

## ● What's on today . . . ●

**Exhibition:** A 15-day long exhibition of "Bangladeshi herbal plants: preservation and prospects" will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Information. Venue: Kabi Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum. Time: 10:00 am.

**Discussion meeting:** A discussion meeting on "Success of Cultural Revolution" will be held to mark the 50th anniversary of the Chinese Revolution. Organiser: Srijon. Venue: Shaheed Asad auditorium, 31/F, Topkhana Rd. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Foundation ceremony:** The foundation ceremony of the Multiple Leo District 315 will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 6:00 pm.

## Weather

## Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country during the period, according to Met Office.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 32.2 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 14.4 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:18 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius			Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min	Morning	
Dhaka	28.3	19.3	81	76
Chittagong	30.7	18.8	82	79
Rajshahi	27.6	18.5	84	80
Khulna	30.5	20.2	86	74
Barisal	29.0	19.0	87	83
Sylhet	29.0	17.4	78	71
Cox's Bazar	32.2	18.6	74	62

## HERE and THERE

## Mukulito Khulna

KHULNA, Nov 20: A joint meeting of the District Advisory and Executive Committee on "Mukulito Khulna" was held here at the local public hall recently, reports BSS.

State Minister for Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Haleque was present at the meeting as the chief guest. The meeting was attended, among others, by Divisional Commissioner Abul Kashem and Chairman of Mongla Port Authority Nazmul Ahsan.

## Central Women's University

A *milad mahfil* was held on Thursday at the Central Women's University premises on the occasion of the foundation day of Central Women's University, says a press release.

Vice-Chancellor of the university, Kulsum Huda, members of the Board of Trustees of the university Prof Begumadi M Nasir, Afifa Hug, A M Ahsanullah, principal, vice-principal and teachers of

Central Women's College as well as teachers, students and staff of the university attended the *milad*.

Guest on the training camp closing day yesterday. He took salute at the march past of the cadets and inaugurated their blood donation and tree plantation programmes.

In his brief speech on the occasion, defence secretary asked the BNCC cadets to grow as able citizens of the country.

He hoped that the BNCC would succeed in their efforts of mobilising the youths of the country as auxiliary forces to the army, the navy and the air force as well as in motivating them in taking part in various social development and welfare activities.

Director of Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) Brigadier Mohammad Shah Jalal was present on the occasion as special guest.

More than two hundred cadets, including girls, BTFOs, TUDOs, military officers, instructors and employees took part in the four-day training camp, added the press release.

## Int'l Language Day

## ADAB greets UNESCO decision

The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) yesterday welcomed the declaration of Ekuhshey February as the "International Mother Language Day" saying that this decision has enhanced the dignity of Bangla language and the Bengali nation as a whole, reports BSS.

In a joint statement ADAB Chairperson Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed and Director Shamsul Huda said with the historic declaration our position as a nation has been glorified in the global community among the four thousand languages of the world.

They expressed their gratitude to UNESCO for this epoch-making decision while extended their deep appreciation to the Canadian organisation 'Mother Language of the World' and handful of Bangladeshi expatriates in Canada who initiated the move.

The ADAB executives also paid glowing tributes to the heroes of '52 Language Movement who made supreme sacrifices to establish Bangla as state language.

## Five hurt in Natore clash

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Nov 20: At least five persons were injured, one of them seriously, in a clash between the Mukti Joddha Sangshad workers and ruling party cadres in the town.

According to witnesses, ruling party cadres attacked the workers of Mukti Joddha Sangshad and fired in the air for creating panic to remove a barricade on the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway.

They also beat up five Mukti Joddha workers mercilessly one of them was admitted to the district hospital. The seriously injured was identified as Dewar Master.

The police arrived on the spot after half an hour and dispersed both the feuding groups.

The barricade was put up by the Mukti Joddha workers protesting a previous attack by the same group. The clash erupted as the Mukti Joddha Sangshad unit, called a meeting in the morning at district council auditorium where the new committee of Mukti Joddha Juba Command was supposed to be formed.

The meeting was dispersed following the intervention by the Juba League workers as they were not invited to the meeting. Later the workers gathered and put up barricade on the highway protesting the intervention where they came under attack by the cadres.

The ruling party workers, belonging to Juba League workers, also attacked and ransacked the sangsads office at Old Bus stand in the town.

## Ershad condoles death of Poet Sufia Kamal

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad has expressed his deep shock at the death of renowned Poet Begum Sufia Kamal, reports UNB.

In a condolence message yesterday, he termed the passing away of the poet as an irreparable loss to the country's literature, culture and progressive movement.

The JP chairman prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed his sympathy to the grief-stricken family.

