

Govt takes step to honour FFs

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has taken all steps to give due honour and prestige to the valiant freedom fighters of the Liberation War, reports BSS.

"It is you for whom the country is liberated and now we are living in an independent state," she said while addressing a reception accorded in honour of the war wounded freedom fighters and awardees at the North Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad last morning.

She said, "We want to see that the freedom fighters are properly placed in society with due honour and dignity."

Sheikh Hasina said the freedom fighters after the post-1975 period hesitated to identify themselves as freedom fighters in view of the social conditions created by vested quarters. "Now they can boldly say that they are freedom fighters", she said.

The Prime Minister listed various steps taken up by her government for the welfare of the freedom fighters and said that 30 per cent of the jobs would be kept reserved for the words of the freedom fighters. She asked the freedom fighters to collect their certificates so that they could avail the opportunity for their children.

She regretted that the history of our Liberation Struggle and War was distorted by the post-1975 governments. "As a result, the posterity did not know the role of the valiant freedom fighters and the glorious war."

Sheikh Hasina said but the trial of the murder of Bangladesh took place in the soil of Bangladesh and *Insha Allah*

the verdict of the trial would be implemented.

The Prime Minister recalled with gratitude the contribution of the four national leaders who had guided the Liberation War in the absence of the Father of the Nation.

Sheikh Hasina said that her government would identify the killing places and protect those for the posterity. She said the killing places will bear the names of the persons who had shed their bloods for the liberation.

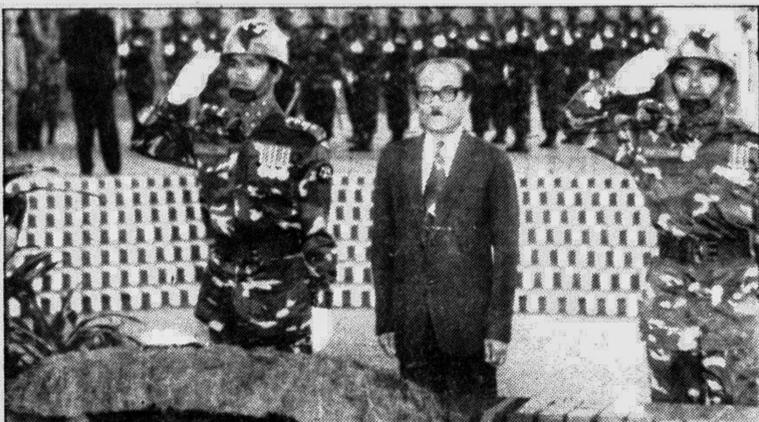
She said her government would provide shelters to the distressed freedom fighters in the Asrayon Project. She said a freedom fighters' self-reliant project has been taken up where the freedom fighters would be given loan up to Taka 15 thousand.

The Prime Minister urged all to render support to her government to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh. "Let us take a pledge on this day to work unitedly for the progress and prosperity of the country and turn it into a *Sonar Bangla*."

Later, she went round various parts of the Plaza and exchanged greeting with the members of the freedom fighters and their family members. She exchanged pleasantries with them and enquired about their welfare.

Ministers, MPs, high civil and military officials and a large number of freedom fighters including disabled were present at the reception.

Earlier, the Prime Minister was received by the chief of three services on her arrival at the venue.



President Shahabuddin Ahmed stands in solemn silence after placing wreaths at the National Mausoleum in Savar on the Victory Day Wednesday. — Star photo

Victory Day in picture



Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rashid Chowdhury placing wreaths at the National Mausoleum. — Star photo



Bangladesh Nationalist Party



Awami League

One killed in city clash

By Staff Correspondent

One person was killed in a clash between two rival groups of Dhaka Mahanagar Autorickshaw association in the city's Indira road on Tuesday night.

The victim was identified as Jinal Abedin, 36, president of the Autorickshaw Association. Mobarak Hossain, 35, general secretary of the organisation, was also injured in the clash.

