

## Volkswagens

rally Jan 27

This year's 2<sup>nd</sup> grand rally of Volkswagens (VW) will be held in the city on Jan 27, reports UNB.

The colourful rally, organised by Volkswagens Club of Bangladesh, will start at 10 am from Manik Miah Avenue and terminate at Martyrs Memorial in Savar.

Nearly 50 VW Beetles will take part in the rally. Interested participants for registration can contact Raju, phone-9353021-5 before Jan 15.

## Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Mountaz Begum will be held tomorrow at her house no. 288, road no. 26 (old) Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers, reports BSS.

Mountaz Begum, mother of two martyred freedom fighters and wife of former DIG of police late MA Awval, was laid to eternal rest at the Azimpur New Graveyard in the city following the name-e-janaza at Dhanmondi Mosque after Zohr prayers yesterday.

The body was kept at the BIRDEM mortuary for arrival of her eldest son, also a freedom fighter, and the two daughters.

## Dhaka to receive wheat worth \$ 7 m from Australia

Bangladesh will receive 49,500 metric tons of wheat valued at 7 million US dollars from Australia under its Food Aid Programme 2000-2001, reports UNB.

A subsidiary arrangement (SA) to this effect was signed between the two governments at the Economic Relations Division in the city yesterday.

ERD Secretary Dr Masihur Rahman and Australian High Commissioner Robert Flynn signed the SA on behalf of their respective sides.

## Don't make eviction from footpath a political issue, says Nasim

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim has called on all not to make the government step taken to free the capital's walkways from illegal occupants a political issue, reports UNB.

"It is not only traffic congestion... but the problem of illegal toll collection by political outfits, and a section of the police is there in occupying the footpaths," said Nasim taking a tough stance for eviction of illegal structures and business on city streets and sidewalks.

Talking to UNB at his office yesterday afternoon, the Home Minister said the capital city was becoming a city of hawkers and vendors.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police launched a footpath clearing drive early this week.



A team of expatriate Bangladeshi IT experts, led by Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Ganobhaban yesterday. - PID photo

## IT sector to be biggest foreign exchange earner: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has given highest priority to the Information Technology (IT) sector as it would be the nation's biggest foreign exchange earner in future, reports BSS.

She was exchanging views with a nine-member delegation of Bangladeshi IT professionals living abroad, who called on her at her Ganobhaban official residence. The team was led by Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury.

The Prime Minister said catering to the need of the time, her government has been exploring all avenues to develop this very vital sector of the present day world.

In this connection she said only in the last week a 15-member Task Force headed by herself was constituted to harness the economic, social and commercial potentialities of IT sector.

She said the task force, focal point of which to be located directly at the Prime Minister's office, would identify the areas of economic and commercial potentialities of this sector. It would also frame guidelines for expansion, development and flourish of this key-sector of modern world.

The task force would also fix up target, time-frame and other

necessary guidelines to harness the export possibilities of computer software and IT-enabled services, she added.

The prime minister said in order to make the best utilisation of tremendous scopes created before us to tap the IT sector prospects, we had to change our outlook befitting the global situation.

"We have lost enough time and have no scope make any further delay," she said while expressing her dismay over the negligence of the past governments in utilising the scopes came before them in developing this sector.

The prime minister said apart from development of IT sector, steps have also been taken to modernise other related sectors like telecommunications, power generation and amendments of related laws like Intellectual Property Rights and Electronic Authentication and Network Security.

She said, "We have brought 34 districts under digital telecommunications network. We also have a plan to bring all other districts under digital services." Besides, for the first phase we have earmarked 90 upazilas to bring under digital phone system, she added.

The delegation members put forward a number of sugges-

tions for the development of IT sector in Bangladesh. They assured the prime minister that they would dedicate their services and potential experiences, they gathered abroad for the promotion of this sector in their motherland.

The prime minister urged them to submit their proposals and suggestions and assured the best help and cooperation from her government to assist them in their noble initiatives.

