

### BCL founding anniversary today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the opposition Awami League (AL), will observe its 57th founding anniversary today with a vow to free the country from what the BCL said, the 'misrule' of the BNP-Jamaat coalition government.

To observe the day BCL has chalked out elaborate programmes.

BCL General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu said the BCL will start its journey along with the people from today to free the country from the misrule of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government. "Our promise in this founding anniversary is to resist the 'corrupt' coalition government," Babu added.

The BCL will celebrate the grand opening of the founding anniversary at the first hour today through cutting cakes and lighting 57 candles at Curzon Hall of Dhaka University (DU). Hoisting national and party flag at the central office at 6:00am, the BCL leaders will place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at 9:00am at Bangabandhu Bhaban in the city.

The BCL will also bring out a colorful procession from the foot of Aparajey Bangla of DU at 11:00am.

On the other hand the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) backed-BCL will also celebrate the day through cutting a birth anniversary cake at Curzon Hall at 12:01am, hoisting national and party flags at the central office at 6:00am, paying tributes at the Central Shaheed Minar at 7:00am.



Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury speaks at a dialogue on "Regionalism vs Multilateralism: What could Bangladesh Learn from the Global Experience?" at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan and Awami League Leader and former Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed. CPD organised the dialogue.

### Khulna mob lynches miscreant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An unidentified miscreant was lynched by angry mob in Khulna yesterday.

The incident occurred at around 12:30pm when he was trying to flee after failing to commit a robbery at N Hossain Money Changer on Sir Iqbal Road in the city.

His other associate however managed to escape, police said.

According to OC Mosharef Hossain, two miscreants entered the office and made an attempt to commit robbery at gunpoint.

But they ran away as the employees of the office raised hue and cry.

Police recovered two unloaded pistols left by them.

Nazrul Hossain, proprietor of the firm, said they raised alarms sensing that pistols were not loaded with bullets.

### ASA introduces new healthcare scheme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ASA, a non-government organisation, introduced a new healthcare programme this year to provide financial assistance to its members in case of costly medical treatment.

A sum of Tk 2.50 core has been allocated for the programme titled 'ASA-Members Health Service Programme' for the current year, said a press release.

If any member becomes seriously ill, he will be given a non-refundable amount of money ranging from Tk 25,000 to one lakh as lump sum grant for treatment.

Besides, two healthcare centres have been set up in Dhaka and Rangpur where the patients staying with their relatives free of cost will get treatment from specialised doctors.

### Saarc Cultural Festival postponed

UNB, Dhaka

Saarc Cultural Festival scheduled to begin here today has been postponed in view of catastrophe in three member countries caused by devastating earthquake and tsunami.

Earlier, the 13th Saarc Summit scheduled for January 9-11 was suspended due to the same reason.

A fresh date for holding the festival will be announced after re-fixing the date of the Saarc Summit, says a Cultural Ministry release.

### SUTRAPUR DOUBLE MURDER Fugitive with death surrenders after 22 yrs

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A man who was sentenced to death 22 years ago for a double murder at Sutrapur surrendered to a Dhaka court yesterday.

Jhintu alias Mohiuddin, the then senior vice-president of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal (JCD) of Dhaka City unit, who has been a fugitive since the verdict, surrendered to the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Matiur Rahman.

His mother Saleha Begum, in a petition to the court, sought president's mercy to commute her son's death sentence. The petition appealed to the court to forward her plea to the jail authorities to take necessary steps.

After the hearing, Judge sent Mohiuddin, son of Shahidulla of 35/2 Distillery Road at Sutrapur, to Dhaka Central Jail and forwarded the mercy petition to the jail authorities instructing to take necessary steps.

A Martial Court sentenced Mohiuddin and three others Kamal alias Galkata Kamal, Shahid Hossain and Abul Kashem- to death on July 20 in 1982 for killing Abdul Khaleq Rana and Firoz Alam Mamun of Sutrapur.

Kamal, who was in jail during the delivery of the verdict, was executed for the crime after being confirmed by the High Court, while three others were tried in absentia.

In the surrender petition, Mohiuddin said he joined the JCD

being inspired by the dynamic service of the late President Ziaur Rahman. But after the death of the president, he fell a victim to political vindictiveness and conspiracy, the petition added.

He also stated to the court that the sentence passed against him lacked eyewitness and concrete evidence.

### Instruction to DV applicants

UNB, Dhaka

The US embassy here has urged all applicants for Diversity Visas to appear for their interview on the scheduled date.

"If an applicant is unable to appear on his/her scheduled date, he or she has to submit a letter to the Embassy informing the official of the delay so that his/her interview can be rescheduled," says an embassy release.

It said the embassy had allowed DV applicants to appear late without prior authorisation in the previous years but now it has changed the policy.

The embassy will no longer allow DV applicants to appear for an interview after their scheduled date without permission, the release said.

Any DV applicant appearing after his/her scheduled interview date will be turned away and re-scheduled for a later date.