



Child artistes performing at Sammito Sangskritik Jote's 'Bijoy Utsab '97' at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Dhaka Book Fair opens Dec 17

By Staff Correspondent

The fourth Dhaka Book Fair, organised by Jatiya Grantha Kendra, will begin from Dec 17 at Sher-e-Banglanagar in the city.

Chief advisor of the former caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman will inaugurate the 12-day fair at 3 pm at the grounds on the northern side of Chandrima Uddyan.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs will be present as special guest while Prof Abu Rusdhil will preside.

A rally will be brought out from the Public Library at 9 am today on the occasion of the fair.

Meanwhile, two seminars will be held on Dec 18 and 21. Cultural functions and short film shows will be organised at the fair premises daily.

The fair will remain open from 3 pm to 9 pm on week days and on the weekly holidays from 11 am to 9 pm.

**Attempts on to turn Bangladesh into communal state'**

Minister for Post, Telecommunications, Public Works and Housing Mohammad Nasim yesterday lauded the role of Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikyajote in the past anti-autocracy movement and the movement of realising the people's rights for food and vote as launched by Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a discussion organised by Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikyajote as part of its programmes to celebrate the Victory Day at Ramna batamul, Mohammad Nasim said attempts were on to turn Bangladesh into a communal state.

The Minister urged all to work unitedly to bring economic emancipation of the people of the country.

Presided over by Prof Panna Kaiser, MP, the meeting was addressed, among others by State Minister for Youth and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, MP, director general of Bangladesh Television Salahuddin Zaki, SP Mahbub, Prof Abdul Mannan and Kamal Pasha Chowdhury.

## WVA Raffle Draw results

The unclaimed lucky numbers of Raffle Draw of WVA International Mela, held at the Gulshan Children's Park on Friday, are as follows: 160, 934, 1325, 1638, 2140, 2273, 2992, 174, 1040, 1524, 1643, 2254, 2367, 339, 289, 1109, 1618, 1961, 2271 and 2369.

The winners have been requested to collect their prizes before Dec 25 from the WVA office at House: 20, Rd: 16, Dhanmondi in the city, says a press release.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a grand rally of the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Command Council at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Dhaka to reactivate joint trade commission with EU

Bangladesh has agreed to a proposal from the European Union to reactivate the joint commission with the European bloc to discuss outstanding issues relating to trade, reports UNB.

This was decided on principle at a meeting between Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and a visiting EU delegation, led by EU Director

## Gas, oil exploration Contracts may be signed by mid-Jan

After failing to complete the evaluation of bids for oil and gas exploration within a pre-announced schedule, the government is now hoping to sign contracts with the oil companies by mid-January next, reports UNB.

"We hope to sign the contracts by the middle of next month," Energy Minister M Noor Uddin Khan said, as the government's target to award the country's hydrocarbon blocks by December 16 has been proved to be unachievable.

"Negotiations with the oil companies would be completed by Dec 18," he said while talking briefly to UNB last week on his way back to the city from Brahmanbaria.

The government earlier announced that they would sign the production-sharing contracts (PSCs) with the successful international oil companies by Dec 16 this year, enabling them to start work by January.

The energy minister said the delay is due to finalising the technical aspects during negotiations with the companies which showed tremendous interest for exploration of gas and oil in the country.

General R Albuquerque, in the city yesterday.

The joint commission meeting would facilitate both parties to exchange views on the implementation of conditionalities in getting preferential benefits for Bangladesh exports to the EU without interruption.

It will also come up with new strategies for financial assistance to social and infrastructure development, institution building, and educational and environmental programmes through negotiations on specific agenda.

Albuquerque briefed the minister about the prospect of joint commission meeting which has been withheld since 1975, saying it would help build confidence in trade mechanism between Bangladesh and EU and smooth functioning of the system.

EU is committed to improve overall trade capacity of the developing countries like Bangladesh through giving preferential market access and other financial and technical assistance, she said.

Welcoming the EU initiatives for expanding Bangladesh exports, the minister said the government is committed to ensure transparency in all its activities.

He particularly mentioned that in the issuance of GSP certificates for export of ready-made garments to Europe, the monitoring system has improved a lot and the government was trying to improve it further.

Tofael requested the EU to carry forward the unutilised

quota allowed by the EU Commission on October 15 for apparel export.

He informed the government was making all out efforts in institution building to cope with the global modernisation. At the same time, he said, the World Bank, UNCTAD and other financial institutions are taking initiatives in this regard.

Elaborating the bright prospect in expanding frozen food export, Tofael said the government had sanctioned loan of Tk 40 crore for modernising the food processing units so that they can comply with the requirements of the importing countries, including EU.

"We are giving special emphasis on infrastructure development as we have huge gas reserve," he said and sought cooperation from the EU to face the challenge in trade arena after 2005.

Commerce Secretary Sayed Alamgir Farouk Chowdhury and EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Michael Drury were present in the meeting.

## Milad at BNP office today

A milad mahfil will be held today after Asr prayers at the BNP central office in observance of the Shab-e-Barat, reports UNB.

Besides, Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal will arrange a Gurankhwani at the mazar premises of late President Ziaur Rahman after Magreb prayers.

## NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
COMPANY MATTER NO. 131 OF 1997.  
IN THE MATTER OF :-

Pragati Insurance Ltd .....Petitioner.

M/S. K.R. Textile Ltd. and others .....Respondents.

