

What's on today . . .

NFOWD seminar: National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) will hold a seminar on disabled people. Venue: Samaj Sheba Bhaban auditorium, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9:30 am.

Discussion meet: A discussion meeting will be held by Shaheed Asad Parishad to observe Asad Day. Venue: Foet Sofia Kamal auditorium at Public Library. Time: 3:00 pm.

and tomorrow

Poush Mela: Poush mela will be held at which winter cakes, handicrafts will be put on display along with cultural programmes at a day long affair. Venue: Ramna Batamul. Time: 8:00 am-9:00 pm.

NFOWD seminar: National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled will hold a seminar on "Disaster Management and Disabled People." Venue: Samaj Sheba Bhaban auditorium, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9:30 am.

Film show: Three movies *Le beau de deable* (The devil's beauty), *Le reine Margot* (The Queen Margot) and *The video ball* will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Inauguration: The 3rd solo painting exhibition of Rafiqul Islam will be inaugurated. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 4:00 pm.

Launching ceremony: The launching ceremony of *Parisian Portraits and A Perspective in Development: Gender Focus* by Raana Haider will be held. Chief guest: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 6:00 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Dry weather will prevail over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said moderate to thick fog may occur over Rajshahi division and the river basins of the country during morning.

Mild to moderate coldwave may continue over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the region of Srimongal during the period while slight rise in night temperature is expected.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 26.6 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 07.1 degrees at Sakthira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:36 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43 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	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	23.2	13.5	71	76
Chittagong	25.0	12.2	77	70
Rajshahi	23.5	08.8	70	58
Khulna	25.5	09.8	75	63
Barisal	25.2	09.0	81	57
Sylhet	25.0	10.8	93	64
Cox's Bazar	26.6	14.0	71	62

HC rule on DU

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and Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury also ordered the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, IG of Police and some top officials of BNP to show cause why they should not take necessary action against the persons who were responsible for maintaining law and order on the campus in the small hours of January 1 and on January 11.

The court passed the order on Tuesday upon a writ petition filed by Salma Ali on behalf of the National Women Lawyers' Association.

Some miscreants assaulted a woman during New Year celebrations in the early hours of January 1 in front of the TSC of Dhaka University. Nikunja Bihari Debnath, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, was stabbed to death in the morning of January 11 on the campus.

The HC further directed the Vice Chancellor and top officials of DU to explain why they should not take appropriate action against the miscreants who are students of the university.

The petition said, "It is a protest on behalf of the people against the indifference of the law enforcing agencies.

"It is an outcry against the shabby treatment handed down to the ordinary citizens by those who are supposed to protect us and is aimed at raising the conscience of the nation," it said.

Dr M Zahir moved the petition.

Sharif: Charges

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"These allegations are fake, false and baseless and were to justify the illegal and unconstitutional act of October 12," Sharif told reporters after the hearing.

His family were in court and were allowed to meet with him afterwards.

Accusations that Sharif had waged war against Pakistan were dropped after defence lawyers complained.

Defence lawyer Khwaja Sultan told reporters the defence would try to call Musharraf as a witness in the case.

"We are going to call the Chief of Army Staff Pervez Musharraf as a witness because he is the most important witness. If the court does not permit us to call him then it is not going to be free and fair," he said.

Chief public prosecutor Raja Qureshi said there were 53 prosecution witnesses, mostly officials from the Civil Aviation Authority and the airline.

The prosecution was also providing 27 audio cassettes of recordings and two video cassettes as evidence, he said.

The length of the trial would depend on evidence from the witnesses.

The anti-terrorism courts were set up, ironically by Sharif himself, to hear cases within seven days.

"According to law, it is to be completed within seven days but that is not mandatory. But the spirit of law demands a speedy trial," Qureshi said.

Already the case has been dogged by lengthy procedural delays since it opened in November.

People will give befitting reply to conspiracy of BNP: Zillur

By Staff Correspondent

Ruling Awami League yesterday warned that the people would give appropriate reply to BNP's evil design to grab power through backdoor by conspiratorial means, reports UNB.

Without election BNP's dream of changing government through alternative way will not succeed. People will give a befitting reply to any conspiracy or sabotage by BNP and its associates," Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman said.

His sharp rebuttal came as some newspapers reported that BNP leaders at a discussion meeting on Ziaur Rahman vowed to pull down the Awami League government without election by unconstitutional means.

Zillur quoted BNP leaders as saying that coup would have to be staged since Awami League government cannot be unseated through election.

