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Lest we forget



Sanskritik Jote's V-Day programme begins

By DU Correspondent
The four-day long victory day programme of Sammilita Sanskritik Jote (SSJ) began yesterday at the Central Shahid Minar in the city with a call for a unified movement against the anti-liberation fundamentalist forces.
Some 30 wards of Liberation War martyrs inaugurated the programme by releasing a flock of white pigeons, with the slogan "new generation in the new century will resist anti-state killers' circle."
Hasan Arif read out the 'Victory Festival 2000 Declaration' while Golam Quddus delivered the welcome address in the inaugural session.
The declaration said, "there is no mercy for those who dishonoured the national anthem and independence by opposing the spirit of the Liberation War."
See page 11 col 6

Traders plan own security at city shopping malls

By Abul Kalam Azad
With the Eid-ul-Fitr just round the corner, traders' associations at different city markets have put into effect their own security system to keep extortionists, terrorists and illegal vendors at bay.
Terrorist activities, especially extortion, usually mark sharp rise in the city during Eid.
At the Govt New Market, instructions on how to raise alarm in case of an attack by extortionists and terrorists are being regularly blared out over loudspeakers. Also, the market association has urged shop-owners to keep hockey sticks, sticks and iron rods handy. Besides, a big bell called 'Pagla Ghanta' has been installed on the roof of the market.
"If the bell is set off," the instruction over the loudspeakers goes on and on, "please come out with whatever is handy."
Besides increasing incidences of extortion and terrorism, there is an organised group of vendors, which indiscriminately installs stalls on the walkway, blocking passage for the consumers, shop-owners say.
According to sources, even if they drove away extortionists, terrorists and illegal vendors, the traders would still have to pay tolls to the police. The local police station has already fixed an amount of toll for Eid-ul-Fitr. It has also set the 27th day of Ramadan as the deadline for the shop-owners to make their payments, sources say.
However, several shopkeepers said that they did not mind paying the police.
"They (police) have to work overtime during this month of festivity to protect us. So, I do not see anything wrong in paying them," said a bookstall owner, requesting anonymity.
The traders' association of the New Market has also employed dozens of people for a round-the-clock vigilance in the market areas.
All the major markets in the capital have taken up similar security measures to resist extortionists during the Eid rush.
Toll collectors and terrorists usually target Mouchak, Bangabazaar, Gullistan and Gausia markets, and shopping arcades such as Alpina Plaza, Eastern Plaza, Century Arcade, etc.
At Alpina Plaza, security personnel were seen on 24-hour guard. Sources say that the authorities have deployed a dozen of security men to avoid any nuisance or terrorist activities.
Similar measures have been adopted by the traders at the Mouchak Market. They have decided to act on their own if/when toll collectors make a move.
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Khaleda discusses political situation with editors

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia had informal exchange of views yesterday evening on the country's current political, socio-economic and also international affairs with the editors and senior journalists at her Minto Road official residence, reports BSS.
The issues of the country's next general elections, judiciary and trade and commerce also came up for discussion. The sudden increase of the Letter of Credit (LC) margin and its consequences was also discussed.
Khaleda Zia expressed her grave concern over flooding of the country's market with smuggled goods from different countries including India. She said if such unhealthy trend continues, local industries would never grow, resulting in large scale unemployment.
See page 11 col 3

Nigerian suffers 11 months in jail for 3 months' punishment

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 13: A Nigerian national, who was awarded a three-month jail term under Passport Act by a local court, had to suffer 11 months of imprisonment in Bangladesh since January this year, reports UNB.
Abdul alias Thomson, who claimed himself to be a former member of the national football team of the African country, was released on Tuesday.
Magistrate Nurul Absar who sentenced him to three months' imprisonment for violating Passport Act ordered his immediate release as he had already spent 11 months in jail.
Abdul was arrested from the resort town on January 2 along with his friend Abu Bakar alias Manandi Paul as they did not show their passport and claimed themselves as South African citizens.
But, upon searching them, police later seized Nigerian passports and lodged a case under Passport Act.
However, Abdul's companion, Bakar, fell sick and died in Dhaka Central Jail on July 24.
Abdul, who confessed his offence before the magistrate's court, claimed he had played for his country in the Olympic Football in Atlanta in 1996.
District administration is planning to send him to the Nigerian Embassy in Dhaka.

