

What's on today . . .

Victory Festival '99: Sammito 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: Mukti Katha, a documentary by Tareque Masud 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: CIRDP auditorium, Chamely House, 17, Topkhana Road. Time: 4 pm.

Film show: Mukti Katha, a documentary by Tareque Masud 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 Satkhira.

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 in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	28.0	18.3
Chittagong	28.6	19.4
Rajshahi	28.0	14.0
Khulna	29.0	15.4
Barisal	28.4	14.0
Sylhet	29.0	17.4
Cox's Bazar	29.5	20.0
	Morning	Evening
	87	78
	98	78
	74	67
	78	72
	81	81
	71	66
	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 Saifur Rahman, Khondokar Mosharrar Hossain, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Moudud Ahmed, Tariqul Islam, Shamsul Islam, M Moshed Khan, Reza 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 Bhasantek in the city's Kafrul area yesterday.

According to witnesses, the local youths took part in 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 Masum.

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 Henri Heritage, K Craft, Silk Dynasty, Dressidel, Gramen Udogo, 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 Rezaul Karim, joint secretary general Ashraf Hossain and Mizanur Rahman Sinha 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 Pithaya Pookman 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 Mannan MP, Lutfuzzaman Babar and Rezaudulhossain 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. — Star photo

Those turbulent day's of '71

The unarmed villagers of Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Dec 12: The valiant resistance raised by unarmed people of Jogirpara, a remote village of Durgapur thana under Netrakona district, against the occupation forces will be forever inscribed in golden letters in the history of our Liberation War, reports BSS.

The villagers in those turbulent days created "hard-rock unity" among them and raised resistance against the tyrant Pakistani occupation forces with all their might.

In the August of 1971, the quiet and remote village was stained with blood of innocent people by the notorious Pak army. The occupation forces conducted regular raids in the village to loot foodgrains, cattle heads, valuables and money.

During the raids, the merciless and gruesome soldiers did not even spare children and women of the village.

The barbaric campaigns of the Pak army caused serious re-

sentment among the villagers. At one stage, a local school teacher, Tasiruddin, organised close-door meetings with a group of courageous villagers.

The meeting took decision to build resistance and raise level of awareness among all the villages about the atrocities of the occupation army.

On August 25, 1971, two drunken Pakistan soldiers armed with two automatic rifles arrived at the village from Durgapur army camp and stormed the houses of the village. A group of villagers belonging to the resistance group quickly cordoned the house and as planned the landlord Chotani Miah and his young brother with two sharp axes made a surprise assault on the two Pak soldiers.

Other villagers armed with sharp weapons rushed to the scene and snatched the rifles of the soldiers after overpowering them. The angry villagers killed the soldiers and the next

day handed over their bodies and weapons to the freedom fighters camp at nearby Indian border.

The Pakistani forces retaliated, burning down the houses of the village and leaving a trail of devastation behind.

The villagers were not able to resist this attack of the Pakistani forces were armed with modern and heavy weapons. However, the incident of mass action against the Pakistani army in the remote village inspired the patriotic people of the district as well as freedom fighters at that time to raise resistance against the occupation forces during the remaining of the liberation war.

Recalling those days of history, noted freedom fighter Jalaluddin Talukder told BSS that the heroic role, courage and commitment of unarmed people of the village Jagirpara had broken the morale of the aimless and characterless Pakistani forces.

All set for DUTA polls on Dec 21

By DU Correspondent

Election to the executive committee of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) will be held on December 21.

The polling to the 15-member body DUTA, which plays an important role in various national and political issues, will be held at the University Club from 10 am to 2 pm on the day.

Two panels — ruling Awami League-backed "Blue Panel" and BNP-supported "White Panel" — are vying for the posts. Left-leaning Pink Panel is not contesting this year's election.

The candidates of the Blue Panel are: Dr RIM Aminur Rashid for the post of president, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury for vice-president, Dr Mohammad Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury for treasurer, Dr Mohammad Anwar Hossain for general secretary, Dr Hashibur Rashid joint secretary.

Candidates for the post of members are Dr AJM Nowsher Ali Khan, Dr ATM Nurur Rahman Khan, Dr Kazi Shahidullah, Dr Syed Gias Uddin Ahmed, Mohammad Jalal Uddin, Nasrullah Mahabub, Dr Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Dr Mohammad Muhiur Rahman, Dr Mohammad Mesbah Uddin Ahmed and Dr Sharifullah Bhuiyan.

White Panel announced its candidates Prof SMA Fayed of Soil Science and the incumbent general secretary of the association.

tion Ferduos Hossain of Political Science for the posts of president and general secretary respectively earlier.

The other candidates of the panel are: Prof Anwar Hossain of IBA for the post of vice-president, Prof Abu Ahmed of Economics for the post of treasurer, Dr Mahmud Osman Imam of Finance and Banking for joint secretary and Prof AM Yusuf Haider, Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, Prof Abdul Momin Chowdhury, Prof Abul Kalam Monjur Morshed, Prof Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury, Prof Rahim B Chowdhury, Prof Zinatunnesa Tahmida Begum, Prof Abdul Bashir, Prof Khalilur Rahman and Prof Amjad Hossain for the post of members.

Meanwhile, a hectic campaign is going on among the politically affiliated teachers of the university as the date for election nears.

In last year's election, out of 15 posts, White Panel bagged seven seats, including that of president and general secretary while Blue Panel managed eight, including that of vice-president and treasurer.

Some 1,200 teachers of the university will exercise their franchise to elect new executives of DUTA for the next one year. Prof Abu Zafar Mahmud will conduct the election as election commissioner.



