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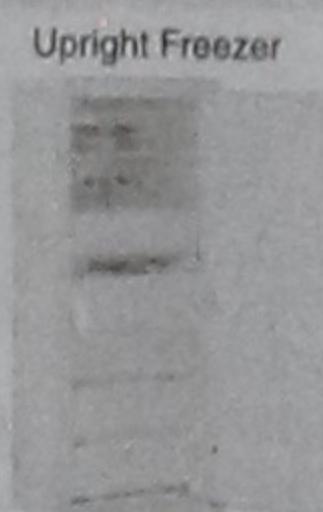
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Anniversary of Suhrawardy's death today

By Staff Correspondent

The 37th death anniversary of Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy will be observed across the country today.

Various socio-cultural and political organisations have drawn up elaborate programme to mark the day.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have given separate

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JS body discusses trial of officers allegedly involved in '77 mutiny

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Defence at a meeting yesterday discussed matters relating to the trial of Army and Air Force officers who were allegedly involved in a mutiny on October 2, 1977, an official handout said, reports BSS.

The meeting, held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, also discussed in detail the measures undertaken for the welfare of the family members of the victim army officers who were killed along with Bangabandhu on the night of August 15, 1975 and November 7 of the same year and afterwards.

Committee Chairman Major General (retd) K M Shafullah (Bir Uttam) chaired the meeting which was attended by committee members Colonel (retd) Shawkat Ali, Mohammad Faruq Khan, Golam Mohammad Qader and Major (retd) Mohammad Akhteruzzaman.

Defence Secretary M Idris Ali, Chief of the Army Staff Lt General Mustafizur Rahman, Navy Chief Rear Admiral Abu Taher, Air Force Chief Air Vice Marshal Md. Akhmed Uddin Ahmed and officials concerned were present.

Narsingdi fire victims to get compensation on Dec 12

NARSINGDI, Dec 4: A meeting between Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce Ministry, BGMEA, and local political leaders today decided that the victims of the recent devastating fire at Chowdhury Knitwear Ltd here would be compensated on December 12, reports BSS.

The meeting chaired by Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil decided that the owner of the knitwear would pay Tk one lakh to the families of each of the 39 workers died in the fire and Tk 5,000 to each of the injured.

Besides, the management of the factory would pay the regular wages to the injured workers for their treatment and pay the outstanding wages to all factory workers.

Under the agreement, the owners of the knitwear unit would hand over the compensation in the presence of Science and Technology Minister Mohammad Nooruddin Khan here.

42 miscreants surrender with arms at Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 4: Forty-two miscreants of sader and Kamarkhan thanas of the district today formally surrendered with arms to Home Minister Mohammad Nasim at a public rally here.

Presided over by the Police Super of the district S M Mustafizur Rahman, the rally was addressed, among others, by Abdul Latif Mirza MP, Abdul Latif Biswas, DIG of Police for Rajshahi range Sirajul Islam, local Awami League leader Abu Yousuf Surju, Bimal Kumar Das, Hajli Ishaq Ali, local Union Parishad Chairman Namdar Ali and Amjad Ali.

The miscreants surrendered 30 firearms led by Amzad Hossain and Helal Uddin of Bagbali under Kamarkhan Upazila. The surrendered miscreants were wanted in different murder cases including Saidabad UP chairman Belal Hossain, UP chairman Sahajan Ali and Moyazzam Hossain.

Supreme Court gives Bush temporary victory

WASHINGTON, Dec 4: In at least a temporary victory for Republican George W Bush, the US Supreme Court today set aside a ruling that extended the deadline for hand-counted Florida ballots that Democrat Al Gore needs to win the White House, reports Reuters.

The nation's high court, in a unanimous 7-page opinion, said it was unclear about certain key points of the Florida Supreme Court ruling at issue and sent the case back to the state high court for further proceedings.

The Florida Supreme Court ruling, opposed by Bush and supported by Gore, extended the deadline for certifying the election results by 12 days until Nov 26 so hand-counted votes could be included in the final tally.

Under the Florida Supreme Court ruling, Texas Gov Bush was certified the state's victor by 537 votes out of 6 million cast. Bush wanted reinstated the 930-vote lead over the vice president under the original Nov 14 deadline.

Gore has contested the final results in cases now pending in Florida that are not directly affected by US Supreme Court ruling.

Earlier, AP said: With the calendar closing in, the recount Vice President Al Gore believes would reverse Texas Gov George W Bush's minuscule margin in Florida and send him to the White House instead is up to a folksy but firm Tallahassee judge, with an appeal certain whatever his verdict.

In the marbled splendour of the US Supreme Court, a decision is pending on Bush's appeal

against the recount extension that delayed but did not stop his certification as the Florida winner by 537 votes, the fragment that would make him the 43rd president.

Should that be the outcome, Gore said, and should it be Bush, not he, who is inaugurated on Jan 20, "he will be sworn in as my president, too."

