

## News



A BCL procession on Dhaka University campus yesterday in protest against violence in Pabna-2 constituency. — Star photo

## Students observe 'Democracy Day'

Different student bodies yesterday observed the historic 'Democracy Day' at the Dhaka University with the renewed pledge to make the campus free from terrorism, reports APB.

To mark the day, processions and rallies were held at the campus and wreaths were placed at the Central Shaheed Minar.

On this day in 1990, the then autocratic regime of General Ershad was forced to quit at the peak of mass upsurge.

Awami League backed-Chhatra League brought out a procession and held a rally at Aparajeyo Bangla in the morning. It was addressed, among others, by BCL president Bahadur Bepari and general secretary Ajay Kar Khokon and leaders Sajjad Hossain, A K M Azim, Rafiqul Islam and Sujit Ray Nandi.

BCL leaders alleged that a group of 'outsiders' under the banner of a student organisation were trying to disturb atmosphere on the campus.

The campus is only for students and not for the terrorists or outsiders, BCL president Bahadur Bepari told the rally.

Opposition BNP's students wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal also brought out a procession and held a rally in front of DUCSU Bhaban.

JCD acting president Monjur Elahi and general secretary Nasiruddin Pintu and leaders Monir Hossain, Mosharraf Hossain, Monwar Hossain Rana and Abdul Khalek, also addressed the rally.

Left-leaning Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Bangladesh Chhatra Moitry also brought out processions and held rallies on the campus in observance of the day.

## PCP, PGP leaders released

By Staff Correspondent

Former president of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) Sanchara Chakma and Pahari Gano Parishad (PGP) leader Dhruvo Jyoti Chakma were released from the Khagrachhari jail on December 3 after nine months, said a press release issued by PCP leader Milton Chakma yesterday.

The leaders were released following a Division Bench of the High Court declared their imprisonment illegal in November. Later, they were granted bail by the Khagrachhari Magistrate Court, the release said.

The leaders were detained in the Special Powers Act, 1974 on March 18 this year.

## UNIC launches HR documents in Bengali

The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) has launched human rights documents of the world body in Bengali to reach out the important international covenants to bulk of the people in the country, reports BSS.

A set of five human rights documents were published in Bengali in observance of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which falls on December 10.

'This is a momentous occasion since more and more people in this country will now have access to these important documents concerning human rights' the United Nations resident coordinator in Bangladesh and Director of the UNIC David Lookwood said yesterday.

## BINA innovates two high yielding varieties of paddy

MYMENSINGH, Dec 6:

Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture Research (BINA) has innovated two high yielding varieties of paddy and its seeds are expected to be marketed from next year, reports UNB.

BINADHAN-5 and BINADHAN-6 can produce 5-6 tons of rice per hectare and 5.5-6.5 tons per hectare respectively on average. The life of BINADHAN-5 is 155+5 and BINADHAN-6 160+5 days.

National Seeds Board approved the newly invented varieties on November 24, said a press release.

Scientist Dr Ali Azam, the inventor of the new varieties, said fine quality BINADHAN-5 can produce seven tons and BINADHAN-6 a record production of more than eight tons if special cares are taken.

Director General of BINA Dr M Iddris Ali hoped that BINADHAN-5 and BINADHAN-6 will help reducing the food scarcity in the country.

## Dhaka College Ex-students reunion Dec 11

The annual get-together of the students of 1963-65 batch of Dhaka College will be held on December 11, a press release said, reports BSS.

Those who are willing to participate have been requested to contact the following persons over telephone for further information: Moniruzzaman (866448), Mesbah, (861318/866028), Salehuddin (9126243/837210), Yunus (9554605/812114), Quazi Mannan (814747), Wali (864415/861270), Masu (411130/412214) and Rais Khan (812253/815609).

## Victory Day programmes

Government has chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the Victory Day on December 16 in a befitting manner upholding the spirit of the Liberation War, reports APB.

The day would be a public holiday and national flag would be hoisted atop all government offices and private buildings, said an official release on Sunday.

In Dhaka, the day will be heralded by 31 gun salutes.

The President and the Prime Minister will place wreaths at the National Mausoleum for the martyrs at Savar. Wreaths and bouquets will also be offered at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Museum.

On the occasion, President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will give separate messages highlighting the significance of the day.

Band parties of the Army, Navy, Air Force, BDR, Police, Ansar and VDP will perform at a number of places in the city.

