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Silver Jubilee of Victory Day

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crests to the artists of the Betar Kendra.

Presided over by Laila Hasan, the function was also addressed by chairperson of BNPS Rahima Chowdhury, its executive director Rukya Kabir, and member Sanoara Begum.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury in his speech called upon the people, women in particular, to come forward to let the new generations know the true history of the country.



Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak speaking at the closing ceremony of a week-long drama festival at Comilla Town Hall on Thursday organised in observance of the Silver Jubilee of Victory Day. —PID photo

She called upon the freedom fighters and pro-liberation forces to unite again with the Joy Bangla slogan which inspired the people of the country during the Liberation War.

"Whatever we have lost, is lost... Let us reunite with the slogan of our Liberation War — Joy Bangla — once again on this Silver Jubilee of the Victory Day," she said.

Anti-liberation forces were getting united to conspire against the independence and sovereignty of the country, she said. "We have to resist the conspiracy through our songs, poetry and writings," she said.



A scene from the drama Kumirer Kanna (Crocodile tears) staged at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Victory Day. —Star photo

She said that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had established a board for rehabilitation of the women who were repressed during the Liberation War. But its activities were stopped after the father of the nation was killed.

The function was rounded up with a session of folksongs. Singers from different parts of the country rendered songs in the function.

Names of the women freedom fighters who were given crests and certificates are: Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Dr Dipa Islam, Kumkum Begum, Krishna Rahman, Dr Shefalika Das, Hafeza Akhtar, Ira Kar, Gita Kar, Sabitri Biswas, Jutka Chatterjee, Monika Bagchi, Lina Chakrabarti, Zinnatunessa Talukdar MP, Mukulika Majumdar, Shobha Bairagi, Laila Parveen Banu, Ila Rani Kar, Rekha Saha, Ambia Khatun, Maya Dhar, Shamsumahar, Gita Biswas, Sabita Chandra, Gita Majumdar, Nazma Khatun, Majeda Khatun, Dr Sara Banu, Nilima Ahmed, Rokeya Begum, Farida Begum, Arati Rani Mandal and Bibi Hossain.

Ramna Batomul on the sixth day of its fortnight long Victory Day programme "Mujib Uzzal Road".

Presided over by Prof Abdul Khaleq, the meeting was also addressed by Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, Aref Ahmed, Salauddin Badal, Abdul Kader, Prof Fazlul Haq and GM Gaus. The discussion meeting was rounded up with a cultural function.

A reminiscence meeting on "Air Force in Liberation War" was held at the TSC Crossing. The freedom fighters of the Air Force recalled their memories at the meeting, organised by the Muktiyoddher Chetana Monch on the fifth day of its fortnight-long programme.

Steps taken to rent houses in Makkah for Hajj pilgrims

All necessary measures have been taken to rent suitable houses in Makkah for accommodation of Bangladeshi Hajj pilgrims under the government management during the coming Hajj, reports UNB.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam stated this at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on his return from Makkah yesterday.

The State Minister said more than 8,400 pilgrims will perform Hajj from Bangladesh under government management this year, up from about 7,700 last year.

The State Minister disclosed that during his stay in Makkah, open tender was called for houses to sort out better houses for the pilgrims, said a PID handout.

Mosharraf, Salam Ctg north AL President, Secy

CHITTAGONG, Dec 6: Engineer Mosharraf Hossain MP and Mohammad Abdus Salam have been re-elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Chittagong North District Chapter of Bangladesh Awami League for next three years term at a council session held here Thursday night, party sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

The council session, held at the auditorium of the Engineers Institution, Chittagong was presided over by Awami League Presidium member Abdul Mannan MP.

1 killed, 4 hurt in road accident

NETROKONA, Dec 6: A police officer was killed and four policemen were seriously injured in a road accident at Satrasay, about nine kilometers from here late Thursday night. Police sub-inspector Ibrahim Mia, 27, was killed on the spot and four policemen accompanying him received injuries when a police patrol van carrying them fell into a roadside ditch.

10 dacoits held in Khulna

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 6: Batiyagata police on Thursday night raided a trailer bound for Sundarbans and arrested ten alleged dacoits. Two pipe guns, 32 bullets and some bomb-making materials were also recovered from their possession.

Babri Mosque

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was built by Mogul invaders by destroying a Hindu temple on the site. The demolition led to nationwide Hindu-Muslim clashes that left 2,000 people dead.

