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Wishing the
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**Sufia Kamal's
first death
anniversary
today**

The first death anniversary of poet Begum Sufia Kamal will be observed across the country today, reports UNB.

Different socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes on the occasion.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message yesterday paid rich tribute to the poet saying, the nation would never forget her contributions to the society.

"She created social awareness

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Inside Today

Article

**The
Palestinians:
Back to
Intifada?**

Column: Perspectives
By Brig (Rtd) M Abdul
Hafiz
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Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 20	5.11 pm
Nov 21	6-17 am

Prayer Timings		
November 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-18	5-23
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Raise women's reserved seats, allow direct polls

Speakers at a convention in city demand

By Staff Correspondent

Women's rights activists, NGO representatives and leaders of some political parties gathered at a convention in the city yesterday to press a four-point demand including raising women's reserved seats in parliament to 64 and direct election to those.

The Civil Society Movement for Women's Empowerment organised the convention on 'Political Empowerment of Women', held at the Engineers' Institution. The two other demands are raising the tenure of women's reserved seats to minimum 15 years and nomination to women candidates by political parties for 10 per cent of the other seats.

The participants demanded fulfillment of the 4-point demand before the present provision for 30 reserved JS seats expires and threatened of a movement for non-compliance.

Eminent lawyer and Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, economist Prof. Rehman Sobhan and JSD General Secretary Hasanul Haq Inu expressed their solidarity with the demands and suggested them to create pressure on the ruling Awami League and main opposition party BNP to realise their demands.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan

and Home Minister Mohammad Nasim were scheduled to attend the convention but they did not turn up.

Senior AL leader and Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta who attended the convention at the faceted a volley of questions from the participants. He said AL wants political empowerment of women but avoided a direct reply to a question whether the government would place a new bill in the Jatiya Sangsad to fulfil their demands.

He argued that two-thirds majority in parliament is required to change the provision. The AL government will definitely fulfil the demands if the party gets two-thirds majority, he said.

He blamed BNP for not attending the JS session to protect women's rights and urged the women's rights activists to create pressure on the party to realise their demands.

BNP lawmakers did not attend the meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee which discussed the bill on women's reserved seats, he alleged. But they attended meetings of other JS bodies, he claimed.

At this stage, Rehman Sobhan agreed to create

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**Ershad will
surrender
in court
today**

Deposed President H M Ershad will surrender today to the trial court that convicted him, reports UNB.

His party sources told the agency that Ershad would start from his residence at 8.30am for the district judge's court.

Jatiya Party has a plan to mobilise its leaders and workers in areas around the court compound when their leader faces the ordeal, according to the sources.

The Supreme Court recently ordered him to surrender by November 21 before the lower court after the High Court had upheld the trial court's judgement.

The Article reads, "... the validity of the proceedings in parliament shall not be questioned in any court."

**'Court cannot summon
JS proceedings'**

*Nasim under fire for 'backing out'
of his position on HC*

By Staff Correspondent

Two opposition lawmakers told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday the court cannot ask for any proceedings of parliament as per the Constitution and the parliament's Rules of Procedure.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, who chaired the session, also shared the view and said parliament would not run keeping aside the two law books.

During an unscheduled discussion in the House, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim came under heavy criticism for "backing out" of his position on the High Court on Wednesday.

The Constitution has guaranteed us the right to speak freely in parliament, and the court cannot raise any question ... the court has no right to summon the House proceedings," BNP's expelled MP Major (retd) Akhteruzzaman said, quoting Article 78 (1) of the Constitution.

The Article reads, "... the validity of the proceedings in parliament shall not be questioned in any court."

Jatiya Party legislator Fazle Rabbi told the House that the parliament

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Profile of an FBCCI leader

The more-loans & more-default expert

Star Report

Although he is reported to have spent a fortune to become the FBCCI vice president, Mohammad Ali does not repay his bank loans.

According to the latest Credit Information Bureau (CIB) report,

against him are pending with the courts.

"If this is the character of our leader, then how can he lead the business community?" asked a former FBCCI executive committee member when these facts were given to him. FBCCI is already identified as a defaulters' club working with the prime objective of protecting the wilful defaulters. We should have tried to unshackle ourselves from this stigma through the new election. Instead we now have a leader who has no moral or ethical right to be one."

Ali tops Sonali Bank's list of defaulters, with a Tk 49.95 crore loan against Dhaka Vegetable Oil Industries having gone bad.

