

## Martyred Intellectuals Day in Picture



Individuals and different organisations placed wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals' Mausoleum at Mirpur in the city yesterday. Clockwise from top: The mausoleum, President Iajuddin Ahmed, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, Shishu Academy, Jatiya Oikya Mancha, Bangla Academy, Doctors' Association of Bangladesh, 11 Party, Projanma 71, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Dhaka University vice-chancellor, Bangladesh Nationalist Party and people from all walks of life.

## Miscreants take away wreaths from martyred intellectuals' graveyard at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown miscreants took away the wreaths from the martyred intellectuals' graveyard beside the Dhaka University Central Mosque after the teachers and students placed those to pay homage to the martyrs yesterday.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) brought the incident to the notice of the authorities after being informed by Sajeda Banu, a teacher of mathematics and daughter of Prof Giasuddin, a martyr.

The authorities formed a three-member committee headed by Treasurer Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan to probe it. The incident took place between 8.00am and 9.00am.

Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz placed a wreath at the graveyard on the occasion of the Martyred Intellectuals' Day. Several student organisations and the family members of martyred intellectuals also placed wreaths.

The Duta termed the incident a deliberate act and demanded punishment to the persons involved.

"We are simply surprised and shocked," said Duta President Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique.

When contacted, DU Proctor AK Firoz said the security guards informed him of the incident. "I don't know what actually happened there but the flowers might have been stolen by drug addicts," he added.

## TANORE GANGRAPE Case fate uncertain as documents 'missing'

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The fate of the case on gang rape of a 34-year woman allegedly by four BNP men 17 years ago at Tanore upazila is now uncertain as the documents concerned went 'missing'.

Rajshahi district magistrate's court police said they could not find out the case documents till yesterday while a copy of the High Court (HC) order dated August 16, 1995 reached the magistrate's court on December 12 last.

Some judicial section officials might have misplaced the documents of the case for saving the criminals, Habibur Rahman Hasibul, the victim's lawyers said.

The victim in her petition filed with the special tribunal set up at Rajshahi to deal with cases involving violence against women in January, 1989, said four BNP men (names mentioned in the petition) raped her.

In August, 1995, a HC bench issued rule in favour of the victim, rejecting a challenge petition by the accused four.

A copy of the HC order, which was missing for long, reached the Rajshahi tribunal judicial section on December 12 last, following a petition of the victim.

Meanwhile, the victim went into hiding following threats on her life by the rapists as the HC order reached the destination.

The Daily Star published a report of the incident on December 13.

## 6 textile diploma instts to run second shift

UNB, Dhaka

A decision has been taken to start second shift in six textile diploma institutes under the Textiles Department.

The decision came following a discussion between the finance ministry and the textiles and jute ministry.

Earlier, the authorities allowed only three diploma institutes to run the second shift, prompting the admission seekers to go on rampage at one of the institutes that did not get the go-ahead.

Textiles Department will complete the admission formalities for the second shift soon after a discussion with Bangladesh Technical Education Board, said a press release.

It has urged the admission seekers to refrain from any such untoward incidents.

## Obituary

Mirza Mohammad Abdullah of Jhiltoli Faridpur town, died of old age complications yesterday at holy Family Hospital in the city at the age of 85, says a press release.

Mirza Abdullah left behind his nine daughters and three sons to mourn his death.

He will be buried at Faridpur Central Graveyard today after namaz-e-janaza at Ambika Maidan after Zohr prayers.

His quikhwani will be held at his Faridpur residence after Asr prayers on December 16.



Students of Fine Art Institute paint a road on the Dhaka University campus in red to symbolise blood spilled by the martyrs of the Liberation War. Bangladesh Chhatra Union took the initiative to decorate the campus with paintings in observance of the Victory Day.

## SECOND NO-CONFIDENCE HUMAN WALL

## Opposition plans massive showdown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mainstream opposition parties plan a massive showdown in their second cross-country no-confidence human wall from the Sundarbans to Sunamganj on December 30.