Tension prevailed in the old parts of Hyderabad, which has a large Muslim population. The main road of the area was littered with glass and stones. A dozen charred cars and motorcycles were lying on the road. Hundreds of armed policemen patrolled the empty streets.

On Friday, about 10,000 members of several Muslim groups marched through the streets near Charminar, a 16-century monument, condemning the destruction of the mosque.

Police said some of the processionists hurled rocks at a Hindu temple and some homes, prompting them to retaliate.

Witnesses said police did not try to disperse the crowd with cane charges or tear gas and instead opened fire directly on people.

City police chief C Ramaswamy said they did not anticipate violence as similar processionists in the last two years were peaceful.

AL rally

From Page 1

urged the people to "remain alert against the conspiracy."

Hanif, who presided over the rally, said the vested interest groups were also trying to "fish in troubled water" just when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would be going to bring the due share of the Ganges water.

Addressing the rally, Awami League presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury MP alleged that there have been numerous threats on the life of Sheikh Hasina. "We became totally puzzled after the assassination of Bangabandhu, but now we are cautious," she said.

Sajeda urged the countrymen to remain alert against any conspiracy, particularly "when we are observing Silver Jubilee of the victory of Liberation War as Bangladeshis, not as Bangladeshis."

Referring to the BNP's claim that Zia had declared the independence, Mofazzul Hossain Chowdhury Maya MP warned that a massive movement would be launched if such distortion of history continued.

The city AL general secretary appealed to the Home Minister to arrest all terrorists immediately. "People want to live in a peaceful society," he said without elaborating.

Several thousand people, carrying portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, attended the rally. A large number of women were also present.

The rally was also addressed by Awami League leaders Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Sabir Hossain Chowdhury, Momtaz Hossain, Akhtarul Alam, Siddiqur Rauf Khan, Monir Hossain Khan, Kamal Chowdhury, Fazlur Rahman, Fayezeuddin Mia, former DUCSU VP Sultan Mohammad and BCL general secretary Ishaq Ali Khan Panna.

Democracy Day observed

The nation yesterday celebrated the Democracy Day to mark 6th anniversary of ending the nearly nine-year rule of the autocratic regime, reports UNB.

On the day in 1990, autocratic ruler Hossain Mohammad Ershad resigned handing over power to Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed under a guideline spelt out by the three mainstream political alliances for holding a free and fair election.

To observe the day, different political parties, socio-cultural organisations and student bodies arranged various programmes, including discussion, public meeting, rally and cultural function.

Dhaka City Awami League held a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue where Dhaka city mayor Mohammad Hanif said all political parties are free to exercise their political activities without any interference during the Awami League government.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) observed "Fall of Autocracy and Democracy Day" and held a rally in front of the party's central office at Naya Paltan.

Addressing the rally, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the government of Sheikh Hasina is out to provide transit facility to India in the name of Asian Highway.

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Jatiya Party of ousted president HM Ershad observed the day as "Democracy and Constitution Protection Day" and held a discussion meeting at the party's Kalabagan office in the afternoon.

Jamaat-e-Islami observed the day as "Fall of Autocracy Day" and organised a discussion meeting on "Independence and Democracy" at Party's Paltan office. Jamaat secretary general Matiuur Rahman Nizami addressed the meeting.

Gono Forum also organised a discussion meeting at its Segun Bagicha office to observe the fall of autocratic regime. Gono Forum president Dr Kamal Hossain, party leaders Saifuddin Manik, advocate Zahurul Islam and Mostafa Mohsin Mantu addressed the meeting.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus and held a rally in front of DUCSU Bhaban in the morning.

DUCSU will hold a three-day photo exhibition on Dhaka University campus to mark the occasion.

The exhibition will be inaugurated at 10 am on Saturday by former DU VC Moniruzzaman Miah. VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury will attend the function as chief guest while DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman will preside.

3 DU students beaten up on campus

Three students of Dhaka University were beaten up on the campus yesterday by the activists of rival groups, reports UNB.

Campus sources said a group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists beat up Mehedi, a Chhatra League activist and resident student of Mohsin Hall, at about 11:30 am in front of Surya Sen Hall.

Following the incident, BCL activists of Mohsin Hall brought out a protest rally on the campus and beat Chhatra Dal leader Tipu in front of the university Lecture Theatre.

The skirmishes continued till afternoon when some activists of BCL beat another JCD worker Monwar at TSC Centre at 4:00 pm.

