

## BLUE DART

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EACH DAY EVERY DAY  
TO INDIA



Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad speaking at a discussion meeting in observance of National Mourning Day, organised by Awami Secchasebak League at the Engineers Institution in the city yesterday.

## Nation mourns death

From page 1

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate statements on the occasion.

UNB adds: The National Flag will fly at half-mast today at all government and private buildings, educational institutions, autonomous bodies and at the Bangladesh missions abroad.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will place wreaths at the portrait of the great leader at the Bangladesh Memorial Museum in the morning.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will also offer *fateha* at Banani Graveyard and then fly to Tungipara to attend the Mourning Day programmes at the mazar of Bangabandhu.

At Tungipara, different programmes will be held at the mazar of the late leader. The Prime Minister will offer *fateha* and place wreath at 10 am while members of the armed forces will present arms salute. Special prayer will also be offered.

The programmes at Tungipara also include a discussion on "World History and Bangabandhu" at 3 pm. Black flags were hoisted along the 15-kilometre road from Gopalganj to Tungipara.

Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television have drawn up special programmes to commemorate the tragic event.

Both the state-run media have been broadcasting programmes for last few days focusing on the struggling life of Sheikh Mujib, his unique leadership to the nation in its independence and the post-war reconstruction.

National dailies will publish special supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

The day's programmes include wearing of black badge, placing floral wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu as well as at his mazar, *mitad*

*mahfil*, *Qurankhuan*, discussion, destitute feeding and cultural functions.

In Dhaka, various organisations will organise different programmes including discussion, exhibition of poster, art work and photographs.

A central mourning procession will be brought out from Bangladesh Awami League's Bangabandhu Avenue office at 4 pm. Bangabandhu Parishad will also bring out a mourning rally.

Bangla Academy and National Museum will hold discussion, Shilpakala Academy arrange poster exhibition while Nazrul Institute hold discussion and publish a souvenir.

The Dhaka University will observe the day through various programmes including mourning procession, placing of wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu and special prayers.

The National University has chalked out a three-day programme which includes hoisting of black flag on this morning and discussion on August 18 at 11 am.

Bangladesh Open University will organise a discussion and a *mitad mahfil* at its Gazipur campus. Vice Chancellor Prof M Aminul Islam will preside.

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha BCS Officer Society will hold a discussion and a *mitad mahfil* at Shahbagh BCS (Administration) Academy at 5 pm.

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sarkari Karmakarta Parishad will organise separate discussion at National Museum auditorium tomorrow.

Bangladesh Agriculture University began a four-day programme that included a photo exhibition titled "Bangladesh Agricultural University and Bangabandhu".

## Probe report

From page 1

why actions should not be taken against him for the incident.

Since the probe was ordered on July 24, the committee received two extensions to complete its report. It was scheduled to complete it yesterday.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam told The Daily Star last night that the committee is likely to submit its report on Sunday.

A meeting of the governing body of the Islamic Foundation has also been called on August 20. It will consider the probe committee's findings, he said.

The governing body is also taking up the reply of Khatib to consider the next course of action against him.

The Khatib, Maulana Obaidul Huq, has denied his involvement in the July 17 incident in his reply to the show cause.

## SALE AND REPURCHASE PRICES OF ICB UNIT CERTIFICATES REFIXED

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## President tells FEMA team All-party watchdog committee needed for each polling station

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has said all-party watchdog committee should be formed for each polling station during general elections and election agents should be trained properly, reports UNB.

He was talking to a 10-member delegation of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) who called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday. They suggested that the political parties should nominate at least 20 per cent women candidates for direct election in addition to 30 reserved seats.

It submitted a report to the President recommending reform of election laws to make the democratic code of conduct more transparent.

The FEMA delegation told the President that the 30 reserved seats for women should be selected in accordance with the ratio of the number of parliament members of each political party.

The delegation members viewed that district election officers should be appointed as returning officers instead of deputy commissioners and election results of every polling centre should be declared on the spot and be hanged in open places.

They said that election campaign fund should be strictly monitored, expenditure should

be strictly checked and each candidate should submit daily expenditure statement.

The President observed that major election offences had reduced substantially because of increasing democratic consciousness of the people.

