

Metropolitan

Sanskritik Jote rally today

Sammitto Sanskritik Jote will arrange a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club today afternoon protesting JCD's attack on its procession, reports UNB.

In a press release yesterday the Jote leaders urged all liberation forces and democracy loving people to join the procession. They alleged that the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal attacked the mourning procession while it was crossing Zia Hall of Dhaka University on way to Bangabandhu Bhaban on the National Mourning Day Thursday.

Blood donation programme at Bangabandhu Museum

A blood donation programme organised by Awami Sechhasabak League was held in front of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum August 14 and 15, reports UNB.

The programme was arranged in cooperation with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Lion Blood Bank, Progressive Youth Club, Dhaka Medical College and Sir Salimullah Medical College branch of Sandhani and Bandhan, a voluntary blood donation organisation.

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The British Council

GCE Examinations January 1997

For the first time, registration for the January 1997 GCE examinations will be held at both The British Council Cultural and Information Centres in Dhaka and Chittagong from 2 - 15 September 1996. Registration forms are available from now until 29 August at the following times:

Dhaka: 10.00am - 1.00 pm
Sunday to Thursday
Chittagong: 2.00 pm - 7.00 pm
Saturday to Thursday

No entry forms will be accepted after 15 September 1996.

For further information please contact:
The British Council Cultural and Information Centres at 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka Tel: 868905-7 or Laldighi, Chittagong Tel: 223632
Email: srahman@bcdhaka.pradeshta.net

US Embassy warns against private 'Nat'l Visa Center'

The US Embassy in the city has received many inquiries from Bangladesh citizens regarding the 'National Visa Center' and its offer to assist people with the Diversity Visa Program for a fee, reports UNB.

The centre charges a fee ranging from 50 to 125 US dollars for its services.

In a USIS press release Wednesday the Embassy, however, made it clear that the 'National Visa Center' is a private company which has no connection whatsoever to the US government.

It should not be confused with the actual National Visa Center, a visa processing facility set up by the Department of State and located in the state of New Hampshire.

The actual National Visa Center is a government agency that does not charge fees for the work it performs, the press release said.

It said that reading promotional letters from the 'National Visa Center' some people have mistakenly concluded that they have become visa lottery 'winners'.

Actually the purpose of the letters is to solicit business clients for the centre, which will file an application for the lottery on the client's behalf for the fee.

The Embassy distributes information on the Diversity Visa Lottery through the local media, and anyone may apply for the programme at no charge.

The registration period for DV-97 ended March 12 and no further applications will be accepted this year. No date has been set for DV-98 registration, the press release said.



Members of the public thronged to the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi on the National Mourning Day on August 15 to pay homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. — Star photo

A rare excursion

A 10-day excursion, from August 6 to 15, was organised by Proshika, a human development centre, for 100 landless poor people from across the country to give them a rare chance to see different historical places and relics relating to the country's War of Liberation in and around the city, reports BSS.

They were shown places bearing memories of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other places related to the independence struggle.

According to a Proshika press release, the poor people, who came from remote corners of the country, were quite ignorant of what had happened throughout the country since the Liberation struggle. During the excursion, the visitors were explained the significance of each of the historical places and events, with particular reference to the War of Liberation.

Following the success of the programme, the organisers have decided to arrange similar programmes in future with the involvement of more participants, the press release said.

Inclusion of SPGRG representatives in Dhaka-Islamabad talks demanded

Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRG) has demanded of the government to include two of their representatives as observers in the bilateral talks to be held in Dhaka between Bangladesh and Pakistan, reports UNB.

The demand came from an emergency meeting of the SPGRG (Ejaz), held at the Mirpur sub-central office yesterday with Ejaz Ahmed Siddiqui in the chair.

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary arrived in the city yesterday on a three-day visit during which bilateral discussion is likely to be held on the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis.

The SPGRG (Ejaz) threatened that they would go for self-immolation on August 18 if the Dhaka-Islamabad talks fail to take any positive decision about the repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis languishing in camps in Bangladesh.

The meeting was attended, among others, by SMA Hassan, Zahir Ahmed Zahir, SK Iqbal, Israil Khan, Sahid Ali, Tofail Quraishi, Ebarat Hossain and MZ Azam.

National Mourning Day observed

The nation paid homage to its founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of his assassination on August 15, reports BSS.

