

Plea to raise manpower of Narcotics Control Dept

Bangladesh Narcotics Inspectors' Welfare Association yesterday urged the government to increase the manpower of the Narcotics Control Department for controlling the use of narcotics, a press release said, reports BSS.

At a meeting the association demanded to set up 64 sub-zones in 64 districts and 460 circle offices in 460 thanas by increasing adequate manpower.

The association also demanded of the government for withdrawal of the suspension order of an inspector of the department following the killing of a film actor in front of a night club at Banani.

The association urged the authorities to investigate any irregularities against any official before suspension or discharging him from the service.

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Khaleda hosts iftar party for professionals

Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday hosted an iftar party for the professionals at her official residence at 29 Minto Road here, reports UNB.

A large number of professionals including doctors, engineers, agriculturists and university teachers attended the party.

Following the iftar, the leaders of professional bodies held a meeting with Begum Zia and discussed various issues including election of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), activities of the Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) and the problems of the agriculturists.

Those who attended the iftar included Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Dr Aftabuddin Ahmed, Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Shajahan, Dr M A Majed, Abu Hena, Dr Nurul Islam, M A Samad, Javed Iqbal and Dr Shah Mohammad Faruque.

BNP leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Mirza Abbas and Sadeq Hossain Khoka were also present.

17 hurt as buses collide head-on on Dhaka-Ctg road

CHITTAGONG, Dec 26: At least 17 persons were injured, seven of them critically in an accident between two passenger buses at Barabkunda under Sitakunda thana on Dhaka-Chittagong highway today, reports BSS.

According to police and eyewitnesses, the accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound passenger bus from Luxmipur reached Barabkunda, suddenly it collided head-on with another passenger bus coming from opposite direction. The front parts of both the vehicles were damaged.

Of the injured, seven passengers were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The condition of three passengers was stated to be critical, by CMCH sources. Other injured were given treatment at Sitakunda Thana Health Complex.

Following the accident, road communications between Chittagong and Dhaka was disrupted for an hour from 11 am, the sources said.

Two arrested with firearms

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested two people and recovered two revolvers from their possession in separate incident in the city on Friday.

They were identified as Jahangir Alam, 22 and Lablu, 27.

Acting on a tip-off, DB police conducted a raid on Three Star hotel at Maghbaraz and arrested Jahangir.

In another drive Sutrapur police arrested Lablu from a tea stall at Sarat Gupta Road.

The arrested were engaged in different kinds of crimes like mugging and toll collection, police said.

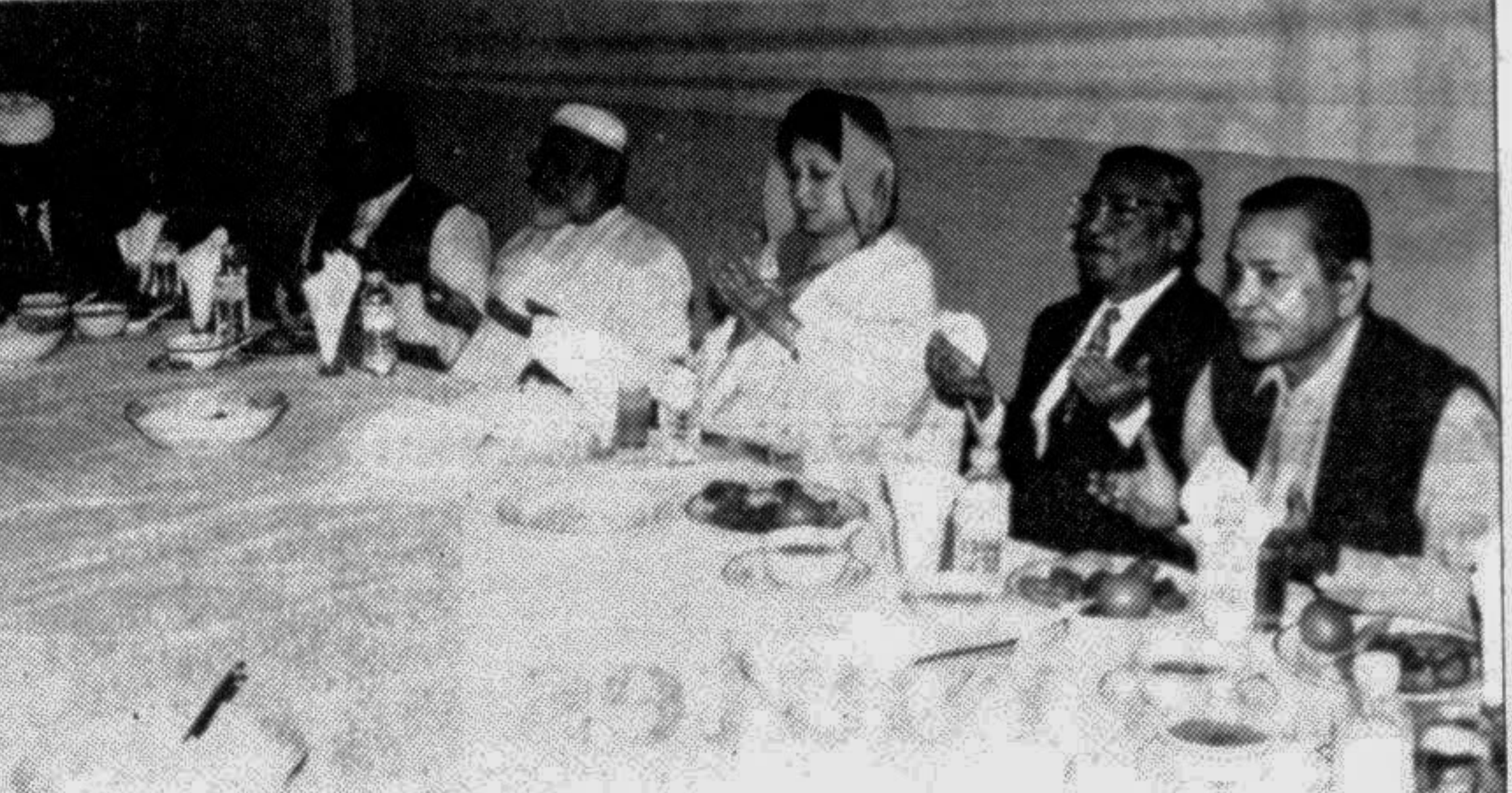
Bikampur Welfare Assoc holds iftar party