Mehedi, Tipu and Monwar were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

DCs asked to complete UP polls in due time

Acting Chief Election Commissioner Abdur Rahman yesterday directed the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to complete Union Parishad elections in due time, reports UNB.

He was addressing a meeting of the Divisional Commissioners and DCs, held at the NEC Bhaban on the occasion of the upcoming UP elections.

The Acting CEC said the term of present Union Parishads elected in 1992 will begin to expire from February next. According to the rule, the elections to UPs must be held within 180 days before their expiry date, the CEC added.

Abdur Rahman said the Election Commission had already completed its preparations to hold the elections. He said complete voter lists of the villages divided by the Local Government Ministry for re-fixing boundary of UPs have to be printed by January 7, 1997.

The DCs will act as the principal coordinator of all the activities relating to UP election. District Election Officials have already been directed to prepare panel to select the Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer.

He said minimum one voting centre will be set up at each ward and accordingly 40,500 voting centres will be set up across the country.

Some 40,500 presiding officers, 1,21,500 assistant presiding officers and 2,43,000 polling officers will be appointed for the UP election.

The Acting CEC said law enforcers will be appointed for peaceful holding of the election after consulting with the Home Ministry and the law enforcing agencies.

The Divisional Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners assured that the UP election would be conducted in the due time.

Election Commissioner Mushtaque Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary to the Election Commission Secretariat Muhammad Faizur Razzak, Additional Secretary A F M Imam Hossain were present.

Handing over of Hebron to PLO

Arafat, Netanyahu may meet in Cairo today to clinch deal

JERUSALEM, Dec 6: PLO negotiators said today Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak might all meet on Saturday to try to clinch a deal on Israel's handover of Hebron to the PLO.

"It is very possible that Arafat and Netanyahu will meet in Cairo on Saturday. There is work on arranging such a meeting hosted by President Mubarak," one PLO official, who requested anonymity, told Reuters.

Israeli officials said no meeting had yet been set.

Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu Radwan said "President Arafat is ready to meet Prime Minister Netanyahu but no time or date has been set for such a meeting yet."

"President Arafat's position is clear that such a meeting should come after successful negotiations so that the meeting would have positive results. Especially, since the Hebron issue has not been agreed upon yet and other crucial disputed issues have not been resolved."

But Radwan said Arafat would go to Cairo on Saturday for talks with Mubarak.

Both Arafat and Netanyahu have expressed willingness to meet. They last met in Washington after clashes in September that killed 60 Palestinians and 15 Israelis. The violence was spurred by Israel's opening an entrance to a tunnel near Muslim sites in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, former US Secretary of State James Baker called on President Bill Clinton Thursday to step up his Middle East diplomacy to prevent a collapse of the peace process.

"It is essential that the United States assume a stronger leadership role to get the peace process on track," Baker told a conference on the Middle East in Washington.

SSC candidate found dead

JHENIDAH, Dec 6: An SSC candidate was found dead at village Dhopadi in Kaliganj thana of the district today, reports UNB.

Selim Reza, 18, SSC candidate from Dhopadi High School, went to a nearby house to enjoy TV programmes Thursday night, but did not return home.

Kaliganj police recovered his body from a field of the village this morning and sent the body to the Jhenidah Modern Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

A case was filed with Kaliganj thana.

Death of tigers BELA serves legal notice

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyer's Association (BELA) Thursday served a legal notice upon the secretary of the ministry of fisheries and livestock, director general of the department of livestock services, curator and veterinary surgeon of the Dhaka Zoo for the tragic unnatural death of four tigers, one horse, two deer and one jungle cat.

The notice served by Dr Mohiuddin Farooque, Secretary General of BELA pointed out that after the first incident of death of a tiger it was logically expected that the authorities and persons responsible would take necessary measures to prevent further deaths.

"But unfortunately, there was gross negligence on the authorities to fulfil legal and constitutional obligations," said the legal notice.

The notice added, subsequent investigations and autopsy reports suggested that the deaths were caused by poisoning and accused the officials and employees of the National Zoo for their unlawful, criminal and malicious activities.

The notice demanded the government to take appropriate actions against the violators responsible for the deaths of the animals so that such incidents do not happen again in future.

It further submitted that if the authorities responsible did not give any satisfactory answer by Dec 29 next, BELA would take legal actions under the constitution, law and equity against the above mentioned persons.

ICFM begins in Jakarta Monday

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury will lead a 6-member Bangladesh delegation to the 24th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) beginning in Jakarta on Monday, reports UNB.