Tens of thousands of people across the country joined series of mourning programmes in commemoration of the assassination of Bangabandhu, the greatest Bengalee of the last one millennium, who led his people to liberation.

In the city, the Bangla Academy organised a discussion in reminiscence of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his 21st Shahadat Day.

Presided over by poet Shamsur Rahman, Prof Shawkat Osman, Prof Nilima Ibrahim, Prof Khan Sarwar Morshed, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Sardar Fazlul Karim, Gazi Shamsur Rahman, Prof Anisuzzaman and Gazul Huq took part in the discussion. Manzur Musa gave the welcome address.

Speakers at a discussion at the Dhaka College auditorium on the day paid rich tributes to the memory of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Organised by the Teachers' Council of Dhaka College, the meeting was presided over by the principal of the college, Prof Abdus Sattar and addressed by teachers of the college.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak participated at a discussion on 'Great hero of history, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and freedom of Bangla-desh' Muktiyoddha Sarkar Karmakarta Parishad at Mohila Samity auditorium in the city.

Presided over by convenor of the Parishad and director general of Foreign Ministry Manzoorul Alam, the discussion was participated, among others, by State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Information Professor Abu Sayeed and Energy Secretary Dr SA Samad.

Education Minister ASHK Sadek was the chief guest at a discussion organised by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) at its auditorium in observance of the day.

Eminent journalist Santosh Gupta spoke on the occasion as the special guest, while acting vice-chancellor of BUET Prof M Mizanur Rahman presided. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Prof Ali Azgar, Prof Golam Rahman, Prof Meer Mohashwar Ali and Prof Inanul Haque.

The State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Obaidul Quader attended as the chief guest at a discussion organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at its auditorium on the occasion.

Presided over by Prof Anisuzzaman, the discussion was also participated by Gazul Huq, acting director general of the academy, Kazi Siraj and director of its music and dance department, Shahidul Islam.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed addressed a discussion, organised by Dhaka Suburban Natyia Dal to mark the day.

The function was presided over by Gazul Huq and was addressed, among others, by Dr Enamul Huq, Jamaluddin Hossain and Dr Rajib Humayun.

State Minister for Jute and Textiles AK Faezul Haque attended a series of discussion meetings and milad mahfils in observance of the National Mourning Day arranged by 75, 76, 79, 80 and 81 ward units of Dhaka City Awami League at RK Mission Road, Dupkhola, Gandaria, Jantala Club Thakur Das Lane, Ekrampur and Baniganagar.

Sutrapur thana Awami League president Abul Hossain Hero, general secretary Abu Ahmed Monna, Mohila Ward Commissioner Nasima Mantoo, local Awami League leaders Rashidul Islam, Firoj Ahmed Mollick, Rafiqul Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman attended a function organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Goshthi in front of the central office of Awami League in the city yesterday.

The function was presided over by the convenor of the Goshthi, M Khalequzzaman. Central leaders of Awami League also spoke on the occasion.

Chittagong

The National Mourning Day was observed in the port city and elsewhere in the district today with a renewed pledge to translate into reality the 'Golden Bengal' (Sonar Bangla) of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS.

Besides official programmes, different political, socio-cultural and literary organisations, educational institutions, professional bodies and trade unions observed the day through elaborate programmes to pay homage to the great leader.

A big mourning procession under the auspices of city chapter of Awami League was brought out from local shahed minar. Wearing black badges people of all ages including men and women defying the inclement weather took part in the procession, led by city Mayor Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

Milad mahfil and feeding the destitutes were also arranged at its party office at Darul Fazal Market in the morning.

To mark the occasion, a discussion meeting on 'Bangabandhu and our independence' was held at Zila Parishad auditorium with Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Nazrul Islam in the chair.

Jointly organised by district administration and divisional information office, the discussion meeting was participated by State Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan as the chief guest.

City Mayor Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and divisional commissioner Shakawat Hossain, Dr Anupen Sen, Prof Abdul Mannan were among others who took part in it.

Chittagong Press Club at a discussion today paid glowing tributes to Bangabandhu. The discussion held with senior vice president Swapna Mahajan in the chair was participated by local journalists Akhterun-Nabi, Kazi Jafarul Islam, Ataul Hakim, Shahidul Alam, Helaluddin Chowdhury, Abu Sufian, Abu Taher Mohammad.

