



PHOTO: STAR

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed cuts a cake yesterday at a reception to the freedom fighters who will take part in today's National Parade at the National Parade Ground in the city. (Story on Page 1)

Steps taken to make local govt bodies more effective: Adviser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff yesterday said the government has taken an initiative to make the local government institutions more effective through enactment of a new law.

The traditional local government system would not be effective any more if the institutions do not become independent and work in a transparent and accountable manner, he said at a discussion.

International Business Forum of Bangladesh organised the discussion on 'New directions for local government in Bangladesh' at a local hotel in Chittagong city, with former mayor Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury in the chair.

The law adviser stressed the need to make the local government bodies independent and involve mass people in development activities in order to ensure development of the country.

He said many institutions such

as Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad and Gram Sarkar have been established after independence, but none of them has become effective because they are not independent at all.

Other speakers at the discussion said effective local government bodies can help the business communities expand business activities at the grassroots level.

Prof Mahfuzul Haque Chowdhury of Chittagong University (CU) also spoke.

Programmes to observe Independence Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political and cultural organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the Independence Day.

Awami League (AL) will start the Independence Day programme by hoisting national and party flags at the Bangabandhu Bhaban and at all the party offices across the country in the morning.

AL leaders will place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu and at the National Mausoleum and will hold a cultural programme at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city today.

Both the factions of BNP will start their programmes by hoisting national and party flags and will place wreaths at the National Mausoleum.

The BNP leaders will also place wreaths and offer fateha at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman. Both the factions will hold discussions separately.

Gono Forum leaders will start for National Mausoleum after hoisting national and party flags at 6:30am.

It will also hold a discussion at its central office tomorrow.

Dhaka University (DU) authority has also taken elaborate programmes that include hoisting of national flag at different buildings and halls. Teachers, students, officials and employees of the university will start at 7:00am to place wreaths at National Mausoleum.

Bangla Academy will hold a discussion and cultural programme at 4:30pm where Lt Col (ret'd) Quazi Sajjad Ali Jahir Bir Pratik will present a keynote paper on 'Liberation War in attaining Independence'.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will hold a discussion, recitation from poems and cultural programme at National Music and Dance Centre auditorium in the city.

Bangladesh National Museum will organise a painting competition for children on March 29 at the museum premises.

Liberation War Museum, Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Communist Party of Bangladesh

(CPB), Left Democratic Front, Mukti Joddha Oikya Parishad, Bangabandhu Lekhak Parishad, Bangladesh Krishak League, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (Baksal), Bangladesh

Mahila Parishad, Bangladesh Agricultural University, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Democratic United Front, Bangladesh Sangskriti Kendra,

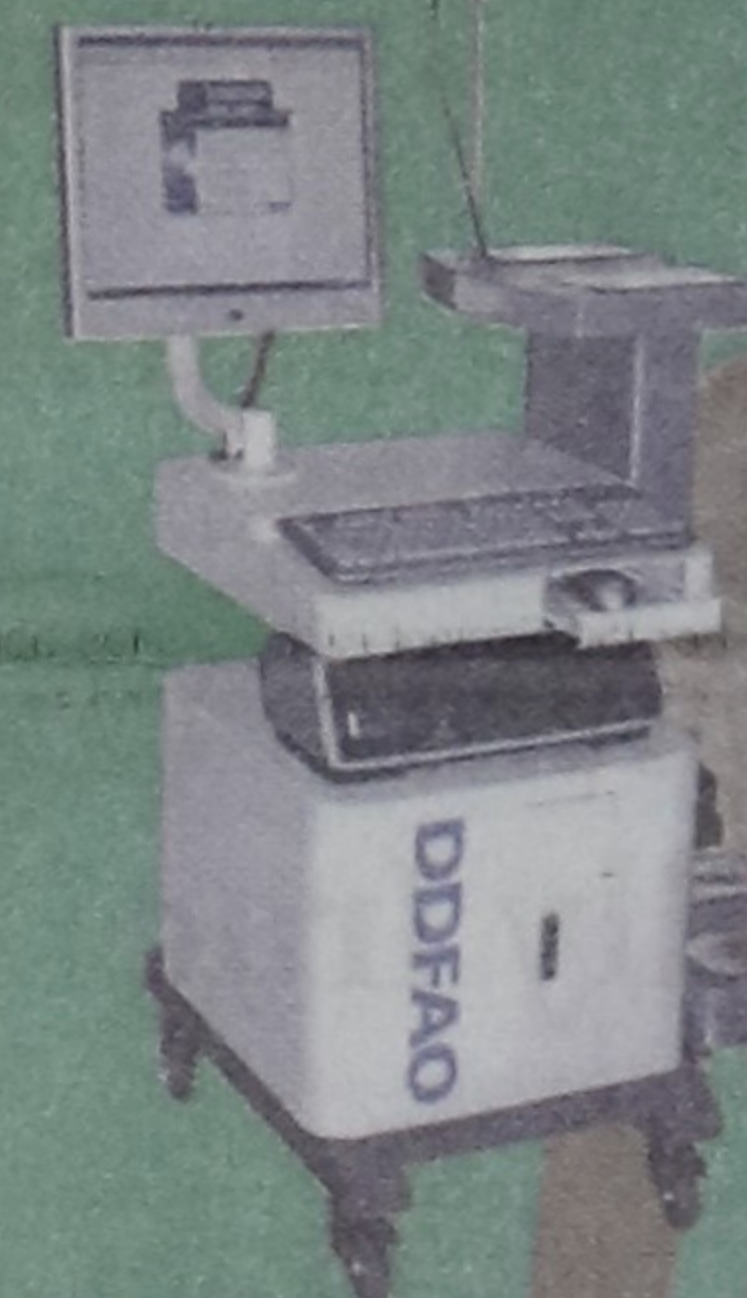
Dhakabashi, Shaptabarna Sangsad, Pallima Sangsad, Jatiya Chhatra Forum, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolan, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University,

Azimpur Estate Janakallyan Samity, Orka, Drik Picture Library Ltd, Talent Promotional Initiative, Bangladesh Roller Skating Federation, Desh Mati and Amader Pathshala will also observe the day.



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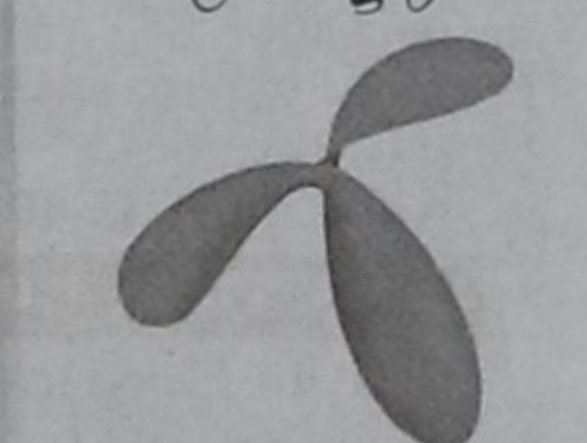
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