President Soeharto is expected to inaugurate the 6-day conference which will discuss a 64-point agenda covering the political, social and economic situations of the Muslim Ummah.

Arrested 9 remanded

Body to investigate killing of Chinese engr at Sitakunda

CHITTAGONG, Dec 6: A five-member special team headed by an assistant police commissioner has been formed to investigate the killing of a Chinese engineer, at Sitakunda, Wednesday last, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the five-member inquiry committee headed by assistant commissioner Sitakunda circle had already stated investigation.

The Chinese engineer, Huang, 27, was shot dead by armed dacoits at his residence-office complex at Bansbaria under Sitakunda thana.

Meanwhile, nine arrested persons in connection with the killing were produced before the court yesterday and taken on remand for three days, the sources added.

Kerb marketmen

From Page 1

including Emdad Hossain its president, Enam Omer Lipon vice president and Shamim Karim chief adviser were also present.

Terminating the kerb market legal, Jahangir said such share markets also exist in other countries including Hong Kong, Japan and India. Hundreds of educated youths are earning their livelihood through the kerb market, he added.

He claimed that activities of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) would become stagnant without the kerb market.

Their 11-point demand includes: arrangement for share certificate and money transaction within 72 hours, setting up of a booth at the DSE floor for examination of share certificates, restriction on issuance of IPOs and issuance of Refund Warrant within 15 days, lowering of brokerage charge and setting up of a new booth for outside traders.

They also demanded expulsion of what they called corrupt members from the DSE and allowing members of the Out Market Trades Association to trade on shares hike the DSE brokers.

Flag meet at Tinbigha on Monday

LALMONIRHAT, Dec 6: A flag meeting between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) will be held on Monday at Tinbigha corridor to defuse tension in border areas, reports UNB.

Tension was prevailing in the corridor of Dahagram-Angorputa enclave after BSF resisted BDR from setting up two check posts there on November 25.

According to the agreement signed between the two countries, setting up of check posts on two sides is permitted.

BDR is patrolling the area. Panbari BOP Commander visited the Dahagram enclave today.

Reliable sources said steps are being taken for keeping the corridor open so that people can enter beyond the time set under the bilateral agreement.

Japanese aid

From Page 1

ERD officials said the grant is to be utilised for import of various commodities, particularly raw materials, chemicals, lubricants, machineries and spare parts by both private and public sectors. The sources of procurement are united.

Official sources said the debt relief grant is an outcome of the 3-day annual consultation held October 27-29 in Dhaka. A six-member mission from Japan, the largest bilateral donor of Bangladesh, participated in the annual meeting to review the position of economic cooperation between the two nations.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Dr AKM Masihur Rahman and Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Yoshikazu Kaneko signed the exchange of notes on behalf of their respective governments.

BNP rally

From Page 1

allowed to speak in the House.

Salam Talukder, former secretary general of the party, accused the government of "administrative failure" and alleged that officials were being transferred from one place to the other according to the whims and likings of those in power.

Talukder said the government could not ensure even the minimum price to the farmers for rice and jute.

Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said, "People in the country are now scared as the government has already tarnished the image of the judiciary."

Mir Showkat Ali said that the government was repressing its opponents and implicating them in false and fabricated cases.

AL rally

From Page 1

urged the people to "remain alert against the conspiracy."

Hanif, who presided over the rally, said the vested interest groups were also trying to "fish in troubled water" just when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would be going to bring the due share of the Ganges water.

Addressing the rally, Awami League presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury MP alleged that there have been numerous threats on the life of Sheikh Hasina. "We became totally puzzled after the assassination of Bangabandhu, but now we are cautious," she said.

Sajeda urged the countrymen to remain alert against any conspiracy, particularly "when we are observing Silver Jubilee of the victory of Liberation War as Bangladeshis, not as Bangladeshis."

Referring to the BNP's claim that Zia had declared the independence, Mofazzul Hossain Chowdhury Maya MP warned that a massive movement would be launched if such distortion of history continued.

The city AL general secretary appealed to the Home Minister to arrest all terrorists immediately. "People want to live in a peaceful society," he said without elaborating.

Several thousand people, carrying portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, attended the rally. A large number of women were also present.

The rally was also addressed by Awami League leaders Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Sabir Hossain Chowdhury, Momtaz Hossain, Akhtarul Alam, Siddiqur Rauf Khan, Monir Hossain Khan, Kamal Chowdhury, Fazlur Rahman, Fayezeuddin Mia, former DUCSU VP Sultan Mohammad and BCL general secretary Ishaq Ali Khan Panna.

