

## News

## What's on today....

**Victory Festival '99:** Sammilito Sangskritik Jote has organised a 3-day Victory Festival '99 on areas ranging from the Central Shaheed Minar to Institute of Fine Arts, Shahbagh on the Dhaka University campus. Eminent essayist and intellectual Sardar Fazlul Karim will inaugurate the festival programme. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises. Time: 3:30 pm.

**Memorial meeting:** Shahidul Islam Smriti Parishad will hold a memorial meeting on poet and freedom fighter Shahidul Islam. Venue: Liberation War Museum auditorium. Time: 3:00 pm.

**Lecture:** A lecture will be held on "Role of Science Museums in Mass Education in the 21st Century in Developing Situation." Organisers: Science and Technology Ministry and Museum of National Science and Technology. Venue: Museum premises, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 2:30 pm.

**Film show:** *Muktir Katha*, a documentary by Tareque and Catherine Masud will be screened. Venue: Shishu Academy premises. Time: 6:00 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow .....

**Publication ceremony:** The publication ceremony of Dr Naim Ahmed's book 'Public Interest Litigation: Constitutional Issues and Remedies' will be held. Organiser: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST). Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Chameli House, 17, Topkhana Road. Time: 4 pm.

**Film show:** *Muktir Katha*, a documentary by Tareque and Catherine Masud will be screened. Venue: Shishu Academy premises. Time: 6:00 pm.

**ISL presentation:** Information Solution Ltd has organised a presentation on 6 New Technologies for the New Millennium. An iftar party will follow the presentation. Venue: IDB Bhaban premises, Agargaon. Time: 3 pm.

## Weather

## Temperature may fall

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country during next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may fall by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over the country during the period and further in next two days, the Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Teknaf and the lowest 12.9 degrees at Sathkira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:13 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:32 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max in Celsius	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.0	18.3	87	73
Chittagong	28.6	19.4	98	78
Rajshahi	28.0	14.0	74	67
Khulna	29.0	15.4	78	72
Barisal	28.4	14.0	80	81
Sylhet	29.0	17.4	71	66
Cox's Bazar	29.5	20.0	91	83



Recipients of Eid Fashion Design Competition organised by Annaydin, a fortnightly, at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

— Star photo



North South University (NSU) accorded a reception at its campus on December 10 to Dr G Warren Smith, President of Slippery Rock University, USA who came all the way from Pennsylvania, USA to attend the convocation ceremony. Chairman of NSU Foundation, M A Kashem (left) and NSU Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Hafiz G A Siddiqi handed over a crest to Dr Smith (right).



Justice Latifur Rahman, speaking as the chief guest at a seminar held on December 9 on 'Human Rights and Law Enforcement' organised by Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh (BHRB) in observance of the 51st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. From left are Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, advocate Saidur Rahman, advocate Md Shahjahan, SMA Hossain, Barrister Amir-Ul Islam and Justice Md Abdur Rouf.

## Khaleda hosts iftar party for diplomats

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia hosted an iftar party for the diplomats of 12 Muslim countries yesterday, reports UNB.

High Commissioners or Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Palestine, Morocco, Qatar, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, United Arab Emirates and Egypt in Dhaka attended the iftar party at Hotel Sheraton.

BNP leaders M Saiful Rahman, Khondokar Mosharrif Hossain, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Moudud Ahmed, Tariqul Islam, Shamsul Islam, M Morshed Khan, Reaz Rahman, Moyeen Khan and Selima Rahman were present.

Attack on *Jatra* stage in city: 5 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

Five people received bullet injuries as local residents attacked a *Jatra* stage and clashed with the management and the supporters of *Jatra* group at Bhashantek in the city's Kafrul area yesterday.

According to witnesses the local youths locked into an altercation over staging *Jatra* in the holy month of Ramadan and suddenly opened fire on the rivals which created panic in the area at about 10 pm.

During the hour-long clash both parties traded gun shots and exploded crackers in which five people were injured.

The injured persons were identified as Manu Mian, 20, Salauddin, 20, Jalal, 26, Nuruzzaman, 40, and Lucky, 25. They were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds.

The *Jatra* stage was set up few days back and local residents were demanding an end to staging *Jatra* in the holy month. But the *Jatra* management did not pay heed to that call which ultimately led to the attack.

