

### EC to provide Tk 172 cr for Adarsha Gram Project

Bangladesh and European Commission yesterday signed an agreement to implement the Phase-II of Adarsha Gram Project, reports UNB.

Under the agreement, the commission will contribute a grant of 30 million ECU equivalent to Tk 172 crore for implementing the Tk 302 crore project over a period of seven years. The EC has been assisting the programme since 1990.

The first phase of this support, involving a grant of 11 million ECU and 28,500 tons of food aid for creation of 677 villages, ended in 1997.

Adarsha Gram Phase-II aims at settling 36,000 families in 650 village communities around Rangpur, Barisal and Dhaka regions.

### Gang snatches its member from police

**From Our Correspondent**  
NARAYANGANJ, Nov 26: A notorious gangster of Sonargaona thana was snatched away from the police few minutes after his arrest today, police and witnesses said.

Kabir, the notorious gangster of Habibur village under Sonargaona thana was arrested from near his village at about 11:00 am. He was snatched away while being taken to the thana in a tempo.

A gang of seven people attacked the tempo and snatched Kabir. But two of them were arrested following the incident. The arrested were identified as Afzal, 20 and Kaium, 22.

### Discussion on Mohon Miah held

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday described Yusuf Ali Chowdhury (Mohon Miah) as a towering personality, who devoted his life to fight against all social ills, injustice, political exploitation and reactionary forces with a view to build up a society of his dream.

They were speaking at a meeting organised in memory of veteran politician and social worker Mohon Miah to mark his 27th death anniversary.

The meeting organised by Yusuf Ali Chowdhury (Mohon Miah) Smriti Committee was addressed, among others, by former Minister M Shamsul Islam, MP, former Secretary Asafuddin, former Director General of Atomic Energy Commission Dr Abdul Mannan, noted parliamentarian Ayeuddin, Justice Bazul Rahman Talukder, and former student leader Moniruzzaman Monir with the smriti committee president Advocate Julmat Ali in the chair.

They recalled contributions of the late leader for social welfare and expressed their frustration over deteriorating law and order in the country.

Speakers recalled the uncompromising role of Mohon Miah and said the nation desperately needed a leader like him.

A *milad mahfil* was organised at the village home of the deceased at Faridpur.

### Obituary

Hamidia Khatun, an educationist and retired Head Master of the Mohanmadia High School, died of cardiac arrest at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital in the city on Tuesday. She was 67, says a press release.

She was wife of Dr M Lutfur Rahman, Ex-Principal of the College of Textile Technology Dhaka and mother of Dr T M Al Hussaini of BUET.

Her *qulhwani* will be held today at her residence at 303/A Elephant Road at 4 pm.

### Qulhwani

Qulhwani of Anowara Begum, mother of Nazmul Ashraf, a senior reporter of The Daily Star, will be held after Juma prayer today at her residence at Dapra-Idrakpur, Fatullah.

Qulhwani, *doa mahfil* and feeding of the destitute have been arranged on the occasion. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the *qul* and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Anowara Begum died of cardiac problems on November 23 at Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital in the city.

### Chehlum

The Chehlum of F K M Abdul Baqul, first Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, who died on October 20, will be held today at 3:45 pm at his 27/2 Dhakeswari Road residence in the city's Lalbagh area.

Chehlum of Maksudur Rahman Mithu, youngest son of the Daily Rupali Editor Mustafizur Rahman, MP, will be held at Mutauli Jangalbar after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

Mithu died of epilepsy at their Wari residence in the city on October 17.

### Child Rights Decade 2001-2010

## Quick action against offenders to stop child abuse: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday declared that the year 2001 to 2010 would be observed as the Child Rights Decade, report agencies.

"Children are the future of the nation and as such they must be injected with deep sense of patriotism so that they could shoulder their responsibility in due course," she said inaugurating the World Children Day and 'Child Rights Week' at the Osmani Memorial Hall.

Hasina said her government wants to build such a society where the rights of all children will be ensured and children will no longer be repressed or tortured.

"Child abuse must stop, we'll not tolerate any repression of children and will take quick action against the offenders," she said.

The week is being organised by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, marking the 'World Child Rights Day'. This year's theme of day is: Birth Registration and Domestic Child Labour.

The inaugural function was also addressed by LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Zillur Rahman, UNICEF country representative Shahida Azfar, Acting Secretary of the Women and Children Affairs Ministry Prof Tahmina Hossain, and a little girl, Mousumi Akter, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain presided.

