

Different student organisations brought out processions on Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting alleged sexual abuses on DU female students by teachers. Pictures show Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (top), Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (middle) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (bottom). — Star photos

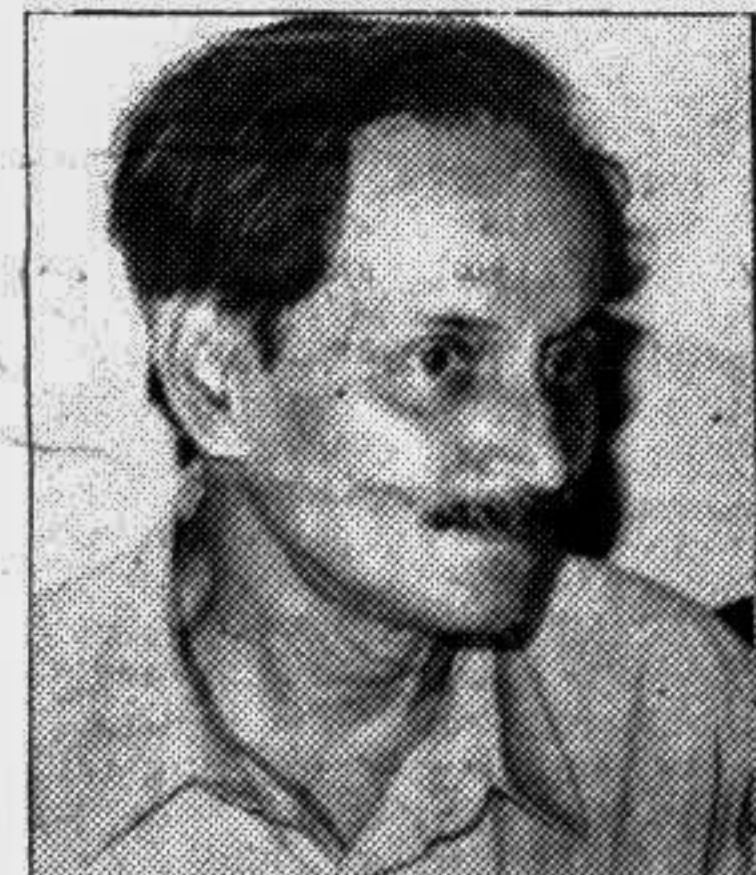


Photo journalist Bulu dead

Moazzem Hossain Bulu, a senior photo journalist of the Bangladesh Observer, died of a heart attack at Holy Family Hospital last night. He was 56, reports UNB.

Bulu suffered a massive heart attack last night and was immediately rushed to the hospital where he died at 8 pm.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of friends to mourn his death. His *namaz-e-janaza* will be held at the National Press Club at 9 am today. The body will be taken to his village home in Feni for burial.

Bangladesh Photo Journalists Forum condoled the death of Bulu, who was the founder-president of the forum.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia visited Holy Family Hospital to pay her last respects to the photo journalist. She prayed for salvation of the departed soul, says a press release.

BNP leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Major (Retd) Sayed Iskander and Jubadul leader Abdullah Chowdhury accompanied the BNP chief.

DU teacher dies

Khairul Anam, Professor of Soil Science Department of Dhaka University died of cardiac arrest at his residence in the city yesterday. He was 62, reports UNB.

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

His *namaz-e-janaza* was held at the university's Central Mosque premises after Asr prayers. Then his body was taken to his village home at Kuchaitali in Comilla.

Two outlawed Sarbahara Party men held

MEHERPUR, Dec 29: Meherpur sadar thana police arrested two alleged members of outlawed Sarbahara Party from Baradi Bazar on Sunday, reports BSS.

According to police sources, police arrested them when they were preparing for an operation in the neighbouring village.

The arrested persons are — Biplob (27) and Rana (30) both of them hailed from Baradi-bazar under Pirozpur union. Police also recovered one revolver and three rounds of bullets from Biplob.

JU students protest attack on DU students

By JU Correspondent
Gonatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a combined of five left-leaning student organisations, yesterday brought out a procession on Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus protesting recent attacks on the agitating students at Dhaka University (DU).

They also held a rally at the Arts Faculty premises after the procession.

Addressing the rally, Aniruddha Das Anjan, organising secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, JU unit, said, "repeated attacks by the so-called 'conscious students' on the 'Students Protecting Sexual Harassment' (SPSH) prove their link with the persons involved in the assault on the female students of DU."

