



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, along with senior party leaders, placing wreath at the Martyred Intellectuals Mausoleum in the city yesterday. — Star photo



Senior leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party laying wreath at the Martyred Intellectuals Mausoleum in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Bangladeshi cultural festival in Calcutta from tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

An exhibition of contemporary art and photography will be held in Calcutta tomorrow, says a press release of the Shilpakala Academy.

A four member delegation left for Calcutta to attend the festival being held as part of a Bangladesh cultural festival in India.

The delegates are Subir Choudhury, Director of the Fine Arts Department, Shilpa-

2 Moulvibazar JCD leaders shot

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Dec 14: Two JCD leaders including VP of Moulvibazar Government College Students Union received bullet wounds and were admitted to the Sylhet Osmany Medical College Hospital.

The JCD Moulvibazar district unit says in a press release VP Mizanur Rahman who is also the organising secretary of the JCD district unit and another JCD leader Moulvibazar Rahman, while returning from the residence of district secretary of the BNP at Baharmordan village last night, were shot and injured seriously by some armed miscreants.

Meanwhile, an emergency meeting of the district unit of the JCD held this afternoon took a decision to expel two JCD leaders from the party. They are Sadar Thana secretary of JCD, Mizanur Rahman Mizan and member Tajuddin Ahmed Tai. The meeting also decided to suspend the activities of its thana unit.

Dhaka's call to OIC states

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ate and unconditional ceasefire and resolution of their differences through dialogue within the framework of accords.

Bangladesh, she said, also supports the initiative of the OIC Secretary General to protect the rights of Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries.

Reiterating the consistent stand of Bangladesh on the issue of Jammu-Kashmir, the Prime Minister said simmering tension between India and Pakistan over this issue remains a cause of concern to all.

Bangladesh, she said, has repeatedly urged both the parties to exercise restraints and seek peaceful solution of the basic problem that underlies the present situation.

Begum Zia told the OIC summit that Bangladesh is committed to develop close and friendly relations with all her neighbours on the basis of justice, mutual benefit and respect for international law.

Referring to the objectives of launching the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), she said, as the current SAARC chairperson, Bangladesh shall sustain the momentum of SAARC not only to promote socio-economic goals but also to create a climate for broad-based confidence building.

On the issue of bilateral relationship of Bangladesh with immediate neighbours, she referred to enormous socio-economic and environmental burden imposed on Bangladesh by the exodus of 2,50,000 Myanmar refugees since 1991. Though the rate of repatriation has been slow, she hoped that it will pick up to enable more refugees return to Myanmar soon.

Dwelling on Bangladesh's relations with the largest neighbour India, the Prime Minister said, relations on the issue of return of Chakma refugees have shown some improvement.

She said the critical issue of

kala Academy Rafiqun Nabi, Director of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, Fazur Rahman Jhinu, secretary general of the Bangladesh Photographic Society and artist Rokeya Sultan.

Seventy-six art works by 76 artists including Mohammad Kibria, Aminul Islam, Murtaja Baseer, Qayyum Chowdhury, Abdur Razzaque, Syed Jahangir, Nitun Kundu, Rafiqun Nabi, Monsoor-ul Karim will be put on display. Besides, 60 photographs by 22 photographers including M A Beg, Rifon Sarkar, Golam Mostafa, Chanchal Mahmud, Fazur Rahman Jhinu will also be exhibited.

The formal inauguration of the Bangladesh festival of music and dance theatre, magic and seminar on literature will be held in New Delhi on December 20.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum will be the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the festival in Delhi, while Mokhesur Rahman, Secretary of the Cultural Ministry will be the chief guest at the closing session on January 4.

Alhaj Amanullah MP will lead the 67-member delegation. Bangla Academy Director General Prof Harunur Rashid is heading the 32-member delegation of music and dance. Aly Zaker is leading the 12-member theatre delegation while Jewel Aich is steering the 9-member team of magicians and Subir Chowdhury is conducting the 4-member fine arts and photography team.

sharing of the Ganges water still remained unresolved.

The Prime Minister hoped that India would agree to a fair share of the common rivers including the Ganges.

She hoped that our common friends would recognise the seriousness of the situation and encourage efforts for an early and equitable solution.

The Prime Minister emphasised the need for further intensifying all round cooperation among the OIC countries, nearly half of whom are least developed countries (LDCs).

Begum Zia said the LDCs should receive special care and attention in the OIC plan of action.

Referring to complementarities in economies of OIC countries for mutually beneficial cooperation, the Prime Minister called for a concerted joint plan of action to help each other through investment in the commercially viable projects, a rationalisation of tariff structure and introduction of preferential trading arrangement among the OIC member countries.

