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# CONCERT

CONCERT FOR A TEACHER

29th December 97  
Venue: Sultana Kamal Women's Complex, Dhanmondi  
Time: 11AM-4PM. Gate Opens: 9AM

Mr. Mukhter Ahmad Professor of Bangla, Notre Dame College Dhaka and the moderator of Notre Dame Debating Club, needs an immediate coronary by-pass surgery.

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MEDICAL TREATMENT FUND FOR MUKHTER AHMAD  
Contact-Rahat Ph: 017-560 155, e-mail - Shaq@otcho.net

Courtesy: The Daily Star

## Govt urged to bar rallies, festivals in Ramna Park

Speakers at a festival of the joggers at Ramna Park yesterday urged the government to bar all socio-political rallies and cultural festivals inside the park for maintaining the environmental purity and serenity of the atmosphere, reports BSS.

They said Ramna Green was established in the colonial era as the main recreation place for the city dwellers. But sheer mismanagement and lack of maintenance converted the park into a safe den of terrorists, floating sexual workers and snatchers.

Ramna Park renovation and beautification festival was organised by the 'advisory committee on the development of Ramna Park' inside the Ramna Green to mark the massive renovation and environmental development work.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Post, Telecommunications, Housing and Works Minister Mohammad Nasim and Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury addressed the inaugural session of the festival.

The function was also addressed by leaders of the advisory committee: Journalist Rahat Khan, Works Secretary M A M Ziauddin, Kafil Uddin Ahmed, GM Rahman, Wahidul Momin Chowdhury, Mohammad Ullah Patwari and Jahanara Ameen.

Tofael Ahmed said we want to build Bangladesh as a serene, sound and beautiful place like the Ramna Park.

Tofael said, the park is a non-political place and the joggers here belong to different ideological and political groups. But they are determined to preserve this beautiful, green arena as a non-political recreation centre.

He assured the joggers that the government will not permit any socio-political festival, fair or rally inside the Ramna Park except the 'Pahela Baishakh functions'.

Mohammad Nasim said the authorities would take steps to ensure the ease and safety of the park-goers.

He said, Ramna Park holds out new hopes for the city joggers who visit the place for jogging in a clean and serene atmosphere.

Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said the city parks and gardens need to be protected from pollution and contaminations, both natural and man-made.

Journalist Rahat Khan, an advisor of the committee on the development of Ramna Park, said, we are dynamic nation. But we need strong unity for keeping civic issues above political controversies.

## Woman leaders hail CHT accord

Women leaders at a public rally here in the city yesterday welcomed the CHT peace accord and called for foiling any evil design to disrupt peace, reports UNB.

The rally was organised by Sangrami Naree Samaj at Pirana Paltan Maidan yesterday afternoon. Presided over by Arma Goon, the rally was addressed by Ayesha Khanam, Rokeya Kabir, Shirin Banu Mithil and Khushi Kabir.

Poet Sufia Kamal and Prof Nilima Ibrahim's messages were read out at the rally.

Sufia Kamal in her message said: 'We were expecting this peace accord for a long time. With this agreement our people will return to their homeland and we will live together in peace and harmony.'

Congratulating the government for signing the peace deal with PCJSS, Prof Nilima Ibrahim said: 'The present government has signed the accord ensuring the rights of both tribals and Bengalis in the Hill Tracts.'

## 'BNP propaganda designed to sever CHT from mainland'

A group of eminent citizens in a joint statement yesterday said the opposition parties launched the 'destructive' movement against the CHT as part of their conspiracies to turn Bangladesh into a 'second Pakistan', reports UNB.

'The conspiracy is designed by Pakistan intelligence agency to obstruct country's socio-economic development and destroy its image abroad,' said 550 citizens in their statement.

The citizens, in this regard, categorically mentioned that the Constitution was not violated by signing of the agreement, rather the propaganda of BNP and its allies is designed to sever the Chittagong Hill Tracts from the mainland.

'The accord is signed in conformity with Section 9, 11, 26, 28, 42, 59 and 60 of the Constitution and also international human rights declaration,' they said expressing their concern that 'fascist and communal political parties opposing the treaty are trying to push the country towards a civil war.'

'None will allow any destructive programme that provokes civil war,' the citizens said.

Signatories to the statement included Poet Sufia Kamal, Shawkat Osman, Devesh Chandra Bhattacharya, K M Sobhan, Neelima Ibrahim, Kabir Chowdhury, Abdullah Al-Mud Sharuddin, poet Shamsur Rahman, Maj Gen (ret'd) C R Dutta, Dr Arefin Siddique and Shahriar Kabir.

## Former ambassador Mannaf dies

Maj Gen (Ret'd) Abdul Mannaf, a former senior defence personnel and an ambassador passed away in the early hours of yesterday at the Combined Military Hospital in the city. He was 59, reports BSS.

Gen Mannaf, a graduate of Dhaka University, was commissioned as an officer in the Pakistan Armoured Corps (Cavalry) in 1958 and was a member of the Special Services Group (Commando). He participated in the Runn of Kutch war and also in the Indo-Pak war in 1965. Gen Mannaf had his training in UK, USA and Germany, a press release said.


'Mannaf served as country's ambassador to the Philippines, Thailand and High Commissioner to Australia.'

The deceased was the son of late Abdur Rahim Khan and late Zubaida Khanum. He left behind his wife Hasna Mannaf and two daughters.

The qulkhwan of Mannaf will be held tomorrow at the New DOHS Mosque at 3 pm.

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