

The World on Time

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Display of military hardware at the National Museum on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of Independence.



Sequence of a drama staged by 'Samoy' at the Central Shaheed Minar (L) and puppet show at the Muktijoddah Museum (R) yesterday in observance of Silver Jubilee of Independence. - Star photo

Reuter adds: Myanmar's mil-

itary government said today

that most of the students held

after night-long street protests

in capital Yangon had been re-

leased after their identities

Reuters up to 300 students were

taken away just before sunrise

in police trucks after they had

refused to disperse following a

march through central Yangon

faced any charges. They were

simply held briefly to sort out

whether they were real students

or infiltrators," said a

spokesman for the ruling State

Fresh action

programme

at Golapganj

from Dec 7

From Staff Correspondent

Action Committee of Golapganj

has announced fresh pro-

gramme to press its 6-point de-

public meeting at Golapganj at 3

pm on December 7, gherao of

the TNO office on December 10

and a sit-in for an indefinite

period in all the gas wells of the

Kailashtila Gas Fields from De-

cember 17. The fresh pro-

gramme was announced at a

rally at Golapganj this after

The speakers at the rally

Thana Ameer of Jamaat-e-

called upon the people to unite

Islami Syed Nasir Uddin

Transport strike

From Page 1

ists, release of the bus and staff

ganj by terrorists and security

leged that terrorists in Manik-

ganj have seized one bus of

Pabna Motor Malik Group

including the members of staff

when they refused to pay money

The transport leaders al-

members detained in Manik-

for realising the demands.

presided over the rally.

of transport employees.

demanded by terrorists.

The programme includes, a

SYLHET, Dec 3: The all Party

Law and Order Restoration

"They were not detained or

in early hours of the morning.

Witnesses had earlier told

were checked.

Council (SLORC).

mand.

Arrested students freed

Suu Kyi barred from leaving home

YANGON, Dec 3: Myanmar Opposition Leader Aung San Suu Kvi and more than 20 associates were prevented from leaving her home by security forces today, sources close to the pro-democracy activist said, reports AFP.

Security forces put up checkpoints early this morning barring access to the section of university avenue where her compound is located and turned back reporters who tried to enter for a scheduled news confer-

Reached by telephone at Aung San Suu Kyi's home, the sources said there were 25 people inside the compound and all were unable to leave.

Aung San Suu Kyi was the only senior member of the National League for Democracy

(NLD) inside, the sources said. The sources said they could give no reason for the measures and those inside had received no indication of when they

would be allowed to leave. The checkpoints were put in place shortly after security forces rounded up some 300 students who had held an all-night demonstration.

Zobaida Rashid

From Page

vanity bag before she left the jail and recovered the cassette. It was later handed over to the Home Ministry.

On the cassette, Mehnai

Rashid is heard telling her mother: 'Say, your confessional statement under Section 164 was taken forcibly. Zobaida Rashid replies

Police took the statement perpetrating repression on me. want to retract it.

When contacted, jail officials said they un the prison under jail cod. which is applicable only or prisoners. Mehnaj was not a prisoner and in white eyes all responsibilities go to her (Mehnaj), they

In this context, the jail officials handed over the cassette to Home Ministry to take legal action as per law for committing

added.

such an 'adventurist' act. Home Ministry officials said they were now examining the rules so that action could be taken against Mehnai.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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From Page 1

Chetana Monch. He said that they maintained communication with the Pakistan government and also talked to foreign governments for a compromise.

Taramon

The reminiscence meeting was also participated by Finance Minister Shah ASM Kibria. Abul Hosen and Waliur Rahman and Amzadul Haque. Dr Muntasir Mamun delivered the welcome address. Architect

Mazharul Islam presided. Joy Bangla Sanskritik Jote organised a discussion on Ekusher Chetana and Ganotantrik Andolon' yesterday.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad who addressed the meeting as chief guest said Bangladesh achieved independence under the leadership of Bangabandhu in 1971 and his daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would bring another freedom' for the nation in the month of independence, after 25 years.

He said Ziaur Rahman came to power through conspiracy after the tragic assassination of Bangabandhu. He said that people of the country would not tolerate the 'foul play' regarding the declaration of indepen-

Presided by former BFUJ president Habibur Rahman, the meeting was also addressed by Amirul Islam and Jote Convenor Salauddin Badal.

A cultural programme followed the discussion meeting.

On the occasion of the silver jubilee of victory. Union of University Film Societies of Bangladesh will organise a programme in the TSC premises on Films on Liberation War and Liberation War in Films' on December 7, 8 and 9.

