

World leaders

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together with all political parties to consolidate parliamentary democracy in Bangladesh, according to a press release.

Ban Ki-moon appreciated Bangladesh as some 9,000 Bangladeshi army and police personnel have taken part in various activities of the United Nations, particularly in the peacekeeping missions.

The UN chief wished success of the Bangladesh's new prime minister and assured her of all-out cooperation.

German Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel has congratulated newly elected Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In a message of felicitation, the chancellor said she looks forward to further developing the relationship of trust and cooperation between Bangladesh and Germany, reports UNB.

Merkel said Germany will continue to be a reliable partner of Bangladesh as it works to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

President of the Swiss Confederation Hans-Rudolf Merz greeted new Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In a message to Hasina, the Swiss president, on behalf of the Swiss Federal Council, expressed his sincere congratulations and wished her every success in the eminent post.

The message noted that "the recent elections are an important milestone in the history of Bangladesh. On this special occasion, the Swiss government reiterates its commitment to continue its support to the democratic, social and economic development in Bangladesh".

Prime Minister of Mauritius Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam yesterday greeted Bangladesh's Premier Sheikh Hasina on the decisive victory by the Awami League-led grand alliance in the December 29 polls.

"I'm confident that under your leadership, the people of Bangladesh will realise their long cherished aspirants to make progress in a secular and democratic state-- a dream personified by your illustrious father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," the Mauritius PM said in a letter of felicitation to Hasina.

Navinchandra said Mauritius and Bangladesh have endeavoured over the years to strengthen ties and friendship between the two countries.

US Edn Advising Centre closed Jan 11-18

BSS, Dhaka

The Educational Advising Centre of the American Embassy in Dhaka will remain closed from January 11 to 18.

According to a press release of the US Embassy, the centre will resume its regular hours of operation on January 19.



Artistes perform dance at a function marking the inauguration of Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban Auditorium in the city yesterday.

'Many women still unaware of breast cancer risk'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 35-year-old Nurjahan Begum, who lives at Chandana Chowrastra of Gazipur, heard about a camp for raising awareness about breast cancer and free breast screening.

The mother of three children, Nurjahan works as a domestic help and decided to visit the camp as she had been feeling a lump in her right breast with severe pain since few months.

"As the camp was being held near my house, I thought I should avail the chance," said the poor lady whose husband left her a few years ago.

The doctors watched the lump and asked her to go to Dhaka for further examination and treatment as the symptoms were not good.

Like Nurjahan, many women of this country are quite unaware of breast

tumour that often turns into malignant cancer before going to the doctor.

So with a view to making people aware of breast cancer, the Centre for Cancer Prevention and Research (CCPR) and Nokia started an awareness campaign along with free breast screening.

The three-month-long campaign that began in October 2008 came to an end yesterday covering around 2000 women in 20 districts.

Speaking at the concluding programme of the 1st phase campaign, Dr Habibullah Talukder, associate professor and head of the department of Cancer Epidemiology, said many women in the country still know little about breast cancer and how to go through self-examination to be sure whether there is lump in their breast or not.

"Through this camp we just tried to make the women aware of breast cancer so that they can go to the doctors or medical centres to avoid further complexities," he said, adding that women in the camp were also told what should be their treatment and where to go.

"We found lumps in 345 women and 50 of them were detected malignant tumour," he added.

Syed Nowfel Anower, head of marketing of Nokia, said as part of the corporate social responsibility Nokia joined the campaign and

donated Tk 1000 from the sale proceeds of each pink cell phone set.

Dr Saidur Razman Bhuiyan, civil surgeon of Gazipur, and Dr Ruhul Furkan Siddique, deputy programme manager of DGHS, were present on the occasion.



Participants pose with the guests at the closing session of a workshop on 'Customer service excellence and service culture' organised by Prothom Alo Jobs.com in the city yesterday.

CJA condemns killing of Sri Lankan journalist

UNB, Dhaka

The Commonwealth Journalists' Association (CJA) is outraged at the killing of Lasantha Wickramatunga, editor of the Sri Lankan newspaper Sunday Leader, on Thursday.

A CJA statement said Wickramatunga has been a fearless journalist working under difficult circumstances in a country wracked by conflict. He and many other journalists in Sri Lanka have been resolutely professional in their work.

Wickramatunga's newspaper has investigated government dealings and has been described as 'anti-establishment' and 'pro-opposition.' He has fought several defamation suits brought against him by senior politicians.

"We note that the government of Sri Lanka has ordered an investigation into his death and urge that it also include the wider context of violence against the media in Sri Lanka which has included the Sunday Leader's printing presses being burnt in 2007 and the privately owned Maharaja TV station attacked and its equipment extensively damaged on January 6," the statement said.

Amnesty International reports that at least 10 media employees have been killed in Sri Lanka since 2006. "We deplore the atmosphere of intimidation that has been whipped up against the media and which has led to this violence and to Wickramatunga's and others' deaths," the CJA statement said.

The Commonwealth Journalists' Association called on the Sri Lankan government to catch and punish those responsible for Wickramatunga's death.

It also urged the government to ensure that the media be allowed to operate freely and without fear of retribution.

BNP man killed in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Some unidentified criminals swooped on BNP activist Sarwar and killed him at Begunbaria field on Wednesday night when he was returning home from a local bazar.

The miscreants chopped the victim indiscriminately and beheaded him at around 8:30pm.