'Raise standard of sports to international level'



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her hope that the country will achieve more success in the international sports arena and will be able to enhance "its prestigious identity" in the world as a skilled, sports-loving nation, reports UNB.
"We earned victory in the independence war, why shall we remain backward in sports?" she said and expressed her determination to raise the standard of sports to international level by creating an environment for development of sports.
Addressing the National Sports Awards distribution ceremony of 1999 at the Osmani Memorial Hall, the Prime Minister said these days, all types of sports have become very expensive. The government wants to go forward by selecting some specific games where the country is likely to do well in world competition.
"We will select some games on priority basis and give emphasis on those considering our prospects and strength to make real progress and to take a dignified place in the international sports arena," she said.
In this regard, Hasina called upon the sports personalities and the affluent section of the society to patronise sports and help groom sportsmen for attaining success.
The Prime Minister handed over the National Sports Awards for the year 1999 a gold medal and a cheque of Tk 20,000 to each of the 10 recipients.
The award recipients are: Abdur Rakib Khandoker (sports organiser), Anwarul Kabir (cricket), Syed Aftab Hossain (cricket), Sheikh Ashraf Ali (football), Subedar Mosharraf Hossain (boxing), Gammunnahar Dana (badminton), Kazi Shahana Farveen (shooting), Syed Marium Tarek (badminton), Begum Jobera Rahman Litu (table tennis) and Rakibuddin Ahmed (hockey-posthumous).
State Minister for Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Gader and Sports Secretary Manik Lal Samaddar also spoke at the function.
The Prime Minister said that to achieve international standard in sports, the nation would have to go forward adopting the scientific process. Without proper application of sports science, it is not possible to secure a place in the world of sports.
For making progress in sports, the present government has taken a number of effective steps, she said.
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Rab Murder Case Hitler confesses his involvement

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Dec 13: An eight-member team headed by AC (BD) are interrogating Hitler, a professional killer and member of outlawed Purbanga Communist Party (PBCP).
Hitler took over charge as zonal leader of PBCP after the arrest of Mahmud Hasan Shimul by Jessore police four months ago.
He has further confessed his involvement in the murders of Alfaz of Jhenidah, UP chairman Abul Kashem of Phultala and AL Mayoral candidate Rab.
Hitler told interrogators that PBCP has a lot of arms including AK-47, Nine-shooter, Six-shooter, AK-56 and sawed off rifles.
These arms are now in the custody of Abdur Rashid alias Tapan, a divisional level leader of PBCP, he added.
One of the interrogators said Hitler answered all questions tactfully during interrogation on Tuesday.
Hitler further said that the murder of AL Mayoral candidate was a decision of Purbanga Communist Party and he was among the nine-member squad of killers.
The arrest of Ranga and James in connection with Rab murder case was nothing but to divert attention of people from the fact, Hitler said.
I shall tell you who were masterminds of the conspiracy to murder SMA Rob, Hitler said.
He said "I had to join PBCP to take revenge against Gazi Kamrul, ring leader of Biplobi communist party based at Daulatpur of the city. Because, Gazi Kamrul tortured my father due to family feud and land dispute". It may be mentioned here that Gazi Kamrul came out of Khulna jail on Sunday last having been acquitted of all murder and criminal cases by the courts.
He surrendered to police with huge arms and ammunition last year under general Amnesty granted by the government. Since then he was put on trial in four murder cases. But none deposed against him.
I got myself involved in underground activities only to counter BCP leader Gazi Kamrul. But I am really stunned to know that Kamrul has been freed from Jail due to lack of evidences," Hitler told police officials.
Hitler said "I had a plan to murder Gazi Kamrul just on the day he was freed from jail. I hit upon the plan in consultation with cadres of my party to finish Kamrul either on his way to Daulatpur from Khulna jail or at any other convenient time. I could implement the plan, but fled due to police action against me," Hitler said.
He told police that maximum arms now in possession of his party were bought from Chittagong.