Leaders of Awami League (AL), left 11-Party alliance, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and National Awami Party (NAP) are now drafting the preparations for the demonstration called for the second time in a month to protest the 'failures of the BNP-Jamiat-led coalition government to deliver'.

The opposition leaders yesterday

at a meeting discussed the possible route of the human wall. So far they have finalised 17 districts for the human chain to touch. At yesterday's meeting they decided to hold two all-party public rallies at Sunamganj and the Sundarbans area in the run-up to the human wall to mobilise people. Besides, the opposition camp plans to hold combined rallies and mass contact programmes at places that the human wall will cut across.

"We will sit tomorrow (Wednesday) to finalise the human wall route and date of the public rallies," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told reporters after the meeting.

Earlier on December 11, tens of thousands of people linked hands forming a human wall that stretched from Teknaf to Tentulia. The opposition parties described the 1000-kilometre human wall as the nation's urge to pull itself free from the clutches of the 'despotic ruling alliance'.

Apart from the AL, the parties under 11-Party alliance, JSD and NAP, and their front organisations in separate teams will do the work preparatory to the human wall.

Key opposition leaders at yesterday's meeting also discussed the parties' respective plans to make the second human wall programme successful.

## '22pc get govt healthcare service'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government healthcare service covers only 22 percent of the country's 14 crore people, said the experts at a meeting yesterday.

But 60 percent of people could be brought under healthcare service if the existing health infrastructures are properly managed, they claimed.

The meeting was organised jointly by Health Consumers' Rights Forum and Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (Cab) in the city.

Country's health sector has long been marred due to lack of physicians' attention to patients, wrong diagnosis and treatment, and mismanagement in health administration, said Cab Information Officer Shamsuzzoha in a concept paper.

As a result, a large number of patients travel to different countries like India, Thailand and Singapore

everyday to avail better healthcare facilities there, he added.

Though deprived of proper healthcare service, the common men bear 64 percent of the expenses in the health sector while the government bears 23 percent and the non-government organisations 13 percent, Shamsuzzoha said.

Quoting the World Development Report-2004 published by the World Bank, he said 42 percent of the physicians in Bangladesh remain absent at their workplace, while 74 percent remain absent at the Upgraded Family Welfare Centres.

Bangladesh, among the 84 least developed countries, has an immense potential to produce global standard drugs and export them to those countries, if not to the developed ones, said the Chairman of Pharmacy Department of Dhaka University, AFM Faruque.

But the infiltration of low quality drugs from neighbouring countries and adulteration might create a crisis of trust in this promising industry of the country, he said.

It is misleading that around 900 kinds of drugs are produced in Bangladesh at present despite the fact that the World Health Organisation approves only 300 medicines with which any human disease could be treated, said Dr Saydur Rahman of pharmacology department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

Chaired by Cab General Secretary Quazi Faruque, the meeting was also attended by NGO and media representatives.

## Int'l Political Science Assoc confce Jan 7-9

The 37th Regional Conference of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) will be held on January 7-9, says a press release.

Bangladesh Political Science Association (BPSA) will host the three-day conference with the theme 'Rethinking Development and Security: Global Perspective'.

The registration for the conference will begin on December 18. For registration, members have been requested to contact the BPSA office at Room No. 1050, Arts Building, Dhaka University (Tel-9661920 Ext.4462 and 0171170683).

## 2004 UNDP award giving ceremony today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 2004 UNDP awards in the field of human development will be presented at a special ceremony in New York today.

Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, won the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Mahbub ul Haq Award for his outstanding contribution to human development.

"Fazle Hasan Abed is being recognised for his extraordinary achievements in helping the rural poor to combat hunger, disease and illiteracy on a massive scale," the UNDP said in a statement yesterday.

The UNDP Awards for Human Development reports will also be presented at the ceremony.