## Kishoreganj-1 bypolls

## EC urged not to appoint DC as Returning Officer

By Staff Correspondent

An independent candidate in the up-coming parliamentary by-election in Kishoreganj-1 constituency has urged the Election Commission to appoint Returning Officer any official other than the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

The by-election is scheduled for December 8.

The chief election agent of the independent candidate, Fazlur Rahman, in a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner on Thursday, expressed apprehension that the DC might use his influence in favour of the ruling party candidate in the polls.

The letter said that the Deputy Commissioner of the district, A S M Farhad, who had been in the post for the last five years, was the returning officer in the last 1996 general elections. The letter alleged that the DC had worked in favour of the AL candidate that contributed to the defeat of Fazlur Rahman in that polls.

A case is still pending with the Supreme Court in this regard, the letter said.

Netrakona University College

## Students union polls postponed

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, Nov 20: The election to the Netrakona University College Students' Union scheduled for today was postponed by the college authority following a court order.

District and Sessions Judge Court of Netrakona Alhaj Iftiqar Hossain on Thursday passed an order upon the college authorities to suspend the election following a writ petition submitted by a faction of ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Tapon-Ripon Parishad alleging that they were prevented from submitting nomination papers by their rivals Shaheen-Dilip parishad.

The ruling party workers, belonging to Juba League workers, also attacked and ransacked the sangsads office at Old Bus stand in the town.

## Poet Sufia Kamal's death condoled

People from all walks of life including ministers and political leaders and different socio-cultural, political and students organisations yesterday condoled the death of poet Sufia Kamal, who died of old age complications at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital in the morning, reports BSS.

The newly-elected President of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub and General Secretary Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin also expressed shock at the death of Poet Sufia Kamal.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said, the nation has lost a distinguished personality in the death of poet Sufia Kamal. He recalled with deep gratitude the contribution of Sufia Kamal in all movements for restoration of democratic rights of the people as well as for upholding the communal harmony in the country.

Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said that a legend of her life time Begum Sufia Kamal was not only a poet but also a great source of inspiration of all popular struggles from 52 Language Movement to all democratic movements of the nation.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed said poet Sufia Kamal was a crusader against all social vices including communalism and fundamentalism. He recalled with deep gratitude the contribution of the poet in all democratic movements of the nation as well as for upholding the ideals and spirit of the war of liberation in true perspective.

Minister of State for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, said the nation has lost a great personality in the death of this undisputed figure of Bengali literature.

Prof Sayeed noted with deep respect that poet Sufia Kamal left invaluable contribution in various movements including anti-British struggle, the Language Movement and the Liberation War. "Her poems will exert immense contribution for flourishing national identity of the Bengalis, establishing secular society and ensuring women empowerment," he said.

Minister of State for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader, while expressing his deep shock said the death of poet Sufia Kamal is an irreparable loss to the country's literary, cultural and political arena.

Minister for Agriculture Begum Motia Chowdhury expressed her deep shock at the death of poet Sufia Kamal. She noted with deep gratitude the contributions of the poet for social progress and resurgence of women in the country.

In a similar message Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru expressed his deep shock at the death of poet Sufia Kamal, a glittering star in country's literary, cultural and political domain.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria also expressed deep shock at the death of Sufia Kamal.

The minister, who is now in London, in a condolence message

said, "the nation today lost a great poet, front line leader of cultural movement and a pioneer of the women uprising with the death of Sufia Kamal."

They said Begum Sufia Kamal played a historic role in the formulation of Ekattorer Ghata Dal Nirmul Committee.

Muktijoddha Chetona Basaboyen O Ekattorer Ghata Dal Nirmul Jatiya Samanay Committee convenor Syed Hasan Imam and member secretary Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, in a similar message, said the death of poet Sufia Kamal has caused an irreparable loss to the nation.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists president Abdul Kalam Azad and secretary general Akhtar Ahmed Khan and Dhaka Union of Journalists president Altaf Mahmud and general secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan in a joint message of condolence said Begum Sufia Kamal was also a great leader.

They said a pioneer of the country's anti-autocracy movement Begum Sufia Kamal will remain ever alive in the hearts of the Bangladeshi nation, they said.

Bangladesh Women Journalists Front president Sitara Musa and general secretary Rasheda Amin also condoled the death of Begum Sufia Kamal.

Meanwhile, Sammilata Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) this afternoon held a condolence meeting at the TSC premises of Dhaka University to condole the death of poet Sufia Kamal.

Addressing the meeting, country's leading cultural activists and academics paid tributes to the memories of the late poet. They said the poet has inspired the common people to participate in all the progressive movements.

