



Suhrawardy's anniversary of death today

UNB, Dhaka

The 42nd death anniversary of Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy will be observed in the country today.

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion.

In his message, Iajuddin said Suhrawardy is a bright chapter in Bangladesh's history of democracy, and his lifetime mission was to ensure welfare of the common people through the establishment of democracy.

"All will have to work together for flourishing this system for the welfare of the people," he said.

Khaleda said Suhrawardy was a bright star and an unforgettable personality in the political history of the sub-continent.

She said people from this region will always remember the late leader for his contributions to socio-economic development and overall welfare of the people, and in establishing rule of law.

In her message, Hasina said the people of this sub-continent will remember the contributions of Suhrawardy in establishing democratic rights of the people and in upholding communal harmony.

Month-long campaign to raise awareness about Aids

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

launched a month-long campaign yesterday to raise awareness about HIV/Aids to prevent the spread of the deadly disease.

"Raising mass awareness is a must to fight Aids. It is high time to take steps in this regard,' Amanullah Khan, chairman of UNB, said while speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The vast majority of the world's young people still have no idea how HIV infection is transmitted or how to protect themselves from the deadly disease, he said.

The speakers said the country is vulnerable to Aids epidemic as the neighbouring country has a high HIV prevalence rate.

Kamrul Islam Sony, chairman of Life, urged all to share information relating to Aids with others to

prevent the spread of the disease. Students and teachers can play a vital role in combating the disease, said Dr Salim Shakur, director of Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

People from all walks of like, including doctors, teachers, stu-dents and journalists, joined the programme.

'Ensure equal rights for women' STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday reiterated their call for ensuring

equal rights for women. The meeting was organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at its central office in the city as part of its programme to observe the International Fortnight to Resist Violence Against Woman (Nov 25 to Dec 10) and the World Human

Rights Day on December 10. Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanom urged all men to come forward to help develop a culture where the rights of women

will be ensured. "The failure to establish women's rights is tantamount to the failure of establishing our own rights," said Mehedi Hasan, central convenor of Muktijuddha

Projonmo Commando.

The speakers suggested inclusion of women's rights issues in textbook curriculum to help create awareness among the students from their childhood.

The media should also play a vigorous role in creating public opinion in favour of women's rights through various

programmes, they added. Parishad President Hena Das and leaders and members of different social organisations including Nagorik Sanghati, Sammilita Samajik Pratirodh and United Network Limited were present on the occasion.

'Establish education as PM gives Tk 5 lakh each to fundamental right under constitution'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers and educationists at a dialogue yesterday underscored the need for establishing education as a fundamental right under the constitution of the country.

The fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution do not include education; that is why the government has no education policy at all, said Prof Dr Alauddin Ahmed, secretary general of Bangladesh Parliamentary Caucus on Education.

The Parliamentary Caucus on Education and All Party Parliamentary Group in cooperation with the People's Empowerment Trust (PET) and the Commonwealth Education Fund (CEF) organised the dialogue on Education for All : Fundamental Rights or Fundamental Principles' at the National Press Club in the city.

Dr Alauddin said the

from all political parties are working to establish education as a fundamental right under the con-

Criticising the government's ingin present unrest situation." move to introduce uni-track education system at the secondary level, he said such a system, which does not emphasise arts, commerce and science, will simply ruin the careers of students.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said priority should also be given to quality education, demand-based education facilities, political will and accountability for overall improvement in the field of education.

"Only establishing education as a fundamental right is not enough to ensure education for all as we even fail to protect the right to live," said noted economist Dr Atiur

Criticising different types of

Parliamentary Caucus on education system existing in the Education along with lawmakers country, he said, "We are now building a kindergarten-based Bangladesh, Madrasa-based Bangladesh and Bangla medium school-based Bangladesh, result-

> Prof Moniruzzaman Mia, member of the Anti-Corruption Commission, said the proposed uni-track education system is not consistent with the National Education Commission-2003

> Moniruzzaman, also a former education commission chairman, said compulsory education up to class eight in the style of Indian system is not possible in the present context of Bangladesh due to lack of infrastructure and other

> CEF Coordinator Muntasim Tanvir and Prof Masum also spoke at the dialogue presided over by Prof Safi Ahmed.



