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Justice Habibur Rahman addressing as chief guest a discussion meeting yesterday at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium in observance of the 21st death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani. —Star photo

Trial of war criminals demanded

They came not only to mourn, but also to raise their voice for trial of the war criminals who killed their near and dear ones during the Liberation War in 1971, reports UNB.

The Shaheed family members reiterated their demand yesterday while putting the foundation of a memorial plaque at the spot where the bodies of two martyrs were found.

Physicians Azharul Haq and Humayun Kabir, both in early 30s then, were picked up by the collaborators from their Hatir-pool houses on November 15, 1971 and killed.

"Killing of the two doctors were the first operation by Al Badr," said journalist Shahriar Kabir, one of the initiators of the memorial plaque.

The two bodies with marks of torture were later found under the bridge near Notre Dame College at Motiheel, the following day (Nov 16).

And this is the first time, two great sons of the soil, who made supreme sacrifice for an independence Bangladesh, were remembered in public in the afternoon.

The brief but solemn memorial function was organised by Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, founded in 1991 by late Jahanara Inam, mother of Shaheed freedom fighter Rumi.

"It is beyond any language to express the pain I feel," said an emotion choked Salma Haq, the wife of Shaheed Dr Azharul Haq. She was accompanied by son Nishan.

The widow called upon the new generation to strengthen the movement against the anti-liberation forces to materialise the dream of the martyrs.

Iqbal Kabir, younger brother of Shaheed Dr Humayun Kabir, told the gathering that they had not wanted anything except recognition of all those who gave their life for the country.

"I don't know if anyone of you had the experience of burying the blood-smeared body of a brother," said Iqbal who was an HSC student when his brother, a newly passed doctor, embarked martyrdom in 1971.

With tearful eyes, he said it

is very painful for the families of the martyrs when "we see a section of new generation working in favour of the war criminals and killers."

"We demand scrapping of the rights of voting and politics of the war criminals who fought against the country," said Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, another member of a martyred family.

Describing the inhuman acts of the anti-liberation forces, the wife of martyred intellectual Dr Aleem Chowdhury, said it is a shame for the nation that the killers are still moving freely.

The meeting was also addressed by Shamim Akhter, Kazi Mukul and Saadique Rahman Parag after the martyrs' families and Nirmul members laid wreaths at the foundation of the memory plaque.

JS Speaker leaves for NY tomorrow

Speaker of the Jatiyasangsad Humayun Rashid Chowdhury leaves here on November 18 for New York to attend the prestigious meeting of the Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly, reports BSS.

The Council is made up by the former presidents of the UN General Assembly and it will meet at the UN headquarters for two days on November 20 and 21.

Chowdhury is the only surviving former UNGA president from the South Asia region.

Reception in Ctg in honour of freedom fighters

CHITTAGONG, Nov 16: A reception, in honour of some anti colonial freedom fighters of Chittagong, was organised at the Assistant Indian High Commission office here Saturday commemorating 50 years of India's independence, reports UNB.

A total of 14 freedom fighters, who are still alive, and descendants of seven others, were honoured at the function.

Among the veterans present at the function were Shri Benode Behari Chowdhury, Kazem Ali Master, Maulana Moniruzzaman Islamabadi and Prof Pulin Dey.

Some of them had participated in the historic Chittagong armoury raid led by Masterda Surjya Sen. Others had been jailed during the civil disobedience movement and the quit India movement.

State Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan attended the reception as the chief guest. Mayor of Chittagong Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Deb Mukharjee and elites of the port city were also present.

New edn policy to be finalised soon: Minister

Education Minister ASHK Sadeq yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the new education policy would be finalised soon after scrutinizing the report of the 56-member Education Committee and discussing it in the House, reports BSS.

Replying to a question tabled in the name of BNP member Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan (Chittagong-11), the education minister said the committee headed by former Education Adviser Prof M Shamsul Huq, had placed the report to the ministry on September 5 and scrutinization of positive and negative sides of the recommendations were now being carried out. BNP members have been abstaining from the House.

Responding to another question from Awami League member Md Wazi Uddin Khan (Pabna-3), the education minister said the government had no plans to nationalise the education system in the country.

Replying to a volley of questions and supplementaries from over two dozen Awami League members, the education minister made it clear that the government had no plans to nationalise the colleges across the country.

Workshop on journalism begins

A two-week workshop on journalism, organised by the Thomson Foundation and British Council, Dhaka, began here yesterday, reports BSS.

Two Thomson Foundation experts — John Valentine Williams and Steven Clarke — are conducting the workshop, in which about 20 journalists from different news agencies and the national dailies are taking part.

Ist ever SA music festival to begin Dec 1

The first ever South Asian music festival will begin in the city on December 1, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the four-day festival at Mirpur Indoor Stadium, said a Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy press release yesterday.

More than 100 popular artistes from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, the Maldives and Bangladesh are likely to take part in the regional music festival.

Meanwhile, Shilpakala Academy in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has nearly completed the preparatory works to hold the festival.

A meeting of the organising committee was held at the academy with State Minister Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader in the chair.

What's on today . . .