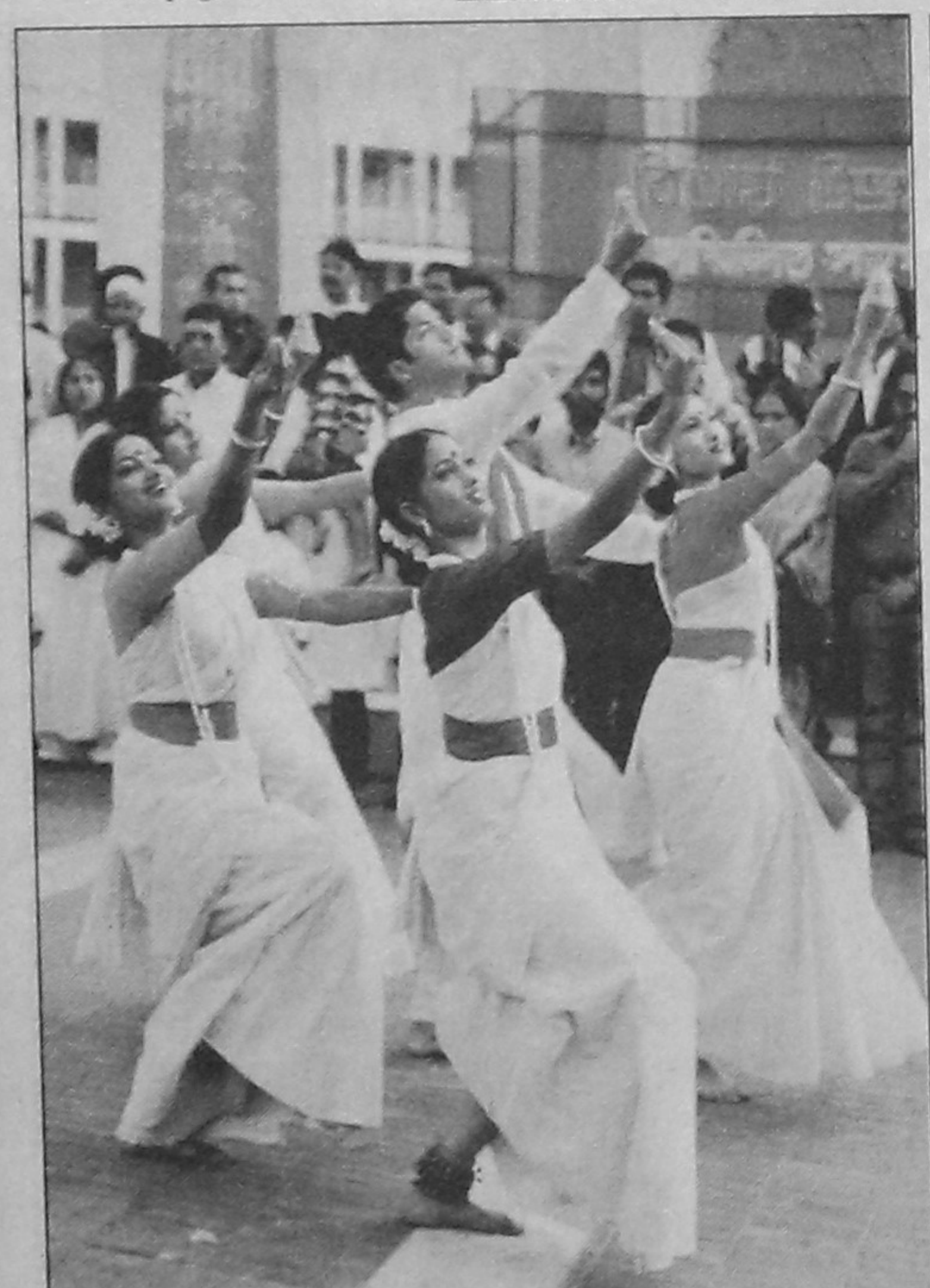
A traffic sergeant is trying to save an alleged snatcher from public wrath. The snatcher was caught while taking away a gold necklace from an autorickshaw passenger at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday.
--Star photo