The other members of the delegation included Dr. Abdul-lah, Sheikh Mizanur Rahman, Prof. Saifur Rahman, Golam Mohiuddin, Anis Chowdhury, Dr. Aninda Rayhan and Anisul Kibria, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology Fazlur Rahman, was also present.

## Waz mahfil

A waz mahfil will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at Paridasa Road, Banglabazar in the city, says a press release.

Muhammad Dillur Rahman (Muddajilbabul Ali), Peer Shaleeb, Ghablah, Rajarbagh Shereef, Dhaka will kindly attend the mahfil as chief guest.

Besides other ulemas and renowned Islamic scholars will also speak. Muhammad Rajab Ali Malik will preside.

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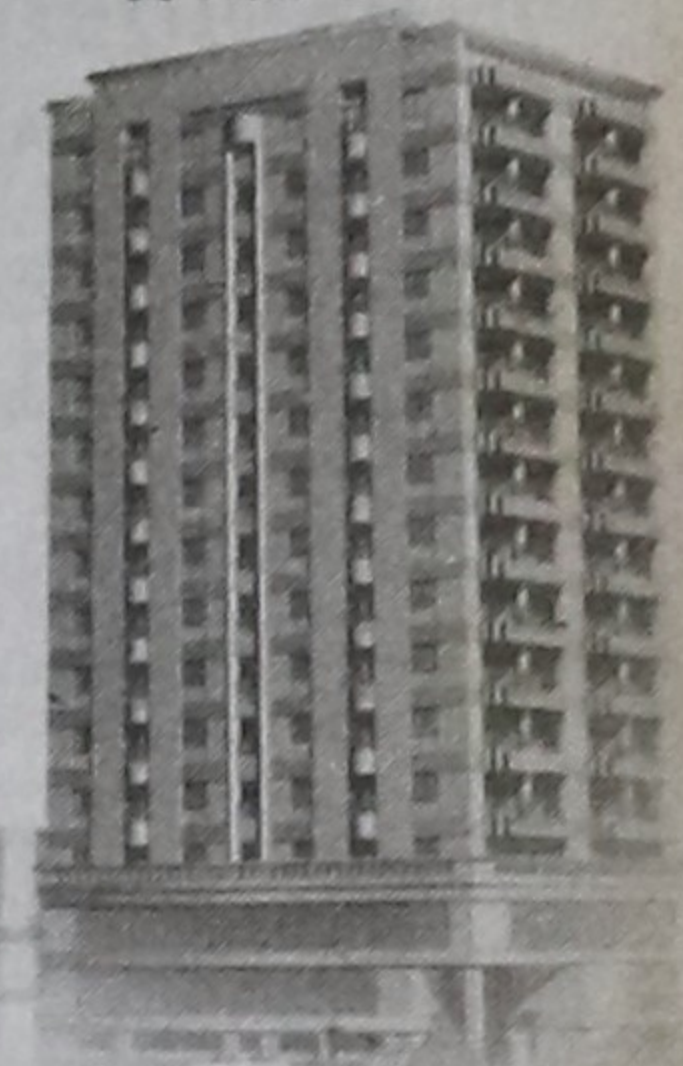
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## BCL observes death anniversary of Moniruzzaman Badal

By DU Correspondent

Ruling party's student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday observed the 9<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of its leader Moniruzzaman Badal.

As part of the day, BCL held a memorial meeting to commemorate the death of Badal near the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) of the Dhaka University.

Addressing the meeting as the chief guest, Food Minister Amir Hossain Anu yesterday called upon the students to be united to resist conspiracy against democracy by the religious fanatics.

Presided over by Bahadur Bepari, the rally was addressed, among others, by Ashim Kumar Ukil, AKM Enamul Haque Shamim, Ajay Kar Khokan, Kamruzzaman Ansari, Ataru Rahman Ata, Pankaj Debanth, Shubash Singh Roy, Miraj Hossain and AKM Azim.