When contacted the duty officer of Kafrul thana said that the officials were yet to return from the spot.

## Project national heritage'

Minister of State for Information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday called upon fashion designers to project the national heritage and indigenous culture abroad through their creativity, reports BSS.

"Sections of people, who were the beneficiaries after the fateful night of August 15, 1975, have been polluting the social environment by importing distorted alien culture" he said, adding 95 per cent people have no relation with such foreign fashion culture.

The state minister said this while speaking as the chief guest at a prize giving function on Eid dress and design, organised by fortnightly *Annodin*. It was also addressed, among others, by Fashion Designer and UNESCO Special Envoy Bibi Russel and Chief Editor of *Annodin* SM Mizanur Rahman Maudum.

Referring to the bright prospect of Bangladesh in fashion and design Prof. Sayeed said it is the land that hold ancient civilization and unique cultural heritage which could contribute significantly to the flourish and modernization of this industry in the world in the next millennium.

Later, the state minister gave away prizes on 14 events among the winners.

The participating organisations included Hermitage, K Craft, Silk Dynasty, Dressidel, Grameen Uddog, Mela, Ettadi Hasin, Satuli, Shaj, Angan's, Sneha, Ogi, and Niloy Handicrafts.

## BFUJ, DUJ discussion tomorrow

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will jointly held a discussion to mark the 'Martyred Intellectual Day' tomorrow at 11 am at the Jatiya Press Club, says a DUJ press release.

## BNP team to visit China

By Staff Correspondent

A five-member high level BNP delegation led by its secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan left here for Bangkok yesterday on a goodwill visit to China.

Other members of the delegation are: BNP Vice Chairman Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain MP, Chairperson's Advisory Council Member MM Reazul Karim, joint secretary general Ashraf Hossain and Mizanur Rahman Sina MP.

The delegation boarding on Thai Airlines left Dhaka at 1:25 pm and will first arrive in Bangkok and later go to Beijing.

Thai ambassador in Dhaka

Pittha Pookaman saw the BNP leaders off at Zia International Airport, said a press release. Earlier, the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka accorded a reception to the visiting delegation.

Earlier, a good number of BNP leaders and activists, including central leaders Prof MA Mannan, Selima Rahman, Haris Chowdhury, Abdul Manan MP, Lutfuzzaman Babar and Rezabudulah Chowdhury were present at the airport to see their leaders off.



The Committee to Protect Oil, Gas Resources brought out a procession in support of its various demands in the city yesterday.

## 11-party begins mass contact programme

By Staff Correspondent

The eleven-party alliance yesterday began a 20-day countrywide mass contact to mobilise people's support to build an "alternative political force" on the basis of their 16-point demand.

Sources said the alliance during the mass contact till December 31, leaders and activists of the parties will distribute leaflets, held public rallies, processions and exchange views with a cross section of people.

On the first day of the programme yesterday in the capital, leaders of the parties launched a massive mass contact at Paltan, Baitul Mukarram, Stadium Gate, Bangabandhu Avenue, Ramna Bhaban, Gulshan Square, Ramna Bhaban, Hossain Square and Muktaganj areas. They also distributed leaflets among the people and exchanged views, said a press release.

A number of central leaders, including Mujahidul Islam Selim, Azizul Islam Khan, Sidiqur Rahman, Bazlur Rashid Firoz, Haji Abdus Samad, Morshed Ali, Saiful Haq, Iqbal Majumder, Dilip Barua, Mostaq Ahmed and Abdus Salam took part in the mass contact.

The 11-party leaders will exchange views with Krishak and Khetmajar union leaders at 5:30 pm today at the office of the Sramik-Krishak-Samajbadi Dal, said a release.

## IT Day observed

By DU Correspondent

The Department of Computer Science of Dhaka University yesterday observed IT Day '99 at the newly constructed Science Complex of the university.

IT Gen (retd) Nuruddin Khan, Minister for Science and Technology was present as the chief guest while Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of the university chaired the inaugural session.

Among others, Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Dr Towfiq Elahi Chowdhury, Muhammad Aziz Khan, chairman of Khulna Power Company Ltd, Prof Lutfur Rahman and Dr M Alamgir Hossain addressed the inaugural session.

