

## First ever car designed by a Bangladeshi runs today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An enterprising youth today introduces Leepu F-21, the first ever automobile designed by a Bangladeshi, in Dhanmondi in the capital.

Nizamuddin Awlia Leepu, the designer, formally launches the car at his workshop cum home on Jikatola New Road at 11:30am.

"I named the car after myself followed by F-21 that stands for February 21 [Ekushey February], International Mother Language Day," Leepu told The Daily Star last night.

Leepu has been working in automotive body designing and building technology since 1988.

He spent seven years in California in automotive culture to gather experience and expertise and since he returned home in 1998, he has been trying to improve and innovate automobiles.

He said his ambition is to free Bangladesh from its shortcoming in automobile designing and help it turn into a designer-car country.

The Discovery TV channel will start filming a series of documentary on him and his career in February 2006.

Besides, renowned British organisation Rich Mix in London has invited him to take part with his car in an international automobile exhibition in April 2006.

## NATORE ARMS LOOT Police stations in southwestern region put on high alert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

All police stations, outposts and camps in the southwestern region of the country have been put on high alert following the incident of arms loot from Bamihah police outpost at Singra in Natore on Wednesday.

The DIG of Khulna Range has directed all police superiors of 10 districts in Khulna division to watch out the situation round-the-clock if police are performing duties properly in the police stations, comps and outposts.

There is information to police that underground outfits have again gained strength in the southwestern region taking advantage of ongoing operations against Islamic militants.

A total of 75 different kinds of firearms looted from different places by underground outfits in the southwestern region during the last six years are yet to be recovered.

Twelve rifles were looted from on-duty Ansars on January 19 in 1990 from Akij Jute Mill at Noapara of Jessore district. On January 6 in the same year, 20 arms were stolen from Khulna court storeroom. Seven rifles were looted from on-duty Ansars in the Inter-city Express train on August 26 in 1999. On the same night, outlaws from a shop in Jessore town looted eight guns.

Underground outfits looted one SMG, one SLR, six 303 rifles and 260 rounds of bullets from Nourkha police outpost in Rajbari Sadar upazila.

Seventeen rifles, two SMGs, 180 SMG bullets and 1,280 rifle bullets were looted from Dattapara police outpost under Sadar upazila of Madaripur on July in 2002.

Both police and Rab made major breakthrough in crushing most of the underground outfits in the southwestern region. But they could not recover any of looted arms.

## Journalism and Communication body formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University has formed Bangladesh Journalism and Communication Association (BJCA) with a view to improving professional and academic development of journalism and communication.

Prof Golam Rahman, chairperson of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, was made convener and assistant Prof Rubaiyat Ferdous joint convener of the BJCA.

The decision of forming BJCA was taken on December 29 at a meeting at the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism with Prof Golam Rahman in chair.

Those who have studied diploma, honours and masters in journalism in different universities will be eligible to be the member of the forum.

# Govt conspiring to foil election: AL

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League leaders yesterday alleged that the hoodlums of BNP and Jamaat are launching terror attacks on popular leaders of the party in a bid to cling to power.

They also alleged that the alliance government is conspiring so that no impartial election could be held in the country.

The remarks came from a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue to protest the 'BNP attacks' on AL leader Akhtaruzzaman and others in Gazipur on December 27 and the death threat issued by the Islamist militants to AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta MP.

The attacks and threats are not isolated incidents, the AL leaders said and accused the alliance government of resorting to such attacks in an evil design to eliminate Awami League leaders and perpetuate its misrule.

Presiding over the rally, AL presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury alleged that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia along with the

'razakars' has been torturing the opposition leaders and activists.

"The more you (government) will intensify the attacks on our workers, the more they will be emboldened to foil all your conspiracies," she said.

Abdur Razzak MP said the alliance government does not want welfare of the farmers; they want to make Bangladesh a country of food crisis.

"The government has not taken any step against the militants who have killed scores of people through bomb attacks," he said. "Rather, the government is threatening to bring sedition charges against the opposition leaders who are protesting the militancy and who fought in the liberation war."

AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed blamed the BNP-Jamaat coalition government for the soaring price hike of essentials and for "plundering country's wealth and patronising the militants".

He urged the people of all strata to be united to topple the 'corrupt' alliance government.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil

was highly critical of the militant attacks, saying that the rise of the militancy has pushed the country into conflict.

They are trying to destroy the democracy and the achievements of the liberation war, he added.

Jalil said: "Our demand is the resignation of the alliance government so that a people's government and the rule of law can be established through an election under a neutral caretaker government."

Referring to the cancellation of the scheduled press briefing by the chief election commissioner on Thursday, he said this has "proved that the government lost its courage to speak the truth."

AL leaders Mohammad Hanif, Obaidul Kader, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Omar Ali, Habibur Rahman Khan, Bazlur Rahman, Alhaj Makbul Hossain and Haji Selim also spoke at the rally.