The programme will include meeting, photography exhibition, screening of films on Liberation War.

Sakhipur

From Page 1

The President assured them that their genuine grievances will be looked into on priority

The members of the delegation requested the President to lay the foundation stone of "Shapath Stambha" at Baheratali in Sakhipur of Tangail district where 800 members of Kader Bahini took oath on May 9, 1971 for starting Liberation

War to resist Pakistan Army. President Shahabuddin gave his consent.

The delegation included Nasreen Siddique, wife of Bangabir Kader Siddique, Showkat Ali Khan, A M Enayet Karim, advocate Suhrawardy, Abdus Sabur Dhan Birbikram, Abul Kalam Azad Birbikram Anwar Hossain Pahari Birpratik, Habibur Rahman Birpratik and Fazlul Huq Birpratik.

15th batch of ASPs passes out

Serve people, forget past attitude: PM

SARDAH (Rajshahi), Dec 3 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said her government is sincerely trying to uproot ter rorism from the society and directed the police forces to play a leading role in building a terrorism-free society, reports

We want to build up a prosperous country and for that we need a lot of investment ... if we cannot eliminate terrorism and establish rule of law in the country, we will not be able to attract foreign investment," she

The Prime Minister was addressing the passing-out cere-mony of the 15th batch of ASP (probationary) at the Police Academy here this morning.

The passing-out parade on the occasion was participated by 68 Assistant Superintendents of Police (probationary). who joined the police cadre service through competitive BCS examination and completed their one year training at the academy this year

Congratulating the newly trained police officers, the Prime Minister said that as members of the law-enforcing agencies, the responsibility of police is to protect laws of the land and to ensure peace and se-

Hasina said political stability and law and order would help to attract investment in the country, and the resultant economic development would bring down the crime rate. Police have a great role to play in achieving this goal, she added.

All officials and employees of the republic, including police, are servants of the people, she said and called upon the police forces to render service to the people, forgetting past ideas and attitude.

The Prime Minister asked the police to behave nicely with the people to earn their confi-

in Chuadanga

Chhatra League leader was seri-

ously injured when a group of

armed "terrorists" fired on him

member of the district unit of

Chhatra League, the student

wing of ruling Awami League.

was admitted to the Sadar Hos-

pital with bullet injury in the

terrorists came by motorbikes

to the Bahadurpara residence of Zipu, called him out and fired at

people rushed to the spot and

held one of the gunmen named

Farook. Police seized one pistol

and three bullets from his pos-

trict Chhatra League held a

rally at the Hasan Chattar in

the town in the afternoon de-

manding immediate arrest of

procession in the town, shout

ing slogans against the Police

Super for his alleged failure to

Attack on hotel

in Khulna,

valuables looted

From Our Correspondent

Sramik League activists al-

legedly raided hotel Arafat here

on Monday night and looted

valuables including a colour TV

FIR lodged with police alleged

that the activists also damaged

two new private cars and furni-

refund to pay them a donation

of Tk one lakh for the Sramik

League regional conference, po-

Businessman shot,

robbed of gold

ornaments

businessman and snatched

some gold ornaments from him

in the city's Jurain area yester-

hammad Tayejul Islam, 26, an

iron businessman, came under

attack at Jurain on the way to

right leg and snatched two gold

Property attached

From Page 1

New DOHS at Mohakhali in the

city. Police took those goods

under their custody, police

third year student of the Poly-

technic Institute, was gunned

down by an unidentified gang

near the campus at on Novem-

ber 25 at about noon. He was

convenor of the BCL unit of the

ward commissioner, who was

one of the 11 persons named in

the FIR filed in connection with

the killing, was absconding till

A joint team of police per-

sonnel from Tejgaon and Can-

tonment thanas cordoned off

Sarwar's residence and took

away all the moveable goods.

The operation began at around

5pm and continued till mid-

Police sources said that the

Ziaur Rahman Patwari, a

rings and a chain from him.

The bandits shot him in the

his shop at about 4:30 pm.

Medical sources said Mo-

day, reports UNB.

sources said.

institute.

last night.

night, police said.

Miscreants shot at a young

Earlier the hotel owner had

The owner of the hotel in his

and Tk 50 thousand in cash.

ture of some rooms.

KHULNA. Dec 3: A group of

Earlier, they brought out a

Protesting the incident, dis

Police said a group of armed

On hearing a hue and cry.

early today, reports UNB.

waist.

close range.

session.

the attackers.

nab the criminals.