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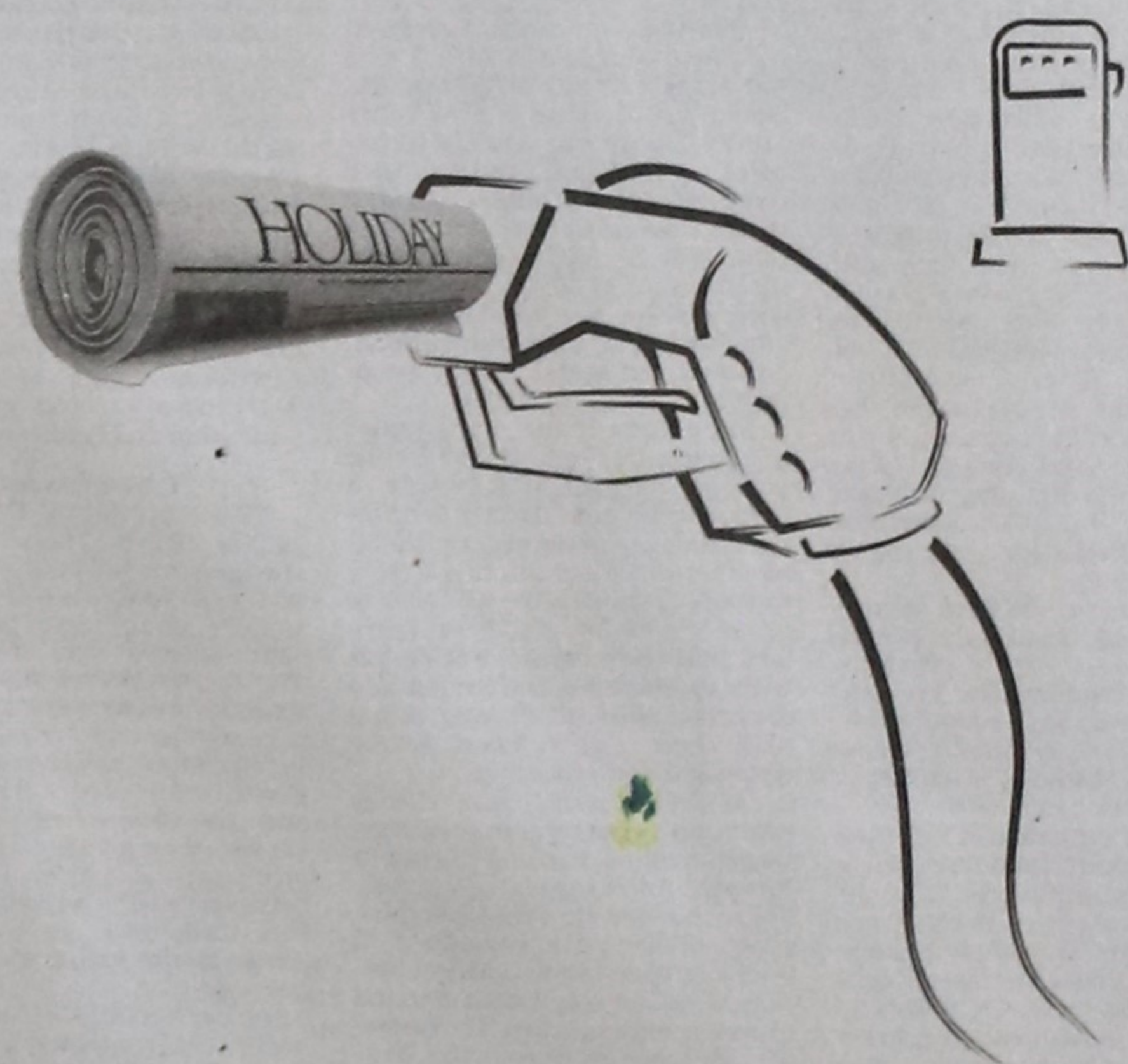
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