



Sammilita Sangskritik Jote brought out a colourful procession in the city on Thursday marking the Victory Day. — Star photo

### Missions abroad observe Victory Day

Bangladesh missions abroad on Thursday observed Victory Day, paying rich tributes to the martyrs and praying for the development, continued peace and prosperity of the country, reports BSS.

Messages reaching here Thursday said the country's embassies and high commissions in Islamabad, Paris, Beijing and Bangkok observed the day in a befitting manner.

The highlights of their programmes included hoisting of the national flags, playing of the national anthem, observing a one-minute solemn silence in memories of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and 30 lakh martyrs, offering munajat and holding discussions turning on the significance of the day.

Messages of President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad were read out in the functions, attended by expatriate Bangladeshis and prominent personalities of concerned cities.

The high commission in Islamabad celebrated Victory Day in a befitting manner. A discussion was held at the commission where the speakers urged all to work with devotion for the progress, prosperity and a better future of the nation.

Speaking at the discussion, Acting High Commissioner Sayed Moudud Ali said the Victory Day was the most glorious day for the Bangladesh as their dream independence dawned on the day with the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of lives.

He called upon all expatriate Bangladeshis to contribute their

best for the development of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh embassy in Paris celebrated the victory day amid much enthusiasm.

Speaking at a discussion organised to mark the occasion, Ambassador Syed Muazzem Ali recalled the contribution of the valiant Bangalee heroes who embraced terrible atrocities and privation to carve out independent Bangladesh under the leadership of the Bangabandhu.

Referring to the success of the present government, he urged the Bangladeshis living in France and other European countries to take a fresh vow to build a 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by the Bangabandhu.

The embassy in China celebrated the day with due solemnity and fervour. Embassy staff including the Chinese nationals, representatives from China Radio International (CRI) and Bangladeshes in Beijing gathered on the embassy premises to mark the day.

The embassy in Bangkok organised a function to celebrate Victory Day on the embassy premises.

A discussion was the showcase of the programmes where ambassador Shuhab Hossain appealed to the Bangladesh nationals in Thailand to work sincerely to enhance the country's image abroad.

The Bangladesh mission in Calcutta also celebrated the Victory Day on Thursday.

Deputy High Commissioner M Humayun Kabir hoisted the national flag on the Deputy High Commission premises in the morning. A special prayer was offered.

### Former Speaker addresses UNGA on Buddhist Day

Former Speaker and Member of Parliament Shaikh Razaque Ali has said Bangladesh is historically connected with the Buddhist Civilisation, reports BSS.

He was addressing the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on the agenda "International Recognition of the Day of Vesak" as the leader of a Bangladesh delegation on Thursday, a message received here from New York said today.

Day of Vesak is the most sacred day in Buddhism. Millions of Buddhists all over the world commemorate the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha on this day.

Razaque Ali said Bangladesh had a sizeable Buddhist population and the country celebrates Buddhist festivals like the Day of Vesak, Buddha Purnima as National holidays.

He said as the world is entering the new millennium, it is timely that the world body is considering international commemoration of the Day of Vesak.

This will give opportunities to relieve the age-old sublime teachings of the Buddha aimed at bringing the understanding, happiness and solace to the world.

The former speaker mentioned that Bangladesh is one of the sponsors of the draft resolution and he hoped that the UNGA would adopt the resolution by consensus.

### BTUS demands punishment of Litu's killers

Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha (BTUS) demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers of its leader Rabiul Ahsan Litu, reports UNB.

BTUS president Khalilur Rahman and general secretary Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam in a statement yesterday exclaimed at the daily-dallying in the trial process.

The second death anniversary of the slain trade union leaders, Rabiul Ahsan Litu, will be observed today. The programme includes laying wreaths at his grave and a discussion at the BTUS office.

### Phensidyl seized in city: One held

Narcotics officials seized 226 bottles of phensidyl syrup and a foreign pistol from a house in the city's Mirpur area this evening, reports BSS.

A team of narcotics control personnel of Dhaka metro sub-zone led by Inspector Azizul Islam, acting on a tip-off raided a house on road number 6, block D in Mirpur section-1 and seized the Indian phensidyl syrup and the German-made 9 mm pistol with three bullets.

They arrested one Mizanur Rahman alias Babu from the scene on charges of possessing the weapon and drugs.

A case was lodged with Mirpur police in this connection.

### Foundation laid for memorial at Kamalapur

Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Saber Hossain Chowdhury laid the foundation stone of a monument in memory of the martyred officers and employees of railway during the Liberation War at Kamalapur Railway Station premises on Thursday, reports BSS.

Chaired by convener of the Smriti Soudha Bastobayan Parishad Kazi Abdur Rashid, the function was addressed, among others, by Joint Director General of Railway and freedom fighter S K Habibullah, Syed Anwarul Hoque, PC Biswas, Mustafa-e-Jamil, Mohammad Rafiquzzaman and president of Motijheel thana Awami League Atiquzzaman.

Speaking on the occasion Saber Hossain Chowdhury called upon all to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War to build a happy and prosperous nation.

### New session of French courses begins Jan 16

The new session of French Language courses of Alliance Française de Dhaka will begin on January 16, says a press release.

Interested persons have been asked to contact the reception of Alliance Française at 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi R/A for further information.

### President greets Wangchuck

President Shahabuddin Ahmed felicitated Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuck on the occasion of National Day of Bhutan, reports UNB.

In a message, the President hoped the friendly relations between the two countries would further strengthen to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also felicitated Lympo Jigmy Thinley, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bhutan, on the occasion.

"We are confident that the existing bonds of friendship between Bhutan and Bangladesh will further strengthen in the days to come," the Prime Minister said in her message.

### Azad hosts iftar party for envoys

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday hosted an iftar party at a local hotel for Ambassadors of Muslim countries, reports BSS.

Among others Awami League presidium member Amir Hossain Anu and Abdul Jalil were present.

### Entries invited for FEJB Award'99

The Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh has decided to give FEJB Award 1999 for the best environmental report or feature and photograph, reports UNB.

There will be two awards — one for report/feature and the other for photograph. Each award will carry a cash prize of Tk 20,000, said a press release of FEJB yesterday.

Interested Bangladeshi journalists have been requested to submit their entries published in newspapers to FEJB field office at 42/1/Kha Segunbagicha by December 25. Each journalist is entitled to submit only one report/feature/photograph for the competition.

The entries must have been published between January 1, 1999 and December 16, 1999. A computer printout of the report/feature without the name of the writer should also be submitted along with the entries. The photograph should be 10" x 12" size and six copies of the same must be submitted for entry.

The chance is open to all Bangladeshi journalists and photojournalists. For any further information in this regard, all have been requested to contact the FEJB field office.

### 3 commit suicide in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two housewife and a day-labourer committed suicide in separate incidents in the city in the last two days.

The dead were identified as Samsunnahar Roni, 21, Marufa Akter, 20, and Abdur Rahman, 42.

Marufa Akter, wife of Abdur Mannan, committed suicide by taking poison in her residence at around 3 pm yesterday. Earlier, she had an altercation with her husband, according to hospital sources.

She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

On Thursday, Samsunnahar, wife of Anwar Hossain committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling at her Sabujbagh residence on Thursday at about 3 pm.

In another incident, Abdur Rahman, 42, a day-labourer committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of his Nayanagar Badda residence on Thursday.

All the bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.



Children raise their hands in unison with joy as they participate in a colourful rally in the city on Victory Day on Thursday. —Star photo

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