

## People's Health Assembly from December 4

By Staff Correspondent

People's Health Assembly (PHA) 2000, a global initiative for people's right to healthcare, will be held in Savar from December 4 to 8.

Over 1000 participants including Nobel laureates, researchers, doctors, social workers and health activists from South Asia, Americas, Africa and Europe will take part in the Assembly to draft People's Charter for Health.

Ganashasthya Kendra will host the assembly while eight other international organisations including Asian Community Health Action, Consumer International, DHF, Health Action International, International Peoples Health Council, Third World Network and Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights will function as worldwide networking organisations.

To make the event a success, the final preparatory meeting for the Assembly was held in the city yesterday.

Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury attended the meeting as chief guest while Bangladesh Representative of Save the Children Australia Sultan Mahmud presided.

Dr. Lalla Parveen Banu

## Strengthen local bodies

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policymaking, he said. The number of MPs capable of running the country or formulating laws will not be more than 30 out of the total 330."

AKM Jahangir said the MPs do not read the bill, and even the revised bill, before passing it as law. They just say 'Yes' if they're in the treasury bench or 'No' if in opposition.

Jatiya Party lawmaker GM Quader said the MPs cannot help in policymaking or formulation of law as the bills are passed through voice vote. "So, the question of participation do not arise."

He said the MPs do not have any role in the parliamentary standing committee because, he alleged, their recommendations or proposals are thrown into the waste paper basket. "No government yet has taken the suggestions or recommendations of the standing committee members," he said.

Supporting Quader's senti-

ment, Nurul Amin Talukder MP said there is no scope for the opposition MPs to take part in the policymaking and formulation of law.

The MPs are busy looking after problems of the people; so, if we can strengthen the local government, the MPs will be able to contribute to the lawmaking process," he added.

A summary paper on civil society and good governance was prepared in the workshop by Prof Salauddin M Aminuzzaman of Public Administration Department of Dhaka University.

Proposals for media access to the standing committee meeting and ensuring realistic women empowerment in local government bodies also came up for discussion.

UP chairmen and members, students, intellectuals, bureaucrats, journalists and NGO workers took part in the day-long workshop.

## Petition against Jugantor editor rejected

By Court Correspondent

A Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka yesterday rejected a petition against five people including the editor and publisher of the Daily Jugantor on charge of sedition for publishing the text of a parody of the national anthem in its magazine on April 23 as there was no sanction from the government.

Opposition leader Khaleda Zia

accused Golam Sarwar, the editor, Salma Islam, the publisher, and three others Rabi Chowdhury, Giasuddin Riman and Ripon committed sedition under section 124A of the Bangladesh Penal Code.

The complaint also said that by publishing the parody the paper wanted to create hatred and public anger against the government which is an offence under Section 124 (A) and 34.

After hearing, the court rejected the petition without taking cognizance as there was no sanction from the government.

He said all the army officers who were convicted by the lower court certainly had complicity in the Bangabandhu killing under section 34 of Bangladesh Penal Code.

Party sources said the city BNP

would announce Ramzan as the "organisational month" to gear up its organisational activities by forming committees in every ward of the city.

Formation of polling centre-based unit committees is the first attempt made by BNP, Salam said adding, "Such step has been taken to check vote rigging by the ruling party in the next elections."

He said BNP central leaders will attend workers' meeting in each ward during Ramzan and a list in this regard has already been finalised.

But it could not precisely said the next status of the depression immediately.

It was moving at a speed of 10 to 15 km per hour with a core speed of 40 kmph rising up to 50 kmph in gust/squalls. The Bay will remain moderate.

All fishing boats in the north Bay and deep sea have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution, the centre added.

Death toll 48

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Meanwhile, a five-member inquiry committee headed by additional district magistrate Nazrul Islam was formed yesterday.

A regular case was filed with Shibpur Thana in connection with the incident yesterday.

Barak

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Also, Israeli cabinet minister Amnon Lipkin-Shahak held a secret meeting Saturday night in the Gaza Strip with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Karanfani described the meeting as "very important" but would not give any further details.

Barak today dispatched his security adviser Dany Yatom to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo in a bid to halt a deterioration in relations. Egypt recalled its ambassador to Israel last week, part of an Egyptian protest against Israel's role in the violence with the Palestinians.

When the army took power, its chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf, promised to weed out the corrupt from politics and business in Pakistan.

Musharraf also has promised to hold general elections to return democracy to Pakistan by the end of 2002, in keeping with an order from Pakistan's Supreme Court.

Sharif

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London and the United Arab Emirates.

Hussein and several other leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League have dismissed Sharif as their leader, while Sharif's wife Kulsoom is trying to rally those still loyal to her husband.

From his jail cell, Sharif has urged his party to accept his wife as a temporary leader.

Meanwhile, the military government is forging ahead with its accountability process, which has resulted in the disqualification of several political parties.

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Also, Barak said that any move toward new elections would be an act of "national irresponsibility."

They should be hanged till



Battalion Ansars who were sacked in 1994 marching towards the PM's Office yesterday to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister. In the memorandum, they demanded their reinstatement.

—Star photo

## Bangabandhu murder

## SPP submits evidences to prove authenticity of videotapes

The prosecution in Bangabandhu murder case yesterday submitted evidences to prove the authenticity of three videocassettes taping Farooq and Rashid's loud confession as the killers of the leader, reports UNB.

Making submission in the death reference hearings of the case the government side said the cassettes contain the two colonel's statement in an interview with Granada television in London after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The prosecution lawyers collected three copies of the cassette from different sources and yesterday special PP Advocate Serajul Huq submitted the relevant evidences to prove the authenticity of the taped confessions.

