



The Bangladesh Sanjukt Tanti Samity took out a colourful procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of its fourth National Congress. The congress was held at the Mahanagar Natya Mancha.

## Myanmar military delegation arrives

UNB, Dhaka

A 31-member delegation comprising the top brass of Myanmar Armed Forces, led by Chief of General Staff Gen Thura Shwe Mann, arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, with military and economic cooperation on top of their agenda.

Chief of Army Staff Lt General Moen U Ahmed, Myanmar Ambassador U Thane Myint and Principal Staff Officer of Bangladesh Armed Forces Division Maj General Mustafa Reza Noor received them at BAF tarmac at Kurmitola.

Commerce Minister of Myanmar, Brig General Tin Naing Thein is among others accompanying General Thura Shwe Mann, member of the State Peace and Development Council -- the highest body of military rulers in Myanmar.

The Myanmar military delegation also consists of one Lieutenant General and six Major Generals holding different important portfolios of their government.

They are Commander No. 3 of Bureau of Special Operations Lt General Khin Maung Myint, Commander of Western Command Headquarters Major

General Khin Maung Myint, Judge Advocate General Maj Gen Soe Maung, Inspector General of Defence Services Maj Gen Thein Htike, Vice Adjutant General Maj Gen Hia Shwe, Vice Quarter Master General Maj Gen Khin Maung Tun and director of People's Militia and Territorial Forces Maj Gen Aung Thein.

On arrival in Dhaka, General Thura Shwe Mann placed wreaths at Shikha Anirban (the Eternal Flame) to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces martyred during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

A smartly turned-out army contingent at Senakunja presented a guard of honour to the visiting general. He took salute and inspected the guard. The general also planted a sapling of Krishnachura at the Shenakunja lawn, an ISPR release said.

Members of the Myanmar delegation are expected to pay courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia during their stay here.

The Myanmar military delegation will visit a few military installations in Dhaka and Chittagong.

They are expected to leave Bangladesh on September 26.

## Cancel appointments of new election officers

### Seven student bodies demand

DU CORRESPONDENT

Seven opposition-backed student organisations led by the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday demanded immediate cancellation of the recent appointments of Upazila Election Officers (UEOs), saying that they were appointed on the basis of political loyalty.

They also threatened to go for a tougher movement, including student strike, if their demands are not met by October 3.

The BNP-Jamaat alliance government has selected all the UEOs from the list of Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists, the student leaders said at a press conference on the Dhaka University campus.

They also termed 'illegal' the appointments given ahead of next parliamentary election.

The leaders alleged that the 'Hawa Bhaban' prepared the results of the examination for the UEOs and the Public Service Commission (PSC) only published it formally.

Such political appointments will have an impact on the national and

local elections, said BCL President Liaquat Sikdar while reading out a written statement.

Due to widespread politicisation, the brilliant students are not getting government jobs, he added.

Liaquat also accused the chief election commissioner of his involvement in the appointment process and termed it a part of the 'election engineering' conspiracy by the government.

The student leaders also demanded arrest of and punishment to OG Rafiq and others responsible for the murder of JSD-backed BCL leader Kamrul Islam Momin.

They announced a countrywide demonstration on September 26, 29 and October 1 to press home their demands.

BCL General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu, Senior Vice-President Marufa Aktar Popy, Rafiqul Islam Kotwal, Chhatra Maitree President Rafiqul Islam Sujon, JSD-backed BCL General Secretary Ali Hasan Tarun, Chhatra Samiti Joint Convener Mustak Ahmed also spoke at the press conference.

## Meena Day celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Meena Day was celebrated yesterday with great enthusiasm among the children and adolescents across the country.

The day is celebrated every year in the country since 1998 after Meena became the most popular animated girl character who stands for child rights and gender equality.

This year the theme of the day was 'Equal Right for Boys and Girls brings peace and happiness to the family'.

To mark the occasion, Bangladesh Shishu Academy chalked out different programmes in association with the Unicef.

A group of child artists wearing colourful costumes of Meena, her brother Raju and the talking parrot Mithu, performed live in a street theatre on mobile truck around the capital in the morning.

In the afternoon, a discussion was held at Ziaur Rahman auditorium of the shishu academy.