As usual, naval ships will be kept open for public from 2:30 pm to 5 pm on the day at the ports of Chittagong, Khulna and Mongla, Sadarghat in the city and BIWTA ghats at Narayanganj, Chandpur and Barisal.

Police, Ansars, VDP, Scouts, Girls Guides, BNCC and students will take part in the marches in the district and thana headquarters across the country.

As part of the regular training, BAF planes will fly low and spray coloured smokes over big cities, including Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barisal.

Student rallies, sports events and boat races will be organised at district and thana level on the day.

Bangla Academy, Shishu Academy will organise different programmes on the day. Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television will broadcast special programmes while newspapers will publish special supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

## ICFTU programmes begin today

By Staff Correspondent

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), Bangladesh council, has drawn up week-long programmes in observance of Free Trade Union Rights week, 50th anniversary of the United Nations declaration of International Human Rights and 50th anniversary of ILO Convention '87. The programmes begin today.

The country-wide programmes include symposium in divisional headquarters, poster-banner exhibition, distribution of leaflets and colourful rallies.

The ICFTU will bring out a colourful procession in the capital on December 10 to mark the day.



## Death anniversary of Aaur Rahman Khan today

By Staff Correspondent

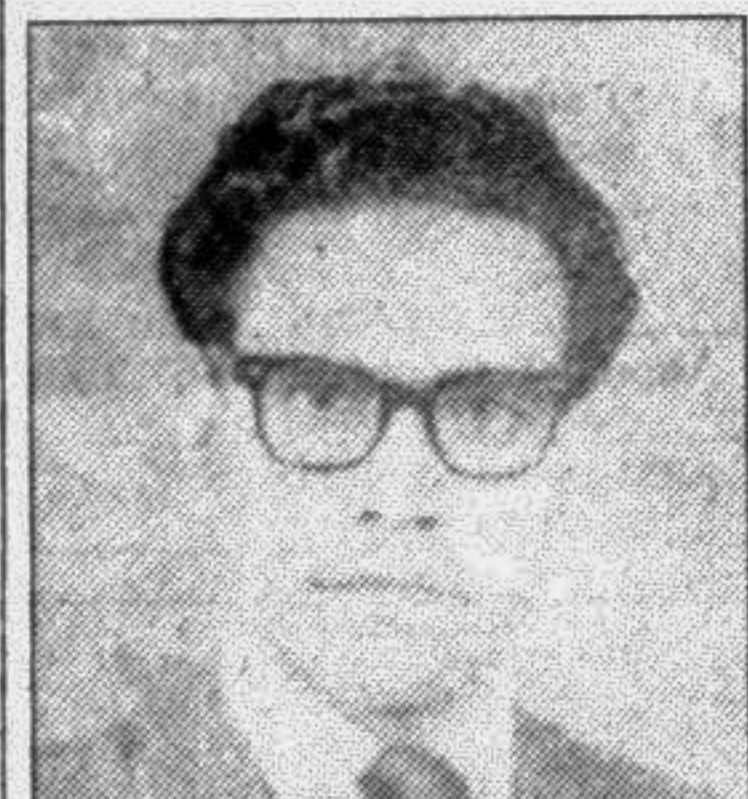
The seventh death anniversary of politician, writer and lawyer Aaur Rahman Khan will be observed today.

Aaur Rahman Khan Jatiyo Smriti Sangsad has drawn up a two-day elaborate programme to pay tribute to the former Chief Minister of then East Pakistan, former Prime Minister of Bangladesh and convenor of the Language Movement.

The Sangsad will place wreaths and arrange milad mahfil at the late leader's mazar at the National Graveyard and distribute food among the destitute at his Dhamond residence at noon.

A discussion on the work and life of the leader will also be held at the Press Club auditorium at 3:30 pm tomorrow.

Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Oli Ahad, Abdul Salam Talukder, MK Anwar, Shamsul Islam, Rezauddin Ahmed and Gias Kamal Chowdhury will attend the discussion. Justice Kemaluddin Hossain will preside.



## Death anniversary

The 27th death anniversary of Prof Abul Hashem, a freedom fighter, will be observed today, says a press release.

He was a professor of political science at Majid Government College in Noakhali. He fought under the command of Major ATM Haider of Sector 2. He was shot dead by razakars on this day in 1971.

## Obituary

Prof Mokbul Hossain, an educationist, died on December 2 at a city clinic. He was 68, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Hailing from Naoapara under Raozan thana in Chittagong district Hossain spent most part of his life in teaching. He was founder of the Naoapara College (Raozan) and was the principal of the college.