Notice is hereby given that an application under section 85(3) of the Companies Act 1994 was filed by the Petitioners before the Company Bench of the High Court Division presided over by Mr. Justice Muhammad Fazlul Karim praying for holding an Extraordinary General Meeting of M/S. K.R. Textile Ltd. the Hon'ble Court was pleased to admit the matter on 19.11.97 and fix it for hearing on 12th of January 1998.

If any one is interested to oppose the said application he may appear on the date fixed for the hearing either personally or through duly authorised advocate to oppose the same. Copy for the application may be obtained on payment of prescribed charge.

Khaled H. Chowdhury, Barrister-at-law, Room #, 2/1, Supreme Court Bar Bldg, Dhaka. Phone # 955 4985.

## English Department Alumni Society Department of English University of Dhaka

## Annual Get-together 1997

Date : December 26, 1997 (Friday)  
Time : 3:00-6:30 PM  
Venue : British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka

Registration fees : Taka 100/- only.

Please pre-register by December 24 at the Department.

Please cut here :

## Pre-Registration Form

Name : .....  
Address : .....  
Tel : .....  
Signature : .....  
BA (Honours) of 19..... MA of 19.....

## What's on today.....

**Workshop:** A national workshop on 'Draft safe drinking water supply and sanitation policy' will be held. Venue: LGRD Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9 am.

**Conference:** An international conference on 'Agricultural Engineering and Technology Exhibition '97' will be held. Organiser: Bangladesh Society of Agricultural Engineers. Venue: Grand Ball Room, Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9:30 am.

**X-mass festival:** A Christmas festival, organised by Christian Life-Bangladesh, will be held. Venue: Hotel Razmoni Isakha, Kakrail. Time: 3:30 pm.

**Prize-giving ceremony:** The annual prize-giving ceremony and proclamation day of Bangladesh International School will be held. Venue: School premises, DOHS, Mohakhali. Time: 2:30 pm-5:15 pm.

**Certificate awarding ceremony:** The certificate awarding of training course on 'Non-destructive Testing of Concrete' will be held. Venue: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, IPGMR Shahed Dr Milon Hall. Time : 4 pm.

## Annual OCAB night Dec 17

The annual OCAB night will be held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Dec 17 at 7:30 pm, reports BSS.

The OCAB members have been requested to collect their cards from the treasurer by today at the National Press Club.

## Indonesian envoy calls on Speaker

Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh Soetanto Soemardjo called on Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury at his Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday, reports UNB.

## CONGRATULATIONS

ON

## Victory Day

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## Dr Fazle Rabbee's death anniversary tomorrow

Tomorrow is the 26 death anniversary of Dr Md Fazle Rabbee, Professor of Cardiology and Medicine of Dhaka Medical College.

Dr Rabbee was kidnapped from his residence, Jalpaiguri House at Shiddeswari in the city on Dec 15, 1971 by the Pakistan army and their collaborators — Rajakars Al-Badars and Al-Shams. He was brutally killed on the night of Dec 16, the Victory Day at Rayer Bazar killing fields.

To commemorate the day, wreaths will be laid on his grave and fateha will be offered at the New Azimpur Graveyard this morning. Gurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his wife's residence after Magreb prayers.



## Anniversary of Dr Azad's death tomorrow

The 26th anniversary of death of Shaheed Intellectual Dr (Prof) Abul Kalam Azad will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

He was brutally killed by the Al-Badars at the end of the Liberation War. His body was recovered from a mass grave at Rayer Bazar on Dec 16, 1971.

A milad mahfil and Gurankhwani will be held at the residence of his youngest brother, Habibul Bashar, at House: 35/B, Road: 7, Block-G, Banani in the city at 2 pm tomorrow.

Another milad mahfil will also be held today at 2 pm in the office of the Daily Morning Post, 29/B, East Panthapath, (Near New FDC Gate).

From the pages of memories, from the book of remembrance,  
in love, in life's sad and happy moments and in  
our pride of victory...

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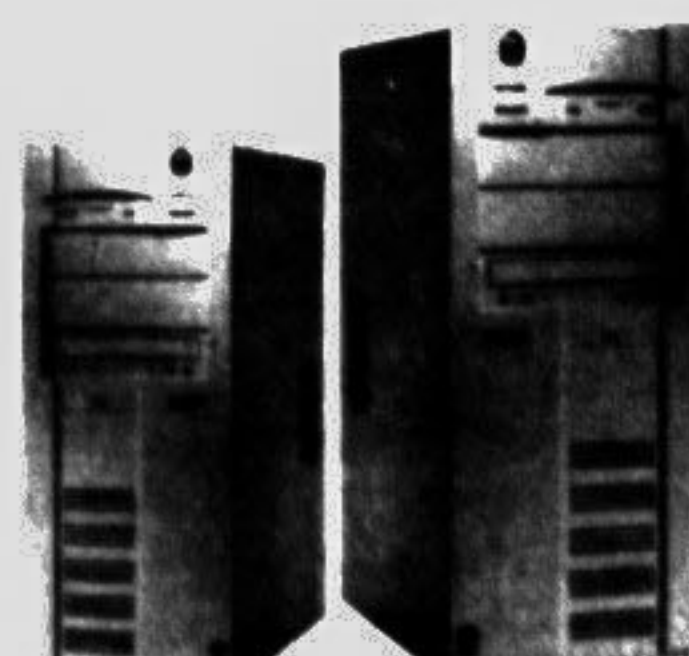
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