Rejoinder

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Dec 13: City Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman issued a rejoinder on December 10 protesting a news item published in The Daily Star on December 9 under the headline "Tayeb condemned for denying remarks about party Secy-Gen."
Shaikh Tayeb in his rejoinder said that no press release was issued from Banani office of BNP regarding dissolution of the newly formed committee of Khulna district BNP.
See page 11 col 6

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Victory Day vibes... a dance sequence at yesterday's cultural rendition at the Shaheed Minar held as part of Shammilito Sanskritik Jote's Victory Day 2000 celebration programme.
---Star photo

Tk 6 lakh looted from Khulna UCBL branch

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Dec 13: A daring bank dacoity was committed at Khanjahan Ali Road branch of United Commercial Bank Limited (UCBL) under Khulna thana at 10 am today.
According to manager of the branch and police, a group of eight unidentified young men stormed into the bank overpowering security guard Enamul Huq, 56. They also cut off telephone connection of the branch.
Two of the alleged young dacoits then entered the cash counter and looted Tk 5,82,425 from two cash officers Nasreen Ahmed and Fakhrul Islam at gunpoint.
The alleged dacoits escaped with looted money by three baby taxis kept stand-by outside the bank situated in the most crowded area of Khulna town.
Five out of 13 officials of the branch were found absent during dacoity which took only 8 to 10 minutes, police said.
Security guard Enamul Huq said that two young men of the gang held him hostage at the entrance. Six others then entered the office with their arms such as revolver, pipegun and sawed off rifle.
The dacoits did not try to enter safe vault room, said Manager Anwar Iqbal Chowdhury.
A case has been lodged with Khulna thana in this connection.
This is the second bank dacoity in 27 day. The first one was committed on November 16 at the Shamsur Rahman Road branch of Agrani Bank in which six dacoits looted Tk 1,06,184 from cash counter. None has so far been arrested in this connection, police said.

Khulna by-polls KMP plans tight security measures at 9 'vulnerable' polling centres

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Dec 13: Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) have planned tight security measures at nine centres during by-election in Khulna-5 constituency due to be held on December 20.
These nine centres fall under Khanjahan Ali thana of Khulna Metropolitan city.
The seat fell vacant following death of cabinet minister Salahuddin Yusuf.
According to a source in KMP, several platoons of riot police will be deployed in nine centres which have already been declared vulnerable.
Intelligence personnel have been put on high alert in those centres because of free movement of the activists of outlawed organisations who are allegedly
See page 11 col 8

Kalaroa tragedy Lipi's father disowns letter to Nirmal Sen

From Quazi Amanullah
KHULNA, Dec 13: The sensational Kalaroa tragedy has taken a new turn as Shamsunnahar Lipi's father Mohammad Anarul Islam has disowned the letter written to politician-cum-columnist Nirmal Sen.
Lipi was among four persons killed in stampede on March 2 this year at the Kalaroa college centre of S.C examination.
A case was lodged with Kalaroa thana six days after the incident as per written complain submitted by Abdul Momin, secretary of the examination centre.
The then D.C. of Satkhira Md. Saiful Alam was transferred for his failure to take necessary action following the tragic incident. On April 17, police arrested one Jamal Shiraj on charge of inciting violence in the examination centre. But he was released on bail by the court on the following day.
Later, the case was handed over to CID for investigation. CID so far failed to make any headway in the investigation.
On November 13, columnist Nirmal Sen wrote an story in Dainik Janakantha about Kalaroa college centre tragedy quoting a letter of Shamsunnahar Lipi's father Anarul Islam.
Later, the chief justice took serious view of the contents of letter as quoted by Nirmal Sen in his write-up.
According to desire of the chief justice, a division bench of the High Court ordered to treat the letter of Lipi's father as an Ejarah (case).
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