

What's on today . . .

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

The sun is 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 percentage
Dhaka	Max 28.3 Min 19.3	81
Chittagong	30.7 18.8	82
Rajshahi	27.6 18.5	84
Khulna	30.5 20.2	86
Barisal	29.0 19.0	87
Sylhet	29.0 17.4	78
Cox's Bazar	32.2 18.6	74

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 Khaleque was present at the meeting as the chief guest. The meeting was attended, among others, by Divisional Commissioner Abed 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 Prof Begzadi M Nasir, Afifa Huq, 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, TUOs, 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 Ekushey 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-Juddha Sangshad workers and ruling party cadres in the town.

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

They also beat up five Mukti-Juddha workers mercilessly one of them was admitted to the district hospital. The seriously injured was identified as Delwar Hossain.

The police arrived on the spot after half an hour and dispersed both the feuding groups. The barricade was put up by the Mukti-Juddha workers protesting a previous attack by the same group. The clash erupted as the Mukti-Juddha Sangshad Natore unit, called a meeting in the morning at district council auditorium where the new committee of Mukti-Juddha 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 also attacked and ransacked the sangshad office at Old Bus stand in the town.

Ershad condole 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 Istiaq Hossain on Thursday passed an order upon the college authorities to suspend the election following a writ petition submitted by a faction of the 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.

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 Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital in the morning, reports BSS.

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, 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, Abdul 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."

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.

In a message of condolence they expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif and Minister of State for Shipping, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, Maya, B. Bikram, who are also president and general secretary of Dhaka Mohanagar Awami League, in a joint condolence message expressed their profound shock at the sad demise of poet Sufia Kamal. A true believer in progressive thinking and outlook the poet left invaluable contributions to the nation till her last day, they added.

Minister of State for Textiles A K M Jahangir, in a separate message condoled the death of poet Sufia Kamal.

The Bangladesh Parishad, of which the late poet was the chairperson, expressed deep shock and sorrow at her death. In a statement, they said the poet fought to uphold the freedom of expression against superstitions, fanaticism, and backwardness till her death.

Through her pioneering role for women emancipation, she earned a place in the mind of the people, they said, adding, "She took women education, movement for their freedom and realisation of their rights and their empowerment as the motto of her life."

Prominent among the signatories to the statement are: General secretary of the Parishad and Political Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr S A Malek, Justice K M Subhan, Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, architect Mazharul Islam, painter Quayum Chowdhury, Barrister Showkat Ali Khan, Colonel (ret'd) Shawkat Ali, Professor Salahuddin Ahmed, Begum Rifa Matin Chowdhury, Principal Quamruzzaman, Advocate Syed Ahmed, journalist Santosh Gupta, Kalim Sharafi, Monam Sarker, poet Shamsur Rahman, Dr Harun-Ur-Rashid, Professor Shamsul Huda Harun, Advocate Gazul Huq, Professor Mazharul Islam, Professor Rangal Sen, Professor A K Azad Chowdhury, Dr Durgesh Bhattacharya, Professor Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Dr M A Qadri and Dr Arefin Siddique.

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee president poet Shamsur Rahman, general secretary Kazi Mukul, Mukti-Juddher Smriti Sangrahan Committee president Kabir Chowdhury and general secretary Shahriar Kabir said that the poet had given leadership for long one decade in the

movement for democracy and social progress against communalism and fundamentalism.

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

Mukti-Juddha Chetona Bastabayan O Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Jatiya Samannay 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 Abul 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 not only a poet she 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 Forum president Sitara Musa and general secretary Rasheda Amin also condoled the death of Begum Sufia Kamal.

Meanwhile, Sammlito 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 Ekushey 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, Mamun-or-Rashid, Prof Syed Anwar Hussain, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Sarafat Zaker, Asaduzzaman Nur, Liakot Ali Laki, Rawshan Zahar Shathi, Fakir Alamgir, Afzal Hussain, Kamal Pasha Chowdhury, Salahuddin 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 eternal peace for the departed

movement for democracy and social progress against communalism and fundamentalism.

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Our lady of light

Life-sketch of Begum Sufia Kamal: **reports UNB.**

Begum Sufia Kamal was born on June 20, 1911, at her maternal grandfather's house in Savestaganj in Barisal district. She was the only daughter of eminent lawyer Syed Abdul Bari of village Shilaur of then Tripura district. 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 Neel 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-story *'Eklake 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 Kanta* (1951), *Mon O Zibon* (1957), *Prashanti-O-Prarthana* (1958), *Uddata Prithibi* (1965), *Itol Bitol* (1965), *Divan* (1966), *Sovietur Dinguli* (1968), *Aujitkar* (1969), *Mritikar Gharan* (1972), *More Jadur Samadhi Pore* (1972), *Suvaritachaita do business* (1973), *Sankalan* (1978), *Nal Khorosh Darbare* (1981), *Eklake 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 Khawata, established by Begum Roquia in Calcutta in 1930s, and conducted shelter homes at Calcutta during the communal riot in 1946-47.

The eminent poet took part in language movement of 1952 and women processions and rallies in Dhaka in mass movement in 1969 against the then autocratic government and in March 1971 during non-cooperation movement.

