

For Documents Door to Door delivery
To 237 Destinations in INDIA

BLUE DART
EXPRESS LIMITED

PLEASE CONTACT: BANGLADESH AIR EXPRESS INT'L LTD.
Head Office: 9565114, Fax: 9565112, Gulshan: 887771, Chittagong: (031) 712127, Khulna: (041) 25008



President Shahabuddin Ahmed (top) and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (bottom) placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur in the city yesterday. —Star photo

FM briefs foreign envoys on PM's visit

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday briefed the heads of diplomatic missions and international agencies in Dhaka on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to India, reports UNB.

Addressing the envoys at the Foreign Office, Azad spoke on the major features of the Ganges water sharing treaty signed by the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and India on December 12 in New Delhi during

Sheikh Hasina's visit. He said the signing of the historic treaty on the sharing of the Ganges water marked the fruitful culmination of the process of contacts and negotiations, set in motion six months ago, soon after the elected governments of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh and Prime Minister Deve Gowda of India assumed office at about the same time.

The process, he added, was

initiated at the directives of the two prime ministers to further strengthen the friendship and cooperative relations between the two neighbouring countries by addressing the major outstanding bilateral issues with a constructive and positive approach.

The foreign minister told the envoys that the process of negotiations began with talks at the foreign secretary level in Dhaka and New Delhi in July and August.

স্বাধীনতার ঝড় জয়ন্তী
মুক্তির হৈক সমৃদ্ধ
ভবিষ্যতের
প্রত্যাশায়

হাজার জাতি গঠনের ক্ষেত্রে অর্ধনৈতিক সমৃদ্ধি একান্ত অপরিহার্য। কেননা অর্ধনৈতিক ভিত্তির উপর দাঁড়িয়ে একটি জাতি বেড়ে ওঠে শিক্ষার, শিল্পে, সংস্কৃতিতে। সোনালী ব্যাংক অর্ধনৈতিক স্বনির্ভরতা অর্জনের লক্ষ্যে সারা দেশ জুড়ে অবিরাম কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। কৃষি, শিল্প ও বাণিজ্যিক অর্থ বিদ্যোৎসাহের ক্ষেত্রে সোনালী ব্যাংকের অবদান শীর্ষে। আপনার সুন্দর ভবিষ্যৎ রচনায় সোনালী ব্যাংক সর্বদা আপনার পাশে রয়েছে।

সোনালী ব্যাংক

Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

Silver Jubilee of victory

From Page 1
The portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the city at 6 am and then at the National Memorial. The Awami League will bring out a Victory Day procession from the Zero Point at 2 pm. It will hold discussion meetings and cultural functions at the outer stadium at 3 pm on December 17, 18 and 19.

BNP's programme will begin through hoisting of the National Flag and the party flag at party offices in the morning. Leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations will assemble in front of the party's central office at 7 am to visit the National Memorial at 7.30 am. They will later place wreaths at the mazar of party's founder late president Ziaur Rahman at 9 pm.

BNP will bring out a procession from the party central office and hold a musical soiree at the same venue later in the evening.

Hasina

From Page 1
ordinating the scheme to build the memorial. The Public Works Department will execute the project already approved by the Planning Commission.

Work will begin by end of February or early March. Obaidul Quader told The Daily Star last night.

He said the memorial will have a complex with a library, museum and sculpture of Bangabandhu.

A committee to finalise designs for the memorial has been formed headed by the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister. It will soon invite designs, he said.

Quader said the complex may cover a large chunk of the Shishu Park. But care would be taken to harmonise it with the surrounding green of the Suhrawardy Uddayan.

"We want it to be a landmark of Dhaka just like the Arch of Triumph or Eiffel Tower in Paris, or Jefferson Memorial in Washington," Quader said.

The proposed memorial may cost Tk 26 to 27 crore or more, he said adding some money has already been made available to lay the foundation stone.

BNP: Water treaty

From Page 1
when it is desired by the people." He also alleged that the Awami League government was giving 'confusing' figures as regards the water accord. The BNP leader refused the government's claim that the lowest quantum of water provided under the new treaty was more than that of the 1977 accord. "The '77 treaty fixed the lowest quantum at 34,500 cusecs while the '96 accord has reduced it to 27,633 cusecs," he said.

He claimed that the 1977 accord had guaranteed 33,31,323 cusecs during March-May against 31,64,604 cusecs provided by the 1996 treaty.

Citing a clause in the treaty which said that the two sides would meet on an emergency basis if the flow at the Farakka point is below 50,000 cusecs, he remarked, "The lean season may expire before the two countries work out the way out."

Besides, he expressed his doubt whether India would at all go by the accord.

Earlier, the BNP secretary

President Memorial

From Page 1
to take lesson from the past. It should not be fair to criticise others digging the bitterness of the past... we have to look forward to making our future beautiful," he said.

The country has many problems with a huge population but its resource is limited, the President said underlining the need for 'national unity, solidarity, consensus and true patriotism' to solve the country's major problems.

