

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote commemorates dark night

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ), a platform of cultural organisations, yesterday organised cultural programmes, discussion and a candlelit procession to mark the Independence Day.

Yesterday was the second day of the three-day programme chalked out by SSJ to observe the Independence Day.

The cultural show started at 5:00pm and continued till about 9:00pm at the Central Shaheed Minar. Performers from SSJ, Udichi, Dhruvata and other organisations rendered group songs, solo songs, poetry recital and dramas in remembrance of the thousands, who perished at the hands of the Pakistani army on the fateful night of 25 March, 1971.

On completion of the cultural show, SSJ and Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee jointly held a discussion at the same venue. A number of cultural luminaries, sector commanders in the Liberation War, family members of the martyrs, and political personalities took part in the discussion.

SSJ President Nasir Uddin Yusuf and General Secretary Golam Qudus and acting president of Nirmul Committee journalist Shahrier Kabir and General Secretary Quazi Mukul, among others, attended the programme.

The Jote and Nirmul Committee also brought out a candlelit procession at 9.30pm yesterday to commemorate the dark night of the 25th March.

The procession started from the Shaheed Minar premises and marched to the martyrs' graveyard at Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University.

'Top dying' disease hits Sundarban

JS body discusses ways to combat menace

BSS, Dhaka

The parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Environment and Forest discussed the ways and means to combat 'top dying' disease which has alarmingly affected the trees in the Sundarbans.

The committee members discussed the issue with the experts at the 17th meeting of the committee at the Sangsad Bhaban on Thursday, with its chairman Mohammad Nazim Uddin Alam in the chair.

The meeting decided to integrate research works of various organisations on this disease and work out a common approach to combat this menace.

It also decided to take necessary steps to remove the affected trees from the Sundarbans.

The meeting also formed a sub-committee headed by Nazim Uddin Alam to verify various allegations against the forest department.

Committee members Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam, Kalim Uddin Ahmed, Hafiz Uddin Ahmed and Mohammad Shahidul Islam were present at the meeting.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury attended the meeting on special invitation.



Artists render song at a function organised by Sannilita Sangskritik Jote at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday in celebration of the Independence Day.

PHOTO: STAR

CCC ELECTION

BNP stalwarts call for united campaign for mayoral candidate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, City

Representatives of Chittagong city, north and south district units of BNP yesterday vowed to launch united campaign for its mayoral candidate in the city corporation election.

At a meeting held at the city BNP office at Nasiman Bhaban, BNP stalwarts extended their full support to Mir Md Nasir Uddin, also the state minister for civil aviation and tourism, by sinking their differences.

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, advisor to the prime minister on parliamentary affairs, addressed the meeting as chief guest.

Whip Syed Wahidul Alam, former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and State Minister for Forest and Environment Jafrul Islam Chowdhury also attended the meeting.

The speakers said the victory of Mir Nasir in the mayoral poll is a "prestige issue" for the party.

They said there might be difference of opinion among the leaders, but it should not stand in the way of working and electing the party candidate.

The speakers also called upon all the partymen as well as those in the alliance partners to work together to bring victory for Mir Nasir.

Chittagong (north) district BNP President Golam Akber Khandaker presided over the meeting where Chittagong city BNP General Secretary Dastagir Chowdhury, Dr Nurun Nabi, CUGSU VP Nazim Uddin also spoke.

Earlier, Mir Nasir passed a busy day holding meeting with different organisations and carrying out mass contact in the city.

In the morning, he held meeting with the leaders of Chittagong City Hawkers' Federation, Padma Oil Workers Employees Union and Chittagong University unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

After offering Jumma prayers at Agrabad Daipara Mosque, he

carried mass contact there and at the neighbouring Rampura area under Halishahar thana.

Addressing rallies, Mir Nasir said if elected, he would build up Chittagong as a modern and planned city.

He said order and dynamism would also be restored at Chittagong City Corporation.

Meanwhile, Awami League (AL) nominated candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury also continued his campaign to retain the mayoral post for the third consecutive time.