She referred to attempts of anti-Islamic forces seeking to identify terrorism, fundamentalism and intolerance with Islam. She said endeavours should be made to make it clear to the world once again that Islam is the religion of enlightenment, peace, tolerance and moderation. The Prime Minister proposed that the OIC secretariat may urgently commission a special study by Islamic experts in order to present Islam to the world in its correct perspective.

Referring to acute financial difficulties being faced by the ICTVTR in Dhaka due to non-payment of mandatory contribution by member-states, Begum Zia urged member countries to make the centre financially viable.

Bangladesh, she said, has also submitted a proposal for the establishment of a centre for advanced medical training and research in Dhaka.

Later Wednesday, five Russian SU-25 fighter planes made an air strike on the outskirts of Grozny and opened machine-gun fire on the center of the city. The ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

PM phones chief of Bangladeshi troops in Bihar

CASABLANCA, Dec 14: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today talked with the battalion commander of the Bangladesh contingent of the UN peacekeeping force at Bihar, Col Selim Aktar over telephone from here, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister enquired about the overall situation of the Bangladesh contingent in Bihar, an enclave of Bosnia. She also enquired about the treatments of the injured soldiers.

Meanwhile, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic today regretted and condemned the killing of one Bangladeshi soldier by the Serbs in Bihar. He made the condemnation when he called on Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia this morning at her VIP villa here.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and President Alija Izetbegovic, discussed the latest situation in Bosnia. Begum Zia told him that Bangladesh would continue to support the cause of the Bosnian Muslims and help them.

The Bosnian President appreciated the role of Bangladeshi troops in Bihar and thanked the Bangladesh Prime Minister for supporting the cause of Bosnian Muslims.

Appeal to solve political crisis

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty-nine noted citizens of the country in a joint statement yesterday appealed to the government and the Opposition to find a solution to the existing political crisis through discussions in line with their previous experiences in handling such situation.

"Any failure in doing so would definitely push the nation to a disaster," they warned and hoped the leading citizens of the country would be willing to help with their mature counsel should both the sides so desire.

Terming the present political situation as extremely critical, they said, "We as conscious citizens are deeply worried and apprehensive at the trend of events. The present state of affairs poses a serious threat to democracy."

"Still we are inclined to believe that all chances have not yet been exhausted for saving the country from plunging into a disaster," they said and reminded the political leadership of their responsibilities.

Signatories to the statement include Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Prof Harunur Rashid, KAA Kamrudin, Prof Fazlul Halim Choudhury, Prof Mirza Mazharul Islam, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Prof Yeazuddin Ahmed, KMA Munim, Barrister Mohammad Zahir, Ataus Samad, Dr Abul Ahmed Chowdhury Col (Retd) Masudul Hossain, Wing Commander (Retd) AMM Enayetullah, Ahmed Reza, Obayedul Haq and SM Nurul Alam.

BSC agents' confce begins in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: A two-day agents conference of the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) began here today at its head office, a BSC press release said.

Agents from 16 countries from Africa, West Asia, Gulf States, East and Far-East regions are participating in this conference.

The function was also addressed by BSC's Managing Director S M Iqbal.

Chechnya pulls out of talks

GROZNY, Dec 14: Chechnya's defiant President angrily withdrew his delegates from peace talks with Moscow on Wednesday as Russian planes opened machine-gun fire on the region's capital and bombed its outskirts, reports AP.

President Dzhokhar Dudayev urged the people of his separatist republic to fight Russian soldiers to the death.

"The soil must burn under their feet," Dudayev said on national television. "It's a war for life or death. The current Russian regime hasn't left any other options to the citizens of Chechnya."

Vow to realise martyrs' dreams

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and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina arrived at the Memorial, leading a procession of leaders and workers of the party, placed wreaths and offered prayers.

Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Johra Tajuddin, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed and Abdul Jalil were among the AL central leaders present there.

Jatiya Party leaders Moudud Ahmed, Khaledur Rahman Tito, Shah Moazzem Hossain and others placed wreaths afterwards.

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif, accompanied by different ward commissioners, placed wreaths.

Rashed Khan Menon, Nirmal Sen, Mujahidul Islam Selim, A F M Mahbulul Haq, Sharif Nurul Ambia and Bimal Barua and others of the Left Democratic Front also placed wreaths.

Wreaths were also placed by Bangladesh Ganatantri Party led by Ahmedul Kabir, JSD led by A S M Abdur Rab, Gano Forum led by Saifuddin Ahmed, Jatiya Janata Dal led by K Mobyaydur Rahman, Gano Azadi League, National Awami Party, Jatiya Janata Party, Jatiya Muktiyoddha Party, Ganotantrik Biplobi Jote and many other political parties.