The Awami League leader and Local Government Minister said it is true that in the past Awami League government elected by the people could not be ousted by ballot.

He said as the Ayub Khan regime ousted Awami League by promulgating martial law in Pakistan and grabbed power through backdoor, so also the defeated forces of the 1971 liberation war backed by some disgruntled army officers killed Bangabandhu along with his family members in 1975 and grabbed power.

"Following his footprint, military ruler Ziaur Rahman grabbed power through backdoor, tortured the nation under military rule and floated a party called BNP to consolidate his illegal power," Zillur said in a scathing attack on their opponents.

Faithfully walking along the dotted line of Zia, he said, fallen dictator Ershad took over and formed a political party. For the last 21 years, these autocrats had ruled the country by guns killing democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

"Yes I will shoot when I find some one mugging or robbing and trying to flee," Rahman said.

Police has been advised to take sufficient precautionary measure before implementing such a decision so that innocent people are not victimised, he mentioned.

"The decision will be implemented in letter and spirit," the commissioner said.

DMP chief

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passed on Sunday during a meeting of the crime investigation wing of DMP, the new commissioner said.

Explaining further he said, "Police can apply force up to causing death of a person to ensure protection of life and property of innocent people.

"These provisions are mentioned in sections 97, 100 and 103 of Bangladesh Penal Code. These provisions were being 'sporadically applied' in different parts of the city, he said, warning that from now on the law would be rigidly applied.

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SCF submits memo to DU VC

By DU Correspondent

Samantantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University yesterday demanding "effective steps" to rid the campus of crimes.

In the memorandum the SCF leaders accused the DU authorities of failing to take "effective" steps to arrest the persons responsible for assault of a girl and killing of a joint secretary on the campus.

They urged the student community to come forward and stand against such criminal activities to save the image of the university. SCF also demanded formation of a judicial probe body to investigate the incidents.

They also demanded of the university authorities to disclose the names of the 60 listed terrorists.

Prior to submitting the memorandum, leaders and workers of the left-leaning student front brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally in front of the office of VC which was addressed by Nurul Islam, Ashraf Uddin Akash and Mahmudur Rahman Mamun.

They said that Zia had united the nation and inspired the people to join in the War of Liberation through the proclamation of independence and led the war from March 26 to April 17, 1971.

BNP organised the discussion at the Engineers' Institution to mark the 64th birth anniversary of Ziaur Rahman, President over by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury. It was addressed, among others, by BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Oli Ahmed MP, Major Gen (Retd) Subed Ali Bhuiyan, Major (Retd) Shahjahan Omar, Major (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Redwan Ahmed and Naim Jahangir.

Due to the revolutionary steps of Zia, they said, Bangladesh marched towards rapid development and self-reliance. Zia elevated the country to a dignified position in the comity of nations.

Speakers said Zia orchestrated concept of seven-nation SAARC and played a key role in halting the Iran-Iraq war, and in OIC. They recalled the contribution of Zia in restoring multi-party democracy, building friendly relations with the Islamic world, consolidating hard-earned national independence and sovereignty and his role in regional and global peace moves.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said Ziaur Rahman, "was not afraid or a coward... rather, he was an absolute patriot."

Criticising the Awami League

Shaheed Asad Day will be observed in the city and different parts of the country today.

On this day in 1969, Asaduzaman, a student of Dhaka University, leader of the then East Pakistan Chhatra Union, was killed when police opened fire on a procession in front of Dhaka Medical College during the mass upsurge.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The programmes include placing of wreaths at the Asad Memorial Plaque in the city and his grave at Shibpur in Narayanganj, discus: on meetings and milad mahfil.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan along with others leaders will offer feteha and place wreaths at the grave of Asad at Shibpur. A discussion meeting will be held at 3:30 pm at National Press Club to mark the day, said a BNP press release.

Shaheed Asad Parishad has also taken up various programmes to mark the day.

RU reopens today

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 19: Rajshahi University (RU) reopens tomorrow after a 16-day vacation for Eid-ul-Fitr.

The administrative offices and offices of different halls re-opened on January 16.

Meanwhile, the admission tests for first year honours classes will be held from February 1 to 15.

Over 197741 application forms have been sold against 3000 seats in 39 departments under six faculties.

FBCCI: Crisis deepens

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ber of Industry. "We thought the conference would be an occasion when businessmen will speak and politicians will listen to their problems," the BCI acting president said.

"But we were not even consulted and we don't think that our purpose will be served through this conference. We only received an invitation from FBCCI to attend the programme which will speak before the business community along with (FBCCI president) Abdul Awal Minto and some other senior ministers.