He hoped that with the active participation of the people and members of election monitoring organisations, the future elections will be held in truly democratic atmosphere.

FEMA chairpersons and former adviser of the interim government Fakhruddin Ahmed led the delegation.

Other members included Abul Ahsan, Ataur Rahman, Munira Khan, Peraz M Hassan, Towfiq Aziz Khan, Advocate Salma Ali, Shawkat Ara Hossain, Roushan Ara Ahmed and Tarikul Ghanai.

## Govt urged not to cancel 'disputed' GSP certificates

By Staff Correspondent

BGMEA President Mostafa Golam Quddus urged the government not to cancel the 6,910 'disputed' GSP certificates for the sake of the country's economic interests.

Quoting his buyers in the EU countries, Quddus told a press conference at a local hotel that it was the European bureaucrats who failed to perform their duties in time. "And it is astonishing now that all on a sudden they have become very careful about the GSP certificate issue," the BGMEA president said.

"The government can form a panel of legal advisers to look into the disputes," said Nurul Huq Sikder, second vice president of the BGMEA.

He said importers in the EU countries were paying customs duty of 12.50 per cent on Bangladeshi apparel imports since the EU inspection team visited the country couple of months back.

"We are including that duty in our production cost and it appears that we were competitive without the GSP facilities. But the market was now fragile due to this additional cost," Sikder added.

Quddus said the government and the EU officials should settle the issue without harming a single exporter or importer.

The party leaders at a press conference at the Sylhet Press Club this afternoon also gave a deadline to meet these demands by August 31. Otherwise, the leaders said, they would call for a hartal on September 15 in Sylhet division.

The Sylhet district BNP president MA Haque read out the demands while Sunamganj district BNP president Fazlul Haque Asma MP, Habiganj district convenor Golam Martuja and Sylhet district secretary Ariful Haque Chowdhury attended.

## Parliamentary team leaves for Manila tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

A two-member parliamentary delegation, headed by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khushru, will leave for Manila tomorrow to attend the second general assembly of the World Parliamentary Union (WPU) beginning on August 17.

The other member of the delegation is AYM Khalilur Rahman, a BNP legislator.

The first general assembly of the WPU was held in Chile in 1994.

## Shuva murder: One arrested

Sutrapur police yesterday arrested Imran Rana, 21, a friend of Shuva Majumder from Lalmatia area in the city for his alleged involvement in the murder of Shuva, reports BSS.

Rana, a first year student of B Com of Dhaka City College was arrested from his maternal uncle's house in the morning. Rana is absconding since the murder of Shuva, who is also a student of Dhaka City College.

Shuva was killed by a group of miscreants on the bank of the river Buriganga on early Monday.

## Violent riot in Pakistan

From page 1

neighbours. Pakistan celebrated 50 years of its independence today while India observes it tomorrow after the last British Viceroy Lord Mountbatten transferred power first to Jinnah, as Governor General of the new state of Pakistan on August 14, 1947.

Another report says, recalling its ambition "to wipe every tear from every eye," India commemorated 50 years of independence today with festivity tempered by awareness its founders' agenda is unfinished.

Police said rebels marked the anniversary with violence, killing seven people in a train bombing in northeastern state of Assam.

And the government-organised celebrations lacked the spontaneity of even an ordinary Hindu festival. Few signs of public enthusiasm were evident in the build-up to the anniversary. Souvenirs were scarce and sold in only two shops in the capital, newspapers reported.

In a speech prepared for the ceremony, President K R Narayanan acknowledged that India had fallen short of Nehru's pledge on the same platform to 'abolish poverty, ignorance and disease from among our people.' Drinking water, electricity and basic health facilities are still lacking for most, and corruption riddles public affairs, the president said.

Just before midnight

tonight, lawmakers and other dignitaries gathered for a nationally televised re-enactment of the historic sitting of India's constituent assembly the night of August 14, 1947.

The audience heard a recording of the famous 'tryst with destiny' speech delivered moments before midnight by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. That night, Nehru called for an end to 'poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity.'

Before Parliament met last night, Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and freedom fighters led thousands of people from various Indian states in 'a march of the nation' to New Delhi's India Gate, a memorial to World War II victims.