Argentina, Colombia, Latvia, West Bengal, Zambia and the Roma people of Eastern Europe are among those being honoured in recognition of their excellence in the field of human development.

Brac is a non-governmental organisation working in every district in Bangladesh with people whose lives are dominated by extreme poverty, discrimination and exploitation. More than US\$ 2 billion in BRAC micro-loans have been distributed with no collateral, with a 98 per cent repayment rate, said the UNDP release.

To link rural producers with expanding urban markets, Brac operates commercial ventures, including the second largest dairy in the country. Its programmes in health and nutrition have reached 31 million, many in the most remote and marginal areas. This work has made a significant contribution to Bangladesh's achievement of the fastest decline in infant mortality rates in Asia.



## Dr Fazle Rabbiee's anniversary of death today

Today is the 33rd death anniversary of Shaheed Dr Md Fazle Rabbiee, says a press release.

He was a professor of medicine and cardiology at Dhaka Medical College.

The Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators, Razakar and Al-Badr, took Dr Rabbiee away from his residence on this day in 1971 and killed him. His body was found at Rayerbazar killing field on December 18.

In observance of the day, wreaths will be placed at his grave and fataha will be offered at the Azimpur Graveyard.

## Mohammed Afsaruddin

Today is the death anniversary of Major (rid) Mohammed Afsaruddin, former member of the Pakistan National Assembly, says a press release.

On the occasion, a discussion and milad mahfil will be held at Baitul Afsar in Barisal after Asr prayers.

## Prof SM Fazlul Haque

Today is the ninth death anniversary of Prof SM Fazlul Haque, former Principal of Barisal Islamia College, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his College Road residence after Asr prayers.

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19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215.

## DHAKA TODAY

## Photography exhibition

The High Commission of India organises an exhibition titled 'Rare Photographs of 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh' with Water Resources Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House-24, Road-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 11.00am. The exhibition will remain open till December 23 from 10.00am to 6.00pm daily.

## Patriotic songs

As part of its Victory Day programmes, Liberation War Museum organises a session of patriotic songs. Venue: Museum premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.00pm.

## Victory rally

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad will hold a Victory rally with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Muktagong. Time: 1.30pm. It will be followed by a procession.

## Discussion

Bishwasahitya Kendra will hold a discussion titled 'The emergence of Bangladesh and the government in exile' with H T Imam as guest speaker. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 5.00pm.

## Moitree discussion

Bangladesh-Bharat Moitree Samity organises a discussion to mark the Victory Day. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Tophkhana Road. Time: 4.00pm.

## Zia Parishad discussion

In observance of Victory Day, Shaheed Zia Samajkalyan Parishad will hold a discussion. Venue: Ramna Park. Time: 4.00pm.

## Seminar

A seminar-cum expert consultation on the preliminary report of the Poverty Monitoring Survey 2004 will be held.

Venue: Parisan Khan Bhaban, Argargoon. Time: 10.00am.

## Care seminar

Care organises a national seminar on 'CHT children's opportunity for basic education' with Deputy Minister for Hill Tracts Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan as chief guest. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali. Time: 9.00am.

## Workshop

Phulki, an NGO, organises a workshop on 'Identifying strategies and benefits of onsite childcare facility for the working mothers'. Venue: YWCA Auditorium, Mohammadpur. Time: 10.00am.

## Inauguration

The inauguration of an international chain restaurant titled 'A & W Restaurant' will be held with US Ambassador Harry K Thomas as chief guest. Venue: Gulshan Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

## AGM

The annual general meeting of Development Organisation of the Rural Poor will be held. Venue: Panthapath. Time: 10.00am.

## DHAKA TOMORROW

## Children's cultural function

As part of its Victory Day programmes, Liberation War Museum organises a children's cultural function. Venue: Museum premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.00pm.

## Concluding function

The concluding function of 'SAF and SOS Joint Environmental Work Camp 2004' will be held. Venue: SOS Children's Village, Shyamoli. Time: 3.00pm.