

V-Day programmes begin today

A fortnight-long colourful programme of the government begins today in observance of the 'Victory Day' on December 16 in the backdrop of the silver jubilee of the independence, reports BSS.

Various other non-government forums including the political, social and cultural organisations have already launched their programmes to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the independence.

This year's Victory Day carries immense significance as it synchronises with the silver jubilee celebrations of the independence. The official programmes that begin today will continue till December 16.

The Bangladesh Television and the Bangladeshi Betar will initiate the programmes today. A major feature of the programmes is identification of the grave of the shaheed freedom fighters and offering of fete. The television and the radio will prominently cover such functions.

Special prayers will be held for the freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the independence.

Special function will be arranged in Mujibnagar where the first government of Bangladesh was formed. Other occasions like the 'bijoy mela' discussion meetings, cultural functions and photo exhibitions on the Liberation War will be held. Games and competition in the

educational institutions will be arranged and commemorative postal stamps will be released.

The ruling Bangladesh Awami League, main opposition Bangladeshi Nationalist Party, the Jatiya Party, the Communist Party of Bangladesh and other political organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes in this connection.

Shilpkala Academy

Our Staff Correspondent adds: On the occasion, the Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy will launch its month-long programme today at its premises at 6 pm. says a press release.

Dr Sanjida Khatun, Samar Das, Hasan Imam, Aly Zaker, Ashfaque Rahman Khan and Asad Chowdhury will address the function.

Chetona Mancha

Muktijuddher Chetona Mancha has organised a fortnight-long programme from today at

Special prayers will be held for the freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the independence.

Former chief advisor of the caretaker government Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman will attend the inaugural function as the chief guest.

CPB

Communist Party of Bangladesh will hold a discussion at 5 pm today at its office on the occasion of silver jubilee of independence and victory.

Killing of 2 brothers

Police interrogate auto-rickshaw driver, none arrested yet

By Staff Correspondent

Police interrogated the driver of the auto rickshaw in which two brothers were shot dead by unidentified gunmen on the Dhaka-Narayanganj road at Shampur in the city on Thursday.

The driver, Lal Miah, 30, was interrogated by the Demra police yesterday, police said. They were yet to find out the motive behind the killing.

None of the attackers could be arrested till last night, said police.

Unidentified assailants riding a motorcycle gunned down two brothers—Salahuddin, 32, father of two, and Sohel, 19, a college student—and snatched Tk 5,000 from them near the Lal Masjid on the Dhaka-Narayanganj road at Shampur at about 11.30 Thursday.

Police are now investigating whether Salahuddin or his family had enemies regarding business.

Death of tigers

Another ZOO staff confesses involvement

By Staff Correspondent

Another employee of Dhaka Zoo, arrested in connection with the killing of four Royal Bengal Tigers at the Zoo recently, gave a confessional statement. Detective Branch (DB) police sources said yesterday.

With this, two Zoo employees have so far confessed their involvement in poisoning the tigers to death. Nine people arrested earlier were placed on DB remand. Seven of them will be produced in court today, seeking extension of their remand, the sources said.

"We have even traced the shop at Mirpur-1 from where the poisonous insecticide was bought and detained the shopkeeper for questioning," a DB source said, adding that he would be released after questioning as he possessed a valid trade licence.

ADB links

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pending conditionalities of the Bank's Recovery Programme loan be met.

Taylor in his letter to the finance minister said ADB would continue to provide all assistance for further commercialisation of Bangladesh Railway so as to restore and maintain its financial viability.

According to campus sources, Md Shahidul Islam, a final year student of Islamic Studies, who was suffering from asthma was admitted to the medical centre this morning.

He was later transferred to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital as his condition worsened but he died on the way.

Hearing this news the angry students went to the RUMC and ransacked the chambers of doctors, who fled. The students held the doctors responsible for the death of Shahidul.

The body of Shahidul was sent to his home town in Jessor on namaj-e-janaza in the University Central Mosque.

The decision for installation of the joint venture company came in line with the memorandum of understanding signed between the two companies on November 27, officials said.

The construction work will be started soon and the plant will go into full production by the end of 1998, they said.

The plant, when completed, will be able to bottle 50,000 metric tons of LPG gas and 20,000 metric tons of lubricating oil annually.

Shahidul joined the Thanchi as the new TNO, official sources said.

The remaining four passengers, identified as tribals, were released late last night, they added.

