here. Party Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder has requested all ministers, members of parliament of the party and other members to attend the meeting on time.