Sarwar was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital and later shifted to Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) as his condition deteriorated. He succumbed to his injuries there at around 3:00am.

Kushtia Police Super (SP) Mosleh Uddin Ahmed yesterday told newsmen that the murder is a sequel to previous rivalry between the two groups over establishing supremacy in the area.

Vice President of Daulatpur Upazila BNP Altaf Hossain, also a loser in the general election, who accompanied the SP, said the incident was not a political one, but the killers got political shelter.

Police said Sarwar, an alleged drug trader, had a strong rivalry with Mabud group. He was loyal to BNP, while Mabud is an Awami League (AL) adherent.

Sources said a by-cycle and a tubewell head of Sarwar was theft in August last year. He blamed Mabud and his relatives for the incident which was denied by his rival group.

Clashes also ensued between them over the issue in October, locals said, adding that both the groups threatened each other to take revenge in future.

Meanwhile, BNP Office Secretary Ruhul Kabir Rizvi at a press conference on Thursday said Sarwar was a BNP activist who fell victim to the post-election violence unleashed by Awami League cadres.

District unit AL and Daulatpur upazila unit BNP separately demanded proper investigation into the incident.

The victim's brother Mantu filed a case against 17 people, including Mabud and his relatives. Police arrested three people, including Mabud, 52, Anarul, 44, and Jalal, 40.

The SP said both the groups were influential for their strong backing from the two major political parties.

Officer-in-Charge Abdus Samad of Daulatpur Police Station said police patrolling has been increased in the area to check any further incident.

A total of three clashes took place in the upazila after the December 29 elections where 25 BNP and 15 AL activists were injured.

Several houses of BNP men were also ransacked.

Man strangles wife for dowry

UNB, Gazipur

Police arrested one person for killing his pregnant wife over dowry at his house in Harinal area of the district town on Thursday.

The arrestee, Delwar, beat up Farida Parvin, 22, and strangled her following a feud at noon.

Family sources said Delwar married Parvin six months ago. But he used to torture her for dowry since their marriage.

Workshop on customer service excellence

METRO DESK

Prothom Alo Jobs.com organised a workshop on 'Customer service excellence and service culture' at the seminar room of the Prothom Alo office yesterday, says a press release.

Jishu Tarafder, CEO of Corporate Coach, was the facilitator of the programme.

Corporate professionals and students attended the workshop moderated by Md Riyad Hossain, head of Operations, Prothom-Alo Jobs.com.

Segufa Y Samad, head of Corporate Business, Aktel, was present as the special guest. Abdul Quayum, deputy editor of the Prothom Alo, was also present.

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Homecoming Day

FROM PAGE 1  
organisations and various socio-political organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to mark the day.

On this day in 1972, Bangabandhu, the founding father of the nation, returned to an independent Bangladesh after getting released from a Pakistani prison.

Pakistan army arrested him on March 25, 1971 at his Dhanmondi residence during the late-night crackdown of Pakistani occupation forces on the people of Bangladesh (then East Pakistan).

The Pakistan junta later sent Bangabandhu to Pakistan (then West Pakistan) and imprisoned him.

After the nation achieved its victory over Pakistan on December 16, 1971 through a nine-month-long liberation war, the then Pakistan junta was compelled to free Bangabandhu.

BSS adds: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message said the day should be observed with a determination to build a democratic, modern and welfare-oriented Bangladesh.

"January 10, 1972 is a historic day in the history of the struggle of the nation. On this day, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the greatest son of the soil, returned home from Pakistan."

"We have to go ahead with an open mind taking the spirit of Bangabandhu and his long struggle as the prime source of strength," she said.

Hasina said the ninth parliamentary elections clearly reflect the people's desire to build a truly democratic and modern Bangladesh within the shortest possible time.

"Let's take a new pledge on

this day to help establish peace, earn prosperity and security for all in democratic Bangladesh with the spirit of secularism and the war of independence," she added.

Paying respect to Bangabandhu, President Iajuddin Ahmed in his message said, "The day is remembered as a memorable day in our national history," adding that a united effort is required from all, irrespective of party affiliations, to build a prosperous Bangladesh.

AL will hold a discussion on the glorious political life of Bangabandhu at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at 3:00pm.

Sheikh Hasina will preside over the discussion, said an AL press release.

National and party flags will be hoisted at the AL central office, Bangabandhu Bhaban and party offices in the morning in Dhaka as elsewhere in the country. Besides, wreaths will be placed at Bangabandhu's portrait at Dhanmondi.

A delegation led by Commerce Minister Col (ret'd) Faruk Khan will place wreaths at Bangabandhu's grave at Lungipara in Gopalganj today.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam called upon the leaders and activists of all AL units to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Bangladesh Muktiyuddho Projomno will organise a discussion at its Purana Palton office at 11:00am marking the day.

Bangabandhu Lalitkala Academy and Sonar Bangla Jubo Parishad have also taken up various programmes on the occasion.

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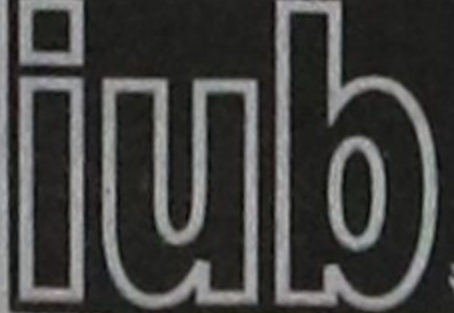
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