Floated depicted the lives of Mohandas Gandhi and Subhash Chandra Bose, leaders of India's freedom struggle. The marchers walked to the tune of army, air force and navy bands playing patriotic songs.

Later display and fireworks lit up the sky at the stroke of midnight.

Gujral will address the nation on tomorrow morning from the ramparts of the 17th century Red Fort in the old walled city. The traditional speech from the monument is an annual reminder that though India's history as a modern state is relatively brief, its culture reaches back to ancient times.

## Two teenaged girls abducted in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 14: Tahmina Akhtar Riku, 13, a student of Fatima Girls' High School and daughter of Ayub Ali, Assistant Manager of Bangladesh Bank Khulna branch, was abducted on Wednesday night alleged by three youngmen from her house in the city.

Police said that the girl was yet to be traced.

In another incident, Nilufar Sharmin Nipu, 13, a student of class seven of Govt Coronation Girls' School was also abducted on the same day while she was returning home from school.

Two separate cases have been registered with Kotwali thana.

## Hawker murder Two arrested at Uttara

By Staff Correspondent

The Detective Branch (DB) of Police on Wednesday arrested two brothers from the city's Uttara area for their alleged involvement in the killing of a hawker, Babul, in April last.

Police said the arrested are Jubaerul Islam and Emraddul Islam. They were named in the FIR as accused in the murder.

Shah Alam alias Babul was found dead near the Baunia embankment with tendons of his hands and legs severed on April 6. Babul was the supervisor at Azampur centre of the Dhaka Newspaper Hawkers' Co-operative Association.

Police were interrogating the arrested persons. They were also wanted in an arms case.

## PAC decides to settle 5 audit objections on BTMC

By Staff Correspondent

A meeting of the Public Accounts Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad was held at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday with its chairman SM Akram in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed five audit objections on Bangladesh Textiles Mills Corporation and different mills under the corporation, raised by Comptroller General of Audit and Accounts and took decisions on settlement of objections.

Committee members Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, MK Anwar, Abul Kalam Azad, Mostafizur Rahman and Abdul Mannan attended the meeting.

Comptroller General of Audit and Accounts M Hafiz Uddin Khan, Secretary of the Ministry of Textiles KM Izazul Huq and other officials concerned were present.

## 7 killed in Assam train blast

GUWAHATI, Aug 14: A bomb placed on tracks in northeastern India exploded as a passenger train crossed this morning, killing at least seven people, police said, reports AP.

Early reports were sketchy, with police saying an unknown number of people also were injured in the blast near the village of Siloni Bari, about 230 kilometres (140 miles) east of the Assam state capital of Guwahati.

Rescue teams were dispatched by train from Guwahati and railway station near the scene of the bombing.

No one claimed responsibility for the incident, but police suspected Bodo rebels, militant members of the Bodo tribe have called for strikes and boycotts to mark the 50th anniversary of India's independence.

Bodo separatists are among a number of ethnic groups in the northeast fighting to break away from India.

## VCs condemn DU incident

By Staff Correspondent

Vice-Chancellors of varsities yesterday condemned Tuesday's attack on Dhaka University VC Prof A K Azad Chowdhury by unruly students during evacuation of dormitories for rehabilitation of the displaced students, reports UNB.

In a statement they said the incident proved that a handful of terrorists in a planned way wanted to disrupt peace and stability of the university.

The VCs demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the attack.

## JCD sit-in

From page 1

Tuesday by activists of the Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

In a case filed by the Registrar of the university, Abu Zaed Sikder, it was said that a group of activists belonging to the JCD misbehaved with Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury by throwing eggs, shoes and bottles at him.

Another complaint was lodged by Assistant Proctor Fatima Begum for ransacking the office of the Proctor on Tuesday.

Nobody was accused in the cases.

## Thana Parishad members

From page 1

headed by a Thana Parishad member. Of them, one third should be female members of the TP while the thana level officials concerned will act as members of the committees.

The committees will discuss the 'state of business' in their respective fields and put forward their recommendations for improvements at the monthly meetings of the TP.

The TP will coordinate as well as monitor the overall activities of the union parishads concerned and prepare a five-year development plan for the areas on the basis of five plans chalked out by the union parishads under the thana.