Bangladesh Chhatra Front (BCF) president Rakibul Hasan extended support to the agitating students at DU and said, "Any attempt to foil their movement will not succeed."

The speakers also demanded stern action against the attackers.

Later, a group of GCO leaders and activists went to the DU campus to stage a demonstration there.

Meanwhile, students under the banner of General Students Unity (GSU) also took part in the demonstration supporting the SPSH at DU yesterday.

JS body on relief ministry meets

A meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief was held yesterday at the Sangsad Bahabon with its chairman Syed Kamal Bakht Saki in the chair, reports BSS.

The committee reviewed the reports of six previous meetings.

Members of the committee State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleque, Mohammad Wazi Uddin Khan, Kazi Keramat Ali, Mohammad Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Begum Farida Rouf Asha, A K M Mostafizur Rahman, Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman, Jaijal Abadin Faruque and Shahiduzzaman Beltu attended the meeting.

Foreign vessel salvaged

KHULNA, Dec 29: The Mongla Port Authority has salvaged MV Alexandria, a foreign vessel, that was about to sink in Harbaria channel near the port and moved it to a safer place, reports APB.

Salvaged crew plugged the leaks and pumped out water from the hold of the sinking ship and saved the vessel from being totally sunk.

Later, three rescue ships of the port authority — Sarathi, Usha and Malancha — towed the ship from the channel to a safer place near an island.

BCL submits memo to BUET VC

By BUET Correspondent
Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology to press for their demands.

The 16-point demands include setting up of a Liberation War memorial on the BUET Campus, declaring EUCSU '97 election null and void, initiating job fair for enhancing job opportunity, naming the female student hall after Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam or Pritilata and computer and internet facilities for the students.

Later, they brought out a procession on the campus.

Jute mills workers put barricade on Khulna-Jessore highway

KHULNA, Dec 29: Workers of Ajax Jute Mills put up a barricade on Khulna-Jessore highway at Khanjahanagar in the city today demanding payment of their arrears, reports APB.

Hundreds of mill workers blockaded the highway for four hours from 10 am, leaving several hundred vehicles stranded in long queues on both sides of the road.

They also held a rally on the highway. Their leaders announced that they would put up barricade on the road every day till Thursday and go for tougher programmes if their wages for 14 weeks are not paid.

Dacoity in Savar

SAVAR, Dec 29: Disguised as policemen, a band of dacoits entered a house at Majidpur in the town and looted cash and valuables on Monday night, reports UNB.

Local people said the bandits entered the house of one Mohammad Mustak Islam at the dead of night identifying themselves as policemen.

The gang of about 15 robbers, took away cash and valuables worth over Tk three lakh and left the house firing blank shots.

Awarded

By Staff Correspondent
Muhammad Mustak Mia, a student of Dhaka University, has been awarded the Asha Lata Sen Gold Medal for securing high marks in the Masters Examinations of 1994, says a press release.

Mustak secured first class first position in MSc (Applied Mathematics). He also earned a first class in BSc (Honours) in Mathematics from DU.

He is the eldest son of Siraj Uddin Ahmed of Garpara under Manikganj, district.

11 arrested with firearms in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested 11 people and seized fire arms and smuggled clothes from their possession in separate incidents in the city during last two days.

The arrested were identified as Ihsanul Kabir, Rafiqul Islam, Mohammad Robin, Shaheen, Kalu, Gopal Chandra, Zahid Hossain Bhasani, Belayet Hossain, Monir Hossain and Jamal Hossain, according to police.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of DB police arrested Ihsanul Kabir, 20, while searching an auto-rickshaw in front of Shymoli Cinema Hall on Mirpur road at about 11 am yesterday.

Police recovered a gun from the possession of Kabir, a charge-sheeted accused in a number of cases lodged with Shyampur thana, police said.

In another bid, Motijheel police arrested Rafiqul Islam and Mohammad Robin and recovered one revolver, one gun barrel and looted materials from their possession at about 10:45 am yesterday.

Police said they were arrested after they have committed a dacoity at a residence of Railway Colony under Motijheel thana.

The same police team raided a laundry at Shahjahanpur and arrested one Shaheen, 21, and seized one revolver from his possession, police said.

Kotwali police raided Agamashi Lane and arrested Kalu and Sharif and recovered one revolver from them on Monday night.

Shyampur police arrested Gopal Chandra on Monday night and after interrogating of him police arrested another Zahid Hossain Bhasani and recovered one revolver from his possession from Mirerbagh area on Monday night.

