



## 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

See page 11 col 7

## 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 killing 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 Mannan 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

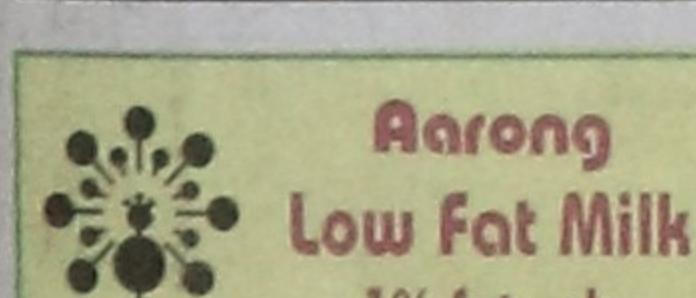
Column: Currents and Crosscurrents  
By M M Rezaul Karim  
Page 4

### 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  
Pages 6, 7 & 8



BRAC Dairy &amp; Food Project

Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Dec 9	5.12 pm
Dec 10	6.30 am

### Prayer Timings

#### December 9

Azan	Jamaat
5-05	5-15
12-45	1-20
3-45	4-00
5-14	5-22
7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



### Sehri, Iftar timings

Sehri	Iftar
12	5-05 5-15
13	5-06 5-16
14	5-06 5-16

## Change global policies, ensure health for all

### PHA Charter demands

By Staff Correspondent

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 industrialised 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

See page 11 col 6

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 "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

See page 11 col 6

## Rickshaw garage owner shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

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

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

According to police a gang of extortionists led by Titu, Jasim and Kashem came to the garage at 43 Koratitola 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, Kayesh, 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.



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 rickshaw pullers than in their plight.

-Star photo

## Grievances brew in BNP

### No action yet against 'trouble mongers'

By Staff Correspondent

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

See page 11 col 8

## 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 socio-economic 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.



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

-Star photo

### 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 Mohammad of village Dhamalnagar in Raiganj upazila on Sunday and Monday nights respectively," police said.

### Sundarbans divided into two zones

By 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

See page 11 col 1

### ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলো-২০০১ সচিবালয়

রাতের উন্নয়ন বৃুৱো

১২২-১২৪, মতিবাল লা/এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০

### পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি



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