While preparing the five-year plan, the TP will discuss various issues with the chairman and members of the union parishads concerned, representatives of the cooperatives and NGOs operating in the thana and other interested people.

The Thana Parishad will send annual reports on the progress of implementation of the five-year plan to different union parishads.

The activities of Thana Parishad will include improving the law and order, analysing the activities of police and sending reports to the higher authorities on a regular basis; implementation of all the thana level government programmes; construction, repair and taking care of link roads connecting the unions and taking up irrigation projects that will include construction of sluice gates, link canals and cross dams for proper utilisation of surface water.

The TP will also ensure healthcare by improving drainage and sanitation system, making arrangements for

supply of safe drinking water and supervising as well as monitoring the activities of Thana Health Complexes. Spread of education in the areas, efforts for setting up of small and cottage industries, creating 'self-employment generation schemes' under the five-year plan and helping the NGOs and cooperatives carry out their works will also be the responsibilities of the TP.

The Thana Parishad will prepare its annual budget at the beginning of every financial year. The parishad has to display the draft budget documents in a public place for the information and comments of the people and it will finalise the budget following analysis of the peoples' opinions on the draft documents.

The LGC has left the issue of deciding the amount of government grants both for the administrative and development sector expenditures with a Finance Commission, to be constituted to put forward a comprehensive plan on financial matters related to all the four tiers of the local bodies.

The Thana Parishad will have its own set of staff that will include one secretary and one assistant secretary, one accounts officer, one accountant, one finance and budget officer, one night guard and one sweeper. The Chairman will be entitled to have one stenotypist, one peon and one driver.

The income and expenditure of the Thana Parishad will be audited annually both by internal and government audit teams.

## Sectt employees

From page 1

tions about referring it to the Cabinet committee, parliamentary committee etc., change of office hours and fate of tiffin allowance, abolition of one time scale out of three and selection grade scale, the sources said.

Establishment Secretary Mahe Alam reportedly told the employees' leaders that the Pay Commission Report would be implemented as soon as a six-member committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary submitted its recommendations.

On tiffin allowance, he reportedly said he had not forgotten it. According to Secretariat sources, the silent protest was sparked by a reported appointment of Syed Mohiuddin, leader of a rival group of Secretariat employees.

When information about the appointment reached his rivals on Wednesday, they decided to stage the protest. However, the appointment was, reportedly cancelled at the last moment.

Meanwhile, the review committee on Pay Commission Report formed last month had its second meeting on Wednesday. But officials concerned refused to make any comment on it. The committee is scheduled to make its recommendations by September 30.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Non-Formal Education  
Primary & Mass Education Division

2/6, Block E, Lalmatia, Dhaka

Memo No. DNE/Logi/ILD/55/97/1389 Dated: 27-4-1404B5/11-8-97

## Notice Innovative Course Materials Competition

It is notified for information of professionals, teachers, researchers, specialist firms & others that on the occasion of International Literacy Day/97, a countrywide competition on "Innovative Course Materials Development" has been arranged. Those interested to participate in the competition are requested to send their materials to the undersigned by August 25.

## Subjects materials will be as follow:

Fairy tale, Short Story, Health, Nutrition, Agriculture, Fishery, Poultry, Animal Husbandry, Law & Rights, Improving Standard of Living, Religious books such as may help create reading interest in the newly-literate and are income generating.

## Terms & conditions:

The materials: (1) should be printed, (2) description of matters should be distinct, (3) illustrations should be appropriate & attractive, (4) Language of description should be easy Bengali suitable for the newly-literate, (5) may be of any size but preferably not exceeding two formats, (6) size of letter should not be more than minimum 12 points, (7) the materials can be in book, booklet & wall paper form.

## Prizes:

1st prize : Tk 6,000.00 (six thousand)  
2nd prize : Tk 5,000.00 (five thousand)  
3rd prize : Tk 4,000.00 (four thousand)

The participants should submit in a separate paper their name, address (including telephone No.), name of material, subject, along with their materials. Prizes will be awarded on the occasion of observance of International Literacy Day/97 on September 8 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium, Dhaka.

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