In another incident, police arrested Monir Hossain and recovered a revolver from his possession from Shyampur area yesterday evening, police said.

DB police raided an office at Fakirapool and arrested Belayet Hossain, 30, and recovered several forged passport seals from his possession.

In another incident, Lalbagh police arrested Jamal Hossain from Palashi area and recovered two bags of contraband clothes from his possession.

Separate cases were lodged with concerned thanas in connection with the incidents.

Speaker's call to take part in struggle against poverty

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury yesterday urged the employees of the Liberation War-time Mujibnagar government to engage themselves in the country's current struggle against poverty, reports BSS.

"I have seen how you took part in the Liberation War ignoring the difficulties and constraints. Now we are engaged in another war for economic emancipation, in which you have an important role to play," he told a function of Bangladesh Mujibnagar Karmachari Kalyan Sangsad in the city.

The function was organised in observance of the Victory Day.

He added: "I hope you will take part in our current fight with the same spirit, which was reflected in your works in 1971."

Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and chairman of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad Abdul Ahad Chowdhury attended the function. Special guests, Chairman of the organisation A Latif Khan presided.

Hanif said the nine-month long Liberation War was not an isolated incident in the national history "as it was being projected by some political quarters," he said adding that rather it was the culmination of

a prolonged struggle for political, social and economic freedom.

"We must keep it in our mind the historic progression of our independence, which was marked by several events since 1948, while observing our Victory Day," he said.

The State Minister for Planning said the Awami League headed by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman led the Liberation War in 1971 and now the party under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has launched the war against poverty.

Dr Alamgir urged the Mujibnagar Government Employees to extend their hands to successfully implement the Fifth Five-Year Plan for 1997-2002, aimed at accomplishing that goal.

Latif in his presidential speech called for holding the trial of war criminals for the sake of the rule of law as well as upholding the spirit of the Liberation War.

"All freedom fighters will back you despite their old-age and limitations in your effort to bring them to book," he said. Leaders of the organisation Abdul Aziz and SM Zahangir Alam also spoke on the occasion.

FM's call to strengthen AL overseas activities

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has said the expatriate Bangladeshis have been playing a significant role in national economic development, reports APB.

The present government is working relentlessly for attaining the goal of socio-economic emancipation and improving the lot of the common man, he told a delegation of the United Kingdom unit of Awami League which called on him at his office yesterday.

The 26-member team included president and secretary of the executive committee of UK unit of Awami League — Shamsuddin Khan and Mohammad Abul Hashem.

The minister called upon overseas units of Bangladesh Awami League to strengthen organisational activities and projects ideals and objectives of the party in different countries.

In this context he recalled the significant role played by UK unit of AL in mobilising public opinion abroad during the so-called Agartala conspiracy case and the country's glorious War of Independence.

The delegation informed the minister in detail about the organisational activities of Awami League in Britain.

They also thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for signing the historic CHT peace treaty and turning Syihet Osman Airport into an international airport.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Latif Siddiqui MP, AL central committee member Sultan Mahmud Sharif, vice-president of UK unit of the party, M A Gani and general secretary of UK Caterer's Association Rashid Ali, among others, were present.

OT at Narsingdi Hospital remains closed

NARSINGDI, Dec 29: The operation theatre at the Narsingdi Sadar Hospital has been kept closed as there is no anaesthetist for over five months, reports APB.

The hospital cater to the needs of about 18 lakh people of the area. Many patients, particularly from accidents, who need emergency operation, die on way to Dhaka because there is no facility for operation in the area now.

Sources at the hospital said there are all facilities at the OT to perform emergency operation and on an average, three operations were performed there earlier.

Anaesthetist Dr Golam Mowla was transferred without any replacement. Considering the necessity of the hospital authorities did not release him for quite some time. But ultimately the lone anaesthetist had to obey the official order without any replacement.



Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee and Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kendriya Samannaya Parishad jointly carrying an effigy of Golam Azam in a procession in the city yesterday to mark the 'National Hatred Day.' Later, they burnt down the effigy. — Star photo

Court denies bail to alleged acid-thrower

GAZIPUR, Dec 29: A young man, accused in an acid-throwing case, was sent to jail here after the court rejected his bail prayer today, reports UNB.

Court sources said, Rakib, son of Shahidullah Fakir of village Bariagan in Kapasia thana, appeared before the court today.

Police said Rakib threw acid on Peyara Begum, 30, and her son Awlad, 6, of village Gosairgan in the same thana on December 17 as she refused his indecent proposal.

