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Silver Jubilee of Victory Day



BNP vice-chairman and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury speaking at a public rally in front of the party's central office in the city yesterday marking the Silver Jubilee of Independence. — Star photo

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A documentary film 'Chironjeeb Mujib' and a feature film 'Megher Anek Rong' were screened after the discussion meeting.
A five-day-long programme on patriotic songs and dances was inaugurated yesterday at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium. On the first day artists Anwar Uddin Khan, Hasina Montaz, Khurshid Alam, Anjuman Ara Begum, Jinat Rehana, Khondkar Faruk Ahmed, Mousumi Kabir and others rendered songs. Subal Dotta played violin.
State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed at another discussion meeting yesterday said

that three persons among the five who received the wireless message of the declaration of independence sent to Chittagong by Bangabandhu on the night of 25th March are still alive.
"We will bring those persons before the nation soon through television and radio," the minister said adding making contradictory statements would be of in avail for the BNP.

Organised by Joy Bangla Sanskritik Oikya Jote at the Ramna Batamul the meeting was also addressed by Ramendu Mojumder, Belal Mohammad, Samar Das and Prof Selina Akter Hossain.

The speakers at another discussion meeting observed that the true history of the country was not reflected in the films of Bangladesh during the last 21 years.

Organised by Union of University Film Societies the discussion meeting on 'Films on Liberation War and Liberation war in Films' was held at the TSC premises.

The speakers observed that a certain political quarter prevented the films producers from depicting the true history of the liberation war in films.

Nure Alam Siddiqui, Enamul Haq Shamim, Nurul Islam, Sadiqur Rahman Parag and Asalam Khan addressed the meeting presided over by Hasan Arif.

Kulaura now pourashava
The government in a gazette notification on December 5 has elevated Kulaura thana sadar under Moulvibazar district, to the status of pourashava. The LGRD and Cooperatives Minister, Zillur Rahman, is expected to lay the foundation stone of the new building of the Kulaura pourashava some time this month, according to a press release, reports BSS.

The Daily Star

Indemnity (Repeal) Act

Argument against giving retrospective effect

By SC Correspondent

The indemnity (Repeal) Act, 1996 cannot be given retrospective effect as per Section 6 of the General Clauses Act, argued Barrister Qurban Ali, counsel for the petitioners challenging the Act, submitted in the High Court yesterday.

The hearing on the writ petitions filed by Col (rtid) Shahrier Rashid Khan and Mahmud Rahman, mother of Col (rtid) Faruk Rahman, separately challenging the Indemnity (Repeal) Act, 1996 and its validity will continue today in the division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haque and Justice Md Abdul Matin.

"Due to state necessity for changing of the then government the 15th August, '75 occurred,"

rences took place", said Barrister Qurban Ali.

Referring the judgment by Justice Munir in the 'State Versus Duso' Case, he submitted that revolution is organised by four kinds of agents, namely the 'outsider invader', 'internal usurper', 'national hero' and the 'popular assembly'.

In this regard, Barrister Qurban Ali said, "In the War of Liberation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the national hero. Defying the order of the then Pakistan government, people complied with the orders of Mujib".

He also submitted that necessity are of two kinds, expressed necessity and implied necessity.

"No quarter raised any opposition to the acts of Khandkar Mustaque Ahmed, nor any Court or authority took any steps against him which proved the implied necessity", he said.

Attorney General Barrister KS Nabi, Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan and AAG Bazlur Rahman were present in the court on behalf of the government.

BSS adds: The High Court yesterday raised the number of amicus curiae to six when it appointed M Nurullah, a former Attorney General to assist the court in the case.

Dr Kamal Hossain, Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Barrister Rafiqul Huq and Barrister Amirul Islam were earlier appointed as amicus curiae.

No trading

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by the government to restore normalcy in the market, they vowed to continue their agitation and sit in programme till their demands are met.

Meanwhile, another forum of small investors called Out-Market Share Traders Association condemned the disruption of trading by a group of investors.

Termining them as "vested quarters", they said that the sit-in programme was taken in collaboration with some corrupt DSE members to protect their interest and tarnish the image of small investors.

A large number of small investors were seen busy in share transaction near the Shapla Chattar yesterday. The agitating outside traders tore up some share certificates of the small investors.

UNB adds: Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday held a meeting with SEC Chairman Dr Harun-ar-Rashid, Bangladesh Bank Governor Lutfar Rahman Sarker, FBCCI President Yusuf Abdullah Harun and senior officials of the Finance Ministry in quest of a remedy.

The meeting lasting about two and a half hours reviewed the overall situation of the capital market and discussed possible measures the authorities could take to stabilise the frenzied market, sources said.

But a senior member of DSE told UNB that DSE chairman Imtiyaz Husain was not invited to the meeting.

