



PHOTO: STAR
Sector Commander Lt. Col. (ret.) Quazi Nuruzzaman presents badges of honour to the freedom fighters at a reunion at LGED Auditorium in the city yesterday.

FFs urged to unite to revive the spirit of liberation war

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a reunion yesterday called upon the freedom fighters to be united to revive the spirit of liberation war and establish it in every sphere of life.

They said the freedom fighters have fallen in the whirl of political chaos and thus have been deprived of their just rights and status in the society.

The reunion of Sector-7 Freedom Fighters was held at LGED auditorium in the city.

The speakers said the freedom fighters sacrificed their lives for political and economic freedom, social justice, rule of law and democracy, but none of these exist in the country.

"The political parties have failed to bring any qualitative changes in the lives of the common people. The rich have become richer and the poor have become poorer. Politics has turned into a game of money and muscle," said Lt Col (ret) Quazi Nuruzzaman, commander of sector-7 that was comprised of Greater Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra and Dinajpur.

He said the politicisation of administration began during the liberation war and it was strengthened gradually, depriving the freedom fighters of their rights. By the time, a new elite group had captured the politics and economy of the country, he added.

Sub-sector Commander Brig Gen (ret) Gyasuddin A Chowdhury said the freedom fighters joined the liberation war not for any personal gain, but to free the country from Pakistani occupation forces. It is a shame for the nation that those brave sons of the soil have to lobby at the government offices for their living, he added.

Gyasuddin, also a former ambassador, said, "It is regrettable that we also could not take the political leadership of the country. But time has come to get rid of the current crises by bringing honest leadership to power."

Major General (ret) CR Dutt said, "It is regrettable that the freedom fighters are losing their identity due to political corruption."

He requested all to form a committee with a view to opening a new era in the country.

Krishak-Sramik-Janata League Chief Kader Siddique (Bir Uttam) MP called for strengthening the unity of the freedom fighters to establish democracy and rule of law.

He also recalled the immense contribution of the women to the liberation war and urged all to involve them in the mainstream of life.

Prof Shajahan Mian MP a freedom fighter, said there might be different opinions, but all must be united for sustaining the spirit of the liberation war.

"If needed, we shall go for another war, but we must not let the evil forces remain in power," he added.

Prof Dr M Amzad Hossain, member-secretary of the Reunion Celebration Committee, called upon the government to make special arrangement for the treatment of injured and sick freedom fighters, and give special status to all freedom fighters so that they can lead their lives with full dignity.

Major (ret) Qaiyum Khan, Prof Dr Kawsarul Haque and Durul Huda also spoke.

RU admission tests start today amid tension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The admission tests of Rajshahi University begins today amid tension as the teachers also begin a five-day work abstention programme to protest the killing of Prof Muhammad Yunus.

All preparations for the tests have been completed and the authorities have asked the police for necessary security measures, said Students' Advisor Prof Zahid Hossain Milky yesterday.

The authorities also held meetings with the Islami Chhatra Shibir and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and sought their 'cooperation' for smooth holding of the tests, sources said.

Although Bangladesh Chhatra League called a strike on January 1 and 2 demanding arrest of the killers, it postponed the strike yesterday evening following a meeting with the university authorities.

The RU Progressive Teachers' Association (PTA) will stage a sit-in in front of the Senate Bhavan for three

hours today and tomorrow and five-hour token hunger strike on January 3 as part of their agitation programme.

Meanwhile, a nine-member delegation of teachers, professionals and cultural personalities from Dhaka and Chittagong visited the scene of the murder.

The team members include are president of Bangladesh University Teachers' Federation AAM Arefin Siddiqui and Secretary General Dr Gazi Salehuddin, Sammlito Sangskritik Jote General Secretary Golam Kuddus, Bangabandhu Parishad President Justice KM Sobhan and President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury.

They called for a united movement against the fundamentalists.

Ctg Press Club executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Abu Sufian and Kalim Sarwar have been re-elected president and general secretary of Chittagong Press Club unopposed.

The biennial election of the club was held at its auditorium in the port city yesterday.

The newly elected office-bearers are AZM Haider (Suprabhat Bangladesh)-vice-president, Eaz Yusufi (Purbokome)-joint secretary, Shahidul Islam Bachechu (The Daily Star)-treasurer, Mamun Abdullah (Prothom Alo)-cultural secretary, and Mohsin Chowdhury (Janakantha)-sports secretary.

The members are Asif Siraj (Azadi), Shamsul Haq Haider (ntv) and Shahid Ul Alam (Khabar).

Ali Abbas, Dibakar Gosh and Sekander Hossain were also re-elected senior vice-president, library secretary and entertainment secretary unopposed.

Death anniversary

Today is the 18th death anniversary of Ashraful Islam Nasim, a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri, says a press release.