Focusing on the country's liberation, he noted that the role of Bengalee Muslims in the religion-based Pakistan movement was the strongest, but only religion, in disregard of language, culture and territorial proximity, is not enough for the stability of a state.

President Ahmed recalled the glorious memory of the independence martyrs and prayed for salvation of the departed souls.

Fertiliser shortage

From Page 1
but found few plots where potato seeds were sown.

At Sonarong village, we found a dejected Abdul Motaleb shuffling a mixture of urea, SSP and potash for his 21 decimal plot of land.

Motaleb said he managed to buy urea at Tk 265 per 50 kg bag against its official retail price of Taka 186.25 but it is in short supply, he complained. Single Super Phosphate cost him Tk 345 a bag although its official price is Tk 215. Potash cost him Tk 350 a bag. Motaleb said he was using SSP and potash to substitute TSP because TSP is not available.

But he was not certain of the quality of the SSP which he called dust. The bag had 'Made in Bangladesh' marking but Motaleb said it not the real stuff. "It is either adulterated or from across the border," he said.

At nearby Baligan Bazar, there is only one fertiliser dealer. There are seven such dealers in Tongbari thana and 31 in Munshiganj district, said the dealer, Alauddin Sheikh.

He said the dealers left their quota of urea from the Gho-

Hostess
Keeps food warm in 3 heat resistant glass dishes

Let's make things better

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics P.V. for laptop products, radio and TV sets
Dhaka: 815306-9, 819435-9, 88999
Ctg: 501082, 503578, Khulna: 20304, Bogra: 6215

PHILIPS

90 under trial prisoners released

The government has released 90 under-trial prisoners and also exempted punishment to some extent of other convicts in different jails of the country on the occasion of the Victory Day, said an official handout yesterday, reports UNB.

Few categories of convicted prisoners were given two months' additional exemption in addition to normal remissions for each year of their jail term.

However, the prisoners convicted for murder, dacoity, rape, women and child repression, and anti-state activities will not be entitled to special remission or pardon.

The government hoped that the released prisoners would lead their life as good citizens and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country, the release added.

Intellectuals

From Page 1
6.68 crore would be completed in two years.

The Prime Minister, at a simple ceremony at the Ganabhaban, also released a set of 16 commemorative postage stamps of Tk two denomination each on 16 martyred intellectuals, issued by Bangladesh Post Office.

Central leaders of Awami League who placed wreaths at the Mirpur memorial included Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Mayor Mohammad Hanif, State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Akhtaruzzaman.

Central leaders of the main opposition party BNP led by party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan placed wreath at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial. BNP also held a discussion in front of its central office in the afternoon.

Jatiya Party leaders led by its Secretary General and Minister for Communication Anwar Hussain Manju placed wreath.

Besides, leaders of other political parties including left Democratic Front (LDF), Workers Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Gono Forum, JSD (Inu), JSD (Rob), National Awami Party and BSD placed wreaths in tribute to the martyred intellectuals.

Radio and Television put up special programmes highlighting the significance of the Day while national news dailies brought out special supplements on the occasion.

The Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy, Nazrul Institute and Shishu Academy organised separate programmes including discussions and cultural functions.

স্বাধীনতার ঝড় জয়ন্তী উপলক্ষে

বীর কহীদ ও সংগ্রামীদের প্রতি শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলী
দেববাজীকে শুভেচ্ছা

স্বাধীনতার ফসল
অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের পঁচিশ বছর
উত্তম সেবার সেরা স্বাক্ষর

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক
অর্ধনৈতিক মুক্তির সংগ্রামে অনন্য সহযোগী

SAARC FM's meet in Delhi

From Page 1
is due to inaugurate the conference at the Vigyan Bhaban on December 19. It is expected to be participated by all member nations.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister is due to arrive in Delhi on December 18, it is learnt.

Besides, discussion on make SAFTA more operative through expansion of the visit of items, a decision on appointment of trade and information is likely to be taken.

Discussions on the existing 12 areas of cooperation and the SAARC International Programme of Action (IPA) shall also take place.

Diplomatic sources here said that the conference would also review the MOUs and the components of agreements between SAARC and international organisations like ESCAP, UNCTAD, UNICEF and UNDP.

SAARC is expected to sign a new agreement with other organisations like CIDA, the sources added.

The foreign ministers shall also review the SAARC and the European Union (EU) cooperation agreement signed recently and review the SAARC-Japan

special fund.

The budget of the SAARC Secretariat with around 9 lakh USD and expansion of its in Kathmandu are also likely to be reviewed.

Meanwhile, the meeting of the programming committee will be followed by the meet of the standing committee of foreign secretaries due to begin on December 16. Indian External Affairs secretary Salman Haider would preside over the meeting of the standing committee.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Faruk Sobhan is due to be present on the three day meet of the standing committee.

The Nepalese government will give a proposal to hold the 10th SAARC summit in Kathmandu in November, 1998.

Special prayers today

A special munajat and prayer will be held in all mosques, mandirs, pagodas and other places of worship seeking peace, happiness and progress of the nation on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Independence and Victory Day, reports BSS.