The programme was organised in collaboration with Khulna Power Company Ltd. Chairman of the Khulna Power Company Ltd also handed over Tk 12 lakh bank cheque to the VC for the computer science department.

The other programme of the day include IT exhibition and seminar. Prof M L Rahman and Dr M Alamgir Hossain presented keynote papers on Y2K Problem, in Bangladesh, and 'Electronic Commerce' respectively in the seminar.

**Stern action if quota in job for FFs' children not maintained**

The government will take stern action against those who are violating government order for maintaining 30 per cent quota in service regarding appointment of children of freedom fighters, reports BSS.

The Ministry of Establishment in an order said that children of freedom fighters are reportedly deprived of the job quota as in many cases the authorities violating the office order giving lame excuses. This is very unfortunate and sad," the order said.

The government would take the issue seriously and the decision has been forwarded to all ministries, departments and government, autonomous, semi-government and corporations to implement the order accordingly.

## Rob, Maya shocked at death in Bhola launch capsized

Fisheries and Livestock Minister SMA Abdur Rob and State Minister for Shipping Motazul Hossain Chowdhury

Maya have expressed deep sorrow at the loss of lives in a launch capsized at Majher Char in the river Meghna Saturday, reports BSS.

In a condolence message Sunday, Rob asked Ramgati thana and Lakshimpur district administrations and voluntary organisations to put their all-out efforts in the rescue operation.

In a separate condolence message, Maya assured that punitive measures would be taken against the guilty after finding out the cause of the accident through investigation.

He prayed for the peace of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

The Executive Chairman of Board of Investment (BOI) Mokammel Haque also expressed his deep shock at the death of the launch passengers and conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family members.

## Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of Alhaj Advocate Syed Shamsoozeha, ex-president of Bagerhat Law College and eminent lawyer of Bagerhat District Bar, will be observed at Bagerhat today, reports BSS.

A *mild* and a *doa mafil* have been organised at "Mithapukur Mosque" near "Shelter," the residence of the late lawyer at Amlapara, Bagerhat, after *Esra* prayers, family sources said.

A *Qurankhwani* and feeding of devotees will be organised at Sharui orphanage, sources said.

## AL programmes on Martyred Intellectual Day, Victory Day

Bangladesh Awami League has chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the Martyred Intellectuals Day on Tuesday and Victory Day on Thursday, reports UNB.

The programmes include hoisting of black flag and keeping the national and party flags at half-mast at the party central office and party offices across the country at 5:30 am.

Awami League will place wreaths at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 8:05 am and at the Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard at Mirpur at 8:35 am.

Wreaths will also be placed at the Rayer Bazar mausoleum at 9 am and joining the inaugural ceremony at the national memorial.

Programmes on the Victory Day include hoisting of national and party flags at the party central office and all party offices at 5:30 am, placing of wreaths at the national memorial at 6:40 am and at the portrait of the Father of the Nation at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 8:05 am.

Awami League will also organise rallies and processions after the holy *Eid-Ul-Fitr* to celebrate UNESCO's proclamation of February 21 as International Mother Language Day and the Victory Day.

## Jubo League

From page 1

damaged cars and other vehicles, creating panic in the area. Police on duty in the area did not intervene, witnesses added.

Kashem was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police reinforcements rushed to the spot but the activists managed to flee. None was arrested and no case was filed in this connection till 10 pm. Tejgaon police said.

Some witnesses said the incident was a sequel to long drawn rivalry between the two groups over toll collection in Karwan Bazar, a major wholesale market.

## Ctg terrorist

From page 1

A terrorist in the Nasirabad Industrial area and an armed cadre of Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu backed Kader Group, Chherra Akbar was wanted in 12 criminal cases, including dacoity, mugging, and extortion.

Supporters protesting his arrest, put up barricade and exploded bombs in the afternoon in Polytechnic area creating panic.

Meanwhile, local people caught one miscreant with a loaded LG from middle Hall Shahar Adorshapara area last night.

The miscreant identified as Faruq Mia, 22, was caught red-handed when he along with his accomplices was trying to commit mugging in that area at around 9 pm yesterday.

## Ctg journalists

From page 1

Azadi — were critically injured in the assault, allegedly by supporters of the alliance. They were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.