The incident took place when Jinal Abedin and along with his association members were in a monthly general meeting. At about 11 pm, their rival group led by one Taleb attacked them and stabbed Jinal.

Injured Jinal was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctor declared him dead. The body was sent to hospital morgue.

Police arrested Taleb, who is also a leader of the tense stand. Separate cases were lodged with Tejgaon police station.

War criminals' trial in special court demanded

Speakers at a discussion, organised by Projonmo '71, demanded trial of the war criminals in special tribunal, reports UNB.

Projonmo '71, an organisation of children of the Liberation War martyrs, held the discussion at Sufia Kamal auditorium at National Museum yesterday.

It was addressed, among others, by Sontosh Gupta, Rashid Haider, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury and Meghna Guha Thakurata with Shaheen Rezanur presiding.

The meeting was followed by a cultural function dedicated to the mothers who lost their chastity during the 1971 war.

Car parts stolen

By Staff Correspondent

Some valuable parts of a car owned by Naimul Islam Khan, executive Director of BCDJC, was stolen from his Central Road residence in the city early yesterday.

According to the FIR lodged with the Dhanmondi police station, some miscreants broke open the garage of Naimul Islam and took away valuable parts of his car (Dhaka-Met-Ga-12-7409) worth about Tk 2 lakh.

The stolen motor parts include Complete Dash Board Meter, Air Cooler, Original CD and Cassette player.

Dress show

By Staff Correspondent

A three-day show of *Shalwar* and *Kameez* began at the Alliance Francaise in the city yesterday.

Young entrepreneur Dilshad Ahmed on behalf of Avalon, a house of custom-tailored dresses for women, arranged the show to promote hand-made clothes.

The show will be open from 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm everyday.

What's on today

Musical Drama: To raise funds for the Flood Relief Fund '98, Scholastica presents 'Obiver' (based on the musical by Lionel Bart) today and tomorrow. Venue: House 200, Gulshan Avenue (North). Time: 5:45 pm. Tickets: Tk 150, available at the venue.

Ikebana show: The National Association of UNESCO Clubs has arranged a day-long Ikebana show competition '98. Venue: Parjato Hotel Abakash, Mahabhal. Time: From 9:30 am to 5 pm. Shigeharu Maruyama, minister in the Japanese embassy, will open the show at 9:30 am while State Minister for Jute AK Faezul Huq will give away prizes at 4 pm.

Film show: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will screen 3 French movies with English subtitles — 'Loulou', 'La retour de Martin Guerre' and 'Bapteme'. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 10:30 am, 4 pm and 6 pm respectively.

NSU Convocation: The second convocation ceremony of the North South University will be held. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 9:30 am. A cultural show will also be held on the occasion at the Poolside of Hotel Sonargaon in the evening.

Exhibition: An exhibition on 'World Press Photo' will begin. Venue: DRIK Gallery, House-58, Rd-15/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 5 pm. The exhibition will remain open till Dec 31 from 3 pm to 8 pm daily.

Kantha exhibition: A 3-day solo Kantha exhibition by Atima Maola will begin on the occasion of the 50 years of fine art in Bangladesh. Venue: Manju art gallery, Gulshan. Time: 5 pm.

Golden Jubilee: A 2-day Golden Jubilee celebration ceremony of the Geography and Environment Department of Dhaka University will begin. Venue: Department premises, Science Annex Building, DU. Time: 9:30 am.

Dance programme: Tahmina Islam and co-artists will present a dance programme. Venue: Muktijudha Jagudhar Cafe Theatre. Time: 6:45 pm.

Nat'l Rally: Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladesh Employees (WARBE) will hold a national rally in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with Migrant Workers. On the occasion a walkathon will begin from in front of the National Museum at 9 am and will be concluded at the National Press Club.

Seminar: 'Witness and Pioneer' have jointly organised a seminar in memory of Begum Rokeya Shakawat Hossain. Venue: Iranian Cultural Centre, House-58, Rd-8/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 9:30 am.