CHUADANGA, Dec 3: A local

Zipu Chowdhury, 18, a

dence and reduce the police people gap. People's expectation from police is very high in the onward march of the demo

"You should enforce laws keeping yourself above any party or opinion," she said adding, "my government will not use the police forces for personal or party interest as was done in the past.

The Prime Minister mentioned the alarming rise in the number of powerful criminals in the guise of gentlemen and said that besides traditional crimes, various types of economical and social crimes were gaining ground

Take up this challenging task to nab those criminals and prove your efficiency," she directed the police officers.

Hasina said that while enforcing law, the police would have to remember that 'all are equal in the eyes of law. She assured all possible help

of the government in mod-

ernising the police forces, say ing that her government was aware of their problems. On arrival at the Police Academy, the Prime Minister was received by Inspector

General of Police M Azizul Hug and then escorted to the salut ing dais. The Prime Minister took salute of the smartly turned out contingent of the probationary

police officers and inspected the Shahabuddin Khan, ad judged the best probationary ASP, was awarded the IGP cup. The Prime Minister later distributed certificates among the successful ASPs in the

Chamney Memorial Hall.

Home Minister Major (retd) Rafiqui Islam, Home Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, IGP M Azizul Huq and Principal of the Police Academy DIG Ashraful Huda spoke at the function at the Chamney Memorial Hall.

BCL leader shot Laminated driver's licence for rickshawpullers

By Staff Correspondent Rickshawpullers in the city are being provided with laminated driver's licences with the holder's photograph in it,

officials said. The DCC has already issued 25,000 of these licences for a charge of Tk 25 each.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)

"Officially, we have about 80,000 rickshaws in the city, we will issue up to one lakh sixty thousand cards considering two pullers for each rickshaw," said the DCC official.

Each rickshawpuller is required to face a panel of medical officers and officials of the traffic police before getting the licence, the official said. The medical officer will cer-

tify the puller as fit while the traffic policemen will test his knowledge about traffic rules before issuing the licence," he

Two rickshawpullers who obtained the driver's licence recently said that they had never faced any panel whatsoever for getting the licence.

"My friends and me gave our photographs and details to an official of the rickshawpullers' association with Tk 60 and received our licences a week later," said Salam, a rickshawpuller from Agargaon area of the city.

BCL factions clash in Ctg, trade fire with police

CHITTAGONG, Dec 3: Two factions of the local chapter of Chhatra League traded gunshots and also clashed with police in the city's busy Nandankanan area today, disrupting normal life for an hour, reports UNB.

Witnesses said two groups of activists of the city unit of Chhatra League, the student wing of the ruling party, locked in gunfight at about 2:30 pm in

a sequel to previous rivalry. They said the two sides exchanged at least 30 rounds of fire and at one stage also fired

on police as they intervened. Later, police reinforced their strength and arrested two Chhatra League activists, Mohammad Idris and Sunil, from

the scene along with arms and ammunition. Sunil, however, escaped from the police custody, police said. The recovered arms include

one rifle, 13 bullets and one rille magazine.

Summit

From Page 1

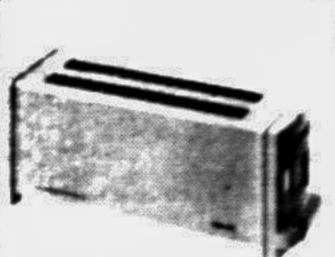
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to leave Dhaka on December 8 or 9. The exact day is expected to be decided today or tomorrow. She may return to Dhaka on the night of December 11.

The Prime Minister is likely to visit Azmeer Sharif to offer prayers at the mazar of Hazrat Khaaja Moinuddin Chishti, prior to her summit with the Indian Prime Minister Meanwhile, a high level

meeting on the water accord was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday af ternoon chaired by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. Later the minister and other senior officials held lengthy discussions with the Prime Minister, at her office, related to her upcoming trip.

The Prime Minister's entourage is likely to include Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak.

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PHILIPS

Speakers at BUP roundtable

Link up with Asian highway must for economic benefit

Discussants, including minister, former advisers, politicians and academics, at a round-table yesterday suggested that Bangladesh should not miss the bandwagon, it should establish link with outer world through Asian highway for its economic benefit, reports UNB. We'll be economically bene-

fited through the highway without any investment," said Communications Minister Anwar Hossain addressing the round-table

The Bangladesh Unnavan Parishad (BUP) organised the round-table on "Cooperation in Infrastructure Development with Particular Reference to Transport" at its office in the

afternoon. All the participants

mainly discussed Asian highway for regional cooperation. Describing the planned Asian highway and trans-Asian railway as a followup of SAARC and SAPTA agreements, the minister said : A great opportunity had come to us, and if we fail, it will be a

great historical tragedy Without naming BNP, in this context, the minister said once they engaged themselves in a debate that who dreamt SAARC.

