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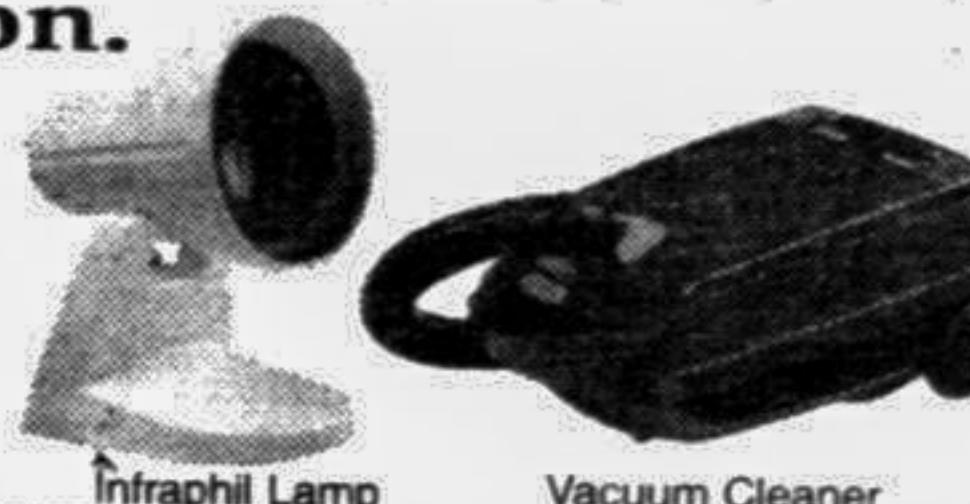
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Centre for Mother Language Practice & Research to be set up: PM

By Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for sincere efforts to use Bangla in all spheres and to enrich the language, Bangladeshi culture and heritage.

She declared that a Centre for Mother Language Practice and Research will be set up in Dhaka.

The call came at a grand and colourful rally at the city's Paitan Maidan, organised to celebrate UNESCO's declaration of February 21 as International Mother Language Day.

"Today is the day of celebration ... We got international recognition for our martyrs who sacrificed their lives for upholding the honour of our mother tongue. We feel proud that Bangla is our mother language," she said.

Paying glowing tributes to the language martyrs Hasina said the historic Language Movement started in 1948 and got fruition in 1952. She also paid tributes to the memory of martyrs in 1969, 1971 and during the anti-autocracy movement.

The Language Movement led the nation towards its struggle for independence in 1971 under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hasina remembered Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore for his great contribution to enrich the Bangla and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for upholding its honour by delivering his speech in the mother tongue at the UN in 1974.

She said every citizen should be sincere in having education in the mother tongue and using it in all spheres of national life.

Samples of all languages will be collected and research done at the mother language centre to enrich those arrangements will be made at the proposed centre so that people can learn different languages, she added.

Apparently moved by the international recognition to the 21st February and the celebrations, she said December is the month of joy and pride. This is the month when the Bengalee nation achieved independence.

Sheikh Hasina said, "We are committed to build a nation free from hunger, poverty and illiteracy by materialising the spirit of the Liberation War and the Language Movement.

Special Court to try cases against Shikdar from Jan 1

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 7: The Special Court set up here to try cases against Ershad Shikdar will start functioning from January 1 next year.

The court will take up the Khalid Murder Case first, sources concerned said today.

Meanwhile, the Police Commissioner has decided to ask three former officials of KMP to show cause why action should not be taken against them for concealing two murder cases against Ershad Shikdar.

These officials deleted Shikdar's name from the charge sheets of Mouze Ali and Nantu murder cases with 'malafide intention'.

It has been found after re-checking case dockets that the said police officials AC Yakub Khandaker, AC Ruhul Amin and Inspector Shawkat Ali Khan deleted name of Shikdar from the charge sheet despite sufficient evidences against him about his involvement in the murders.

Mouze Ali was murdered on October 10, 1994 and Nantu on March 30, 1990. Both the victims were JP activists.

The FIR was lodged with Khalishpur thana accusing 13 people for murdering Mouze Ali. But the then OC Shawkat Ali Khan conducted a 'mock' investigation and submitted charge sheet favouring Ershad Shikdar and six others.

The incumbent OC of Khalishpur thana Kamrul Islam has been asked to re-investigate the case.

Besides, the FIR lodged with Khalishpur thana on March 30, 1990 accused eight persons for murdering Nantu.

The case was later transferred to DB. AC of Detective Branch Yakub Ali submitted charge sheet deleting name of Shikdar.

The case was first investigated by AC Ruhul Amin who threatened the complainant Osman Gani for lodging FIR

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\$115m ADB loan for Southwest Road Network project

The Government and the Asian Development Bank signed a loan agreement for 115 million US dollars to finance Southwest Road Network Development Project aimed at building a sound communications line among all parts of the country, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the Philippine Reazul Hossain and ADB President Tadao Chino signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides in Manila, according to a message received in Dhaka.

The project will open a shorter and more cost-effective east-west corridor after Dhaka-Chittagong corridor linking Dhaka with Mongla Port, Khulna, Benapole and Jessore.

In addition, Dhaka-Mawa-Bangla 54-km road will be improved and 38-km Bangla-Bhatiapara road and 74-km Bhatiapara-Gopalganj-Town Noapara road and 450-meter-long bridge over the river Arial Khan will be constructed under the scheme.