Md Ataur Rahim, a

prominent banker,

passed away due to

cardiac arrest in

Canada on

November 27, says

a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son,

Rahim, who had been living in

His namaz-e-janaza was held at

Calgary in Canada. He was laid to

rest in Canada as per his last

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Usha Chakroborty, former presi-

dent of district Mahila Parishad,

passed away on Saturday night at

her residence at Srinath Charterjee

Kumar Chakroborty, a martyr of

the War of Liberation, left behind

She was cremated at the Barisal

Barisal City Corporation Mayor

Advocate Majibur Rahman Sarwar

and leaders of Barisal Reporters

Unity, Mahila Parishad, Sangskritik

Sangathon Samannaya Parishad,

Puja Udjapan Parishad and various

socio-political-cultural organisa-

tions condoled her death and

conveyed sympathy to the mem-

SM Amin Akhtar Solaiman

SM Amin Akhtar

Solaiman passed

away at Apollo

Hospitals in Dhaka

on Saturday at the

age of 66, says a

press release.

He left behind his wife, a daugh-

ter, a son, four grandchildren and a

host of relatives and admirers to

Haji Shamsun Nahar

His qulkhwani will be held after

Haji Shamsun Nahar, wife of late

Moulavi Karimul Haque of Shibpur

village under Feni district, passed

away at her son's residence at East

Basabo in the city on Wednesday at

graveyard, says a press release.

Nahar was buried at her family

mourn his death.

UNB, Dhaka

bers of the bereaved family.

Usha, wife of Advocate Sudhir

Lane in the city at the age of 85.

her two sons and a daughter.

crematorium.

Usha Chakroborty

Canada since 1973, retired from

Toronto Dominion Bank recently.

mother and a host of relatives.

Obituary

The Communist Party of Bangladesh took out a silent procession in the city yesterday to commemorate those killed in the bomb attacks in Gazipur, Chittagong and Jhalakathi

ATTACK ON MAYOR

Hartal observed in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The eight-hour hartal called in Sylhet by the main opposition Awami League (AL) in protest against Friday's grenade attack on the Sylhet city mayor passed off yesterday peacefully.

There was no report of any untoward incident during the hartal hours except that the police picked up six pickets from different areas of the city.

All types of vehicles, except for a few motorbikes and rickshaws, remained off-road and the commercial establishments kept their shutters down.

The AL and its front organisa-tions and 14-party combine allies brought out processions from different areas and joined a rally at the court point.

Speakers at the rally alleged that the BNP-Jamaat alliance government is reluctant to ensure the security of a dignitary like the mayor of a city corporation, who

enjoys the status of a state minister under the provisions of the coun-

try's constitution. They expressed strong indignation over the government's negligence to provide security to Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, who had been attacked once earlier. The government will be held responsible for any untoward incident, they said.

Kamran, who was present at the rally, said these attacks are a part of a great conspiracy to ruin the main

opposition AL. District AL chief ANM Shafiqul Hague, VP Jahir Chowdhury Sufian, General Secretary Iftekhar Hossain Shamim, National Awami Party (NAP) leader Syed Abdul Hannan and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Advocate Zakir Ahmed

spoke at the rally, among others. Meanwhile, the three persons arrested on Saturday in connection with the grenade attack on Kamran were sent to jail custody

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met office said, predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 30.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 14.0 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:28am

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidityin percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.6	18.0	62	69
Chittagong	30.0	17.2	84	79
Rajshahi	27.0	16.3	70	88
Khulna	27.5	15.5	71	67
Barisal	28.3	15.8	76	86
Sylhet	27.4	17.4	72	75
Cox's Bazar	29.2	19.3	77	71

families of two slain judges UNB, Dhaka

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday gave Tk 5 lakh each to the families of two senior assistant judges killed in a bomb attack in Jhalakathi

tomeettheirurgentneeds. Khaleda handed over the cheques to the bereaved family members of the slain judges, Sohel Amed and Jagannath Pandey, when they met her at the PMO at her

The prime minister consoled Farhana Taranun, the widow of Sohel Ahmed, and Pallabi Pandey Rita, the widow of Jagannath Pandey, and also assured them of providing suitable jobs to them immediately.

The families of the two slain judges could now stay at the government quarters where they are

Mentioning the government teps, the prime minister said the killers would be brought to justice.