Sangsad Sectt clarification By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat on Monday issued a "clar ification" on a recent news item published in The Daily Star under the headline of "Complaint with the Speaker, copy to UNDP: JS Task Force consti tuted without consulting the

The news item, quoting the Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, alleged that the BNP was not consulted while constituting the Parliamentary Task Force, and a Project Director was appointed and programme to visit parliaments of some other countries was undertaken without any discussion with the

The JS Secretariat clarifica tion signed by Sayed Sadikur Rahman, Director of the Public Relations said:

"The Parliamentary Task

Force has been constituted mainly at the initiative of the UNDP as a unique parliamentary body with responsibilities primarily in the areas of parliamentary reforms and infrastructure development. The implementation of the proposed development project for strengthening of the infrastructure and support services to Parliament is, to some extent administrative in nature. From this point of view, responsibilities of the Task Force may be said to have some similarities with the Parliament Secretariat Commission established under the Parliament Secretariat Act, 1994 passed in the absence of the then opposition parties. The Commission constituted of the then Hon'ble Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali as chairman, three members from the Govt. and one member from the opposition. The same practice is being continued at pre-

"Top officials of the UNDP at that time staying in Dhaka in connection with the launching of the Task Force, presumably after consultations with the Leader of the Opposition. gave Hon'ble Speaker the impression that the proposed constitution of the Task Force and representation of the main opposition party in the same had the acceptance of all concerned quarters. Thereafter, on 29th Sept., '96 the Hon'ble Prime Minister formally launched the Task Force at a function which was attended by Ambassadors, High Commissioners, represen tatives of the UNDP and other donor agencies and countries. members of Parliament from the government and opposition parties including M K Anwar (who even spoke on the occasion), journalists and other high dignitaries. The Task Force as announced by the Prime Minister consists of Hon'ble Speaker as its Chairman, three members from the government and three members from Opposition including two from the main opposition "The administrative author-

ity of the Parliament Secretariat having been vested in the Speaker, he has appointed a senior officer of the Parliament Secretariat as Project Director, who has been working as the focal point in the Parliament Secretariat including performance of administrative duties in connection with preparation of the Project. "Selection of MPs in Par-

liamentary delegations going abroad has been the privilege of the Speaker and there is no practice in Bangladesh Parliament that he would consult any political party in the process of such selection. The predecessors of the present Speaker did not deviate from this practice.

"Parliament Secretariat hopes that the above informa tion sufficiently clarifies the points made in your news item.

but now was opposing its fol-lowup stage. They, however, are shifting their position realising the reality and it is a good

The minister said it is not

Bangladesh or India, rather the developed countries who first realised the importance of such a highway. But, it is Bangladesh which will be benefited by being linked with the highway, he He called upon all to realise

the main objectives of the Asian highway, and dispelled the fear that independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh would be at stake for it. In this regard. Anwar Hossain pointed to the changed world order

Regarding assurance of country's interest in the Asian highway, the minister said in the changed world order nobody could force anything on any one. "We can co-opt in or co-opt out anything considering our own benefit

Former adviser of the interim government Fakhruddin Ahmed recalled that he had gone to India as a representative of Pakistan in 1964 to discuss Asia highway. "It means the two arch-rival countries

Bangla Academy celebrates founding anniversary

Bangla Academy yesterday celebrated its 41st founding anniversary through a day-long programme, reports BSS. The programme included

placing wreaths at the Central

Shaheed Minar, video exhibi-

tion on folklore, discussion, and cultural function. The day's programme began with the placing of wreaths at the Shaheed Minar in the

morning. In the afternoon a discussion was held at the Bangla Academy premises with its president Poet Shamsur Rahman in the chair.

Renowned scientist Prof Harun-ur-Rashid addressed the meeting while the welcome speech of director general of Bangla Academy Prof Mansoor Musa was read out by Habib-ul-Alam.

Poet Shamsur Rahman, in his speech, said there has been a deep relations between science and literature and underlined the need for further expanding these relations.

Describing Bangla Academy as a fruit of a movement he said the academy was founded at the self-sacrifices of the martyrs of the language movement.

In his speech, Prof Harunur-Rashid expressed the hope that the Bangla Academy would not only be the symbol of thinking but also conscience in the 21st century.

Prof Mansoor Musa said scientific attitudes should be infused in minds of the cultural activists.

