

Shaheed Asad Day today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Today is Shaheed Asad Day.

On this day in 1969, Asad sacrificed his life in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital protesting repression of Pakistan military on the people of the then East Pakistan.

The autocratic regime of Field Marshal Ayub Khan was forced to step down amid a mass uprising fuelled by his sacrifice that led the nation towards independence in 1971.

The Asad Day will be observed across the country commemorating the supreme sacrifice of the student leader and the days of mass upsurge.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia gave special messages commemorating the sacrifice and contribution of Asad.

Hasina said the mass upsurge proves that people are the main source of power.

Khaleda said Shaheed Asaduzzaman is an unforgettable name in the history of democratic movement.

Different political organisations chalked out various programmes across the country to mark the day.

Shaheed Asad Parishad took elaborate programmes, including the placing of wreath at the memorial plaque of Asad in front of the DMCH.

Bangladesh Jubo Maitree will hold a discussion at Shaheed Asad Auditorium (31/F, Topkhana Road, Dhaka) at 3:00pm today.

6th anniversary of Paltan bomb blast today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the sixth anniversary of Paltan bomb blast tragedy that killed five people and injured 25 others.

On this day in 2001, the powerful bomb was exploded at a rally of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at Paltan Maidan in the city.

The dead in the blast are Himangshu Mandal, Abdul Mazid, Abul Hossain, Bipradas and Mokhtar Hossain- all activists of CPB.

In a statement on the eve of the day, CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan and Muzahidul Islam Selim said the then Awami League government could not arrest the culprits and punish them that encouraged them to explode more bombs and killed many people.



PHOTO: PID

Advisers to the caretaker government stand in a solemn silence after placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar yesterday to pay homage to the martyrs of the War of Liberation.

'Prepare voter ID cards using low-cost tech'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Time is not a question in preparing voter's identity (ID) card, said Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf at a press conference yesterday.

"It just needs sincerity and all should work thinking country's interest," he said, adding, the government should do it by using its manpower and modern technology, not by taking foreign assistance.

The press conference on 'Voters' ID Card and Election 2007' was organised jointly by The Bangladesh Today and the Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) at the National Press Club in the city.

While presenting the concept paper, Director of the Economic Division of the Institute Dr Monowar

Hossain proposed a low-cost methodology for the production of ID cards with photo for all voters in the country within four months.

He, however, did not explain which methodology should be followed to prepare the voter ID cards within such a short time frame.

The speakers said it is possible to prepare voters' ID card within four months.

It will take Tk 50 for preparing each photo voter ID, and as all the information would be kept in archive under a national databased system, it could be used later for preparing the national ID cards adding further Tk 20, they said.

The speakers said the technology will involve locally available

low-cost digital cameras, small plastic information boards and using Bangla alphabets and English numerals.

"The process will minimise errors and allow easy verification of genuine voters," added Monowar.

On the contrary, Brig General (retd) Shakhawat Hossain said it would take at least one and a half years to train people in this technology as fewer people of the country can operate computer yet.

He suggested working in a very simple way to prepare voters' ID as it will be practical.

Editor of The Bangladesh Today Mohammad Asafuddowla and President of the Institute Lt Gen (retd) M Nooruddin Khan also spoke.

Cancel 27th BCS exams Demands Chhatra Sangram Parishad

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra Sangram Parishad (CSP), an alliance of 14-party backed student organisations, yesterday demanded cancellation of 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations, as the BNP-Jamaat government allegedly leaked question papers to appoint cadres on political consideration.

It also demanded cancellation of the appointments of Upazila Election Officers across the country, as the government appointed JCD and Shibir men to manipulate the election process.

In a statement, the CSP leaders said in a bid to appoint the JCD and Shibir men, the immediate past BNP-Jamaat government leaked the questions. If the result is published, only politically affiliated persons would go through.

They urged the caretaker government to cancel all the programmes of the exams for the sake of brilliant students.

Free and fair election is not possible in the country where around 300 Upazila Election Officers were appointed on the basis of political consideration, they alleged.

Signatories to the statement are Bangladesh Chhatra League President Mahmud Hasan Ripon, JSD Chhatra League President Shariful Kabir Swapan, General Secretary Ali Hasan Tarun, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree President Rafiqul Islam Sujon and Jatiya Chhatra Dhara Acting President Bijoy Sankar Talukder.

BBC Sanglap today

BBC World Service's Bangladesh Sanglap will be held today, says a press release.

Four panel members will answer questions raised by members of the audience.

The panel members are Awami League Presidium Member and former minister Tofail Ahmed, BNP Standing Committee Member and former minister Moudud Ahmed, former army chief and a former adviser to the caretaker government Lt General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, and Sigma Huda, a leading human rights lawyer.



PHOTO: STAR

AND THE LIFE GOES ON: A mother busy with her work for the repair of a road to earn a living while her child sleeps on the nearby footpath in a polluted atmosphere. The picture was taken from Pallabi area in the city yesterday.