Discussion: A discussion on 'secularism in running the statecraft' has been organised to commemorate the 21st death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani. Organiser: Shaheed Azad Parishad. Venue: TSC road island, DU. Time: 3 pm.

Lecture: A 2-day lecture series on humanities, organised by Centre for Advanced Research in the Humanities, will be inaugurated. Venue: Room-434, Lecture Theatre, DU. Time: 10 am. Today's topic: 'Barriers to women's rights negotiating with the state and community'. Speaker: Dr Hamida Hossain. Time: 4 pm. Venue: Same as above.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North: The weekly meeting will be held. Guest speakers: Bengt Bryngolsson, Country Director, Gram Bangla Aviation and Wg Cdr (rtd) AMM Enayeturrahman, Adviser, will make a presentation on the role of MAF-S air support. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 6 pm.

Training course: A day-long management training course for women executives will be held. Organiser: Rapport Bangladesh Ltd. Venue: Panda Garden Restaurant. Time: 9 am - 5 pm.

Arms exhibition opens Nov 22

A four-day arms exhibition of the three forces will begin at the runway of the Old Airport on the edge of Rokeya Sarani here on November 22, reports UNB.

Army, Navy and Air Force will jointly arrange the display on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day to be observed on November 22.

The exhibition will remain open for the people of all walks of life from 2 pm to 5 pm on November 22 and from 9 am till 5 pm on the remaining three days, said a PID handout.

German vessel arrives in Ctg for geological survey

The German research vessel, SONNE, arrived in the harbour of Chittagong on Saturday for geological survey of shallow water area of the country, reports UNB.

The survey will last about 20 days and is mainly funded by the German Ministry of Science, Technology and Education, said a press release of German Embassy.

German Geological Survey in cooperation with the Geological Survey of Bangladesh is conducting the cruise.

The German Charge d'Affairs Dr Ingo-Karsten and Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology M Fazlur Rahman will visit the vessel on Wednesday.

The project is focused on mapping the submarine depositional areas and on measuring how much material is dumped in these areas.

It is also aimed at establishing a long-term record for the cyclones affecting the coast of Bangladesh.

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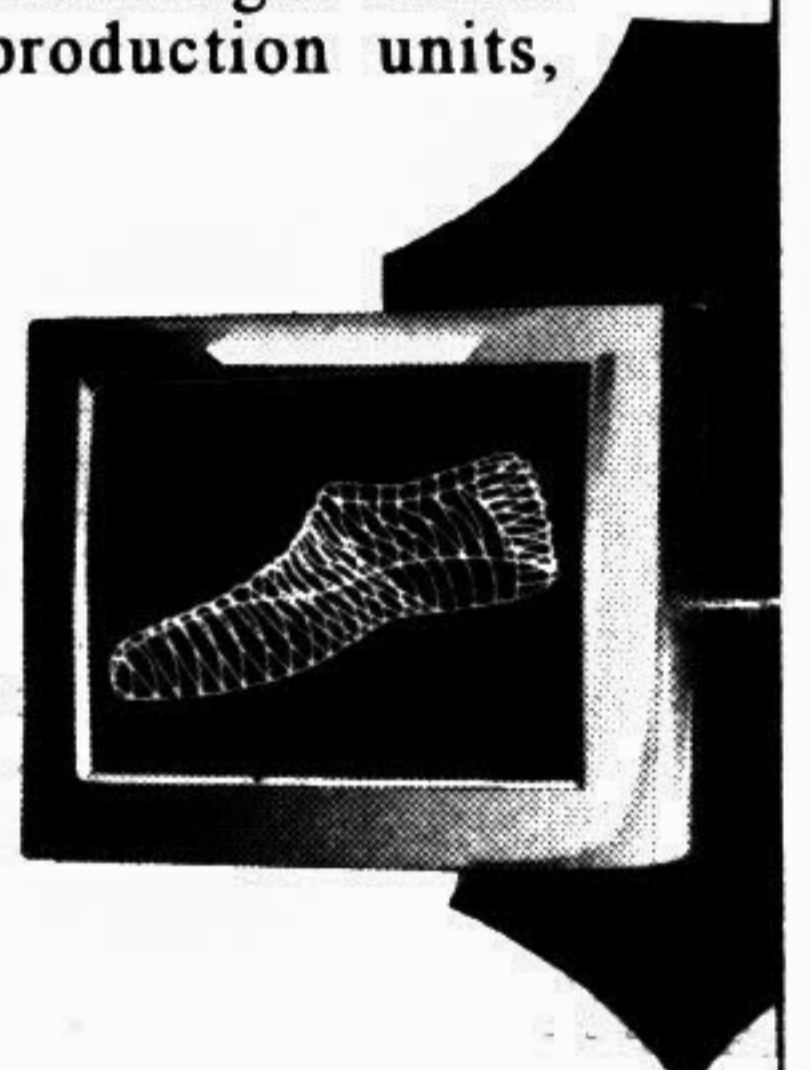
Date of submission of Application Form for MBBS & B.PHARM in USTC is extended till 30th Nov. '97 at the request of the Guardians. Forms are available as before. COURSE CO-ORDINATOR, Phone : 864959 Dhaka, 659070-71 CTG.

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