Bikampur Welfare Association in Jurain hosted an iftar party yesterday, reports BSS.

Some 200 members of the association participated in the iftar mahfil in the house of president of the association Tozazz Hossein (Lal Mia) and joined in the munjal for peace and prosperity of the country.

Former Information and Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam attended the party as chief guest.

Islam in his brief address said every one should try to enhance their relations with the people in the grassroots level and they should share the pains and sufferings of the common people through frequent visits to their localities.



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia hosted an iftar party for the professionals at her official residence at Minto Road yesterday. — Star photo

Inter-hall debate competition begins

By DU Correspondent

The six-day-long third Inter-Hall Debate Competition '98 began at the seminar room of Teacher and Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University yesterday.

Organised by Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS), the event was inaugurated by Dr Shahid Uddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university.

Presided over by Mohammad Hazrat Ali Khan, the inaugural session was addressed by Prof Mostafizur Rahman, Selina Chowdhury, Sheikh Mohammad Ali Rumi, Prasanta Bhushan Barua and Tariqul Islam Liton.

On the first day, Jagannath Hall, Poet Jashimuddin Hall, Ziaur Rahman Hall, Fazlul Haq Hall and Haji Muhammad Moshin Hall participated in the competition.

Barricade on Jessore-Khulna highway

KHULNA, Dec 26: Plying of vehicles on Jessore-Khulna highway here remained suspended for about two hours from 10 am today as workers of Ajax Jute Mills put a barricade on the road, reports UNB.

'Youth can play key role in ensuring reproductive health'

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader yesterday said the youth in the country will be able to play a pioneering role on issues relating to gender discrimination and ensure reproductive health if they are properly trained, reports BSS.

The present government has taken massive endeavours for development of women and breaking all past records establishing equal opportunities for both men and women in the workplace by empowering the women, he said.

The state minister was inaugurating a workshop titled "Reproductive Health and Elimination of Gender Discrimination" in the conference hall of Jubo Bhawan in the city.

Members of Bangladesh Rover Scouts and Girls Guides attended the workshop.

Director General of the Directorate for Youth Development Mohammad Fazlul Haq and Project Director Capt (ret'd) M M Firoze also addressed the session.

The workshop was organised under the Project of Gender Issue (Discrimination) Guidance and Reproductive Health Education Programme for the Youth through youth clubs. UNFPA is sponsoring the project.

Members of some 400 youth organisations in 298 thanas across 64 districts in the country would be trained about reproductive health and gender issues under this project in next four years.

According to project profiles, the women members of the selected youth clubs will be participating in health service, sanitation, environment conservation and community development activities.

BGMEA election Sammita parishad office opens

The office of the Sammita Parishad (combined council) was opened in the city yesterday on the eve of BGMEA election '99, reports APB.

Owners of over 200 export-oriented readymade garment factories gathered on the occasion at the Sonargaon road office, said a press release.

