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Rokeya Day today

By Staff Correspondent

Begum Rokeya Day will be observed today in a befitting manner to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary woman Begum Rokeya, a pioneer of the emancipation of Bengali Muslim women.

Different socio-economic organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion.

The electronic media will carry special programmes and the

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Mongla incident

Opposition's rally in city today

The BNP led four-party alliance will hold a rally at Muktangan in the city at 2 pm today to protest the killings of four workers in police firing at Mongla port on December 4, reports BSS.

Secretary generals of BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote will address the rally.

Talking to the news agency over phone yesterday evening, BNP Secretary General Manman Bhuiyan said, "we will hold a rally to reiterate our demand for a judicial inquiry into the incident."

Inside Today Article

Pakistani Diplomat's Remarks and its Reaction

Column: Currents and Crosscurrents
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Business

July-Oct export performance beats target by 5.92pc

UN oil overseers for okaying Iraq's Dec price proposal

IMF-Turkey deal unleashes angry union reaction

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Aarong Low Fat Milk
1% fat only

BRAC Dairy & Food Project

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Dec 9		5.12 pm
Dec 10	6:30 am	

Prayer Timings

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:05	5:15
Zuhr	12:45	1:20
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:14	5:22
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Colgate Total
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For round the clock protection

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
12	9	5:05	5:15
13	10	5:06	5:16
14	11	5:06	5:16

Change global policies, ensure health for all

PHA Charter demands

By Staff Correspondent

The People's Health Assembly, 200 concluded at Savar yesterday with a demand for worldwide changes in economic and health policies to ensure access to healthcare and social services irrespective of people's ability to pay.

'Health for All Now', shouted delegates from 95 countries as the Assembly endorsed the People's Charter for Health after five days of debates and discussions.

About 3000 delegates unanimously approved the Charter that demanded abolition of all political, social and economic inequalities and establishment of a new healthcare system, challenging the present one.

The Charter demanded changes in global trading systems and other mechanisms violating social, environmental and economic rights of people.

The Peoples Health Assembly (PHA) was hosted by Gonoshasthiya

Kendra.

Healthcare is a human right. Inequality, poverty, injustice and exploitation are at the root of ill-health and deaths of poor.

The Charter says "Health for all means that power interests have to be challenged, globalisation has to be opposed and political and economic priorities have to be drastically changed".

The Charter demanded an end to exploitation of people by transnational corporations in the health sector.

It called for building pressure on national governments to introduce

and enforce legislation to protect people and to allocate more resources for health, environment, social and education sectors. It called for building pressure on wealthy industrialized nations to reduce their consumption and pollution by 90 per cent.

It also calls upon the people to support campaigns against research, production, test and use of weapons of mass destruction and other arms including all types of landmines.

Pointing out the rising gap between the rich and the poor, a delegate from Africa said, "A large section of the world's population still lacks access to food, education, safe drinking water, sanitation, shelter, land, employment and healthcare services. Discrimination continues".

Speaking on global health crisis, Dr David Werner from USA said, "Despite unprecedented levels of wealth in the world, poverty and hunger continues to rise. The gap between the rich and the poor has

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Furnace of brick kiln lit : Role of authorities confusing

By Staff Correspondent

Taking advantage of bureaucratic sluggishness, the owner of Saudia Bricks at Algirchar village in Nawabganj thana under Dhaka district lit the furnace of his massive brick kiln on Thursday, causing serious damage to the environment of three pristine villages.

In the wake of protests from villagers, the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF) on December 4 directed the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka to suspend licence of the kiln.

But the DC, Abdus Sattar Khan, mysteriously delayed suspension of the licence.

When contacted, Sattar said he was later directed by the ministry to revalidate the licence as it had issued an Environmental Certificate.

The Department of Environment (DOE), Dhaka Division, without referring to the ministry's directive also asked him to suspend the licence, he said.

"I cannot defy the order of the ministry on the basis of a letter from the Department of Environment. So I have written back to the ministry for confirmation."

"I have however asked the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Nawabganj to stop all operations of Saudia Bricks on the ground that exhaust chimneys of the brick kiln do not have the required height," the DC said.

But The Daily Star obtained a copy of the latest DOE letter to the DC which clearly referred to the ministry's directive (Reference No. Pa Ba Ma/4/7/16/2000/728 dated 18.1.2000).

The MOEF said the Environmental Certificate of Saudia Bricks will remain suspended until a joint committee of the ministry and the DOE visits the spot and submits a report shortly.

Some sources wondered how the MOEF could issue an Environmental Certificate to Saudia Bricks to set up a brick kiln in the middle

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Another day of harrowing traffic jam faced by city-dwellers at Khilgaon rail crossing yesterday. But the on-duty traffic policemen seem more interested in the pockets of drivers and rickshawpullers than in their plight.

-Star photo

Grievances brew in BNP

No action yet against 'trouble mongers'

By Staff Correspondent

Grievances and frustration are increasing in the rank and file in BNP and its front organisations as the party leadership is yet to take any action against the "trouble mongers" engaged in various anti-party activities and instigating grouping.