She worked for the freedom fighters and the oppressed women even in the face of

threat and repression by the Pakistani occupation forces during the War of Liberation.

A leader of women's resurrection, Sufia Kamal was also named the convener of the Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee but she withdrew herself from the post due to her illness. She was closely associated with a large number of philanthropic organisations, including Mohila Parishad.

Begum Sufia Kamal was the founder president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad established in 1970.

She associated herself with various cultural organisations. Till her death, she was the president of Mohila Parishad, Chhayana, Disabled Foundation and Rabindra Sangeet Samannay Parishad. She was the founder and chief advisor of Kanci Kanchar Mela.

Begum Sufia Kamal was also involved with Ganderia Mohila Society, Begum Club, Bulbul Lalitkala Academy, Bangladesh Lekhika Sangha, Bangabandhu Parishad, Nari Kalyan Sangstha and Rehabilitation Centre and Bangladesh Soviet Friendship Society.

The noted poet had won a lot of awards for her literary works. She won *Tamghay Intiaz* in 1960 by the then Pakistan government, which she surrendered during the mass movement in 1969.

She won anti-fascist movement award of Czechoslovakia in 1986.

The other awards she won are: Bulbul Lalitkala Academy Award (1959), Bangla Academy Literature Award (1962), Begum Club Award (1964), Lenin Gold Medal of Russia (1970), Ekushey Padak (1976), Nurunnesa Baidyabinodini Gold Medal (1976), Nasiruddin Padak (1977), Sher-e-Bangla National Literature Award (1977), Rickshaw Labar Association Award (1978), Comilla Foundation Padak (1978), Dhaka Ladies' Club Award (1981), Mukdadhara Literature Award (1982), Kathakali Shilpighoshthi Award (1983), Zebunnisa Mahbubullah Trust Award (1983), Pata Literature Award (1983).

Various organisations outside the capital also awarded her for her outstanding works in literacy such as Fuli Chandra Award (1982), Shahid Nutan Chandra Singh Smriti Padak (1985), Kabitabar Award (1985), Ruma Smriti Award (1988), Jasimuddin Padak (1989), Bangladesh Society of New York Padak (1989), Club of Boston Sanad (1989), Business and Professional Women's Club Padak (1990) and Mujib Padak (1991).

City parks

From page 1

illegally! It is alleged that the local MP, Haji Maqbul, has a 'stake' in the project.

At Syedabad, the parks have been saved from the wrath of the political musclemen only to be left unattended by the men concerned. The children playing equipment lay tilted all around with sharp metal edges dangerously exposed.

It may sound incredible though, but the children's parks in Karwan Bazar have been turned into 'wholesale vegetable markets'.

Although DCC had cleared the parks of the illegal traders about two years ago, this time the traders have returned with a 'court injunction' to do business there. Although DCC officials 'demonstrate' their frustration about 'losing the parks', traders alleged that they make regular payments of the right

agendas.

He also said that Bangladesh would only push for 'built-in agendas' which were already there and oppose fresh issues.

He, however, cautioned that it would not be possible for Bangladesh to oppose everything, but it would definitely try to play its due role.

Rashed Khan Menon said being a member of parliament, he like others was not aware of the agreements which were being signed. "All on a sudden, we were handed 22,000 pages of WTO agreement."

He said the Cabinet had forwarded it to them and they had to accept it. "In academic level, we were not aware (of the agreement) whereas in India there were lots of talks and debates."

Menon said the developed nations were trying to impose new issues like environment, social changes and labour standards on the LDCs although the case should have been the other way round.

He said the developed nations were not ready to open up their market for the LDCs while they wanted to enter markets of the developing countries.

"So Bangladesh should not go into new round of negotiations without pressing for implementation of the previous ones," Menon said.

M Masud Rahman, executive director of INCIDIN Bangladesh, later presented a key note paper.

Speakers at a workers rally yesterday demanded immediate implementation of the verdict of Bangabandhu Murder Case to establish rule of law and institutionalise democracy in the country, reports BSS.

They were speaking at the rally near Tejgaon Station Road here with Jammur Ali in the chair.

The rally was addressed, among others, by city Awami League leaders including M Saifullah Shafi, Mozammel Hossain, Zahurul Haq, Zillur Ward Commissioner, Shamim Hasan, Insur Ali and M Munirul Islam Munir.

Khaleda firm on one-point demand to oust govt

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government had put economy, sovereignty and national security of the country at stake and urged all to intensify the one-point movement to topple it immediately.

Addressing the just-released leaders and activists of Mirpur and Falgabi thana units of BNP and its front organisations at her 29 Minro Road official residence in the evening, she said there is no alternative before the countrymen but to oust this "autocratic and subversive" government from power.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said the government, which became scared of current mass movement, has intensified repression and harassment on BNP and its front organisations leaders and workers with a ulterior motive to foil the agitation.

"But the arrest, harassment and filing of false cases in fact created a serious resentment among the people. People's participation in the movement is increasing day by day due to government's repressive measures," she said adding "Even the police are arresting party leaders entering into their houses without any specific charge."