



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League leaders place a wreath at Noor Hossain Square in the city yesterday to mark the Shaheed Noor Hossain Day.

NOOR HOSSAIN DAY OBSERVED

Vow to resist move to destroy democracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties and student organisations yesterday marked the Shaheed Noor Hossain Day with a vow to resist any move to destroy the hard-earned democracy.

Noor Hossain, a Jubo League leader and a pro-democracy activist, was killed in police firing during a demonstration against the then autocratic ruler HM Ershad at Zero Point on the day in 1987. With slogans -- 'Let democracy be freed' and 'Down with autocracy' -- painted in his chest and back, he took part in the demonstration.

Seminar, discussion and brief rallies were held in the city yesterday to pay homage to him.

Speakers at a seminar said the democracy is now under threat under the BNP-Jamaat coalition government.

The government has been designing various plots to ensure its victory in the next general election, said Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak.

"People in northern districts are starving due to Monga while the government is busy arranging expensive Saarc summit ignoring the plight of the

poor people," he added.

The AI leader called on the countrymen to be united to oust this 'evil' government through a mass upsurge.

AI leader Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Sirajuddin Ahmed also spoke.

The South Bangla Youth Welfare Association organised the seminar at the auditorium of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU).

Dhaka City Awami League, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Communist Party of Bangladesh, 11-Party, Gano Forum, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Left Democratic Front, Awami Sheshchasebak League, Jubo Gano Forum, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, seven opposition-backed student organisations led by Bangladesh Chhatra League, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Progotishil Chhatra Jote and Shaheed Noor Hossain Sangsad placed wreaths at the Noor Hossain Square in the morning.

At a rally, CPB leaders urged the countrymen to step up the movement against the misrule of the coalition government.

JS body for guidelines to stop misuse of CHT land

BSS, Dhaka

The parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs yesterday suggested preparing a framework for leasing out lands properly and stopping misuse of lands in the hill districts.

The suggestions were made after an elaborate discussion on the leasing system and problems in management of lands and latest progress in the activities of the Land Commission, said a parliamentary secretariat press release.

Chairman of the committee M

Mosharrar Hossain presided over the meeting held at Sangsad Bhaban.

Members of the committee M Mujibur Rahman, Shahjahan Chowdhury (Cox's Bazar-4), Shahjahan Chowdhury (Chittagong-14), Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal and Wadud Bhuiyan attended the meeting.

Two rapists get life

BSS, Rajshahi

Two youths were sentenced to life imprisonment here yesterday for raping a housewife at Chilarang Dangipara village in Thakurgaon about two years ago.

Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge AFM Aminul Islam handed down the verdict in a crowded courtroom.

The convicts, identified as Rafiqul Islam, 25, son of Jamir Uddin, and Yousuf Ali, 24, son of Bashir Uddin, were also fined Tk one lakh each.

According to the prosecution, the convicts raped Radha Rani, 24, wife of Molin Chandra Saha, while she was returning home in the afternoon after collecting dry leaves on September 11, 2003.

When the victim identified one of the rapists as Rafiqul Islam, they gouged out her eyes. The husband of the victim rescued his wife in a critical condition and took her to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

Special Public Prosecutor Ketab Uddin conducted the case on behalf of the state while Advocate Ashraf Ali defended the accused.

DU closed on Nov 12, 13

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka University will remain closed on November 12 and 13 on the occasion of the 13th Saarc Summit, said a DU press release.

Bangladesh Open University (BOU) has also postponed the semester examinations of all programmes, scheduled for today, due to unavoidable circumstances.

Fresh dates for the examinations will be announced later, said a BOU press release.