Speaking as chief guest Barrister M Hyder Ali, secretary of women and children affairs ministry, said Meena plays a very significant role in identifying problems and offering solutions to child development issues.

They said Meena raises awareness about female education, gender equality and hygiene.

Chaired by Bangladesh Shishu Academy Chairman Prof Zubaida Gulshan Ara, the function was also addressed by Director General of mass communication department Md Abdul Mannan, Chief Engineer of public health engineering department Md Khurshed Alam, Joint Secretary of Bangladesh Cricket Board Reazuddin Al Mamun and James Jennings of the Unicef.

A new Meena episode titled 'Fair Play for Girls' highlighting the importance of ensuring equal opportunity for girls was also heralded.

## Student dies at DU hall

DU CORRESPONDENT

A student of Dhaka University (DU) died of a cardiac arrest yesterday.

Abdullah Al Mamun, a third year student of history and a resident at Salimullah Hall, suddenly felt chest pain. His roommates rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where the doctors declared him dead.

Mamun hailed from Alidpur of Rajbari District.

After a namaz-e-janaza at the university mosque at noon, his body was sent to his village home for burial.

## Formulate 'right to information act'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said media could play a vital role in persuading the policy makers to formulate a pro-poor policy.

They also said a 'right to information act' should be formulated to ensure free flow of information so that journalists could collect information from credible sources.

Samata, a non-government organisation working with land issues, organised the roundtable titled 'The role of media in formulating pro-poor policy' in the city.

Speaking at the roundtable, General Secretary of Bangladesh

Economic Association Dr Abul Barkat said the media could play a vital role in implementing different policies.

Referring to land reforms, he said, "The reforms could not be implemented in the country as those who are close to state power are land grabbers."

He also criticised the government for not including the rights of the landless people in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

General Secretary of the National Press Club Shoukat Mahmood said the role of media to promote agricultural activities and family planning is commendable.

He also said the right to information act is necessary not only for

journalists but also for the betterment of common people.

He also said the media in Bangladesh is by and large biased towards the rich people and hardly cares for the interest of poor people.

Tasmina Hossain, editor of the fortnightly Anannya, Nurul Kabir, executive editor of The New Age, Syed Ishtiaque Reza, news editor of ATN Bangla, Golam Mortaza, executive editor of weekly 2000, Borhan Ahmed, executive editor of the daily Janakantha, and Abdul Kader, executive director of Samata, also spoke.

Former information secretary Syed Margub Morshed attended the roundtable as chief guest.



Physically and mentally challenged children inaugurate a drama festival dedicated to them at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. The Action on Disability and Development organised the festival.



Participants at the concluding session of a regional seminar on 'Islam: Religion for peace, progress and harmony; Bangladesh: Model of a moderate Muslim nation' held in the city yesterday. From left are Dr Mahbubullah, president of the Centre for National and Regional Studies, Prof M Shamsher Ali and Dr MA Cader.

## Five killed in road accidents

UNB, Dhaka

Five people, including three of a family, were killed in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in the last two days.

Two of them were killed when a bus crashed into a jeep on the highway at Chandina upazila in Comilla yesterday morning.

One of the victims was identified as Golam Mostafa Kiron, president of Chhatkhil upazila Zia Parishad in Noakhali. The identity of another victim could not be known immediately.

Police said the Chittagong-bound bus from Dhaka hit the Dhaka-bound Pajero jeep at the upazila headquarters at about 8:30 am, killing two Pajero passengers on the spot and injuring two other passengers.

The injured were rushed to Dhaka

for treatment.

In the other incident, three of a family were killed when a covered van rammed their motorcycle on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Jatra Siddhi in Feni on Friday night.

The victims were identified as businessman Nurul Alam, 40, his daughter Imu, 4, and nephew Arif Hossain, 23, who was a vice-president of a Rotary Club.

Police said the accident took place when they were returning to the town after attending a programme at their village home at Chhanua in Sadar upazila at about 8:00 pm.

Imu died on the spot while Arif Hossain succumbed to his injuries on the way to Sadar hospital and Nurul Alam on the way to Dhaka.

Police seized the van but could not arrest its driver.



The Dhanmondi Paribesh Unnayan Jote launched a tree plantation campaign on the bank of the Dhanmondi lake in the city yesterday, aiming to protect the environment.

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