BCS body resents

No progress in implementing 8-pt demand

By Special Correspondent

The central committee of the BCS Co-ordination Committee yesterday expressed resentment over what it called the failure of the authorities to implement its eight-point demand, submitted to the Prime Minister on November 17.

A meeting of the steering committee of the co-ordination committee noted that there had been no progress since its programme of wearing black badges for three days, three-hour token abstention from work and rally before submitting the memorandum to the PM containing the demand.

The eight-point demand includes repeal of the upgrading of the 321 posts for the BCS (Admn) cadre.

The meeting chaired by M.A. Hashem, acting president of the committee, expressed deep resentment over what it said continuation of promotion to the posts of deputy secretary and above on the basis of a quota system which had been rejected by almost all cadres.

It demanded suspension of the promotion process and making it on the basis of open competition and merit.

Among others Choudhury Khalequzzaman, secretary general of co-ordination committee, Krishibid Nazrul Islam and Professor Kafiluddin participated in the discussions.

3 shot by armed gang in city

By Staff Correspondent

Three people, including a woman were shot by an armed gang at a restaurant at South Shahjahanpur in the city yesterday morning.

The injured were identified as Rashidul Alam Babu, son of Wallullah, a resident of Dhakkin Khan, Moni Begum, wife of Tota Mian of Shahjahanpur Railway Colony and Shahidul Alam.

Babu received bullet in his back, Shahidul in his right leg and Moni Begum in her head. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), police sources said.

The victim aged about 25 was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital the same

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The gang entered the restaurant at around 9:30 am and opened fire.

Police, however, said that one person was injured in the attack.

No case was filed with Motijheel thana in this connection till filing of this report last night.

Controversy over death of army officer's wife

By Staff Correspondent

Controversy rose centring the death of an army officer's wife after allegations were made yesterday that she was murdered.

Police found Kamrunnahar Ruma, 25, hanging in her Army Staff Quarter residence at Bani in the city Monday afternoon.

Her body was handed over to her relatives after autopsy at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue yesterday.

Hospital sources said there was a scar mark on her neck, in addition to other marks on different parts of her body.

One of Ruma's relatives claimed that Ruma was murdered, hospital sources said. However, relatives of Major Asraf Haidar, Ruma's husband, said she was mentally ill and had made several attempts to commit suicide.

Gulshan police said they were waiting for the autopsy report. MS Alam Shahjahan, the dead woman's cousin, filed an unnatural death case with Gulshan thana.



Celebrating UNESCO's recognition of International Mother Language Day stirs the pride in us all, but it's annoying and embarrassing when it disturbs public life at the government's behest. Look at the traffic jams that occurred when processions met a government rally. Could a little organisation and discipline be too much to ask?

—Star photo

Ramadan likely from tomorrow

The holy month of Ramadan is expected to begin in the country tomorrow if the moon is sighted today, reports UNB.

National Moon Sighting Committee will sit today to ascertain the first Ramadan on the basis of sighting of the moon, said a press release.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam will preside over the meeting at the Islamic Foundation at 6 pm.

People have been requested to inform the committee over phone or fax if the moon is sighted in anywhere of the country.

The phone numbers are: 9559493, 9555947, 9555951, 9550280, 9559643, 9556407 and 9558337 and fax number 9563397.

Two women gangraped

By Staff Correspondent

Two women were gangraped by local hoodlums in separate incidents at Bashabi in the city within 24 hours ending at 7 pm yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

A widow, mother of an eight-year-old boy, was gangraped allegedly by some local hoodlums at East Bashabi area last night.

The victim, who reportedly serves as an ayah at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night.

In another incident a housewife was raped allegedly by a gang, led by the brother of her landlord, at East Bashabi under Shabujbagh thana in the city on Monday night, police and hospital sources said.

When the meeting was on, about 50 to 60 outsiders riding 22 motorbikes entered the campus and fired some gunshots.

Deadlock at Shahjalal Varsity continues

JCD, Shibir call indefinite strike from today

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 7: The deadlock at the Shahjalal University of Science & Technology continued for the fourth day today.

The Varsity authorities are yet to take any step to unlock the main gate, Library and other building.

These were put under lock and key by the activists of the All-Party (Opposition) Action Committee on December 4 as part of its agitation programme to press for withdrawal of the names of different halls and buildings of the university.

The Students Action Committee, a combine of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir has called for an indefinite strike at the university from tomorrow.

The semester final examinations which were scheduled to begin from December 5 could not be held due to the siege to the varsity by the All-Party Action Committee on December 4 and 5.

A meeting was held at the varsity syndicate hall with the VC Professor Mohammad Habibur Rahman in the chair today. Treasurer, Registrar, Deans and heads of department, Provosts, Proctor and teachers representatives to the Syndicate attended the meeting.

The meeting strongly condemned the activities by some so-called 'organisations'. The speakers also expressed their concern over suspension of the academic activities as well as the admission process in the prevailing situation.

When the meeting was on, about 50 to 60 outsiders riding 22 motorbikes entered the campus and fired some gunshots.

The incident occurred when the Chittagong-bound Paharika Express hit the mishuk on a rail crossing at around 5-3 pm.

The dead are, Hafiz Abbas Uddin, 40, Imam of Pirerabazar Jame Mosque of Kulaura thana, his elder brother Moulana Farid Uddin, 50, Abdul Muktadir, 50, Lal Miah, 45, and Shahreen, 20, driver of the Mishuk. The mishuk (Moulvibazar 02-0134) was damaged.

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