Visitors at a dress exhibition at Alliance Francaise in the city. The exhibition is organised by Anaokor, a leading home of handicrafts. — Star photo

Liberation War museum set up at BOU

A liberation war museum has been set up at the central library of Bangladesh Open University (BOU) campus at Gazipur, says a press release.

Inaugurating the museum yesterday Vice-Chancellor Prof M Aminul Islam said the museum has been established in commemoration of the sacrifice made by the valiant freedom fighters to whom the nation is greatly indebted.

78 documents on various events of liberation war and a large number of pictures and video tapes have been placed in the museum.

BNP leader dead

Veteran politician and member of the BNP National Executive Committee Advocate Rezaul Haq Chowdhury died of cardiac arrest at the National Heart Disease Institute in the city yesterday morning, reports UNB.

JU first year. Hons classes to begin in Feb

By JU Correspondent

First year honours classes of 1998-99 academic session will begin at Jahangirnagar University (JU) in the third week of February next year.

This was decided by the university authorities at an emergency meeting on Thursday, sources said.

With acting Vice-chancellor Prof Abdul Bayes in the chair, the meeting was participated by deans of different faculties, directors of institutes and chairmen of all the 24 departments.

The winter vacation will be shortened and Masters Final examinations completed by February 15 to reduce session jam.

Deans of faculties and directors of institutes will hold regular meetings with chairmen of departments and discuss all aspects.

Sultana Shaheda honoured

American Biographical Institute has awarded the prominent social worker Sultana Shaheda Islam the prestigious title 'Woman of the Year' for her outstanding contribution to the society, says a press release.

The Institute's International Board of Research has honoured her for her excellent service and overall dedication for the welfare of the community.

At present, she is the Dist. Governor of Lions Clubs International Dist. -315 A1, Bangladesh. She is the first woman in the 41 years history of Lionism in Bangladesh to hold such position as Dist. Governor.

BFUJ, DUJ condemn attack on newsmen

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday condemned attack on journalists immediately after the meeting of the opposition alliance at Lalghai Maidan in Chittagong, reports BSS.

BFUJ president Abul Kalam Azad and secretary general Akhter Ahmed Khan, DUJ president Altaf Mahmud and general secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan in a statement said at least 15 journalists were injured as they were attacked by the opposition activists during the meeting of the alliance of BNP, Jamaat, JP and IOJ.

They protested the heinous attack on professional journalists, who went there to cover the meeting, and said that no responsible person or party can behave such a barbarous manner.

They urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to ensure exemplary punishment to the culprits and to take all efforts to ensure smooth functioning of the press.

DU programmes for Dec 14, 16

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University has drawn up programmes to observe the Martyred Intellectual Day and Victory Day in a befitting manner.

The programmes on Dec 14 include hoisting of the national flag atop all the administrative and academic buildings of the university at 6:30 am, congregation of teachers, student, officers and employees of DU at the Aparajeo Bangla and bring out of silent processions, said a DU press release.

The procession will march through the DU Central Mosque and place wreaths at the graveyards of the martyred. The silent procession led by the university VC will then march up to the Martyred Intellectual Graveyard at Mirpur and place wreaths.

Prayer and feteha will be offered at all the residential halls, mosques and temples seeking salvation of the departed souls. A discussion meeting will be held at the TSC auditorium at 10 am on the day.

To observe the Victory Day, members of DU will gather at the Aparajeo Bangla and place wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar. Prayers will also be offered seeking divine blessing for the martyrs.

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 cross section of people.

On the first day of the programme yesterday in the capital, leaders of the parties launched a mass contact at Paltan, Baitul Mukarram, Stadium Gate, Bangabandhu Avenue, Ramna Bhaban, Gulistan Square, Nur Hossain Square and Muktangan 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, Siddiqur Rahman, Bazlur Rashid Firoz, Haji Abdus Samad, Moshed 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 Khetrajur 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.

Dr (ret'd) 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 Aziz Khan, chairman of Khulna Power Company Ltd, Prof, Lutfar 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 capsizing

Fisheries and Livestock Minister ASM Abdur Rob and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya have expressed deep sorrow at the loss of lives in a launch capsizing at Mahjer Char in the river Meghna Saturday, reports BSS.

In a condolence message Sunday, Rob asked Ramgati thana and Lakshampur 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) M 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 Shamsuddin, president of Bagerhat Law College and eminent lawyer of Bagerhat District Bar, will be observed at Bagerhat today, reports BSS.

A milad and a doa mahfil have been organised at 'Mitha-pukur Mosque' near 'Shelter,' the residence of the late lawyer at Amlapura, Bagerhat, after Esha prayers, family sources said.

A Quarkhuant and feeding of destitutes 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 Rayar 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

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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

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A terrorist in the Nasirabad Industrial area and an armed cadre of Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu backed 'Kader Group,' Chhera 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 Hali Shahar Adorshapara area last night.

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

Ctg journalists

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

The journalists who were covering the meeting came under attack as they voiced protest against some remarks by a speaker Multa Ezzahar Huq, convener of Chittagong unit of Islami Oikya Jote.

Police rescued them.

Meanwhile, the attack triggered strong protest from newsmen here.

Chittagong Union of Journalists condemned the incident and demanded punishment of the attackers. It will hold a protest rally of journalists at Chittagong Press Club at 11 am tomorrow.

Steps to free city from traffic congestion adopted

A meeting of the Greater Dhaka Transport Planning and Co-ordination Board (GDTPCB) was held yesterday with the adoption of some new measures to help free the city from traffic congestion and pollution, reports BSS.

Showcause

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The counsel for the petitioner concentrated their argument mainly on three counts.

Barrister Maudud cont