Addressing a rally at Chawk Bazar Ward, Mohiuddin Chowdhury said he has turned the CCC into a people-oriented institution and implemented a number development projects for the welfare of the city dwellers.

If re-elected, he will make Chittagong a mega city without increasing any tax, said Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also the General Secretary of Chittagong city AL.

SHANKAR COMPETITION 20 Bangladeshi children win awards

BSS, Dhaka

Twenty Bangladeshi child painters won silver medals and other awards in the Shankar International Children's Competition-2004.

A total of 936 prizes were given to the participants from 68 countries. Of them, 10 Bangladeshi children won silver medals and 10 others won other awards, said a foreign ministry press release.

Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh received the prizes from Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on Thursday.

The winners are Nirad A Rahman, 5, Panama Shayan Tony, 9, Sabrina Zerim Islam, 9, Samia Salahuddin Oyshee, 9, Antora Mehrukh Azad, 11, Farhana Faruq Eva, 11, Rehnuma Mehabin Orin, 11, Tahseen Noor Upama, 11, Tanzila Wahed, 11, Arifur Rahman Tapu, 12, Marzana Mallick Soma, 12, Nafisa Tanjim Dhima, 12, Panky Rajbongshi, 12, Rubaida Islam, 12, Farhana Sharmin Moon, 13, Sanjida Akhtar, 13, M Sarwat Yaman Antor, 14, Mukita Naz Chowdhury Bristy, 14, Umme Kulsum Shakila Juthi, 14, and Tajreen Akter Shupti, 15.

Razzaq refutes minister's remarks on Ganges water

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League leader Abdur Razzaq MP yesterday refuted Water Resources Minister Hafizuddin's remarks that Bangladesh had received more water before the signing of 1996 Indo-Bangladesh Water Sharing Treaty than the present amount.

"This is a blatant lie and malicious campaign by the water resources minister against the treaty," he said in response to the remarks made by the minister at a press conference on March 20.

Razzaq, who was the water resources minister of the previous Awami League government, said the 30-year Ganges Water Sharing Treaty has ensured Bangladesh's legitimate right to the Ganges flow and that the country will receive minimum 35 thousand cusecs of water during the lean period.

He also challenged the minister to prove his claim that Bangladesh gets less water after the signing of the treaty in December 1996.

In a statement, Razzaq said the previous regimes of Ziaur Rahman, Ershad and Khaleda Zia had failed to realise Bangladesh's legitimate share of the Ganges water.



Appeal for help

Rimon's poor father wonders how he would pay for his eldest son's treatment as hawking cigarettes is the only source of his income, but he is unwilling to give up like every other fathers.

Mohammad Rayhan Hossain Rimon, a seven grader of Ashulia High School, has been suffering from blood cancer and undergoing treatment at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, says a press release.

A total of 160 English teachers from different educational institutions of the country attended the opening ceremony of the training programme.

The training are being conducted by six English language training specialists from the USA and Japan.

Speaking as the chief guest, American Centre Deputy Director Dr Michelle Jones appreciated the effort. Belta President Dr Arifa Rahman also spoke.

Medical board formed for ailing AL leader

Abidur Reza Khan, a senior Awami League leader, former lawmaker and organiser of the Liberation War, has been undergoing treatment at the Samarita Hospital in the city, says a press release.

He has been suffering from various complicated diseases. A medical board has been formed for his treatment. His family requested all to pray for his early recovery.

ESL teachers' training programme begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-day training Programme titled 'Teaching Strategies for the ESL Classroom' organised by Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (Belta) began at the Presidency University auditorium in the city yesterday.

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Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association launches a five-day training programme for the ESL teachers at the Presidency University auditorium in the city yesterday.

'Observe dark night of Mar 25 officially'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of freedom fighters and school students took to the streets in the city yesterday demanding official observance of the dark night of March 25, 1971.

They also urged the government to declare the night as a night of national mourning and take necessary steps to project its importance to the new generation.

On this night in 1971, the Pakistani military rulers launched 'Operation Search Light' against the unarmed Bangladeshis.

Dhaka University was attacked and students exterminated in the hundreds. Death squads roamed city streets killing some 7,000 people in a single night.