The Prime Minister called for being sympathetic towards children at all levels, saying "torturing children is nothing but a perverse mentality".

Referring to the children working as domestic help at different homes, she said "they've come to work as they are poor, but it's not a crime to be poor, and urged all to be soft and sympathetic to the little boys and girls working at home."

Hasina suggested that these deprived children be given all facilities, including that of reading and writing. Given adequate care and facilities, they can be groomed as worthy citizens of the country, she said.

Referring to birth registration, she said this will help ensure the rights of children, including their right to go to school, as well as stop child

marriage.

The birth registration is also important in ascertaining the age of children working at different places, for special consideration during the trial of juvenile, and to stop changing the date of birth on various pretexts, the Prime Minister said.

She mentioned that there is a provision for birth registration through union parishad, pourashava and city corporations.

From now, the public representatives and government officials must ensure birth registration of all children, she said, but asked all concerned to make the process easy and free from any harassment.

Hasina also announced at the function that the concerned agencies which will register the

highest number of births will be given the "Prime Minister's Birth Registration Award."

This award will be distributed on the inaugural day of the Child Rights Week every year, she said and called for massive campaign to create mass awareness about the need for birth registration.

About the child development, Hasina said the government has taken up steps to ensure the rights of children and reorganised the Child Rights Protection and Development Council.

Hasina asked the officials to implement the action plan adopted for the children and monitor that children's rights are being ensured. "The Shishu Academy is being expanded up to thana level for flourishing the dormant talent of children."



RUNNING FOR RIGHTS: Child rights week begins, but who'll protect his rights? — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

### Programme on 50 years of fine art movement begins

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Programmes marking 50 years of fine art movement in Bangladesh began in the city yesterday.

The three-week long programmes organised by Shilpakala Academy in collaboration with the National Museum was inaugurated by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at the auditorium of the National Museum at Shahbagh in the city. Azad Rahman, Director General of Shilpakala Academy, presided.

Eleven distinguished artists of the country along with seven winners of the 13th National Art competition were awarded on the occasion.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad handed over the awards to the recipients and their representatives as the chief guest.

The 50th year of fine art movement in the country awards were given to Shilpakarya Zainul Abedin (posthumous), Anwarul Haq (posthumous), Qamrul Hasan (posthumous), Shafuluddin Ahmed, S M Sultan (posthumous), Shaful Ameen Mohammad Kibria, Aminul Islam, Bijon Chowdhury, Rashed Chowdhury (posthumous) and Habibur Rahman.

Besides, Mahabubur Rahman received Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award 1998, Rokeya Sultana, Bengal Foundation Award and Sufia Begum received Arab-Bangladesh Bank Award. Recipients of Samman Puroshkar are Swapn Chowdhury, Abdus Shakur, Shah Mohammad Yunus and Abdus Salam.

### Computer show begins today

**By Staff Correspondent**  
A nine-day computer exhibition begins in the city today under the aegis of Professional Solutions Limited (PSL), says a press release.

The exhibition will remain open from 10 am to 9 pm every day till December 5 at the Lalmitia office of PSL. It would provide information about cost effective buy and offer sale at a competitive price.

## Khaleda renews call for mid-term elections

LALMONIRHAT, Nov 26: Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia today asked the ruling quarters to call a mid-term election immediately under caretaker government or it would be made to bow out through movement, reports UNB.

"The ruling party was compelled to renounce hartal after the 60-hour hartal and the government will be forced to announce mid-term polls if an 80-hour hartal is given in future," she said, leaving a broad hint that her party could go for a longer shutdown to press for early election.

Begum Zia reiterated her demand at a big public meeting at Lalmonirhat collectorate maidan, where she was escorted by a caravan of over 50 horse riders and some 300 motorbike riders from 2 km away in a warm reception by the north-erners.

She made it clear that BNP does not want to call hartal. But, it will have no other way out if rights of common people — farmers and workers — are not ensured and "repression" on opposition political parties is not stopped forthwith.

"A patriotic government will be installed to ensure people's rights, dignity of women and to protect country's sovereignty by removing the failed government," she told the meeting.

The former prime minister said the ruling party knows that they would not return to power if election is held now, because prices of essentials spiralled beyond the purchasing capacity of common man.

She alleged the government failed on all fronts — prices of gas, power increased manifold, law and order broke down, mills and factories are closing down while unemployment increased.