Ctg Press Club biennial confce today

CHITTAGONG, Dec 29: The biennial conference of Chittagong Press Club will be held tomorrow, reports APB.

State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharrar will inaugurate the conference as chief guest while Mayor of Chittagong Alhaj A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury will be present as the special guest.

Election of the managing committee of the Press Club will be held on December 31.

BUETTA election Dr Hossain Ali president, Dr Hasib general secy

By BUET Correspondent

Dr Hossain Ali and Dr Hasib Mohammed Ahsan, both from the Department of Civil Engineering, have been elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Association (BUETTA) respectively.

Dr Md Habibur Rahman, Dept of Civil Engineering, has been elected as vice-president.

The election of BUETTA was held at the seminar room of Civil Engineering Department yesterday.

Dr A K M Sadrul Islam, Department of Mechanical Engineering, conducted the election as the election commissioner and announced the result.

'Nat'l Hatred Day' observed

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee held a rally and brought out a protest procession in the city yesterday in observance of the 'National Hatred Day,' says a press release.

At the end of the procession, an effigy of Golam Azam was burnt near the National Press Club.

Presided over by committee's city unit president sculptor Raza, the rally demanded trial of all war criminals in a special tribunal.

The rally was addressed, among others, by secretary of Muktiyoddha Sanghati Parishad Major (ret'd) Rejaul Karim Reja, chief coordinator of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kendriya Samannaya Parishad Sadeq Ahmed Khan, BMA leader Dr Mostaq Hossain, and Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kendriya Samannaya Parishad leader Ish-tiaque Aziz Ulfat.

15 get Bangabandhu scholarship

By DU Correspondent

The 'Bangabandhu Scholarship' was awarded to 15 students of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of the Dhaka University yesterday to mark the 23rd death anniversary of Bangabandhu.

Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of the university, gave away the awards.

Presided over by Prof Abdul Aziz, the award giving ceremony was attended by house tutors and students of the hall.



President's Scouts reunion Feb 6

President's Scouts Reunion will be held on February 6 at the National Scout Training Centre, Mouchak, Gazipur during the 6th Bangladesh National Scout Jamboree to be held from February 5 to 11 at the same venue. Those Scouts who have already earned President's Scout Award are eligible to attend the ceremony, says a press release.

Interested President's Scout awardees are advised to register their names with the Jamboree Secretariat at the NHQ by January 25. Registrations fee is Tk. 100 per person.

President's Scout awardees may attend the ceremony along with their spouses and children. And the fee for each accompanying person is Tk 100.

Transport workers put up barricade on Dhaka-Tangail road

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka-Tangail Road remained closed to traffic for half an hour from 4 pm yesterday as the transport workers put up a barricade on the road protesting arrest of a driver.

The angry transport workers put up the barricade after people handed over driver Babul to police as he allegedly helped a pickpocket run away. Earlier, the passengers caught the pickpocket red-handed.

Later, Tejgaon and Cantonment police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Cantonment police said the driver Babul was released after interrogation.

Road mishap One killed in Tangail, 8 hurt

TANGAIL, Dec 29: One young man was killed and eight others were injured in a road accident near Basail thana headquarters yesterday, reports UNB.

The accident took place on Tangail-Basail road in the morning when a truck collided with an auto-tempo leaving Javed (20) killed on the spot. All the victims were passengers of the tempo.

The injured were rushed to Tangail General Hospital. Police seized the truck, but the driver managed to flee.

JS body on public accounts meet held

A meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts yesterday discussed 30 audit objections of Bangladesh Krira Shikshaka Pratisthan (BKSP) and Youth Welfare Fund under the Ministry of Youth and Sports, reports UNB.

Committee chairman SM Akram presided over the meeting held at the Sangsad Bahabon.

Auditor and Comptroller General raised the objections involving about Tk 38.58 crore. The meeting also took a number of decisions to dispose of the objections.

Committee members Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, MK Anwar, Abul Kalam Azad, Mostafizur Rahman, Khandaker Asaduzzaman, Hafizuddin Ahmed, Abdul Mannan and AFM Mustafa Kamal attended the meeting.

Auditor and Comptroller General M Hafizuddin Khan and Youth and Sports Secretary ASM Shahjahan were present.



Indiscriminate placement of fruit-laden trucks on Badamtali Road created a massive traffic jam in the area yesterday (top). And the pavement was completely blocked by the unscrupulous vendors around 11 am, hardly leaving any place for pedestrian movement. — Star photos