To mark the occasion, Shilsha Academy, Chittagong arranged a discussion meeting with Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Nazrul Islam in the chair, city Mayor Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, deputy director of social welfare department Manzur Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

Divisional information office screened a 16 minutes long documentary film on Bangabandhu at Zila Parishad auditorium, Shilpakala auditorium and at Old Railway station premises.

The organisations and educational institutions which observed the day included University of Chittagong, Chittagong Medical College, Bangladesh Boudha Kirti Prachar Sangha, Sheikh Russel Smriti Pathagar, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Bangladesh Chhatra League, its different



Foreign diplomats in Bangladesh placed wreaths at the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in observance of the National Mourning Day Thursday. — PID photo

JCD activists obstruct Aug 15 programmes at DU

By DU Correspondent

Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, obstructed the National Mourning Day programmes on August 15 in some residential halls of the Dhaka University.

The JCD activists pulled down national flags which were hoisted at half mast in Mohsin, Jasimuddin, Surya Sen and Zia halls of the university, residential students of those dormitories alleged.

Milad mahfils arranged on the occasion could not be held in JCD-dominated halls, except in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall.

In Jasimuddin Hall, the JCD activists snatched away the sweets stored in Rome 211, just before the milad, and damaged the room, belonging to the BCL DU unit organising secretary, Sazzad Hossain.

The residents of JCD-dominated halls alleged that they were not allowed to watch Bangladesh Television programmes on August 15.



Bayes appointed JU Treasurer

By Staff Correspondent

Prof Abdul Bayes has been appointed treasurer of Jahangirnagar University. He took up his new assignment on August 12.

Born in 1949, Abdul Bayes joined JU in 1975 as a Lecturer and became a Professor in 1991 in the Department of Economics. He was Chairman of the department, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, member of JU Senate and Syndicate. He is the Director of the Centre for Human Resources Development of JU. To his credit, he has a member of articles published in reputed domestic and international journals. He attended quite a number of seminars and workshops outside the country. He is a member of Bangladesh Economic Association, Asian Society of Agricultural Economists and International Association of Agricultural Economists.

Professor Bayes is a columnist and writes 'Beneath the Surface' every Saturday for The Daily Star.

A discussion on the life and works of Bangabandhu was held at local Umesh Chandra Public Library auditorium under the auspices of Mass Communication Department. The meeting was attended by Jatiya Sangsad Whip SM Mostafa Rashidul Suja as chief guest. Divisional Commissioner S M Shamsul Alam addressed the function as special guest.

Bangladesh registration service association, Khulna Unit organised a seminar on Bangabandhu and Today's Bangladesh.

District administration, Islamic Foundation, Shilsha Academy, Khulna University, Khulna Alia Madrasah, Educational Institutions and various socio-cultural organisations organised separate programmes.