Iftekhar, the 3-year-old son of Sohel Ahmed, Sohel's father Dr Mansur Ahmed and father-in-law Prof AKM Mohsin and Sherstho, the two-year-and-seven-month-old son of Jagannath Pandey, Pandey's father Ram Narayan Pandey and father-in-law Mukul Chandra Mukharjee also came to meet the PM.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, State Minister for Law Shajahan Omar, PM's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Judicial Service Association Rafqul Islam and Secretary General Reazul Karim were also present.

After the meeting with the prime minister, Pandey's widow told reporters that no other women should be widowed like her and no children orphaned. She also said it would be betterifsheget a suitable job.

The widow of Sohel said words failed her in expressing her woes. She, however, said she needs a standard job to maintain the life-style they have developed.

'Deploy female cops at Hasina's residence'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

in the backdrop of recent spate of bomb attacks across the country, office of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has requested the police administration to deploy women police to check female visitors at the entrance of her

An aide of the opposition leader yesterday sent a letter to the inspector general of police (IGP) stressing that there is an urgency to step up the ecurity at her residence which need

"We have requested for women police at Sudha Sadan to check the female visitors as spate of bomb terrorism in the form of suicidal attacks have increased alarmingly, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to the opposition leader, toldThe Daily Star yesterday.

" Earlier, we requested the police administration verbally for women police, but they did not respond even after three days. So, we have sent the letter." he said.

Reiterating the demand for strengthening the security of the leader of the opposition, Saber said, "We have been requesting the government for Special Security Forces (SSF) for long, but no step has been taken vet.'

Saber said, "We have also requested the government to improve the quality of her security as mere increase of the number of security personnel is not enough in the present situation of the country."

Death anniversary



Today is the 14th death anniversary of S M Shafiul Azam, former jute, commerce and industry and energy and mineral resources minister, says a press

S M Azam Memorial Committee has taken elaborate programmes to observe the day.

On the occasion, special prayers will be offered at his graveyard and alms will be distributed among the Special programmes will also be

held at Dr SM Muhammadul Haque Govt Primary School, Latifa Khatun Orphanage and Forkania Madrasa at his village home in

Oulkhwani Asr prayers on December 6 at his Gulshan residence.



Qulkhwani of Captain Ali Ahmed, former director of health directorate, will be held at his home at House # 52, Road # 8/A,

today, says a press release. He passed away on December 2

at the age of 80. He is survived by four sons, three daughters and a number of grandchildren.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hands over a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to Pallabi Pandey Rita, the widow of slain judge Jagannath Pandey, at her office in the city yesterday.

Unite to free country from militants: Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain called on the political parties to be united with the support of people to form a democratic and non-communal government.

"In the month of victory, we have to make a fresh vow to build a country free from Islamic militants and extremists," he said at a discussion organised by the Bangalee Sangskriti Mancha at Dhanmondi in the city to mark the

The Bangalees could not be defeated through bomb or grenade

they are united, it is impossible for the vested quarter to suppress

The politics of the 14-party opposition combine would be to wipe out the failed politics that could not ensure people's rights, said Dr Kamal.

"The politics will be aimed at establishing the rights of people,"

It is time to make the new generation aware of the true history of the War of Liberation and instil its

The speakers at the discussion

attacks, he said, adding that once urged all to be imbued with the spirit of the liberation war as well as the ideals of Bangabandhu and resist the fundamentalist forces

> Convenor of Bangalee Sangskriti Mancha Alamgir Kumkum presided over the discussion. Folklorist Shamsuzzaman Khan, journalist Md Mizanur Rahman, General Secretary of Awami Sechchhashebok League Firoz, Abdul Matin Bhuiyan, Shahadat Chowdhury, Shariful

> > also present.

spirit in them, he added.

TENGRATILA BLAST

Petrobangla to claim Tk 250cr from Niko

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Petrobangla is about to claim Tk 250 crore as compensation from Canadian Niko Resources Ltd for the losses caused by two explosions at Chhatak gas field, also known as Tengratila.

Officials at the energy division said a formal compensation claim will be made this week. The compensation includes Tk

84 crore for environmental damage and Tk 166 for burning eight billion cubic feet (CFT) of gas in the two explosions. On Sunday, a summary of the compensation claim was sent to

in charge of Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. Energy Advisor Mahmudur Rahman had approved the compensation claim prepared by Petrobangla, the state-run oil, gas

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia who is

and mineral corporation. The first accident took place in January when Niko was drilling at the abandoned gas field under a joint venture agreement (JVA) with Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex), a subsidiary of the Petrobangla.