Azimuddin joined the TNO, 5 others

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Shahidul, were taken hostage, the officials said.

The remaining four passengers, identified as tribals, were released late last night, they added.

"We are having open discussions on issues of Ganges water, cultural exchange and trade and commerce. I will meet business leaders here tomorrow," he said. During talks with Sheikh Hasina, he also discussed West Bengal's experience in land reform.

UNB adds: Meanwhile, chairman and members of the local government parashad boycotted its regular monthly meeting today in protest of the kidnapping and demanded of the government to take steps for early release of those abducted by the Shantibahini.

District BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, in separate statements, condemned the incident, urged the authorities to take appropriate steps to free the remaining abducted people from the hands of Shantibahini insurgents.

In his long speech the octogenarian communist leader

also touched upon various aspects of regional and international economic and political issues and expressed concern at the rise of fundamentalist forces.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Abdus Azad said, "We are very much optimistic about a solution to water crisis."

Pointed at Basu, Samad said, "He is not just the Chief Minister of West Bengal, he is very much present in the Centre as well. His party's support is behind the United Front government."

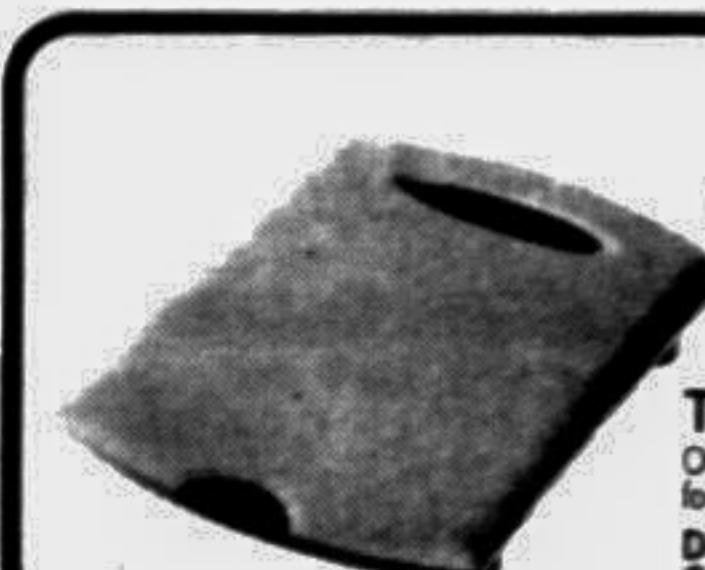
With Workers Party President Amal Sen in the chair, the reception was also addressed by Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon, West Bengal Home and Information Minister Bhuddadev Bhattacharjee, Finance Minister Dr Asim Dasgupta and coordinator of the eight-party Left Democratic Front (LDF) Dilip Barua.

Rashed Khan Menon expressed the hope that the positive initiatives taken by Jyoti Basu would be successful in reaching a permanent solution to Ganges water sharing problem.

He also laid emphasis on just sharing of waters of 52 other common rivers and an end to the trade imbalance between Bangladesh and India.

Earlier, Amal Sen presented a shawl with designs depicting the 'Tebbaq Andolon'.

Various other socio-cultural and workers and peasants organisations also presented him



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PHILIPS

Dialogue on share market at TSC

Experts suggest reform programme

Economists and stock exchange experts yesterday suggested a comprehensive reform programme to ensure positive performance in the share market as well as protect the interests of the investors, reports BSS.

Participating in a 'Share Dialogue' organised by Bangladesh Juba Union in the city they described the present situation of share market as not "ideal and positive" and proposed for thorough and full reforms of the share market.

They said the share market must be made competitive and transparent to ensure its fair growth and positive performance.

The experts said there should be some institutions to stop speculative trading, which is now virtually occurring in the share market contrary to the fundamental strengths of the companies.

The experts said the fundamentals of the companies were very important as regards the proper growth of the share market.

Referring to the huge involvement of the people in the share market and their keen interests in the trading they said a large number of people had joined the trading before the corrections and reforms of the market were made.

During the dialogue, a series of questions were raised from

9 ex-army officers sued for 'killing' 3 women at Mohammadpur

By Staff Correspondent

A case has been lodged with Mohammadpur thana accusing nine former military officials and drivers of their vehicles in connection with the killing of three women in Mohammadpur area on August 15, 1975, according to officials sources.

A resident of Shershah Suri Road, Mohammad Ali, filed the case yesterday for the death of his neighbours Rezia Begum and her daughters Nasima and Anwara Begum, in shelling on August 15, 1975.