He was buried at the Banani graveyard.

## Furfura Sharif Peer in city

Peer Shahib of Furfura Sharif Hazrat Moulana Mohammad Baqi Billa Siddiqui is now in the city on a short visit, reports APB.

Peer Shahib is staying at 47/13, Indira Road, Saratia Khanka Sharif.

## Fair probe into attack on news-stand demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Sangbadpatra Hawkers Kalyan Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity Ltd in a statement yesterday urged the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to take steps to ensure fair investigation into two cases relating to an attack on its sales centre in Mirpur, says a press release.

The cases were lodged by two rival groups of hawkers with the Mirpur thana following an attack on the sales centre in Mirpur-1 on Thursday.

Demanding fair and neutral investigation into the incident, the Samity expressed doubt about the neutral role of the police in investigating the case.

The samity at a meeting with its president Rafiq Ahmed in the chair on Friday also condemned the attack which left two hawkers seriously injured.

A group of about 12 men led by one Amjad demanded toll from Mantazuddin, the supervisor of Mirpur-1 sales centre of the samity at around 7 am on Thursday. When he refused to give the toll, the gang beat him and his associate mercilessly and snatched Tk 27 thousand which was collected by selling newspapers and magazines. They also damaged a huge unsold copies of Weekly 2000 and weekly Bichitra, the release said.

The samity blamed 'Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity Ltd' for the attack, the release said.

## Kanaipur UP by-polls on Dec 19

FARIDPUR, Dec 6: The by-election to the post of the chairman of Kanaipur Union Parishad under Sadar thana of the district will be held on December 19, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the post of the chairman of Kanaipur Union fell vacant following the death of Md Abdul Berek Molla who was killed by assailants in broad daylight in front of Faridpur Judge's Court on October 25.

According to official sources, only two candidates are contesting for the post.

Meanwhile, both the candidates have geared up their campaign activities. The administration has tightened the security measures in the area to ensure fair polls.

## Bus-truck collision kills one

BARISAL, Dec 6: A head-on collision between a bus and a truck on Barisal-Dhaka highway at Gouranadi in the district on Saturday left one dead and 20 others injured, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Jewel Sheikh, 35. The injured were sent to Gouranadi Thana Health Complex.

The drivers of the vehicles managed to escape soon after the accident. A case was filed with the police.

## Mobil LPG project work begins soon

The first board meetings of the newly formed joint venture companies between Mobil Corporation of the USA and Jamuna Oil Company Ltd of Bangladesh were held yesterday at the Mobil premises in the city, says a press release.

Dr Tawfik-e-Elahi Chowdhury BB, secretary, ministry of energy and mineral resources, was appointed chairman of Mobil Jamuna Fuels Ltd and Mobil Jamuna Lubricants Ltd. The joint venture agreements for the investments were signed between Mobil and Jamuna in July this year.



JCD brought out a procession on Dhaka University campus yesterday to mark the Democracy Day. — Star photo



A scene from the play 'Putul' staged by Udichi of Gazipur at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday as part of the ongoing Street Drama Festival. — Star photo



Nandan Natya Goshthi staged 'Lathi' at the Street Drama Festival yesterday. — Star photo



Visitors on the last day of the Ananda Mela at the Officers' Club yesterday.



A seminar on 'Extreme voltage abnormalities in electrical power lines in Bangladesh and protection of electrical and electronic appliances through a successful locally innovated technology' was held recently at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) organised by the Electrical Engineering Division of the Institute. The keynote paper was presented by Dr K Siddique-e-Rabbani, Professor of Physics, University of Dhaka & Adviser, Grameen Bitek Ltd, and M Khairul Alam, Managing Director of Grameen Bitek.

## Body formed to curb terrorism in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Dec 6: In a bid

to curb terrorism from the port city, a 201-member committee was formed today incorporating presidents and secretaries of different organisations, reports UNB.

The committee named 'Santras Protirodha Nagarik Committee Chittagong' was formed at the local press club on Sunday with Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury as chairman.

Bangladesh Bar Council member Advocate Abdul Kalam Azad was made member-secretary of the organisation while Engineer Mahmudul Islam of Chittagong Development Authorities and all former mayors were co-chairmen of the committee.

Local presidents and secretaries of all political parties, professional groups, business and cultural organisations were included in the committee. Its temporary office will be located at the Press Club.