## Trader shot, robbed of Tk 12000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants shot a trader and took away Tk 12000 in Khilgaon area in the city yesterday.

Hospital sources said Khalilur Rahman, 42, resident of Sonargaon in Narayanganj, came to Dhaka to buy garments by-products.

At around 7:00am some unidentified persons took him in a lane near Abul Hotel at Khilgaon. They shot him and took away the money.

He received bullet at his right hand and now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## Golden Jubilee of OPA celebrated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Old Placicians' Association (OPA), an organisation of the former students of the St Placidi's High School, yesterday celebrated its golden jubilee amidst a reunion with the theme 'Reach Out Through Fellowship.'

Rev Patrick D'Rozario, bishop of Chittagong, inaugurated the ceremony as chief guest by hosting national flag and releasing balloons on the school premises in the morning.

He hoped that the Placicians would continue to learn fellowship and reach out the society with fraternity, brotherhood and solidarity.

Amanat Hossain, chairman of the reunion committee, presided over the function while Editor of the daily Purbokone Taslim Uddin Chowdhury and former headmaster of the school Brother Jarlath D'Souja were the special guests.

Former first vice-president of BGMEA and convener of the reunion committee MA Salam, former headmaster of the school Brother Laurence Subal Rozerio, and Bangladesh Ambassador to France Jahangir Sadat spoke on the occasion.

In the afternoon, former students who gathered there from home and abroad, reminisced their gone-by days at the school.

## Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Abdus Sultan Mullick, a former section officer of the government, died of old-age complications here in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 91.

Father of renowned freedom fighters Dr (Major) Akhtar Ahmed and Major Manzoor Ahmed, Mullick left behind his wife, four sons and two daughters.

He was buried at Mirpur Intellectuals' Graveyard in the afternoon following a namaz-e-janaza at Tikatul Jame Masjid.

His kulkhwani will be held at his 6, Avoy Das Lane residence at Tikatul on Monday after Asr prayers.

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

## Death anniversary of Moni Singh today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The 15th death anniversary of comrade Moni Singh, one of the leading organisers of the liberation war, will be observed today.

He was also the president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB).

CPB President Monjurul Ahsan Khan and acting General Secretary Md Shah Alam in a statement yesterday paid tribute to comrade Moni Singh on behalf of the party members, supporters, well-wishers and countrymen.

Comrade Moni Singh was a revolutionary and patriot and an ideal, honest and uncompromising personality, and, above all, a great leader of the country, they said, adding that he will continue to live in the hearts of people as a torch-bearer.

They urged the new generation to follow the path of Moni Singh by actively participating in the struggle to establish an exploitation-free society.

They also called on the government to include the life and works of Moni Singh in the textbooks.

## Mohammad Sultan

PHOTO: STAR

Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Mohammad Sultan, a pioneer of the historic language movement and founder president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, says a press release.

He was also the publisher of the first publication on language movement edited by noted poet Hasan Hafizur Rahman in 1953.

On this occasion, food will be distributed among the destitute at her daughter's residence at Mohammadpur in the city at noon.



Workers of Titanic Garments at Mirpur in the city staged demonstrations and laid a siege to the factory protesting the death of a fellow worker yesterday.

# 'Resist proposed amendment to Bangladesh Press Council Act'

CU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar here yesterday called for united efforts by both the newsmen and conscious people to resist the proposed amendment to Bangladesh Press Council Act 1974.

The seminar titled 'The freedom of media and Bangladesh Press Council Act 1974' was organised jointly by the Forum for Development, Journalism and Communication Studies, Chittagong and Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication, Dhaka at the Theatre Institute.

Abul Momen, resident editor of the Prothom Alo, moderated the seminar where Chittagong Bureau Chief of the Bhorer Kagoj Omar

Kaiser presented the keynote paper.

Dean of Chittagong University Law faculty Prof Mohammed Zakir Hossain, General Secretary of Chittagong District Lawyers' Association Advocate Humayun Kabir Russel, and General Secretary of Chittagong Union of Journalist Shahid UI Alam took part in the discussion.

Abul Momen said there is no need for introducing any special law for the journalists who as citizens of the state could easily be brought to justice under the existing laws.

Omar Kaiser said freedom of press has to be maintained as the media or press is known as 'watch-dog' in a democracy.

"Journalists have to follow professional ethics and make reports

without fear or favour," said Shahid UI Alam.

Expressing solidarity with the journalists, Advocate Humayun Kabir assured his cooperation to any movement to resist the amendment.

"The duty of Press Council is not to suppress the media," Ali Asgar Chowdhury said, adding, "Rather its duty is to ensure smooth functioning of media," he added.

Prof Md Zakir Hossain said a vested quarter is instigating the government for the amendment to suppress the media and gain narrow interest.