But that will be only "at the end of the day, when all processes have taken place," Gore said in an interview on CBS television's "60 Minutes" news magazine Sunday night.

As that was broadcast, one of the processes was unfolding in closing arguments on the new recount case, to Leon County Circuit Judge N Sanders Sauls.

"Whatever happens, both sides know this is going to end up in the Florida Supreme Court," Gore said. "It's not a recount. We want a first count."

But it would be a recount, by hand, of ballots already tallied by machine in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties. That would cover about 14,000 disputed ballots.

Republicans contend that Florida already has had a count and two recounts, and that the Bush win certified by the Republican secretary of state should stand. Katherine Harris announced that certification on Nov 26, the deadline set by the Florida Supreme Court when it ruled for Gore on an earlier appeal and extended the deadline to permit more time for recounting before the official figures were sent to the secretary of state.

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NCTB yet to take action against three printers

By Staff Correspondent

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has not yet taken any decision about three concerns of Beximco Group which failed to complete printing of 8,12 core textbooks within the stipulated time.

Sources concerned said organisations representing the country's printing industry tried to draw attention of the NCTB in this regard and even wrote to the Prime Minister but no action has been taken so far.

The NCTB had awarded the job of printing such a huge number of textbooks to only three Beximco concerns Suktara, Free Press and Pustaka- which allegedly had no trade licence when those participated in the bidding, leaders of the Coordination Committee of Prokashana, Mudran and Bipinon Samity alleged at a press conference of Prokashana, Mudran and Bipinon Samity alleged at a press conference yesterday.

Pustaka was awarded the job in violation of rules and regulation of the NCTB only on the ground that it had quoted the lowest price, they said.

According to the terms and conditions of the tender document, Pustaka did not qualify for the bidding as it had quoted prices of only 20 books out of the 40, they alleged.

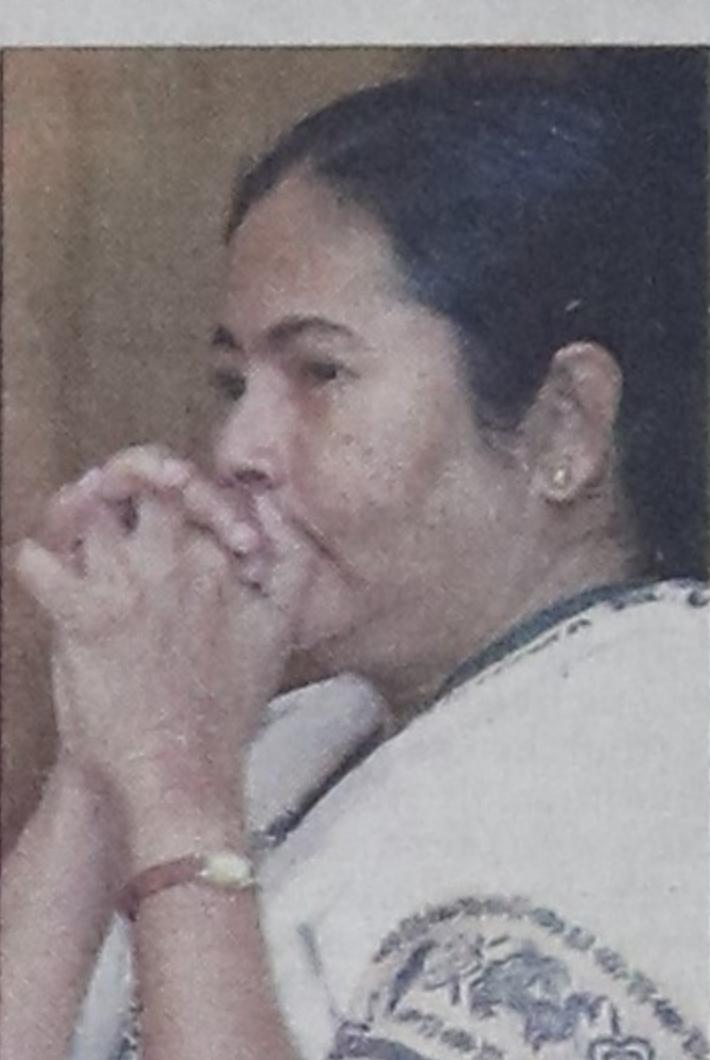
On the other hand, members of the Prokashana, Mudran and Bipinon Samity quoted prices for all the 40 books, its leaders claimed.

The Board is yet to take any fresh decision regarding those who have been given work order as it wants to ensure availability of books in time, NCTB Chairman Kapan Kanti Chowdhury told The Daily Star last night.

Meanwhile, in a clarification, NCTB said the lowest bidder was awarded the job as the previous practice was not acceptable to the donors.

The procedure was defective and against free competition," the clarification signed by a Member of the Board said.

The government had approved printing of textbooks with its own resources through open tender for local printers in June this year.