"So it is going to be an occasion when politicians will speak and businessmen will listen. Whereas it should have been other way round," Azad said.

"Nothing is clear to us regarding the agenda of the whole conference," Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President Aftab ul Islam said.

If it was a grand conference of the business community then concerned business leaders should have been consulted to express their views, said Latifur



BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia along with other leaders placing wreath at the mazar of late president Ziaur Rahman yesterday on the occasion of his 64th birth anniversary. —Star photo

Contribution of Zia recalled

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion yesterday recalled contributions of late president Ziaur Rahman and said this valiant freedom fighter had introduced Bangladesh in the world community through his tireless efforts.

Describing the present government as an evil one, he said the liberty and independence of the country were being endangered by it.

Mannan Bhuiyan said the spirit of liberation was destroyed by Awami League by introducing the one-party BAKSAL system after independence.

Recalling the Liberation War, Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed said the people had not heard Sheikh Mujibur Rahman make any declaration of independence although it was being propagated that it was he who had proclaimed independence.

Oli, a renowned freedom fighter categorically said Ziaur Rahman proclaimed the independence on March 27 as a provisional head of the state.

The name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was included in the declaration on the following day when a journalist suggested to do so in view more public support in favour or independence, he claimed.

On the current political impasse, Oli said the BNP was ready to hold dialogue with the government to resolve the crisis, but the AL Government had betrayed the main opposition as it was yet to implement the 4-point agreement signed twice in parliament.

"There cannot be any dialogue with betrayers. AL not only betrayed BNP but also the nation through signing various treaties and agreements against the interest of the country, he added.

Subed Ali Bhuiyan said Shaheed Zia proclaimed the independence ignoring all fears and future consequences. He said

the leaders included Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Oli Ahmed, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddique.

Wreaths were then placed by Juba Dal, Chhatra Dal, Krishak Dal, Sramik Dal, city BNP, Zia Shishu Kishore Organisation, Jasas, Zia-Khaleel Research Council, Mohila Dal, Ulema Dal, Secchashabek Dal, Zia Parishad, Zia Nagorik Forum, Deshnetri Parishad, Zia Smrity Sangsad, Zia Sangskritik Sangathan, Zia Forum and various other organisations.

After offering of feteha, Khaleda and others attended a milad mahfil on the mazar premises, organised by Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal.

She also inaugurated two blood donation programmes at the same venue, arranged by Zia Sangskritik Sangathan, Mukti-jodda Dal, Doctors Association of Bangladesh and Zia Nagorik Forum.

The bodies will later be taken to Nabinagar, Brahmanbaria, for burial at the family graveyard at Ibrahimpur (Mian Bari).

Kabir and Taslima had gone to New York to live with their daughter Lutfia Ahmed during her winter vacation.

Tributes to Zia

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Bangladeshi couple burnt alive in NY, bodies arrive today

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A Bangladeshi couple was burnt alive and their daughter injured when a fire broke out in their apartment in New York on January 14, reports BSS.

Kabir Ahmed Hasan, 49, and Taslima Ahmed Rebel, 41, and their daughter Lutfia Ahmed were sleeping in their rented basement apartment in Long Island when the fire started at around 1:30 am. Lutfia, a brilliant student of City University, is now fighting for her life in hospital, according to family sources.

The bodies will arrive in Dhaka by a Bangladesh Biman flight this morning.

The first namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Banoshree Mosque, near Ideal School at Rampura at 10 am today and the second one at 32/1, Bhabahari Saha Street near Wari Community Centre at 11 am.

The bodies will later be taken to Nabinagar, Brahmanbaria, for burial at the family graveyard at Ibrahimpur (Mian Bari).

Kabir and Taslima had gone to New York to live with their daughter Lutfia Ahmed during her winter vacation.

Govt bowed

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the recent government role in the incident at Shahjalal university.

The speakers criticised the liaison of the opposition with the anti-liberation communal forces in the current anti-government movement.

They said the government should not compromise with the anti-liberation forces on any issue because if it does so, then the anti-liberation, communal forces will be the only beneficiary.

Poet Shamsur Rahman said the anti-liberation forces have to be defeated and a new society has to be built.

A rally condemning communalism and fanaticism was also brought out from TSC prior to the discussion meeting.

Kabir Chowdhury and Shamsur Rahman inaugurated the committee's mass signature collection campaign seeking implementation of Shahjalal University Syndicate's decision to name the student dormitories after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Satyen Bose, Dr Kuddrat-e-Khuda, poet Hasnain and Jahanara Imam.