The second blowout was in compensation claim.

Dakkhin Bangla Jubo Kalyan Samity

organises a discussion to mark the

death anniversary of Hossain Shahid

Suhrawardy. Venue: Mazar premises

A rally of Awami League-led 14-party

opposition combine will be held to

protest the bomb blasts on court

premises across the country. Venue:

The silver jubilee function of Biplobi

Chhatra Maitree will be held. Venue:

TSC of Dhaka University. Time:

Sammilita Samajik Andolon organises a

discussion on the role of civil society in the

present perspective of the country. Venue:

Liberation War Museum auditorium,

Muktangon, Ramna. Time: 3.00pm.

Chhatra Maitree

Samajik Andolon

Segun Bagicha. Time: 3.30pm.

Disability fair

near Doel Chattar. Time: 8.00am.

Discussion

June when Niko was drilling a relief well to extinguish the fire

originating in the first explosion. Niko claimed it successfully put out the fire by drilling another relief well in October. Bapex said although Niko successfully controlled the fire, there are still flames at several points.

Niko has so far paid Tk 2.5 crore in compensation to the local

Niko Executive Chairman Edward S Sampson recently met the energy advisor and sought permission to begin production from the gas field.

The advisor told him Niko would not be permitted to start production until it agreed to make the compensation. Sampson, in a recent interview

with BDNEWS, said accidents in the oil and gas industry are common. "Every year 300 such accidents take place across the world, but there is no provision of compensation for burnt gas," he added.

He told the energy advisor that Niko will follow the JVA if

inaugurated by Finance and Planning

Minister M Saifur Rahman to mark the

International Day of Disabled. Venue:

Dhanmondi Playground. Time:

The opening ceremony of China Commodities and Technology Fair 2005

will be held with Commerce Minister

Altaf Hossain Chowdhury as chief

guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China

Friendship Conference Centre. Time:

Technology fair

Petrobangla formally makes the terrorism but in the absence of unity and co-operation among the political parties against the acts of terrorism, it would be difficult to adopt meaningful measures," they

They hoped that the people will

The lawyers are Tofazzal Hossain Khan, Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP, Ziaur Rahman Khan MP, Habibul Islam Bhuiyan, Mahbubur Rahman MP, Barrister AKM Nazrul Islam Khan, Mohammad Nazrul Islam, Barrister Abdur Razzaq and

Peoples' Caravan

The concluding rally of the Peoples' Caravan, organised by Ubinig to protest the unfair activities of WTO against the interest of the developing countries, will be held. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 3.00pm.

Birthday celebration

A discussion and cultural function will be held in celebration of the birthday of Poet Nasir Ahmed. Venue: World Literature Centre, 14 Kazi Nazrul Islam A national fair on disability will be Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

Demand for national govt unconstitutional Say 9 senior lawyers STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islam and Habibur Rahman were

Nine senior lawyers of the Supreme Court (SC), in a statement yesterday, termed the demand for national government replacing the elected coalition government 'undemocratic' and 'unconstitutional'.

of Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Rokanuddin Mahmud unconstitutional' as he called ipon the SC judges to refrain from discharging their judicial functions voluntarily. The lawyers criticised eminent

lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain and former president Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury for their demand of an alternative government or national government replacing the elected four-partyalliance government. They reminded Rokanuddin that the judges are holding consti-

ound to discharge their judicial "His call is not only unconstitutional but is an affront to the concept of independent judiciary," they said.

tutional posts and they are oath-

They said suicide bombing is a new phenomenon in Bangladesh and the government took steps to increase the security measures on the court premises and provide gunmen to the judges. No doubt more effective steps will be taken in future to combat

They observed that there are interested quarters who want to paralyse judiciary and portray Bangladesh as a failed state.

be united and prevent this handful of politicians from resorting to undemocratic and unconstitutional means.

Jainul Abedin. Bomb recovered

from KG school STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Kotwali police recovered a bomb from a kindergarten school at the city's Patharghata area yesterday morning. The bomb was later defused.

Police said the authorities of Ideal Kindergarten School informed them about the abandoned bomb near the school boundary wall at about 9:30am. Sub-inspector (SI) Mir Kashem immediately rushed to the spot, brought the bomb to police station and defused it at 11:30am.