Delhi declines to accept Mamata's resignation

NEW DELHI, Dec 4: Indian Railway Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee today tendered her resignation owing moral responsibility for Saturday's train disaster in Punjab in which 43 people were killed and many others injured, reports BSS.

However, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declined to accept the resignation of the railway minister and asked Ms. Banerjee to continue in her office, reports said quoting highly placed sources.

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Opposition to demonstrate today

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance will stage countrywide demonstrations today protesting price hike of essentials, deterioration of law and order and electricity-water gas crisis.

As part of the programme, the BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote along with some rightwing smaller parties will jointly organise rallies and bring out processions in all cities and at district and thana headquarters.

In Dhaka, the alliance will hold a rally at Muktangan at 3 pm which will be followed by a procession. The Dhaka City unit of All-Party Action Council (APAC) will organise the rally.

Secretaries general and presidents and general secretaries of the city unit of four opposition parties will address the rally while city BNP President and APAC convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP will preside.

Meanwhile, leaders of the four opposition parties in separate press statement yesterday called upon the opposition leaders and activists as well as the countrymen to join the demonstration programme protesting price hike of essentials in the month of Ramadan, deterioration of law and order and electricity-water gas crisis.

BNP's V-Day programme

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has chalked up a nine-day programme to celebrate the Victory Day this year. The programmes will begin on December 13 and run through December 21.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of the BNP and its front organisations at the party's central office yesterday morning with Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair.

The elaborate programme, according to sources in the party, is aimed at refuting the accusation that the party has sided with the anti-liberation camp.

Leaders and activists of the BNP and its front organisations have also been instructed to take up programmes to establish that the party is pro-liberation although it has formed alliance with anti-liberation forces.

The BNP programme begins on December 13 with the Jatiyatobadi Shechchaseb Dal organising a discussion meeting in the city.

The next day, the leaders and activists will visit the intellectu-

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President Shahabuddin Ahmed exchanging pleasantries with freedom fighters at an Iftar Party hosted by him at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

—PID photo

Pak political parties unite for end to military rule

ISLAMABAD, Dec 4: Pakistan's discredited and disgraced political parties formed a new opposition alliance demanding an immediate end to the military rule and restoration of democracy in this poor South Asian nation, according to newspaper reports today, reports AP.

The Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy, represents 18 parties, including those of two ousted prime ministers, Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif one time arch-enemies.

The other 16 parties range from ethnic and nationalist groups to small religious organizations, which have a history of sharp political and ideological differences.

"We have put behind our differences for democracy," Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, head of the new alliance told a news conference on Sunday. "Today our priority is to return the country to democracy."

In Pakistan's rough and tumble politics one-time enemies become allies. Khan, for example, once led an alliance which worked to topple Sharif's government. Ms Bhutto was part of that alliance.

In October 1999 the army threw out Sharif's government in a bloodless coup on charges of corruption and misrule. Gen Pervez Musharraf has promised elections before the end of 2002 in keeping with a Pakistan Supreme Court ruling.

Before elections, Musharraf vowed to revive the economy, introduce electoral and economic reforms and clean up Pakistan's deeply corrupt political system.

Local elections for district and municipal councils will begin later this month and will last for several months.

রাষ্ট্রীয় উন্নয়ন বৃত্তো

১২২-১২৪, মতিলিল বা/এ

চাকা

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১. ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা ২০০১ উপলক্ষে নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজসমূহের জন্য আগস্ট ১৪-১২-২০০১ তারিখে বেলা ১২টা'র মধ্যে স্ব. ক্ষেত্রে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে পথকভাবে সৈলামোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

(ক) অনুষ্ঠিতবা ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা ২০০১ এর মেলা প্রায়শে বুরোর বাণিজ্য তথ্য কেন্দ্র নির্মাণ ও সজ্জিতকরণ। এ জন্য খ্যাতনামা নির্মাণকারী, অভাস্তুরীন সাজসজাকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। তথ্য কেন্দ্রের একটি মডেল দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।

(খ) পরিসংখ্যান গ্রাফ/চার্ট, বিশ্বাস্মাপ, বাংলাদেশ ম্যাপ ইলেক্ট্রিক সংযোগসহ তৈরী করার জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

(গ) ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা ২০০১ এর মেলা মাঠে ডিইটিএফ-এর দৈনন্দিন কার্যক্রম স্ব.-অধ্যায়নে Internet এ প্রচার এবং মেলার Web page প্রস্তুত করার জন্য অভিজ্ঞ ফার্মসমূহের নিকট থেকে সৈলামোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

(ঘ) ডিইটিএফ, ২০০১ এর উদ্বাধনী ও সমাপনী অনুষ্ঠানসহ মেলার দৈনন্দিন কার্যক্রমের উপর একটি পুরুষ ভিত্তি ফিল্ম তৈরি করার জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

২। দরপত্রের সিডিউল আগস্ট ১৩-১২-২০০১ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতিটি টাঃ ২০০/-ম্লো (অফেরত