Nasim, who played a pioneering role in the anti-autocratic movement, was injured by the hired men of the autocratic ruler in November 1986. He succumbed to his injuries on this day in 1987.

Abdullah Mohammad Saki

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Abdullah Mohammad Saki, a former student leader and computer businessman, says a press release.

A discussion and milad mahfil will be held at 225 Fakirpool at 4.00pm.



PHOTO: STAR
The City Awami League held a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday demanding steps to beef up security for the family members of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

JCD founding anniversary today

Hasina invited

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, celebrates its 26th founding anniversary today.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will attend the inaugural function as chief guest at Ramna Park in the city at 2:00pm.

Opposition Leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has been invited to attend the function.

JCD President Shahabuddin Laitu, General Secretary Azizul Bari Helal, Senior Vice-president Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Vice-president Shamsuzzaman Mehedi and Joint Secretary Selimuzzaman Selim went to Sudha Sadan residence of Sheikh Hasina where her personal secretary Mintu Miah received the invitation letter.

The JCD leaders also invited the opposition leader's son Sajib Wazed and his wife Christine and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil.

Meanwhile, elaborate programmes have been taken up to celebrate the day, JCD sources said.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Ata Firoz Rahman, a freedom fighter and eminent student leader of the 60s, died in Kushtia yesterday at the age of 60.

He had been suffering from heart ailments, family sources said.

He was buried at the Kushtia Municipal graveyard with state honour.

Hanging bridge over Surma demanded

Hartal called in Sylhet Jan 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Sylhet Bibhag Gonodabi Parishad has called a daylong hartal in Sylhet on January 31 to press home its demand for construction of a hanging bridge over the Surma in place of the age-old Keane Bridge.

The hartal is a part of its month-long agitation programmes beginning today.

The leaders of the Parishad, a non-political forum, announced the programmes at a press conference at Sylhet Press Club yesterday.

They also protested the government decision to suspend the hanging bridge project and construct a RCC bridge instead.

They termed the decision a conspiracy against the people of Sylhet region who have a significant contribution to the economy.

Although the hanging bridge project was approved in the Enec meeting, it was suspended due to reasons unknown, they said.

Md Abdul Malik, general secretary of the Parishad, read out a written statement at the press conference.

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop

A national workshop on 'Bangladesh Alternative NGO Report on Beijing' will be held. Venue: WVA Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 9:30am.

Toitomboor fair

A daylong Toitomboor Fair, organised by a children and juvenile monthly 'Toitomboor', will be inaugurated. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises. Time: 10:00am.

Art competition

Dhaka Shishu Kalyan Foundation organises an art competition for the children on the occasion of 102nd birth anniversary of Poet Jasim Uddin. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises. Time: 10:00am.

Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Rajshahi University Old Students Association will be held. Venue: 5/5 Block-C, Lalmeta. Time: 5:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 1:30pm.

Lecture

The inaugural session of a three-day lecture on 'Performing the holy Hajj in the guidelines of the Prophet', organised by the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW), will be held with State Minister for Religious Affairs

Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan as chief guest. Venue: House-22, Road-27, Block-K, Banani. Time: 7:30pm.

Protest meeting

Bangabandhu Parishad will hold a meeting to protest the killing of Prof Mohammad Younus of Rajshahi University with Justice K M Sobhan in the chair. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 3:00pm.

JP rally

Jatiya Party organises a rally to celebrate its 19th founding anniversary with party Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju as chief guest. Venue: Muktagong, Ramna. Time: 3:00pm.

Roundtable

Bangladesh Policy Forum organises a roundtable on 'Bharat-Bangladesh Relations: Political and economic perspective' with Prof Dr Mozaffar Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Tophana Road. Time: 10:00am.

Rotary Dhaka North West

Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5:30pm.

Happy New Year 2005
in celebration with everyone

AKTEL
CLEARLY AHEAD
এক ধাপ এগিয়ে



PHOTO: STAR
A visitor admires the handicrafts at a stall at a three-day youth fair that began at Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex in the city yesterday.

BCIC TENDER NOTICE (CORRIGENDUM)

This is for information of all concerned that offer is invited against Tender Enquiry No. PUR-3.1742/2004-2005 dated 21-12-2004 for 50,000 MT (+ 5% at seller's option) Triple Super Phosph hate (TSP) of which 50% in bag on CFR (C), Chittagong port on liner term basis and 50% in bulk on CFR (C), TSP Jetty on liner term basis instead of 50,000 MT Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) in bag (+ 5% at seller's option) on CFR (C), Chittagong port on liner term basis.

All other terms and conditions of the tender enquiry will remain unchanged.

BCIC No-463-29/12/2004.
(Md. Kamruzzaman)
Additional Chief Manager (Purchase),
For Sr. General Manager (Purchase).

GD-04

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Offer ends 7 Jan, 2005