Second vice president of BGMEA Nurul Haq Sikder, vice president Tipu Munshi, vice president (Finance) KM Zaman Romel and other office-bearers Col (ret'd) Azim, Kazi Mohammad Shahidullah, Engineer Moyeen, Nazrul Islam Swapan, Hassan Abdullah, Mahiuddin and Mohammad Hatem Ali were present among others.



Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Wang Chung Gui called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his official residence yesterday. — PID photo

Construction work at Ctg airport progressing fast

CHITTAGONG, Dec 26: The construction work of MA Hanan International Airport at Chittagong at a cost of Taka 540 crore is going on in full swing, reports BSS.

Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Engineer Mosharraf Hossain yesterday visited to see the progress of the construction work of the international airport, being implemented with the financial assistance of Japan.

The minister expressed satisfaction over the progress of the work which has started in March this year and expected to be completed by the end of the year 2000.

Some 300 piles, out of 1750 piles have already been set up by four modern rig machines, the minister was apprised of this while exchanging views with the concerned engineers, an official handout said yesterday.

Civil Aviation Secretary Omar Hadi, adviser of the technical committee Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Dr Shafiqullah, Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority Ziaur Ali, Chief Engineer of the project Asaduzzaman Chowdhury, Project Manager Wada and Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Hasan were present.

Chinese envoy calls on FM

Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his official residence yesterday, reports APB.

They discussed matters of mutual interest, including a proposal for building an international conference centre in the city with Chinese assistance, said a PID handout.

3 actresses awarded

By Staff Correspondent

Acclaimed drama actresses Sara Zaker, Subarna Mustafa and Shimul Yusuf have been awarded the 'Lok Natyadal Natyakarmi Padak 1998', said a press release.

The award ceremony will be held on March 27 — the World Theatre Day.

The award was introduced in 1991 and the first recipient was late drama personality Mohammad Zakaria.

Jamil Ahmed of Dhaka, Shishir Datta and Ahmed Iqbal Haider of Chittagong, Mintu Basu of Barisal, Nazmul Ahsan of Khulna, Abdul Kuddus Mia of Mymensingh, Malaya Bhowmik of Rajshahi, Mohsin Ali of Darshania, Ali Afroze Pinu of Kushtia and Aminur Rahman Farid of Faridpur received the award in the following year.

In 1993, the award went to Prof Kabir Chowdhury and Ataur Rahman.

Syed Shamsul Haq, Aly Zaker, Ferdousi Mojumder, Ramendu Mojumder and Nasiruddin Yousuf got the award in 1994; Abdullah Al Mamun, Mamunur Rashid and Asaduzzaman Noor in 1995 and Sayeed Ahmed and Prof Zia Haider in 1996.

And the last year's award went to Dr Selim Al Deen, M Hamid and Nazma Anwar.



Sara Zaker, Subarna Mustafa and Shimul Yusuf have been awarded Lok Natyadal Natyakarmi Padak '98. — Star photo

Khaleda-Ershad alliance interesting: Sayeed

State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed yesterday expressed his surprise at a statement made by Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia who said that she did not have any information regarding the alliance between the two parties. Not only that the charge sheet on the killing of Manzoor which was submitted during Begum Zia's regime named Lt. Gen. Hussain Muhammad Ershad as the number one accused, the State Minister pointed out adding that this charge sheet was submitted at the approval of the then head of the government.

The State Minister said there were more information besides the above ones which prove beyond doubt that Hussain Muhammad Ershad was involved in the killing of Ziaur Rahman and beneficiary according to the Begum Zia's statement.

In 1991, Begum Zia released the election manifesto of BNP in front of journalists and clearly said "because of the conspiracy of the Ershad gong and identified enemies of democracy Ziaur Rahman had to embrace martyrdom."

Ershad grabbed power by ousting the newly elected BNP government at gun-point after the martyrdom of Zia. Ershad committed an absolute treachery with the Constitution despite his oath for protecting the Constitution as the chief of army.

The State Minister said "even after this when Begum Zia says there is no information to her knowledge whether Ershad is the killers of Zia — a natural question arises in the mind of people — for what mysterious invisible reasons Begum Zia does not want the trial of killing of Zia and why she wants to veil the killers."

Private Secretary of Zia, Col Mahfuz accused Ershad for the killing.

Prof Sayeed said ignorance regarding all these information raised many questions. Not only that the charge sheet on the killing of Manzoor which was submitted during Begum Zia's regime named Lt. Gen. Hussain Muhammad Ershad as the number one accused, the State Minister pointed out adding that this charge sheet was submitted at the approval of the then head of the government.

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