PM opens workshop on WB report today

A two-day national workshop begins in Dhaka today on a World Bank report that recommended sweeping reforms to improve the public sector if Bangladesh is to attain its goal of achieving 7 per cent growth rate, reports UNB.

Judiciary

From Page 1

hoped that the justice-seeking people would not be harassed in the courts for trial dates, day af-

If the judges and lawers remain considerate about the sufferings of the justice-seekers, she said, the people would get the fruits of judicial system. Hasina regretted that timely

and suitable law to run the country had not been formulated over the 25 years of independence and said, for this reason, the present government formed a permanent Law Commission. About the women commu-

nity of the country, she said the stand of the government for protecting the rights and dignity of women and children is clear. "If needed, the government will introduce stricter law to stop women repression." Maintaining law and order

is prerequisite to building a stable society and to development, the Prime Minister said adding the present government is also determined to reign in the armed hoodlums and terrorists with iron hand. Responding to the demand of

the judges, the Prime Minister said the government would consider the legitimate demands and assured that it would arrange a piece of land for the office and rest house of the Association.

Addressing the function State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru, Acting Law Secretary Aminullah, Association president Kazi Golam Rasul and secretary general of the association Shahabuddin also spoke on the occasion.

had realised the importance of the matter.

Through the highway, Bangladesh will not only get toll but also be benefited being linked with the developed world directly," said another former adviser. Kazi Fazlur Rahman.

taking part in the discussion. Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon said he did not find any reason to be afraid of being linked with the Asian highway. "But we should remain alert so that it is not

imposed upon us." JSD General Secretary Hasanul Haq Inu said independence and sovereignty are not such trifling matter that those would be hampered for a highway or railway. Regional coop eration is a must for infrastructural development and now the highway is part of the coopera-

Former VC of Dhaka University Prof Maniruzzaman Miah raised question on sincerity of India on the proposed highway. He, in this regard, mentioned that India did not allow transit to Nepal to carry products from Chittagong Port. BUP chairman Dr Qazi Kho-

liquzzaman Ahmed presided Dr M Farashuddin, Dr M Asa duzzaman, Zaglul A Chow dhury. Dr Shajahan Kabir Chowdhury. Abdul Haq. Prof M Aminul Islam, Amiad Hossain Khan, Prof Mahabbat Khan, Prof KB Sajjadur Rasheed, Prof Harun or Rashid and Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqui also spoke at the round-table

Visiting US General calls on Army, Navy chiefs

Visiting Commander-in-Chief of the US Atlantic Command General JJ Sheehan called on Army Chief Lt Gen Muhammad Mahbubur Rah man at the Army Headquarters yesterday, reports UNB

General Sheehan stayed with the Chief of Army Staff for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest, said an SPR press release.

Earlier, General Sheehan vent to Shikha Anirban (The Eternal Flame) and placed a wreath in memory of the members of the Armed Forces martyred during the 1971 Liberation War.

He then drove to Sena Kunja where he was given a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the army. He took salute and inspected the guard. He also planted a sapling there. General Sheehan also met

with Naval Chief Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam at the Naval Headquarters. They discussed matters of common in-

General Sheehan then visited the Savar Cantonment. The local area commander Major General Imamuzzaman received him. He saw the ongoing training activities of the local Army Division.

4 JCD activists held in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET. Dec 3: Four activists of the Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal were arrested by

Kotwali police early today. The arrested are Shafayat Karim Tanim. Azizul Hossain. Raju Barua and Moktadir Ali. Police said, they were taken into custody for yesterday's clash with the activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League

Three persons were injured in the clash.

ASF: Draft plan

From Page 1 kat Ali explained the proposed

crop insurance and said that in case of crop damage to the extent of 75 per cent due to natural calamities, subsidy would given against loan taken by peasants. Sources concerned informed The Daily Star that allocation

under ASF this year is being spent to provide price-support in buying two lakh tons of urea As the projected domestic

production of urea fertiliser -21 lakh tons — fell short of the estimated demand of 23 lakh tons in the current fiscal year, the government is buying one lakh five thousand tons of urea from cent per cent export-led KAFCO (Karnaphuli Fertiliser Companyl. For this, the government has to give price subsidy as it is buying urea from KAFCO as per international market rate of fertiliser but has to distribute in the market at a much lower rate for the benefit of peasants

The rest 95 thousand tons of urea would be imported under private initiatives, for which, subsidisation is required, the sources said Mentionably, allocation for

agriculture sector has been raised to Tk 784 crore under the ADP, up by 34 per cent from a Tk 558.54 crore allocation in the revised budget for 1995-96.