The meeting also decided to form sub-committees in 41 wards of the port city within December 16 embodying local elite and professionals to achieve the objective.

## Begum Rokeya Day programmes begin

By Staff Correspondent

Women leaders urged the government to take steps for conservation of the village Pairaband, the birth place of noted woman litterateur Begum Rokeya.

The call was made at a function organised by Narigantha Probertana on the first day of four-day Begum Rokeya Day '98 programmes.

The function was addressed by Meherunnessa Islam, Sherin Azize, Tahmina Habib, Anwara Islam, Rawshan Ara Zaman and Azile Idris while Sayeda Akhter Kumkum read out written statement of poet Sufia Kamal.

Earlier, the day began with a photo exhibition in the morning.

The programme was followed by a cultural function.

## Classes at IU resume tomorrow

KUSHTIA, Dec 6: Classes at the Islamic University will resume on December 8 and all residential halls will be kept open from December 7, reports APB.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Syndicate at the residence of Vice-Chancellor on Friday.

Resident students can enter their respective halls showing identity cards at hall gates from 10 am on December 7.

University officials said fresh schedule of the postponed examinations will be announced soon.

All kinds of political activities on the campus were prohibited for an indefinite period by the Provost Council meeting.

The university was closed for an indefinite period from October 31 following a bloody clash between the activists of Islamic Chhatra Shibir and the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League on the campus which left two students dead.

General students apprehend clashes may recur any time if the authorities do not take necessary measures to contain the rival groups who are reported to be again mobilising their cadres for a showdown.

## Novartis Foundation School opens today

The associates of Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited will open their Foundation School today, says a press release.

The non-profit school is aimed at providing quality education to children through professional management. Limited seats for children outside of Novartis are available.

Located at House 69/B, Road 6/A, Dhanmondi, the school will have four classes at the initial stage: pre-school, classes one, two and three. One class will be added every year leading to SSC in English medium.

Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof Dr A K Azad Chowdhury will be the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony, while Gerhard Doege, Managing Director of Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited will be the special guest.

The school is an initiative of Children Education Foundation, a registered private charity of Novartis. The school will be managed by Crop Protection Sector.

The programme will start at 4-30 pm at the school premises.



The third Berger Young Painters' Award giving ceremony was held at the Institute of Fine Art yesterday. The winners are seen in the picture.

## Berger Young Painters' Award giving ceremony held in city

The third Berger Young Painters' Award giving ceremony was held yesterday at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, says a press release.

Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd has been organising the Young Painters' Art Competition each year since 1996. Like past years, this year too, numerous young artists submitted their works. A jury panel comprising Prof. Aminul Islam, Prof. Qayyum Chowdhury, Prof. Rafiqun Nabi, Prof. Monsur-ul-Karim and Prof. Abdus Shakoor Shah selected the top six paintings out of the hundreds of entries received.

Director of the company, inaugurated the event. In his speech, Masih-ul-Karim emphasised Berger's commitment in the field of art and culture as a responsible corporate citizen.

The winners are Muhammad Mustafa Shaheedul Islam, Najib Tareque, Sudipta Mallick Sweden, Zakia Khan Chandana, Md Jashim Uddin and Sarkar Nahid Niaz Mannan.

Top six selected paintings will be incorporated in the annual corporate calendar for 1999 of Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd.

## Jubo League activist stabbed in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 6: A Jubo League activist of Ramghar thana was stabbed by unidentified persons in front of the court building here today, reports UNB.

The victim Badsha Mia, 26, was admitted to hospital.

Badsha who has recently deserted Jubo Dal to join the rival Jubo League came to appear in the court in connection with a case.

Jubo League brought out a protest procession in the town after the incident.

## IUB's spoken Bangla course concludes

A 15-week spoken Bangla course for foreigners organised by IUB's Extension and Continuing Education Centre (ECC) for enhancing communication skills has concluded, says a press release.

Prof Noor-ul-Alam, an eminent scholar in Bengali language conducted the course.

Abul Ahsan, Vice-President, IUB, distributed certificates among the participants at a simple ceremony at IUB campus at Baridhara on Wednesday.



The Aga Khan Golf Cup Golf Tournament concluded in the city yesterday. Rear Admiral Amir Ahmed Mustafa won the title and Brig Intiaz Ahmed Chowdhury became the runner up. Mrs Yoo Eun Soo lifted the ladies title while the Junior winner was Ezuan Zukliffy. The Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, President of the Club, gave away the prizes.