Dialogue in the cassette also proved that they were very much involved in the killing of Bangabandhu, Advocate Serajul Huq pleaded before the court.

The death-reference bench comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Huq will continue hearing today on the question of confirming the death sentences against 15 former army officers.

## Khaleda asks city leaders

## Form polling centre-based party unit in each ward

"We also have plans to hold conferences in wards where necessary."

He said ward committees would be given the responsibility to constitute polling centre-based unit committees during the period.

There are 100 wards in the city and according to BNP there are 6 to 12 polling centers in every ward.

Formation of polling centre-based unit committees is the first attempt made by BNP, Salam said adding, "Such step has been taken to check vote rigging by the ruling party in the next elections."

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## Mummy murder case

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that stage.

The prosecution alleged that Ripon, his mother and sister had often tortured Mummy, as evident from her personal diary. She came from a wealthy family. But Ripon, who holds a master's degree, is from a lower middle class family and did a minor job. His mother and sister often tortured his wife and finally provoked him to strangle her with a scarf, after beating her severely. Her body bore marks of injury that negated the claim that she had committed suicide.

In his judgement, the Judge dismissed the defendants' claim of innocence and observed that the body was found on the bed, not hanging from a ceiling with the scarf seen near the body. The only eye witness, eight-year-old domestic help Reshma, said it was a case of killing. She is innocent and above all sorts of greed because she is too young girl, so her testimony was clear, the judge noted.

The autopsy report also said that the housewife was murdered and the husband also confessed killing her. Although he wanted to withdraw it very late, that was inadmissible, the judge pointed out.

Judging all the depositions of the witnesses, the on-the-spot investigation report, autopsy report and other circumstantial evidence, it is proved beyond doubt that the mother-in-law instigated husband Ripon to kill Mummy by suffocating her. They not only killed her but also murdered the baby in her womb for six months, the judge said.

Bodo militants kill 8 in Assam

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: Eight woodcutters belonging to the Bodo and Santhal communities have been shot dead by the banned National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) militants in lower Assam's Kokrajhar district, police said today, reports PTI.

The mine was planted by Myanmarese Border Forces (NSAKA) near the 42nd pillar at Naikhangchhari on Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

BDR 23rd battalion lodged a strong protest with their Myanmarese counterpart and urged the local people not to go to the 'zero point.'

BDR personnel recovered the body of the victim, Abdul Halim.

## Assault on DC

## Employees of Ctg district admin to observe token strike today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 26: The employees of Chittagong district administration will observe two-hour work abstention from 9 am tomorrow protesting the assault on the Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong allegedly by SSF.

They will also wear black bache during their protest programme. The decision was taken at a meeting of the employees of Chittagong district administration, held at Chittagong Circuit House at 1 pm today, meeting sources said.

The programmes will also be observed in the 14 upazila offices, sources added.

The meeting has threatened to launch greater movement if no action is taken against SSF members responsible for the incident.

## Germany to intensify dev cooperation with Bangladesh

Germany will enhance and intensify its development cooperation with Bangladesh under its new development policy concept, said a press release of the German Embassy here yesterday.

It said Bangladesh has been placed among a group of around 38 "focal partner nations" and German government is keen to further strengthen bilateral development cooperation with the group.

The cooperation will be extended by concentrating future projects possibly on three priority areas and by making use of the entire instruments of cooperation.

Each of the "focal partner nations" will have a country concept and a development strategy paper which are intended to serve as a basis for promoting the dialogue with the cooperation partners and for coordinating with other donor nations.

The new development policy concept also provides for a list of around 32 "partner nations" which will have possibly one priority area of cooperation and selected use of various cooperation instruments such as the financial assistance, technical assistance, scholarship programmes and the stationing of German development experts.

Around 14 of those nations, which include Myanmar, Iran, Syria, the Sudan, Angola and Haiti have been listed as "potential partner nations."

The Prime Minister's directive came following one of the country's worst fire accidents that took 41 lives in a garment factory at Shibpur in Narsingdi district Saturday night.

In a condolence message, the Prime Minister expressed her profound shock at the loss of lives in the fire and urged all industrial entrepreneurs to ensure the safety of life of their staff and provide proper compensation to the victims.

Sheikh Hasina prayed for salvation of the departed souls and early recovery of the injured. She also conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.

The fatal fire incident took place at Chowdhury Knitwear and Garments in Kararchar BSCIC area of Shibpur in Narsingdi district following an electric short-circuit Saturday night.

In 1991, the provisions of parliamentary democracy were reincorporated in the constitution following the United Movement of the people, he said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the Industries Ministry and authorities concerned to properly supervise safety measures for industrial workers-employees at work, reports UNB.

She also instructed punitive action as per rules against those responsible for negligence of ensuring workers' safety.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in her message, called upon all to work together for materialising the dreams of Shaheed Dr Milon and all other martyrs of democratic movement.

The sacrifice of Dr Milon, who devoted his life for democracy, free thinking and patriotism, will never be faded in our spirit, she said.

The killing of Dr Milon, who played leading role against the autocratic regime of Ershad, turned the student-peasant movement into a mass upsurge which ousted the autocratic Ershad within six days.

Various political and socio-cultural organisations including Shaheed Dr Milon Sangsads have chalked out programmes to observe the day.

Tapan, a Chhatri League activist, was gunned down and another seriously injured near a Judo League office at TB Gate in the city's Mohakhali area late Friday night.

They were produced in the CMM's court at about 4.30 pm.

Gulshan police prayed for seven days' remand, but the court after hearing both sides granted three-day.

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