The other organisations which placed wreaths included Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, Bangabandhu Bidya Niketan, Bangabandhu Law College, Dhaka

at its premise some near and dear ones of the martyred intellectuals who gave an eye witness' account of the killings. The function was presided over by DG Md Moslem Ali.

The Sammilita Sangskritik Jote held a discussion at the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the evening. It was presided over by Fayed Ahmed and participated by Ataus Samad, Asaduzzaman Nur, Mamunur Rashid, Nasruddin Yusuf and Golam Qudus. A cultural function followed it.

Discussion meeting was organised in the city by Sylhet division movement and development council, presided over by advocate Abed Raja.

Our Staff Correspondent Chittagong reports: Different political and socio-cultural organisations observed the day through various programmes including placing of wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Rallies and discussions were also organised by different organisations.

In Rajshahi, people from all walks of life paid glowing tributes to the memory of the martyred intellectuals by placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Discussions, special prayers for the salvation of the martyrs' souls and cultural functions were the other highlights of the day.

In Khulna, most of the political parties and other organisations marked the day by visiting the graves of martyrs at Golamari and holding discussion meetings.

The National Museum in the morning brought together

nounced general amnesty to the killers and collaborators of the Liberation War.

The intellectuals were killed by the collaborators of the occupation forces. — Rajakars, Al-Badars and Al-Shams — as per a blue print on the eve of victory of the Liberation War in their heinous bid to cripple the nation, the BNP secretary general said.

Talukdar said: "We have succeeded to overcome the crisis amidst a void created by the killing of so many brilliant sons of the soil, but failed to put the killers on trial due to the Awami League."

Rafiqul Islam Mia said souls of the intellectuals must be writing in pain as their killers had been rehabilitated politically in the country by a particular party in their efforts to unseat the present democratic government.

Before the discussion had begun, the BNP leaders and workers prayed for eternal peace and salvation of the martyred intellectuals.

Extortionists stab 2 in city

By DMCH Correspondent

Two brothers were stabbed as they refused to oblige extortionists in the city's Mirpur area yesterday.

The brothers — Abdul Khaleq 28, and Dulal 20 — were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with severe stab wounds around 2 in the afternoon.

Some local bullies demanded money from Abdul Khaleq who owns a rickshaw garage at Section-13, Mirpur.

Witnesses said, the bullies came to collect the demand money yesterday and quarrelled with the two brothers and at one stage stabbed both and fled the scene.

Businessman found unconscious

A businessman, Feroz Ahmed 28, was found unconscious in the city's Motijheel area yesterday.

Police recovered Feroz and admitted him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

After his release from the hospital Feroze, a currency dealer, claimed that some people made him unconscious and took Tk 3,10,000 from him around 4 in the afternoon.

The Midnight File

Pak parliament agrees to end Karachi violence

ISLAMABAD, Dec 14: Pakistan's ruling and opposition parties temporarily put aside their bitter squabbling today to agree on a concerted effort to try to end the violence in Karachi which has killed at least 93 people in two weeks. The National Assembly unanimously decided to set up a special committee to investigate the causes and propose remedies to solve the ethnic, sectarian and political violence in Pakistan's commercial capital, reports Reuters.

EU parliament okays Uruguay Round trade accord

STRASBOURG, France, Dec 14: The European Union's assembly on Wednesday approved the Uruguay Round world trade agreement, removing another barrier to EU ratification of the 123-nation accord by a Jan 1 deadline. With a 325-62 vote and 12 abstentions, deputies in the 567-seat European Parliament approved the accord, which would lower barriers to global trade in manufactured goods, textiles and a host of other areas, reports AP.

Country in deep crisis

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Rayer Bazar Killing Ground premises, where she went to pay tributes to the martyred intellectuals.

The Awami League President said the 11th Amendment was passed unilaterally in national interest to legitimise a neutral and non-partisan caretaker government. "Now why the Constitution will not be amended for national interest, necessity of the country and for establishment of people's voting rights?"

In this context, she mentioned that Zia brought the 5th Amendment to legalise his "illegal power and fulfil his personal interest." Justice Sattar passed the 6th Amendment and Ershad passed the 7th Amendment to the Constitution.

"Still there is time... concede to the demand by December 27. Otherwise, the BNP and its leader Begum Zia will be responsible for any consequences," warned Hasina.