### What's on today . . .

**Reception:** Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will accord a reception to filmmaker Delwar Jahan Jhantu. A cultural programme will follow. Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4 pm.

**Musical soiree:** A solo musical presentation by Mahmuduzzaman Babu will be held. Venue: TSC premises, Dhaka University. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Discussion:** Bangladesh Shishu Academy in cooperation with UNICEF has taken up a 2-day programme to mark the 'Meena Day'. A discussion meeting on 'Rights of girl children' will be held. A prize giving ceremony and cultural programme will follow. Venue: Academy premises. Time: 3:30 pm.

**Painting exhibition:** A week-long exhibition of paintings by Samina Nafies will be inaugurated. The exhibition will remain open from 5 pm to 8 pm daily till December 3. Venue: Alliance Francaise gallery. Time: 6 pm.

**Conference:** Bangladesh Principal Council will hold its 3rd national conference '98. Venue: Mohammadpur Central University College, Nurjahan Road. Time: 3:15 pm.

**Discussion:** Bangladesh Cardiac Society will hold an interactive education forum on 'Role of antithrombotic drugs in coronary syndromes' under its CME programme. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 6 pm.

**Annual general meeting:** The 9th annual general meeting and scientific session of the College of General Practitioners of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: NIPSOM auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 8:30 am.

**Award giving ceremony:** Theatre will distribute Munit Chowdhury and Mohammad Zakaria Memorial Awards on the occasion of the 77th birth anniversary of Munit Chowdhury. A Theatre production 'Swapanagiri' will also be staged. Venue: Central Public Library auditorium. Time: 6:30 pm.



### Brecht festival begins

**By Staff Correspondent**  
A festival on Bertolt Brecht began at the Goethe Institut yesterday with a documentary film on the life and works of the German theatrical genius.

The 13-day festival has been arranged to mark the 100 years of Brecht.

A superb impressionistic portrait of the playwright and poet, done by Kamal Pasha Chowdhury, was unveiled at the Institut.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Kabir Chowdhury said that Brecht's theatrical thoughts lives on within us.

He said that one cannot understand contemporary theatre even in UK today putting Brecht aside. They playwright and poet is undoubtedly contemporary in expressing the hopes and aspirations of the common people.

Prof Chowdhury added that the ironies, parodies, robust humour, folk comedy and Brecht's inimitable language is seen in "Galileo", "Mother Courage" and his other well known works. Brecht did not write for art's sake alone but in order to change society and show both the tears and laughter of the common man. He praised the playwright's non-illusion theatre with its music, masks and other paraphernalia.

Barbara Meyer-Marroth, Director of Goethe Institut, also speaking on the occasion, reminded the audience that Brecht's plays had been adapted into every well-known language, and more than a dozen of his plays had been staged repeatedly in Bangladesh alone.

She added that the playwright was one of the most influential personalities of today and stressed on his universal appeal.

### Alleged trafficker arrested: 14 rescued

**From Our Correspondent**  
COXS BAZAR, Nov 26: Police rescued 14 people including women and children from a bus today after they were being trafficked abroad today.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a coach counter in the town at around 5 pm and also arrested an alleged trafficker, Yusuf Ali, 37. Later, the people admitted to police that they were being taken to Pakistan by the traffickers.

The 14 are Nurul Alam, 28, Bashir Ahmad, 39, Abdus Salam, 30, Abu Karim, 40, Anowara Begum, 23, Amanul Haq, 5, Abul Kalam, 3, Sabekunnahar, 32, Shamsul Alam, 9, Saifa Akhter, 9, Nurunnahar, 4, Monowara Begum, 4-month-old Alim Noor and 9-month-old Chhoto Budu.

### PM: 'No-hartal' call

**From Page 1**  
called while in the opposition were meant to establish the rights of the people and restore democracy.

"Now we want economic emancipation and take the country into the 21 century as a self-reliant Bangladesh. But why the opposition is calling hartals?" she asked.

"They shot and killed Awami Jubo league leader Oil on November 7, blasted their own bombs in their meeting at Paltan, creating such a panic that the entire field was empty in minutes, leaving their leader alone. The valiant leaders on the other side had deserted their leader only loyal Falu was there."

Amidst angry shouts from the opposition members, she said that she read all this in newspapers. "I am ready to show videos," she told the MPs. "To prove what they had done."