Party insiders said leaders belonging to the hard-line camp are desperate to influence policy decisions and place their men in key posts in BNP and its front organisations.

They said the hardliners further consolidated their position in the party in recent days after some new faces joined hands with them. The new faces include a Standing Committee member, BNP Chairperson's two close aides, Mosaddek Ali Falu and Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, former JCD general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Fintu and some party leaders engaged in manpower trading.

Sources said the hardliners have "recruited" the new faces with a motive to strengthen their position in the party and influence others even by spending

money or issuing threat.

Their latest move has scared the moderate leaders and activists, who usually enjoy support in the rank and file of BNP and its front organisations.

As a result, an explosive situation is now prevailing in the party. Many senior leaders apprehend an "outburst" in the party any time if the party chief does not take any action against some party men, especially her two "influential" aides.

Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan recently left for USA on a private trip. However, a central BNP leader alleged that Lokman left after "preparing a plot to create trouble in the party".

Though Falu and his associates are silent now following some press reports, they are continuing their "desperate move" to see their men in key posts in BNP and JCD and to bring the party chief in their fold.

A number of senior BNP leaders told The Daily Star

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Swiss assistance for IT and agro-based units to increase

BERN, Dec 8: President of the Swiss Confederation Adolf Ogi today assured further assistance in IT sector and agro-based industry in Bangladesh, terming it as a friendly country, reports UNB.

The Swiss President made the offer when visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, met him at the President's Palace this afternoon.

In the meeting the two leaders discussed the possibility of enhancing cooperation in IT sector and agro-based industry. They said the recent signing of an investment-protection agreement would help strengthen cooperation in this regard.

The Swiss President appreciated the constructive role of the Bangladesh Premier in forwarding peace and understanding in the country as well as in the region.

He mentioned the Prime Minister's personal effort in easing tensions in the South Asia region after the tit-for-tat nuclear tests by Pakistan at India.

Adolf Ogi also appreciated the significant contri-

bution of the Prime Minister in consolidating democracy in Bangladesh and the steps taken for removing poverty from the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was warmly welcomed by the Swiss President at the President's Palace, gave a comprehensive brief on socioeconomic achievements of her government and her efforts for restoring and consolidating democracy in the country.

"It's a matter of great satisfaction that Switzerland is a major development partner of Bangladesh," she said and mentioned the efforts being taken by the Swiss government for assisting Bangladesh in rural infrastructure, sanitation and communications development.

Highlighting the problem of arsenic contamination of drinking water in Bangladesh, the Prime Minister sought Swiss assistance in tackling the scourge.

One dacoit shot dead, 5 others hurt as gang leader opens fire on them

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 8: One dacoit was shot dead and five were injured when their gang leader fired on them at village Dostpara in Raiganj upazila of the district on Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Mosharrif, 35.

Police said the gang leader, Abdul Hamid, shot at his fellows as they locked in a clash during the distribution of looted goods at his house at the dead of night.

"The dacoits were distributing goods they looted from the houses of Moyan Sarker of village Bhogolman in Tarash upazila and Noor Mohammad of village Dhamainagar in Raiganj upazila on Sunday and Monday nights respectively," police said.

Sundarbans divided into two zones

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 8: World's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, has been divided into two zones named as The East Sundarbans and The West Sundarbans.

The 'division has been created for proper preservation and maintenance of forest resources,' said a high official of the Forest Division here.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued a notification

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Potholes at Jinjira point on Dhaka-Nawabganj road, causing trouble for both vehicles and pedestrians.

-Star photo

Near, yet so far

By Morshed Ali Khan

The distance from the city center of Dhaka to Nawabganj, a thana headquarter under the same district, is barely 35 kilometers. But such is the condition of the road to Nawabganj, it takes a staggering three and a half hours to make the journey.

If you are travelling by car and prefer to take the shortcut through Swarighat and cross the river into Zinzira, you are confronted with an impossible situation at Chawk. With vendors occupying a good portion of the narrow street, if you are lucky you might make the 150-yard ride to the ferry ghat, in half an hour.

The ferry on the river Buriganga runs at the will of the Roads and Highways operators. Once in Zinzira, the road ahead has to be discovered. Whatever remains of the road has been taken over by

rickshaws, baby-taxis, pull-carts and almighty buses and trucks. In Ramadan, iftar sellers take over the narrow strip left for pedestrians.

Here, you have to negotiate your way further down only to find the road with deep potholes. The water from the nearby drains is flowing onto the road. It looks like a dried canal where children have frolicked and fished all day long.

As you come out of Zinzira hoping for a breath of fresh air, your thoughts are invariably disrupted by the jerks you receive from the potholes on the road. Lack of maintenance has stripped the road of its shoulders making it almost impossible for two vehicles to pass each other. Arrival of a bus or a truck from the opposite direction could land you in

Army role in '71

Pak intellectual wants Islamabad to apologise to Bangladesh

A leading Pakistani intellectual has suggested that Islamabad should apologise to Bangladesh for the military actions in 1971 if it wanted to establish genuine friendship with that country, reports BSS.