Conference: The 2nd biennial national conference of the Bangladesh Bibloph Garments Workers' Federation will be held. Venue: Photo Journalist Association auditorium. Time: 11 am.

Symposium: A symposium on the 'Role of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) in National Development' will be held. Venue: Seminar Room, Institute of Food Science and Technology, BCSIR. Time: 9:30 am.

Film song: Chalachitram Film Society has organised a programme on selected film songs of the sub-continent. Twenty-six Urdu, Hindi and Bangla film songs of 50's and 60's will be presented. Venue: German Cultural Centre. Time: 6:30 pm.

38 FFs demand trial of Nizami

Thirty-eight freedom fighters including several gallantry award holders yesterday demanded of the government to put Maulana Mattur Rahman Nizami on trial for killing innumerable people during the War of Liberation in 1971 as the chief of the Al-Badr Bahini, reports BSS.

In a joint statement, they said that Mattur Rahman Nizami was the chief of the Al-Badr Bahini and this was proved by his statement published in the Jamaat-e-Islami mouthpiece 'Sangram' on August 1, 1971. In that statement, Nizami urged his followers to kill the freedom fighters 'to protect dear Pakistan'.

The freedom fighters also claimed that Nizami was the 'key-man behind the intellectual killings. They demanded trial of Nizami and other war criminals in special tribunals.

The signatories, among others, are Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) Sultan Mahmud, Bir Uttam, Capt Shahabuddin, Bir Uttam, Capt Akram Hossain, Bir Uttam, Lt Col (ret'd) Abdur Rouf, Bir Bikram, Abu Yusuf Khan, Bir Bikram, Mazhar Ulla, Bir Uttam, Major General (ret'd) Huq Helal Morshed, Bir Bikram, Sha h j a h a n Mazumder, Bir Protik, Subedar (ret'd) Abdul Malek, Bir Bikram, Major (ret'd) AK Gupta, Bir Protik, Lt Col (ret'd) MA Gaffar, Bir Uttam, Sqn Leader (ret'd) Liaqat Ali Khan, Bir Uttam, Haji Nurul Huq, Bir Protik, Alamgir Sattar, Bir Protik, Major General (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, Bir Protik, Col (ret'd) MA Mannan, Bir Bikram, Major (ret'd) Wakar Hasan, Bir Protik, Mezbahuddin, Bir Bikram, Helaluzzaman, Bir Protik, Capt (ret'd) Azizul Huq, Bir Protik, Lt Col (ret'd) Humayun Kabir, Bir Protik, Lt Col (ret'd) Nurunnabi Khan, Bir Bikram, Major (ret'd) Zahurul Huq Khan, Bir Protik, Zahirul Hussain Belal, Bir Protik, Abdul Hakim Patuairi, Bir Protik, Begum Lufia Taher, Wife of Col Abu Taher, Commander of Sector 11, Haroon Habib, Mohammad Fazlur Rahman, Brother of Shaheed Capt Mahbubur Rahman, Bir Bikram and Major (ret'd) MA Matin.

Five alleged terrorists killed in Meherpur

MEHERPUR, Dec. 17: Five alleged terrorists were killed by their rivals at Bhabanandapur in Meherpur Sadar thana at midnight on December 15 when the people were preparing for celebrating the Victory Day, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the victims were strangled and found hanging from banana trees at Kuthipara.

The dead were identified as Bakul, 25, of Purandarpur, Gola, 25, of Baliarpur, Ruhul Amin, 26, of Tongi Gopalpur and Anwarul, 25, and Arshad of Kharampur village. They all belonged to Aku Bahini, a terrorists group in the area.

Woman beaten to death

A young woman was beaten to death by a neighbour at Senpara Parbata, Mirpur in the city on Wednesday night, police said, reports UNB.

Salma, 27, daughter of one Moniruddin of House-564, Senpara Parbata was reportedly beaten by a lady, a next door neighbour, on charge of stealing foodstuff from her house.

Writers' confce begins today

A two-day writers' conference will begin today in the city at the initiative of Bangladesh Writers Club, reports BSS.