Begum Rokeya Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The 64th death anniversary of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, a pioneer of women's emancipation will be observed by different socio-cultural organisations today as 'Begum Rokeya Day'.

Bangladesh Mohila Forum will hold a press conference today at 4:30 pm at Photo-Journalists Association office to put forward a six-point recommendation on women.

In a message on the eve of the day, President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said participation of the women in nation-building activities was earnestly desired for ensuring social balance and national progress.

He welcomed the government initiatives for expansion of women's education for the purpose.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon the women community to work sincerely for building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh by upholding the ideals of Begum Rokeya.

She said Begum Rokeya had initiated a bright chapter in women's resurrection by establishing schools for them. Her literature also depicted female education, women's rights and message of peace.

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Parleys on in Delhi

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row, sources concerned pointed out.

Basu arrived in Delhi this evening.

Talks are being conducted in the South Block here, which houses the Ministry of External Affairs. It is learnt that the Indian Premier and the External Affairs Minister and the Bangladesh Premier, Foreign Minister and Foreign Secretary were constantly being updated about the progress of the marathon negotiations.

The Indian side at the talks is being led by External Affairs Secretary Salman Haider and the Bangladesh side by Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

The Indian foreign secretary is being assisted by R Mathai, joint secretary in charge of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar (BSM) and other high officials of the foreign ministry and water resources ministry.

Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir is being assisted by Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Tarek Karim, Khalilur Rahman of JRC and water expert Prof Anun Nishat of BUET Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi Shafi Sami is also participating.

An official source said that although there has been several rounds of unstructured parleys, the two sides are having structured negotiations for the

last two days. Although in Delhi, Saturday and Sunday are weekly holidays, officials of both sides met nearly for the whole day with only three hours break yesterday and again for several hours today since 10 am. R Mathai was indisposed yesterday but he participated in the discussions today, the source added.

When asked by newsmen here, senior officials of Bangladesh and the High Commission remained tight lipped. One official, however, said on condition of anonymity the draft agreement is now in the process of finalisation. Intense discussions are now taking place. We have succeeded in making formidable progress.

Ctg madrassah

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Mohammad Sakawat, 14, hailing from Mohakhali in Dhaka, said that a student had to pay Tk 800 to Tk 1,200 a month for meals.

"During admission, I was assured of getting a good diet every week," he said. "But in the last six weeks, we have not been allowed even a single piece of meat."

"If we bring allegation, we have to suffer such punishment," said Sakawat.

According to Section 2 (Ka) of the madrassah's own regulation the students or the guardians are not allowed to protest against any punishment

Trading stopped in 'planned way'

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But it was noticed that a section of people stopped the operations of the stock market in a planned way, he alleged, saying that he talked to some DSE members to take stock of the situation.

Kibria also said that he had received allegations regarding the recent slump after a rapid jump of the stock market and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had been asked to play its due role looking into the matter.

The SEC, being the market regulator, has the moral and legal responsibilities in this regard and I have directed the Commission to perform those responsibilities properly," he said, adding many a DSE members agreed to extend support to the endeavour.

Disclosing government's new measures to salvage the sinking capital market, the finance minister urged the members of DSE and the Chittagong Stock Exchange to take initiative to resume share trading and bring back normalcy in the market.

"It's a responsibility of yours," he said, assuring that the government would extend

all necessary supports in this regard. "I urge all the stock members of the two bourses to perform their respective responsibilities."

He said the government wanted that the stock members pay attention to making dynamic the market and to normal transactions in the floor. "We want that the trading resume immediately in the market."

Kibria also advised the investors not to be misled by motivated propaganda and not to go for panic sale of their securities. "Trade your shares evaluating calmly the value of shares and following the traditional trends of the share market," he told the investors.

"Ups and downs of share prices are very normal in the capital market," he said.

Referring to recent speech by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan who demanded that the government purchase shares at the prices investors bought at, the minister said nobody did expect such unrealistic statement from a person like him.

"It's a real example of fishing in troubled water," he said, adding that former finance minister Saifur Rahman is also

out to capitalise on the situation.

"He (Rahman) is irate as the present government has reactivated the economy he left behind as stagnant. He should know that the DSE and the CSE are self-regulatory bodies and blaming the government for their management is not logical," he said, referring to an interview of Rahman.

The minister said a quarter was trying to make stagnant the capital market which is clear from their statements and speeches. They are dishing out misleading information for their own political interest, he said.

"The investors should identify these people... those who want to freeze the operation of the market are not the friends of the investors," Kibria said, noting that some political parties and individuals are out to make stagnant the market.

State Minister for LGRD Syed Abul Hossain, Bangladesh Bank Governor Lutfar Rahman Sarker, Banking Secretary Shah Abdul Hannan and Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Dr Harun-ar-Rashid were present during the briefing.

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