Cyclone

From Page 1

rail and air traffic was thrown out of gear due to the cyclone. All the trains have been stopped as huge uprooted trees have fallen on to the tracks.

No flights have landed or taken off since the cyclone hit the state, he said.

A spokesman for the Warning Centre said: "We expect the complete cyclonic storm to cross the coast within a few hours. It is a severe storm and as intense as the one which hit the state on November 6, killing 1,050 people."

Economists contradict

From Page 1

this finance will turn out to be a huge subsidy," he observed.

He noted that the government did not give its attention to the share market in time. It came to protect the securities market when it was about to crash. "The actions taken by the government shook small investors' confidence by some proportions. But it is true that even if the government had not taken those actions, the crash would have taken place anyway."

He further observed that the foreign currency reserve and the balance of payment would be affected by the net outflow of portfolio capital.

"But, in general, the economy will not be affected by this crash," he pointed out, "this crash had rather been an individual tragedy," he said.

Analysing the stock market phenomenon further he said that when demand for liquidity rose extremely, the banks were facing problems because those were not getting enough refund of the loans taken by people. "Now the situation is returning to normalcy. So the working capital will return and economic activities will gear up again."

A positive impact of the "crash" would be felt in the country's business sector which became "stagnant" during the share market boom, he observed. "But some real resources were transferred out of the country and those can not be rectified," he observed adding, "the government should take immediate measures to prevent further capital flight."

A negative impact of the crash would be felt in the governments' attempt to privatise some public sector enterprises through releasing their shares in the secondary market because less number of investors would come up to buy those shares, the economist observed.

PM : Promotion

From Page 1

The Prime Minister said immediately after coming to power, her government has constituted pay commission. The government is always alert to further improve the standard of living of all officers and employees of the republic, she said.

Expressing the hope that the pay commission would complete its task quickly, she said the government would make arrangement for the implementation of the pay commission report as soon as it was available.

JP : Ershad

From Page 1

He further said that in order to lift martial law Ershad held general elections in 1986. "But those who call Ershad an autocrat, themselves, prolonged his regime by boycotting that election," the JP leader said.

He told the participants in the meeting, who included JP vice chairman Mahubul Haq, ABM Ruhul Amin Hawladar, A Bari, Prof Humayun Kabir, Amena Bari, that the time has come to assess who were the real autocrats.

"When BNP gave up power, 144 persons lost their lives. But when Ershad and Jatiya Party gave up power, no blood shed took place," Manju said.

Manju, who is also the Communications Minister of the Awami League government, expressed his hopes that Ershad would be released soon.

MCCI : WTO meeting

From Page 1

ensuring that the barriers to trade which the Uruguay Round aims to eliminate, are not replaced by new ones in the guise of non-economic measures.

The Bangladesh team is expected to be led by Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed.

The WTO meeting should ensure that the commitments in the Uruguay Round for multi-lateral trading system are implemented in letter and spirit and no unilateral actions or threats are given to undermine the agreement, the MCCI said.

The MCCI observed that some developed countries may try to link new issues like labour standards, environment, competition policy etc with trade which will generate controversy.

The MCCI felt that LDCs should resist ill-conceived conditionalities based on "Tofy principles" such as environment, human rights and welfare of workers etc.

Bangladesh should take a strong stand as to how a monitoring mechanism could be institutionalised within the WTO to ensure that the concessions and special privileges given to the LDCs under the URA are implemented in time.

"Bangladesh has already committed itself to open trading and investment systems envisaged under the WTO rules, in the firm faith that these will contribute to economic growth and in the ultimate analysis, improve working conditions, contribute to promotion of human rights and help improve over-all environment to which poverty is the worst threat," the MCCI said.

Poet Shamsur Rahman reminiscing about the Beauty Boarding at a discussion meeting organised by the Sudhi Sangha at the boarding premises in Banglabazar in the city yesterday.

—Star photo



Book traders

From Page 1

change' in the contents of the books, except in three out of 48 books.

They claimed that this sudden decision of the authorities would cause huge loss to 1,1,000 members of the association across the country.

Presided over by Giasuddin Bhuiyan, the meeting was addressed by association leaders Abdur Rahim, Ruhul Amin, KM Idris Ali, Hazi Abul Kalam and Muhammad Ishaque.

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