Later, a cultural programme was held.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the executive committee of Nirmul Committee was held with Syed Hasan Imam in the chair, said a press release last night.

The meeting urged all to make the countrywide agitation rally on January 22 a success. The agitation rally in Dhaka will be held at the central Shahid Minar at 3 pm, it added.

IEC materials on reproductive health compiled

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A catalogue of IEC materials on Reproductive Health in Bangladesh has been published by Voluntary Health Services Society with assistance of UNFPA, says a press release.

The catalogue is a compilation of audio, audio-visual and printed materials. It is a quick reference guide to health professionals, organisations, service providers, researchers and individuals.

The handling over ceremony took place on Monday at the UNFPA office.

Bar Council team calls on Shahabuddin

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A 15-member delegation of the Bangladesh Bar Council made a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed in Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Barrister Amir-ul Islam, Vice-Chairman of the Bar Council, led the delegation.

The members of the delegation apprised the president of the successful training programme of lawyers and development of Legal Education Training Institute (LETI). They also apprised the president of the need for training of investigation public prosecutors and judges and magistrates.

The Bar Council felt the need for developing the Legal Education Training Institute into a centre of excellence.

They said that the institute needs its own premises, which can be built on the vacant space adjacent to the bar council building.

The delegation reminded the president that the land was earmarked by him when he was chief justice of Bangladesh.

Barrister Amir-ul Islam presented some publications of the Bar Council and LETI to the president.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed expressed his keen interest in LETI having its own premises as was earmarked by him eight years ago. The president suggested that the delegation should process the same to the authorities.

The members of the delegation included S S Halder, Abdul Basit Mojumder, Syed Rezaur Rahman, Golam Arif (Pp), Syed Akmal, Sirajul Islam Khan, Saifiq Ahmed, Mohammad Ozaier Farooq, Abul Kalam Azad, Mohammad Abdus Salam Talukder and Tobarak Hossain.

Redwan Ahmed said Sheikh Mujib didn't give any directions prior to surrender to the Pak army, Bangalee jawans, BDR and police personnel would not have been killed if there had been any instructions from him.

He said it was Ziaur Rahman, who proclaimed the independence and called for an all-out war against the Pakistani occupation forces. He said Zia led the war from March 26 to until the formation of the Mujibnagar government on April 17, 1971.

Major (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed said that he went to Calcutta for two days during the Liberation War and was astonished to hear something from Awami League leaders.

He said that AL leaders in Calcutta asked him as to why the war had been started, because they (AL) had completed other arrangements with the Pak ruler. He asked all to read a press release signed by Dr Kamal that had appeared in papers on March 25, 1971.

The release stated that the dialogue with President Yahya was satisfactory, he informed.

Ctg Chamber

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tar Hossain, general secretary of the Federation of Chittagong Shop Owners Association Salamat Ali, Chittagong Port Marine Contractors Association president Abdul Khaleque Chowdhury, Mimi Super Market Businessmen Association president Abul Kalam Khan, Bazar Businessmen Association vice president Kairul Islam, Bijani Bitan Businessmen Welfare Association general secretary Aktar Hossain, Rezauddin Bazar Businessmen Welfare Association general secretary Md Jahangir Khan, Jewellery Shop Owners Association president Shafiq Ahmed and others.

The speakers expressed their concern at terrorism in the port city's business centres and industrial belts.

MCCI supports

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without any obstacle, as it is very important in enhancing exports.

Jall told the business leaders that the government would take steps to protect the interest of domestic industries, including tariff rationalisation, and enhance internal trade and investment.

"All concerned, including chamber leaders, will be consulted for their advice in this regard," the new Commerce Minister said.

Commerce Secretary Golam Rahman and the secretary general and members of the executive committee of MCCI were present at the meeting.

Puja Committee programme Feb 18

By Staff Correspondent

The Puja Committee has shifted the date of 'City Family Day' to February 18, says a press release.

The programme was scheduled for tomorrow, but the date has been shifted due to unavoidable circumstances.

The programme will be held at Dhakeshawri Temple from 10 am.

Hannan humbles

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change. Hannan took five wickets with his gentle medium pacers as Namibia, opting to bat first, were skittled out for a meagre 57 in 28.3 overs.

The Bangladesh captain, better known for his batting exploits, made the early in-roads with his innocuous wicket-to-wicket bowling. Hannan, the unlikely wrecker-in-chief, finished with fantastic figures of 10-4