He has another vegetable refinery called AB Vegetable Oil Industries. This company is no better with nearly Tk 49 crore in defaulted loans. AB Vegetable owes Tk 5.52 to IFIC Bank and Tk 43.13 to Al-Baraka Bank. Despite several attempts by the banks, these loans have remained unrealised for a long time.

Trading is considered a profitable venture in the country. Ali

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Mystery over

**Flora finally
recognises
her father**

By Staff Correspondent

The mystery of Flora was finally over yesterday as she emotionally broke down during a two-hour grilling by the investigators, revealing her identity and recognising her father.

Flora's real name is Khairunnissa Bhutan Shuroi and she hails from village Pushkurnirpar under Muradnagar thana of Brahmanbaria. She was a student of Chapitala Ozifa Khatun High School.

As her elderly father Abdus Salam Bhuiyan approached Khairunnissa at around 11:45 a.m., she quickly rejected him. "I do not know this man, he has mental problem. I want my papa."

A sobbing Salam tried in vain to convince his daughter. An unmoved Khairunnissa clung to her original story of being abandoned by her 'papa' at the Zia International Airport on October 23 was untrue.



Taming of a truant daughter... Abdus Salam Bhuiyan (left) implores his daughter Khairunnissa alias Flora at the Godnai Vagrant Centre yesterday to return home. After two and a half hours of persuasion by her father, officials of the centre and journalists, Khairunnissa broke down in tears and admitted that her story of being abandoned by her 'papa' at the Zia International Airport on October 23 was untrue.

-Star photo

**Death Ref Bench
won't proceed
further after
Nasim's denial**

The High Court bench which asked for parliamentary proceedings to check whether Home Minister's reported comment on Bangabandhu Murder Case was derogatory preferred not to proceed further following the minister's denial, reports UNB.

"We have seen and we don't want to proceed further," said the presiding judge of the bench, Justice Ruhul Amin, as Deputy Attorney General Shamsuddin Chowdhury stood up in the court yesterday with a newspaper in hand.

The newspaper report said Home Minister Nasim's subsequent statement that he had not commented on the sensational case.

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Bahauddin's bail

**SC declines to
hear stay
petition**

By Special Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday declined to hear a provisional stay petition filed by the state against anticipatory bail granted to Editor of the Inqilab AMM Bahauddin by the High Court.

The Appellate Division advised the State lawyer to file regular petition for leave to appeal against the High Court bail orders given Tuesday night.

Bahauddin, facing sedition charges for publishing a parody of the national anthem in his newspaper, was granted anticipatory bail.

Government leaders including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and some eminent lawyers sharply criticised the late night order by a Division Bench of the HC after a judge of another Division Bench felt embarrassed to hear the bail petition.

Bahauddin, who surrendered before the court took shelter in the chamber of one of his lawyers at the Supreme Court Bar Association building with plainclothes police maintaining vigilance

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**Land Comission decision
on CHT lands final**
Parliament to pass bill in this regard

By Special Correspondent

Any decision of the Chairman of Land Commission in Chittagong Hill Tracts on land issue will be

A bill in this regard will be passed in the Jatiya Sangsad during its current session, Minister for CHT Affairs Kalparajan Chakma told The Daily Star on Saturday.

The Land Commission will start working as soon as the bill is passed. This will help expedite implementation of the CHT peace agreement which provides that the Chairman's decision is final on land issue", the minister said prior to his departure for China and Vietnam.

The CHT Affairs Minister will be visiting the two countries at the invitation of their respective governments. Bir Bahadur, MP, Chairman of the CHT

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20th BCS examination

**PSC influenced by
ruling party?**

Star Report

An analysis of the results of BCS examination leaves little doubt that the Public Service Commission (PSC) has been influenced by the ruling Awami League to recommend appointment of 416 candidates in various posts, instead of 166 as advertised in national dailies, through the 20th BCS examination.

Some 15 Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders and activists of Zahirul Huq Hall of Dhaka University got appointed in police cadre on the basis of the 20th BCS examination, results of which were announced early this month, official sources said.

Two leaders of BCL Rokeya Hall unit got appointed in police cadre, a former BCL leader of the same unit in Education cadre and a leader of F Rahman Hall unit in police cadre not by virtue of merit but by obtaining high score in viva voce examination due to their party affiliation.

Some of these candidates scored more than 180 out of 200 marks in viva voce, unprecedented in the history of PSC and not compatible with their written examination marks, the sources said.

The academic background of all these students proves the partisanship in the selection process.

Appointment of partisan members in the PSC and quota system had created enormous scope for appointment of party cadres on the basis of the 20th BCS