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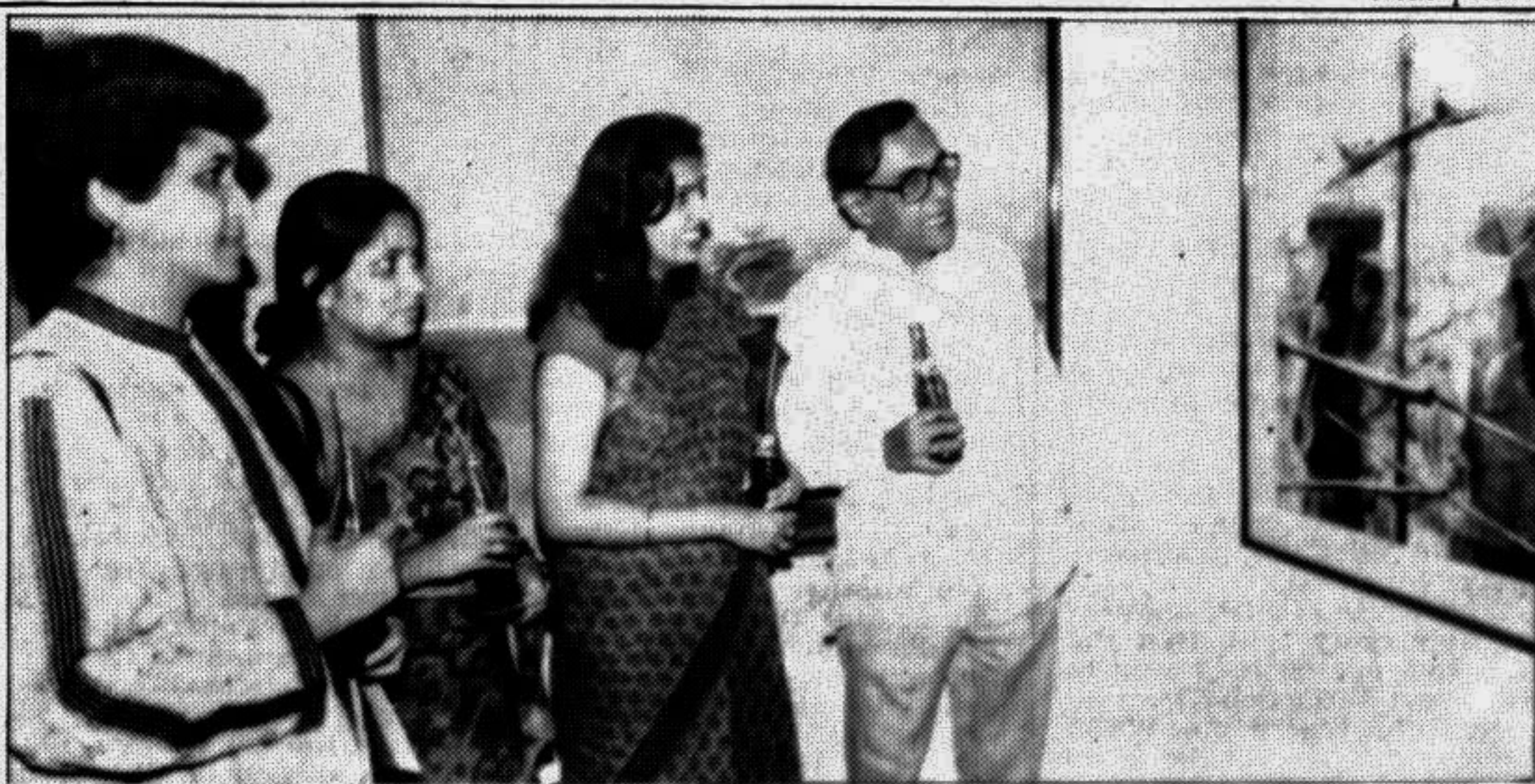
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Indian High Commissioner Deb Mukherjee (R) visiting an art exhibition of 19 leading Bangladeshi artists, organised at the cultural centre of the Indian High Commission in the city yesterday.

Water Resources Planning Organization
Ministry of Water Resources
7, Green Road, Dhaka-1205
PABX No. 815666, 816203
FAX No. 88-02-813169
Invitation for Expression of Interest for Consulting Services
The Government of Bangladesh has obtained a credit of about US \$8 million from the International Development Association (IDA) to strengthen the Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO under Ministry of Water Resources) as the lead agency in water sector planning for the formulation of a National Water Management Plan (NWMP). The plan would cover land and water resources of the whole country with long-term perspective, WARPO's mandate consists of national, regional and basin planning studies, water resources management round the year through a well defined policy and regulation, monitoring and evaluation of studies as well as programmes.
Firms with international experience in water resources planning and management are invited to express their interest for the technical assistance to WARPO. The consulting assignment would be spread over a period of about thirty months. The task would require a multi-disciplinary team consisting of professionals in areas of water resources, economics, institutional planning, ecology, environment, sociology/anthropology, participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation and management information system. To complement the skills available within the firm, they are encouraged to form joint ventures with other international and Bangladeshi firms and NGOs.
The expression of interest including brief statement on firm's qualifications and experience should be submitted to Director General, Water Resources Planning Organization by September 15, 1996. Based on the response a short-list of about five to six firms would be prepared using a criteria consisting of firm's experience, sectoral spread, experience in national, regional and river basin planning, number of projects prepared, number of special studies and geographical experience. The consulting services would be recruited using the World Bank's Guidelines for recruitment of consultants. For more information please contact Director General, WARPO.



Bangabandhu Parishad brought out a mourning procession commemorating the 21st anniversary of death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the city on Thursday. — Star photo



Indian High Commissioner Deb Mukherjee (R) visiting an art exhibition of 19 leading Bangladeshi artists, organised at the cultural centre of the Indian High Commission in the city yesterday. — Star photo