"We have to come to our own history by accepting the fact that the military action of March 1971 (against Bangladesh) was wrong," said Dr. Tariq Rahman, a leading intellectual in an article published in the Pakistani daily the 'News' on December 7.

While strongly advocating the need for seeking apology, Dr. Rahman in his article titled 'Friendship with Bangladesh' stated that "an apology does not bring the dead back to life, it does not mend broken homes, it does not heal the mind. It means that someone somewhere has realised

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Rickshaw garage owner shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

Extortionists gunned down a rickshaw garage owner at Korattola in the city's Demra area yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Habib, 22, a resident of 19 Korattola.

According to police a gang of extortionists led by Titu, Jasim and Kashem came to the garage at 43 Korattola at around 10-30 am and demanded toll from Habib.

When Habib refused to give toll, the gang shot him at his chest.

The fatally injured Habib was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died at about 11:15 am.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Rowshan Ara, mother of Habib, filed a murder case with Demra police station accusing Titu, Jasim, Kashem, Shakil, Masum, and Rafiq.

When contacted Demra thana, the duty officer said the leader of the gang was arrested for his alleged involvement in the killing.

Garment workers block traffic on Dhaka-Tangail road for 3 hours

GAZIPUR, Dec 8: Angry garment workers put-up a barricade on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Gazipur today (Friday) demanding payment of their arrears, reports UNB.

Several hundred vehicles got stranded on both sides of the road for three hours.

The workers of Today's Fashion withdrew their programme when the senior police officials intervened and assured them of taking steps to pay their arrears.

A number of vehicles were damaged during the barricade programme, local people said.



ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা-২০০১ সচিবালয়

রক্তানী উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো

১২২-১২৪, মতিঝিল বা/এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০

পূনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গ্রুপ-১ : ডিআইটিএফ-২০০১ (২০ জানুয়ারি-১৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০০১)-এর মেলা মাঠে প্রবেশ টিকেট ইজারা। ইজারার সর্বনিম্ন মূল্যঃ ১.১৩,২৬,০০০/- (এক কোটি তের লক্ষ ছাব্বিশ হাজার তিশত) টাকা (উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের উপর ১৫% ভ্যাট ও ৩% আয়কর বাতীত)।

গ্রুপ-২ : ডিআইটিএফ-২০০১ (২০ জানুয়ারি-১৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০০১)-এর মেলা মাঠে অভ্যন্তরীণ মাইকিং ইজারা। ইজারার সর্বনিম্ন মূল্যঃ ১৬,৯৯,৯৯৯/- (ষোল লক্ষ নবানব্বই হাজার নয়শত নবানব্বই) টাকা (উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের উপর ১৫% ভ্যাট ও ৩% আয়কর বাতীত)।

উপরে বর্ণিত ২ (দুই) গ্রুপের কাজের জন্য প্রতিষ্ঠিত ও নির্ভরযোগ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে আগামী ১৮.১২.২০০০ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্রসমূহ অন্তর্ভুক্তি বিভাগীয় কর্মশালা (সার্বিক)-এর অফিস কক্ষে (১ম ১২ তলা সরকারী অফিস ভবন, ৩য় তলা, কক্ষ নং-৩০৩, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা) বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের মেলা সেল (ভবন নং-৩, কক্ষ নং-১৩২, দ্বিতীয় তলা, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা) এবং রক্তানী উন্নয়ন ব্যুরোর মেলা সচিবালয়ে রাখিত টেন্ডার ব্যাগে ১৯.১২.২০০০ইং তারিখ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়) হইতে ১৮.১২.২০০০ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে প্রতিটি কাজের জন্য পৃথক পৃথকভাবে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

২। দরপত্রের সহিত উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ৫ ভাগ জামানত হিসাবে "ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা তহবিল" শিরোনামে পে-অর্ডার/ডিমাত ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

৩। ইজারাপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানকে উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের উপর সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত ১৫% ভ্যাট ও ৩% আয়কর ইজারা মূল্যের সাথে "ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা তহবিল" শিরোনামে পে-অর্ডার/ডিমাত ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে মেলা কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট জমা করিতে হইবে।

৪। দাখিলকৃত দরপত্রসমূহ ১৮.১২.২০০০ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ মিনিটে উল্লেখিত তিনটি স্থানের প্রতিটি দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে) খোলা হইবে।

৫। আগামী ১৯.১২.২০০০ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৩.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত উল্লিখিত তিনটি অফিসের যে কোন একটি অফিস হইতে নাদ টার ৯৫০.০০ (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) হারে (অভ্যন্তরীণ) সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে।

৬। প্রতিটি কাজের জন্য নির্ধারিত মূল্যের নিম্নে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।

৭। মেলা কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার সকল ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

পর্যায়ক

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা-২০০১ সচিবালয়

রক্তানী উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো, ঢাকা

জিডি-১১৩৪

ফোন : ৯৫৬০৭৮৭, ৯৫৫২২৪৫-৮/১১৪