He urged the media men to unite against all evil designs against press freedom.



City Awami League organises a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday protesting the attacks on its leaders and the death threat to AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta.

## WEATHER TODAY

Mild cold wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Mild cold wave sweeping over Rajshahi division and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Tangail and Mymensingh is likely to continue.

Met Office said weather may remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

It said moderate fog may also occur over the river basins in the early morning.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 28.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and the lowest of 7.8 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:22pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.6	12.2	63	47
Chittagong	28.4	13.4	69	63
Rajshahi	25.2	10.3	82	72
Khulna	27.0	13.0	89	71
Barisal	26.2	11.8	91	89
Sylhet	27.4	13.5	69	64
Cox's Bazar	27.8	16.0	88	72

## DHAKA TODAY

### Cake festival

Dhakabashi organises a winter cake festival and a cocktail programme. Venue: Azimur Estate Jonakalyan Samity (near Azimur Chhapra Masjid). Venue: 11:30am.

### Recitation contest

Kendriya Kanchi-Kachar Mela, a national children organisation, organises a recitation contest for children to mark the birth anniversary of Poet Jasim Uddin. Venue: Mela premises, Segunbagicha. Time: 9:00am.

### Workshop

Nagorik Uddog organises a workshop on 'Women migrant workers of the city: Problems and solutions'. Venue: Training centre of the organisation, Lalmaita. Time: 10:00am.

### Discussion

Human Rights Implementation Society organises a discussion to mark the founding anniversary of the organisation with Dr Kamal Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Auditorium of Diploma Engineers. Time: 4:00pm.

### Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 1:30pm.

### Rotary meet

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club, Shahbagh. Time: 5:30pm.

## Firearms, gold idol, venom seized in Bogra Two held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The Rab arrested a homeopathy doctor and an unidentified person from Mohona Shopping Centre in Sherpur upazila of Bogra on charge of possessing illegal firearms and venom.

The arrested doctor was identified as Aman Ullah, 45.

Acting on the confessional statement of the doctor, the elite force raided the house of Zoinal, a retired army man, at Gosabari Battala village in the upazila and recovered an idol made of gold, a revolver loaded with six bullets, 10 bottles of venom and some chequebooks of foreign banks from the house. But they could not arrest Zoinal.

## 35 injured in Sirajganj clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 35 people were injured, six of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of Raidowlotpur village in Kamarkhanda upazila of Sirajganj yesterday noon.

The injured were admitted to Kamarkhanda Health Complex and Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Police and local sources said the clash erupted at about 12:00noon, when a group of people went to field for harvesting paddy. In the meantime, another group swooped on them.

The two groups led by Emtaz Ali and Serzab Ali of the village continued fighting for an hour with lethal weapons, injuring 35 people.

On information, police rushed to the village and brought the situation under control after baton-charge. Two separate cases were lodged with Kamarkhanda Police Station in this connection. None was arrested so far.



Two badly damaged vehicles lie on the road after they collided head-on on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway at Baghata in Narsingdi yesterday (Story on page 1).



Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance took out a cycle procession in the city yesterday to mark the World No Tobacco Day.

# Consciousness a must to stop torture on children

## Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consciousness among the children about their rights can help stop repression on them, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar on the 'Role of child journalists in safeguarding the children's rights' was organised by Mass-line Media Centre (MMC) at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

"Children being involved with journalism can become conscious about their rights which is a must to stop torture on them," said Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique of mass communication and journalism department of Dhaka University.

Because of not being conscious, children are deprived of their rights in the society, he added.

"The experience of child journalists will also help them if they

choose other profession in future," said Rahat Khan, editor of the daily Ittefaq.

He said as journalists the children can get an opportunity to acquire knowledge about the society which is always needed in any profession.

Prof Golam Rahman, chairman of the mass communication and journalism department of Dhaka University, stressed the need for presenting the real picture of the children in different newspapers.

"I appreciate the children's coming to journalism as their representation in the newspapers is not adequate," he added.

Children should also give much concentration on their study besides practising journalism, said Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, executive editor of the daily Sangbad.

Replying to a question, he said security of journalist whether he is child or adult cannot be ensured unless the overall situation of the country is changed.

Presided over by MMC Executive Director Kamrul Hasan Monju, the seminar was also addressed by Naya Diganta Editor Alamgir Mohiuddin.

Executive Director of Democracywatch Taleyah Rahman and Kazi Nabilul Huq of Plan Bangladesh.

Many child journalists of Shishu Prakash (Children's Express), a news agency for children run by the MMC also took part at the seminar. Shishu Prakash since starting its journey on May 30 this year has so far made a total of 287 in-depth reports related to children's rights by its 646 journalists in 64 districts.



Journalist Rahat Khan speaks at a seminar on 'The role of child journalists in protecting child rights' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. The Mass-line Media Centre organised the event.