BSF to withdraw camp from Nirmal Char area soon

RAJSHAHI, Dec 14: A flag meeting at the battalion level between 57 BSF 20 Rifle Battalion, BDR, Rajshahi and 57 BSF Battalion Commandant, Murshidabad, India was held at no man's land of Polladanga, Godagari on Tuesday evening, reports BSS.

The meeting decided that the cash crop "kakai" in the disputed area will be harvested by the Bangladeshi farmers. The BSF also agreed that the temporary camp set up by the Indian side in the area will be withdrawn shortly.

It was also decided that the present working boundary between the two sides will be maintained at all cost for peace and tranquillity in the area.

The two sides also discussed cross border trafficking including narcotic smuggling and decided that each side will cooperate in this regard.

Islamic activists start march from Ctg to Dhaka

CHITTAGONG, Dec 14: Thousands of Islamic fundamentalists today started their march for Dhaka from the port city to drum up support for establishing Islamic rule in the country, reports UNB.

The marchers first assembled at the Lalighi Maidan and after holding a meeting boarded on buses, trucks and cars from Pahartali at 2 pm.

Earning target

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5.77 per cent lower than that of the corresponding period of the previous year.

Meanwhile, sources at the Commerce Ministry said a significant mismatch between its own records for garment exports and statistics being supplied by the Customs authorities had recently been revealed, causing unprecedented delay in routine compilation of export earnings.

They said record of the EPB and the US Customs showed the export figure in the first quarter of the current fiscal much higher than what has been supplied by the Chittagong Customs.

A group of EPB and Customs officials is now reexamining the figures, pending the routine compilation of monthly export performance. The EPB depends on Customs for data on exports.

OIC vice chairman

From Page 1 Col 5
name of Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as the vice chairman of the Conference from the Asian group at the inaugural session of the Seventh Summit yesterday evening.

Yasser Arafat of PLO and President Kote of Guinea were also made vice chairmen of the Conference from Arab and African groups respectively.

Late President Ziaur Rahman was also the vice chairman of the OIC.

The AL chief said politics of killing, coup and conspiracy was patronised with the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975. Following this trend in politics, the country was ruled by Ershad for nine years denying people's voting right.

In 1990, the Ershad regime was toppled and a neutral non-party caretaker government was set up. "But Begum Zia had entered into clandestine entente with Golam Azam before and after the elections to capture power destroying values and spirit of Liberation War," Hasina told her audience.

She also blamed Begum Zia's government for sacrificing the interest of Bangladesh by signing a treaty with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

Paying tributes to the martyred intellectuals killed just before the victory of Liberation War, the Opposition leader called for taking fresh vow to restore the spirit of the Liberation War and ensure people's right to vote and food.

Legality of ban

From Page 1 Col 3

Reuters.
Muslim foreign ministers have submitted a resolution to their leaders questioning the legality of a UN arms embargo on Bosnia and hinting at unilateral action to lift the ban.

The 7th summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) opened Tuesday with several leaders urging the international community to allow Bosnian Muslims to defend themselves against the militarily superior Serbs.

The Casablanca summit is totally united on the Bosnia issue. We speak with one voice and we will call for a strongly worded resolution calling for UN troops to remain and asking for the lifting of the arms embargo... Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told Reuters in an interview.

Bhutto said that any western country participating in the UN protection force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia which did not approve of lifting the arms embargo while their troops were on the ground could leave and be replaced by Muslim peacekeepers from countries like Pakistan.

A special committee on Bosnia met before OIC leaders met in closed session at the Moorish Royal Palace in Casablanca. A delegate said the committee agreed to renew an offer made by the OIC's contact group in Geneva earlier this month to send in more Muslim peacekeeping troops to Bosnia.

More EPZs

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set up and operate export processing zones, industrial parks and other industrial facilities.

Dr. Barton said joint ventures with foreign companies for export processing zones can help attract investors. Subsidised loans should be avoided and broad-based financial sector reforms to enable businesses to have access to capital at internationally competitive rates are the key, he stressed.

Mahbub Jamil said red-tapism and mismanagement are the main barriers to development of the country.

Foreign students

From Page 1 Col 4
sometimes they could not allot seats to fresh students due to shortage of rooms.

A number of foreign students also come to stay in this hostel as guests of the resident students. The number was increasing day by day, sources concerned said.

Fifty-eight rooms out of the 76 at the hostel have been allotted to the foreign students. Some teachers and officers of the university and their families are using the rest 18 rooms.

The foreign students studying in some other educational institutions — Dhaka Medical College, Dental College, BUET and IPGMR — also reside in this hostel. The hostel was established with assistance from the World University Services (WUS) for foreign students studying in Dhaka.

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