Led by Muktiyoddha Gono Parishad, the freedom fighters and students took out the procession from Arambagh carrying posters

and banners and chanting various slogans. The procession paraded different city streets before ending at Rajarbagh.

Earlier, the parishad organised a discussion at Dhaka District Sporting Association (DDSA) Office at Arambagh.

Speakers at the discussion blamed the previous governments for not awarding punishment to those who collaborated with the Pakistani occupation forces in the genocide.

"Our new generation does not know the real history of the dark night and the liberation war because no government in the past took any effective steps to focus them," said Ishtiaq Aziz Ulfat, president of the parishad.

Freedom fighters Sadek Ahmed Khan, Shahid Ablu and Syed Anwarul also spoke.

'Expansion of female edn a must for development'

BSS, Rajshahi

The government is committed to the expansion of female education for the sake of overall development, said Rajshahi city Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu.

"There is no alternative to female education for the progress of the country," he said.

The mayor was addressing as the chief guest a prize giving ceremony of Mission Girls' High School on Thursday.

He urged the guardians and others to extend their whole-hearted cooperation towards the expansion of female education.

Listing various development programmes undertaken by the government, Minu said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is putting in her best efforts to make the girls educated for their self-reliance.



Muktiyoddha Gono Parishad took out a procession in the city yesterday demanding official observance of the dark night of March 25.

PHOTO: STAR

42 Armed Forces personnel get honorary promotion

UNB, Dhaka

Fourteen Army and nine Navy personnel have been granted honorary commission on the occasion of the Independence and National Day, according to a notification of the defence ministry.

Besides, 18 honorary lieutenants of Bangladesh Army and one honorary sub-lieutenant of

Bangladesh Navy also got honorary promotion on the occasion.

These promotions come into effect today.

The honorary lieutenants promoted to the rank of honorary captain of the Army are Md Abdur Rouf Miah, Md Akbar Hossain, Md Shah Alam, Md Afaj Uddin, Md Nurul Haque, Md Abdul Ali Sheikh, Md Siraj Ullah, Md Nasir Uddin, Md Taslim Uddin Sarkar, Pranesh Chandra Chanda, Md Abul Khaer, Md Siraj Sardar, Md Nurul Islam, Govindha Lal Sutradhar, Md Tibbur Rahman, Md Moutaj Uddin Khan, Md Abdul Maleque and Md Liakat Ali Sheikh.

The junior commissioned officers of the Bangladesh Navy who have been granted honorary commission in the rank of honorary sub-lieutenant are Noor Mohammad MS Ahmed, MA Kuddus, KAS Jhahangir, ML Rahman, FMH Kabir, MH Rashid, MUA Shiraji and MZ Islam Mollah.

The honorary sub-lieutenant promoted to the rank of honorary lieutenant is KD Hossain.

Mosleuddin Ahmed, Md Farooq Ahmed, Md Abdul Wahab, Md Harun-or-Rashid Mollah, Kazi Abdul Bashir, Md Selim Khan, Asaduzzaman Bhuiyan, Abdul Haque, Nur Uddin Ahmed, Ali Ahsan Chowdhury, Md Mohiuddin, MA Wazed and AKM Shahadat Hossain.

Bangladesh Navy

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WEATHER TODAY Thundershowers likely UNB, Dhaka Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal division in the next 24 hours till 6.00pm today.

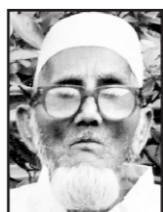
Qulkhwani

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Amena Serniabat, sister of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be held at the residence of her youngest son Abul Khaer Serniabat at Dhanmondi after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Her eldest son and former chief whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, on behalf of the family, has requested relatives, admirers and well-wishers to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary



Today is the second death anniversary of Afsar Uddin Sheikh, father of Md Monir Hossain Khoka, proprietor of Parijat Prakashani, says a press release.

Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his house at Farashganj Road after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.

DHAKA TODAY Liberation War Museum Nazrul Academy Kachi-Kanchar Mela Bangla Academy Cultural function Art competition Book Exhibition