The writers' conference will be inaugurated by poet Shamsur Rahman at 4:30 pm at the club office at 13, Segun Bagicha. The inaugural function will be followed by a writers' rally, said a press release yesterday.

Club president and litterateur Rahat Khan, will preside over the function. State Minister for Sports, Youth and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will also be present.

Tk 1000 cr container terminal to be built on Buriganga

An agreement between Stevedore Services of America (SSA) and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) was signed in the city yesterday under which the first-ever private sector container terminal will be built in the country at Pangoan on the river Buriganga at a cost of Tk 1000 crore, reports BSS.

The agreement was signed by the Secretary of the BIWTA Fasiur Rahman and the Managing Director of SSA Bangladesh Limited Robert E Watters.

Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rob was present at the signing ceremony as chief guest. Also present were Secretary M Saiful Islam and Charge D' Affairs of the US Embassy Theodore A Nist.

Official sources said that with the signing of the agreement, the process of establishing two container terminals — one at Patenga in Chittagong and the other at Pangoan near Dhaka — has begun with a foreign investment of Tk 2000 crore. It will be the second biggest economic project of the country after Bangabandhu bridge. After the establishment of these two container terminals of international standards, the country's port facilities will increase manifold.

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Muhammad Nurul Huda, director of the Nazrul Institute, Hayat Saif and Nishat Khan, among others, will address the inaugural session.

Famirun Nessa, wife of former chief engineer of C and B late Abdul Jabbar, died of old-age complications at her residence in the city yesterday, family sources said. She was 82, reports BSS.

Mother of former minister for commerce and industries MA Sattar, Famirun Nessa left behind four sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death. She was the aunt of Abul Kalam Azad MP and chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Information.

WB launches website on Bangladesh

The World Bank's Dhaka office has launched a new website solely dedicated to Bangladesh, making the Bank's knowledge and information even more easily accessible to the people, says a press release.

The website located at www.worldbank-bangladesh.org provides up-to-date information on Bangladesh and Bank-assisted programmes in Bangladesh. This includes economic and social data, the World Bank's country strategy, project documents, stories about World Bank-assisted projects in action, and news and events — all relating to Bangladesh. The full text of many Bank reports on Bangladesh can be accessed and downloaded from the site.

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Obituary

Niranjan Dey, father of Comilla district Awami League organising secretary and national footballer Badal, died of old age complications at the BIRDEM hospital in the city last evening. He was 75, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep shock at the death of Niranjan Dey.

In a condolence message, Sheikh Hasina conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Engr Sultan Ahmed, Director (Engineering) of Bangladesh Railway, died of cardiac arrest at the Suhrawardi Institute of Heart Diseases yesterday. He was 46, reports UNB.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. His *namaz-e-janaza* was held after *Esha* prayers at Kamalapur Railway Station premises. He was buried at the Mirpur Intellectual graveyard.

Sultan Ahmed's *qukhwan* will be held today after *Asr* prayers at Shahjahanpur Railway Officers Quarters.

Citizens' rally today

A citizens' rally will be held today at 10 am at the Central Shaheed Minar demanding exemplary punishment and arrest of those anti-liberation fundamentalists responsible for attacking the rally on the Liberation War at Brahmanbaria on December 7 and 8, a press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The Anti-Fundamentalist and Anti-Communal Citizens' Alliance has organised the rally.

Pro-liberation citizens from all strata of society have been invited to attend the meeting.

Death anniversary

The fifth death anniversary of AM Asadul Haq, retired Superintendent of Public Works Directorate, Chittagong Region, will be observed today, says a press release.

Mr Haq was the father of Shaifiqul Hasan, Station Manager, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Kuwait and journalist Anisul Haq Gama. *Qurankhwan* and *miad mah-jil* have been arranged at his residence at Agrabad, Chittagong.

Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of prominent social worker and women sports organiser of Comilla town, Kaniz Hasina Biju, widow of Advocate Bazlur Rahman, will be observed tomorrow after *Zohr* prayers at her Bishnupur residence, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.