Referring to the opposition allegation on the murder of a Jhenaidah UP chairman on Wednesday and killings of AL leader Asha in Chuadanga, she said that all such killings must stop.

"But those who shelter the Sarbahara pay their price," said Hasina without elaborating on the presence of the left-wing extremists in southwest-ern districts.

She dismissed opposition demand for holding Upazila elections under caretaker administration arguing national by-elections and union parishad polls held without the caretaker government were free and fair.

However, she ridiculed the opposition for wanting a caretaker government to supervise elections, a demand she herself had raised during the BNP days. "I am happy they have understood the importance of it."

She also refuted opposition claims that her family residence at Road no 32 was handed back to her by the late President Ziaur Rahman after her return from exile. "Rather I was not allowed to enter the house," she said.

"It was given back only after Zia's death by the then President Sattar with stories about diamonds and jewels in a cruel manner to highlight Zia's 'torn vest and broken suitcase'."

"I don't want any jewellery. Take them all... everything, but return my father or mother or brother. Russel."

### JS restores zero hour

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday agreed to restore the recently scrapped 'Zero' Hour in Parliament, if the Opposition can unilaterally meet the quorum of the House.

She expressed her conditional agreement following Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury expressed his grievances over the scrapping of the system.

A 30-minute 'Zero Hour' was introduced in the 10th session of the present Jatiya Sangsad for the MPs willing to draw attention of the House to various important local or national issues on an emergency basis.

According to an agreed principle, the time was equally divided -15 minutes each - among the Treasury and Opposition Benches. The Speaker used to hear the MPs concerned after the 'Order of the Day' for a sitting was exhausted. However, the practice was scrapped.

While addressing the House before the prorogation of the 11th session of Parliament yesterday, BNP leader Prof. Chowdhury requested the Chair and the Treasury Bench to reintroduce the system. "Restoration of the system would help both the Opposition and the Treasury Bench, in other words, the people of the country," Prof. Chowdhury said adding, "What is wrong with the Opposition members raising some issues affecting the people, especially when the government has the opportunity to reply to the opposition contentions?"

"We have no problem. But why should we have to unilaterally meet the quorum of the House so that the Opposition MPs can criticise us," the Leader of the House said pointing at the poor presence of the Opposition members. "If the Opposition can make 60 of its MPs present on a regular basis, we have no objection to restore the Zero-Hour."

### Allowance for 2,199 war injured FFs from Jan next

The government yesterday decided to give allowance to 2,199 war wounded freedom fighters from January 1, 1999, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at the 60th meeting of the Trustee Board of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Welfare Trust, chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the afternoon.

The meeting also decided to enhance the allowance of 3,535 wounded freedom fighters and reintroduce the allowance for 76 freedom fighters whose allowances were stopped on various grounds.

After scrutinising the applications of the war wounded freedom fighters, the government decided to give allowance to 2,199 freedom fighters.

The meeting discussed in details various steps for the welfare of the freedom fighters and also reviewed the decisions taken by previous meetings.

It decided to take necessary steps to turn the institutions run by the Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust into profitable concerns.

The meeting decided to constitute a committee headed by Khandaker Asaduzzaman MP. The secretaries of the Finance, Defence and Industries will be members of the committee. If necessary, the committee will have power to co-opt members. The decision will come into effect immediately.

The meeting was attended by Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdul-lah, State Minister for LGRD Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Thakudkar Abdul Khaleque, Khandaker Asaduzzaman MP, Abdur Rouf Chowdhury MP, Defence Secretary Syed Yusuf Hossain, Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Industries Secretary K M Ezazul Huq and newly appointed Managing Director of the Trustee Board Akramuzzaman.

### Notice Inviting Tender of RHD

- Tender Notice No : 05-BRD 1998-99.
- Name of work : Construction of flexible pavement/bituminous surfacing work/protective work and earth work in road embankment in diff KM of diff road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 1998-99-in 9 (nine) groups.
- Estimated cost : As per group list.
- Earnest money : -Ditto-
- Time allowed : -Ditto-
- Eligibility of contractor : -Ditto-
- Name of offices where tender documents can be purchased : i) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi. ii) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bogra/Rangpur/Kurigram/Gaibandha/Planning (Road & Bridge) Division, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Bogra/Sherpur/Joypurhat.
- Name of offices where tender will be received : i) Addl Chief Engineer, RHD, Rangpur Zone, Rangpur. ii) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi. iii) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Rangpur/Monitoring & Evaluation (Road & Bridge) Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka. (iv) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bogra/Rangpur/Kurigram/Gaibandha.
- Last date of selling tender documents (within office hours) : Up to 7/12/98.
- Date & time of receiving of tender : At 12:30 PM on 8/12/98.
- Date & time for opening of tender box by other receiving officers : At 12:45 PM on 8/12/98.
- Date & time of opening of all the tender by the undersigned : At 11:00 AM on 13/12/98.
- Date & time of lottery if required : At 11:00 AM on 17/12/98.