Shafiq, a small trader in Gulistan and reportedly a Juba League activist, was attacked near the WAPDA colony in Syedabad area following an old enmity. He was admitted to the DMCH hospital sources said.

2 stabbed

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unidentified gang cut the tendons of the hands of one Shafiqur Rahman, 25, son of Abdur Rahim of Maniknagar, at about 5pm.

Shafiq, a small trader in Gulistan and reportedly a Juba League activist, was attacked near the WAPDA colony in Syedabad area following an old enmity. He was admitted to the DMCH hospital sources said.

Brickfields

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serves as a good fuel and its fire produces good quality bricks. "Tyres burn over a long time and so are economic," he said.

Concentration of brickfields around the capital is the highest in the country. On an average, there are about 50 brickfields in every district. The District Commissioners are vested with the responsibility to issue licence to open a brickfield, sources in the DOE said.

The meeting was informed that the Corporation had disbursed Tk 260.60 crore during the fiscal year 1995-96 and Tk 237.08 crore in 1994-95. It realised Tk 1.38 crore in 1995-96 fiscal while Tk 107 crore in 1994-95.

Since its inception till June this year, the HBFC's total recoverable loan had stood at Tk 124.44 crore while the recovery was Tk 107.20 crore.

The minister called upon all concerned to strengthen the drive for realising loans. He made it clear that the Corporation must remain operative not with government subsidy but on a commercial basis.

Banking Division Secretary Shah Abdul Hannan, Chairman of HBFC governing board, Aminul Islam and Managing Director Fazey Uddin Ahmed also addressed the meeting.

HBFC

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and objectives up-to-date.

It's now necessary to decentralise the Corporation's administration and redefine its objectives to provide low-income groups with housing facilities," he said inaugurating annual meeting of HBFC's regional and zonal managers at a local hotel.

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After negotiations with the authorities, the Pan Pacific chairman arrived in the capital on Friday from Singapore for the contract-signing ceremony.

Officials said the depression in the Bay of Bengal had changed course and appeared to be heading northeast towards Bangladesh.

Depression

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ports: A cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal that threatened to lash southeastern India appeared today to veer away and head towards Bangladesh, local officials said.

Officials said the depression in the Bay of Bengal had changed course and appeared to be heading northeast towards Bangladesh.

Hasina-Basu

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Secretary Ataul Haq, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan and Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr. Mosharrif Khan Alamgir.

Basu was assisted by West Bengal Minister for Information, Home and Cultural Affairs Buddha Dev Bhattacharjee, Finance Minister Dr Ashim Dasgupta and Chief Secretary AK Majumdar.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Shahi Sami and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Deb Mukherjee were also present.

Teenage boy

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him and left the place, police said.

The cause of the killing could not be known immediately.

Mirpur police arrested one person identified as Tanvir Ahmed Badsha in the evening for his alleged involvement in the murder. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy, police said.

Mostafizur Rahman dead

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Mukarram mosque today after Zohr prayers. Another janaza will be held at BNP central office at 2.30 pm. Besides, janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad mosque after Asr prayers.

As news spread Mostafiz had slipped into coma and his condition worsened, colleagues and friends rushed to have a last glimpse. They included Major Gen (rtd) Majidul Huq and Lt. Gen (rtd) Mir Shawkat Ali, senior leaders of BNP and its youth and student fronts.

The gulkhwan of the deceased will be held at his residence at Road No. 37, House No. 43, Gulshan after Asr prayers on Tuesday, his family said.

UNB adds: He was elected member of parliament in 1979 and 1991 from Bagerhat-2 constituency.

He was born on January 8, 1934. His father, Khan Bahadur Bazir Rahman Khan, was a revenue commissioner during the Pakistan period.

Mostafiz studied in St Xavier's, St Gregory High School in Dhaka and Dhaka Government College. He passed matriculation in 1951.

In a condolence message, she said Mostafiz was one of the top ranking organisers of nationalist forces. The void created in BNP politics by his death will be hard to fill, she said.

Begum Zia prayed for salvation of his departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.



Ghinva Bhutto (R), widow of Murtaza Bhutto, announced that she will replace her slain husband as leader of the Pakistan People's Party faction (PPP) at a press conference in Karachi yesterday as her daughter Fatima (L) looks on.

— AFP/UNB photo

6 killed, 15 injured in road accidents