The SSJ's scheduled procession for jubilation to celebrate the UNESCO decision on declaring Ekuhshey February as International Mother Language Day turned into the mourning rally.

Presided over by president of the Jote Ramendu Majumder, the rally was addressed, among others, by Prof Anisuzzaman, Syed Hasan Imam, Mamunor Rashid, Prof Syed Anwar Hussain, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Morshed Ali, Ataur Rahman, Sara Zaker, Asaduzzaman Nur, Liakot Ali Laki, Rawshan Zahan Shathi, Fakir Alamgir, Afzal Hussain, Kamal Pasha Chowdhury, Salauddin Badol and student leader Monjur-e-Khuda Toriq.

They observed that the nation has lost a mother in the death of poet Sufia Kamal. Mother like her is greatly needed for social development in the coming century.

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, in a statement, condoled the death of eminent poet and social activist Sufia Kamal. He expressed his deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace for the departed

movement for democracy and social progress against communism and fundamentalism.

They said Begum Sufia Kamal played a historic role in the formulation of Ekattorer Ghata Dal Nirmul Committee.

The organisations which experienced shock include: Bangladesh Group Theatre, Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Bangladesh Shor Film Forum, Sammilata Samajik Andolon, Bangladesh Jatiya Karu Shilpa Parishad, Nariganj Shilpa Prokash, Mukti Juddher Chetona Bastabayan Jatiya Samanay Committee, Bangladesh Samanay Committee, Samajtantrik Dal, Samajtantrik Mohila Forum, Samajtantrik Mohila Forum, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Shilpkala Academy, Bangladesh Workers' Party, Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangskritik Jote, Hindu Dharma Kallayan Trust, Bangladesh Lokgeeti Shilpi Gosthi, Proshika, Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research and the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) and Bangladesh Rabindra Sangat Shilpi Sangstha.

Our Correspondent adds: As soon as the news of her death spread in the city, volleys of press releases started arriving at The Daily Star office expressing deep shock and condolence.

The organisations which experienced shock include: Bangladesh Group Theatre, Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Bangladesh Shor Film Forum, Sammilata Samajik Andolon, Bangladesh Jatiya Karu Shilpa Parishad, Nariganj Shilpa Prokash, Mukti Juddher Chetona Bastabayan Jatiya Samanay Committee, Bangladesh Samanay Committee, Samajtantrik Dal, Samajtantrik Mohila Forum, Samajtantrik Mohila Forum, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Shilpkala Academy, Bangladesh Workers' Party, Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangskritik Jote, Hindu Dharma Kallayan Trust, Bangladesh Lokgeeti Shilpi Gosthi, Proshika, Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research and the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) and Bangladesh Rabindra Sangat Shilpi Sangstha.

They said Begum Sufia Kamal was born on June 20, 1911, at her maternal grandfather's house in Sayestaganj in Barisal district. She was the only daughter of eminent lawyer Syed Abdul Bari of village Shilhara of the then Tripura (now Comilla) and Syeda Sabera Khatun. Her maternal grandfather Syed Moazzem Hossain was a descendant of Nawab Shayesta Khan.

Offspring of an aristocratic family, Sufia Kamal did not have formal education but she educated herself from her maternal uncle's library with encouragement and assistance from her mother.

She was first married at the age of 11 years to her cousin Syed Nehal Hossain, a law student at that time who died in 1932 leaving behind her and a daughter. The poet was again married to Kamaluddin Ahmed in 1937.

Her literary works include her life-sketch 'Ekakam Amader Kal' and 'Ekattorer Diary'.

Her first story 'Sainik Bondhu' published in Torun magazine when she was 14 years and her poem 'Basanti' published in the Sawgat were widely acclaimed.

She also wrote various rhymes and poems for children. Some of her poems and books were translated into English and Russian.

The notable publications of Begum Sufia Kamal are: 'Keyar Kanta' (1937), 'Sanjher Maya' (1938), 'Maya Kazal' (1951), 'Mot O Zibon' (1957), 'Prashanti-Or Prarthana' (1958), 'Udatta Prithibi' (1965), 'Itol Bitol' (1965), 'Ditwan' (1966), 'Sovieti Dinguli' (1968), 'Avijatrik' (1969), 'Mritikar Ghra' (1972), 'More Jadader Samadhi Pore' (1972), 'Swanirbhabita' (1977), 'Kabita Sankalon' (1976), 'Naol Kishor Darbar' (1981), 'Ekakam Amader Kal' (1988) and 'Ekattorer Diary' (1989).

Poet Sufia Kamal was associated with all democratic movements, including Swadeshi Andolan. She was an active worker of Anjuman Khawatir, established by Begum Rokeya in Calcutta in 1930s, and conducted shelter homes