NB: 1) Gr No. 1(one) will be sold & received in the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi. 2) Gr No. 6 (six), 7 (seven), 8 (eight) & 9(nine) will not be received in the office of the Addl Chief Engg (RHD), Rangpur Zone, Rangpur/SE (RHD), Monitoring & Evaluation (Road & Bridge) Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka. The above group will not be sold in the office of the EE (RHD), Planning (Road & Bridge) Division, Dhaka.

Gr No	Name of work with location	Group List		Time allowed for completion of work	Eligibility of contractor	Remarks
		Head of accounts	Estimated cost			
01.	Construction of flexible pavement by providing sub-base, base-course, bituminous seal coat at 11th & 12th(P) KM of Nashratpur-Murail-Raikali-Beragram (Link to Tilokpur) Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 1998-99.	266-CA	Tk 14,79,506/- 29,591/-	50 (fifty) days from the date of issue of work order	"A" to "D" general category contractor of RHD	Separate tender with separate E/Money is to be submitted for each group. -Ditto-
02.	Construction of flexible pavement by providing sub-base, base-course, bituminous seal coat at 21st(P) KM of Omarpur-Deogram-Talora Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 1998-99.	266-CA	Tk 7,80,138/- 15,603/-	45 (forty five) days from the date of issue of work order	"A" to "E" General category contractor of RHD	-Ditto-
03.	Construction of flexible pavement by providing sub-base, base-course, bituminous seal coat at 4th(P) KM of Talora-Dupchanchia-Zianagar Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 1998-99.	266-CA	Tk 6,66,159/- 13,324/-	40 (forty) days from the date of issue of work order	-Ditto-	-Ditto-
04.	Providing bituminous surfacing work at 2nd(P), 4th(P), 5th(P), 6th(P) & 7th(P) KM of Mohastan-Shibgonj-Amtoli Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 1998-99.	266-CA	Tk 6,41,674/- 12,834/-	30 (thirty) days from the date of issue of work order	-Ditto-	-Ditto-
05.	Construction of flexible pavement by providing sub-base, base-course, bituminous seal-coat at 3rd (P) KM of Kathom-Kaliganj Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 1998-99.	266-CA	Tk 5,79,834/- 11,597/-	35 (thirty-five) days from the date of issue of work order	-Ditto-	-Ditto-
06.	Bituminous surfacing work by providing repairing bituminous carpeting, semi-grouting and construction of drain culvert drain at 1st (P) & 3rd (P) KM of Mohastan-Shibganj-Amtoli Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 1998-99.	266-CA	Tk 3,20,156/- 6,404/-	20 (twenty) days from the date of issue of work order	-Ditto-	-Ditto-
07.	Protective work by providing Bullah & bamboo palasinging work at 8th(P) KM of Khabalu Thana connecting road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 1998-99.	266-CA	Tk 1,69,189/- 3,384/-	-Ditto-	-Ditto-	-Ditto-
08.	Earth work in road embankment at 5th, 6th, 7th (P) KM of Serajganj-Kazipur-Dhunot-Sherpur Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 1998-99.	266-CA	Tk 2,70,619/- 5,413/-	30 (thirty) days from the date of issue of work order	-Ditto-	-Ditto-
09.	Earth work in road embankment at 7th (P) & 8th (P) KM of Serajganj-Kazipur-Dhunot-Sherpur road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 1998-99.	266-CA	Tk 1,87,089/- 3,742/-	25 (twenty five) days from the date of issue of work order	-Ditto-	-Ditto-

NB: Gr No 6 (six), 7 (seven), 8 (eight) & 9(nine) will not be received in the office of the Addl Chief Engineer, RHD, Rangpur Zone, Rangpur/SE Monitoring & Evaluation (Road & Bridge) Circle, Dhaka. The above Group will not be sold in the office of the EE (RHD), Planning (Road & Bridge) Division, Dhaka. Gr No 1 (one) will be sold & received in the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi.