### BANGABANDHU'S HOMECOMING DAY OBSERVED

# Vow to build non-communal, prosperous Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation yesterday observed the historic homecoming day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with due respect amid fresh vow to build a non-communal, democratic and prosperous Bangladesh.

On this day in 1972, Bangabandhu, the Father of the Nation, returned to an independent country after nine and a half months' con-West Pakistan.

forces arrested him on March 25, 1971 from his Dhanmondi residence during the latenight crackdown on the people of Bangladesh (then East Pakistan).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also daughter of Bangabandhu, placed wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation at Bangabandhu Museum in the capital.

Her cabinet colleagues LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Home

Minister Sahara Khatun, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, and Deputy Leader of the Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Presidium Member Obaidul Quader, parliament members Suranjit Sen Gupta, Abdur Razzak and Tofail Ahmed were also present.

Jubo League, Chhatra League, Swechchhasebak League, Bangabandhu Ainjibi Parishad, Bangabandhu Sahitya Parishad, Bangabandhu Sanskritik Jote finement in the jail of the then Bangabandhu Nagorik Sanghati, Jatiya Sramik League, Pakistani occupation Hawkers' League, Ghat Sramik League and Awami League (AL) Tarun League, Jatiya Gonotantrik League, Bangladesh Muktijoddha Janata League and Jatiya Rickshaw-Van Sramik also placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu.

> President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the day. Different political and cultural organisations brought out processions and organised discus-

President Zillur Rahman in his message said independence and sovereignty of the country would remain safeguarded as long as all uphold the ideals of Bangabandhu.

The prime minister called upon all to take fresh vow to build a non-communal, democratic and developed country.

After placing wreaths, LGRD Minister and AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam called for speedy execution of the Bangabandhu murder case verdict, saying rule of law cannot be established without executing the killers.

He urged all to remain alert on any conspiracies being hatched by some quarters to foil execution of the verdict.

An AL delegation, including Textiles and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui, State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak and AL Organising Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim also placed wreaths at the Mazar of Bangabandhu at Tungipara in Gopalganj. They prayed for the departed soul of Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman.

Then, warm clothes were distributed among the poor in Tungipara.

Speakers at a discussion organised by Amra Muktijoddhar Santan in the city demanded immediate trial of the war criminals.

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote brought out a procession from Ramna Park.

Staff correspondent in Rajshahi adds: AL and its front organisations held daylong programmes, including placing wreaths at the portraits of Bangabandhu and four national heroes to observe the homecoming day.

Bangabandhu's speeches and patriotic songs were circulated at different city points.

In the afternoon, a big rally paraded the city streets and a discussion was held.

Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, city AL acting general secretary Shafikur Rahman Badsha and vice president Rofik Uddin Ahmed also spoke at the discussion.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stands in solemn silence after placing a wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Museum in the city marking Bangabandhu's historic homecoming day yesterday.

#### Repeal ban on notebooks Booksellers' memo to DC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association yesterday submitted a memorandum to deputy commissioner (DC) of Dhaka demanding immediate repeal of the law that imposed a ban on printing, publishing, import, distribution and sale of notebooks as well as guidebooks for primary and secondary school students.

The bookshops across the country were closed 'symbolically' to press home their demand.

The leaders of the association in the memorandum said the law, which was enacted in April 1980, is 'ineffective' and not 'consistent' with the current curriculum. So, it should be repealed immediately. The Supreme Court on

December 9 last year upheld the High Court verdict that allowed the government to take action in case of violation of the ban.

The verdict cleared the way for enforcement of the ban on printing, publishing, import, distribution and sale of guidebooks and notebooks for classes from one to eighth grade.

According to educationists, the notebooks and guidebooks are one of the obstacles to the creative education system as notebooks increase the dependence of students on memorising, hampering exploration of their creativity.

Earlier before submitting the memorandum, the association organised a rally at Banglabazar.

Abu Taher, leader of the association, told The Daily Star that the book publishers and sellers were being harassed and fined on the plea of the law, though it is not consistent with the current context.

Since the creative method is now being followed, there is no need for notebooks in the current context, he said, adding that they have not published any note or guidebooks, rather those were exercise books.

"The exercise books are helpful for students and we have published those when the stay order is in force," Taher said, alleging that these books were seized from different places, including Khulna, Chittagong, Sylhet and Jhenidah and the publishers and sellers were also

"We have closed down our shops across the country from morning to evening and submitted memorandum to the deputy commissioners," Taher added.



#### Medical education

A medical education programme will be held. Venue: Apollo Hospitals auditorium. Time:

Alliance for Women Workers Rights organises a consultation meeting on sexual harassment of women at workplace. Venue: Meghna Hall, Biam. Time: 10:30am.

Discussion The daily Manabkantha organises a discussion on trial of war crime and Victory Day 2009. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

## Crisis likely if PM's visit fails: Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wishing Sheikh Hasina's visit to India a success, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said crisis will be intensified if the prime minister's visit becomes a failure.

"The nation has a lot of expectations from this trip. There will be crisis if the visit does not prove successful," he said after placing a wreath at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar along with Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders.

He hoped for possible solutions to the long-standing problems of the issues like Farakka, port, maritime boundary, fair share of water and mineral resources.

"We don't expect it that another crisis would be cre-

ated over Tipaimukh instead of solving the existing prob-

The BNP secretary general said the river Teesta is becoming dry day by day and there was an expectation that treaty will be signed for fair share of water, but the foreign minister's speech made the nation frustrated.

They want good relations between Bangladesh and the neighbour countries, he said, addingthat BNP will take necessary steps if the government fails to solve problems with Indiaduring the PM's visit.

BNP leaders, including Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Amanullah Aman, Fazlul Haque Milon and Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annee, JCD President Sultan Salauddin Tuku and General Secretary Amirul Islam Alim were present on the occasion.

## Contempt petition against 5 govt officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A contempt of court petition was filed yesterday with the High Court (HC) against four government officials and a former official on charges of violating the court order.

The officials are the fisheries and livestock secretary Sharful Alam, joint secretary to the ministry of fisheries and livestock Shamsul Kibria, acting director general of the department of fisheries Abdul Khalek and its former director general Rafiqul Islam and senior assistant secretary to the same ministry Sabbir Hossain.

Advocate Manzill Murshid, who filed the contempt of court petition on behalf of a writ petitioner, told The Daily Star yesterday that the HC on January 5 directed the officials to stop promotion to the posts of district fisheries officer for

one month, but they have promoted some officials and allowed some others to join the same post.

The respondent officials have promoted nine officials and allowed five others to join the posts of district fisheries officer on January 6, backdating the joining date to January 3, he said.

The HC passed the directive upon a writ petition jointly filed by 10 senior upazila fisheries officers, including Md Abdus Sattar

Earlier on January 7 Manzill Murshid served contempt of court notice asking the government officials to suspend the orders of promotion and joining to the post within 24 hours as per the HC

He also said that the hearing of the contempt petition might be held today.

#### Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

It also said prevailing mild cold wave over Rajshahi division and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Barisal, Faridpur,

Tangail and Srimongal may continue. Night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:30pm today and rises at 6:44am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 28.0 degrees Celsius was

recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 6.9 degrees Celsius at Srimongal. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

in some major cities and towns yesterday were: Temperature in **Humidity** in City/Town

Celsius percentage Evening Morning Max Min 25.3 13.6 Dhaka 72 25.9 57 Chittagong 15.0 Rajshahi 23.8 56 8.5 Khulna 11.5 60 Barisal 10.2 26.2 76 Sylhet 60 27.0 11.3 65 Cox's Bazar 52 28.0 16.0 57

### Cherie Blair hails role of Khaleda in women dev

UNB, Dhaka

Cherie Blair, wife of former British prime minister Tony Blair, made a courtesy call on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office yester-

Cherie appreciated the role of Khaleda in ensuring development of women education and women empowerment.

She also expressed gratitude to Khaleda for her initiative and efforts to set up Asian University for Women in Bangladesh while she was in power.

Cherie said that she herself and the UK government appreciate and recognise the special contributions of Khaleda Zia in women empowerment and women education, particularly for increasing enrolment rate of women in primary and secondary education.

UK High Commissioner in Dhaka Stephen Evans was

### Book of essays by Hasina published

DU CORRESPONDENT

A book of essays by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been published in both Bangla and English versions.

The Bengali version of the book is entitled 'Rachanasamagra' (Vol 1 & 2) and the English version is entitled 'Collected Works' (Vol 1). The book is a compilation of published and unpublished

essays by Hasina. Historian Prof AF Salahuddin Ahmed has written the preface of the English version while researcher and litterateur Shamsuzzaman Khan has written the preface of the Bangla version, says a press release.

In this book, Hasina depicts joy and sorrow and focuses on the important events affecting the lives of the people of Bangladesh.

Eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury has designed the covers of both the versions of the book.

### JP-Manju council Jan 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The biannual council of Jatiya Party (JP-Manju) will be held on January 23, said a press release yesterday.

District council will be held in Pabna on January 14, Gaibandha on January 15, Meherpur and Panchagarh on January 17, Magura on January 18, Chittagong on January 19, Manikganj on January 20 and Laxmipur on January 21.

The central committee directed the remaining district unit leaders to hold their respective councils by January 19.

Chairman of the party Anwar Hossain Manju, Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam and other leaders are scheduled to be present at different district councils.

# Begum Rokeya was a great social philosopher

Says Gaffar Chowdhury

BSS, Rangpur

Begum Rokeya was the greatest female social philosopher of her time, journalist and columnist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury said yesterday.

He also said women can achieve their full rights at all levels of society and can protect themselves from all forms of repressions and exploitations if they are properly educated.

He said this while speaking as the guest of honour at a reception ceremony organised for the freshers of Begum Rokeya University on its temporary campus at Rangpur Teachers' Training College.

Make wealth

statement

HC judges urged

public

Gaffar Chowdhury also suggested that the university authorities should open the Faculty of Rokeya Studies with a view to continuing researches on the pioneer of women's education. Chaired by convener of the

Freshers' Reception Committee Dr M Motiur Rahman, the ceremony was also addressed by Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Dr M Abdul Jalil Miah as the chief guest.

Poet Asad Chowdhury, Dr Tayeb Hossain, Aminul Haque Badsha, Prof Dr M Rezaul Haq, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science Dr Sharifa Salwa Dina, DC of Rangpur BM Enamul Haque also spoke. Three scholarships after

the names of renowned nuclear scientists Dr M Wajed Miah and Dr Abu Hossain Sarker and renowned folk singer Abbas Uddin were also launched on the occasion under the sponsorship of Dr Tayeb Hossain Foundation.

Poet Asad Chowdhury urged the students and youths to become worthy citizens by acquiring proper knowledge and build a happy, prosperous and developed country in line with the core spirit of the War of Liberation.

# Women are rescuers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Citizens' Rights Movement at a human chain yesterday urged the judges of the High Court to make their wealth

transparency in the judiciary. The speakers at the human chain in front of the National Eidgah also said the government should make mandatory for all the government toplevel officials, armed force officials and constitutionally posted officials to make their wealth statements public

statement public to ensure

through mass media. Water scientist Engr Enamul Haque, columnist Saleha Ahmed Teeta, Seba Executive Director Dr Nuruddin, environmentalist Nazimuddin, National Development Foundation (NDF) Chairman Ibnul Syed Rana, Citizens' Rights Movement Vice President Maj (retd) Mafizul Haque Sarkar and its Secretary General Tushar Rehman also spoke.

#### Obituary METRO DESK



Hassan forme president of Institute of Cost and Managemen t Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) and

Md Nurul

South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA), passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Uttara Crescent Hospital in the city on Saturday at the age of 74, says a press release. A long-time editor of the journal 'The Cost and

Management', he contributed many articles to various journals. He also worked for introducing cost audit and inventory management in Bangladesh. ICMAB president, past presidents, council members,

officers, staff and students

expressed their deep shock at

his death and prayed for salva-

tion the departed soul.

POLITICAL CRISIS

# Says Matia

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury at a book launching ceremony yesterday said women have always played the role of rescuers during any political crisis in the country.

and they have rescued the parties during any political crisis, she added. Matia said this as the chief guest at the launching ceremony of the book titled 'Nari, Srishti O Bigyan' (Women,

Both the leading parties in

the country are led by women

Press Club in the city. Prof Hayat Mamud unveiled the cover of the book

Creation and Science) by

Purabi Bashu at the National

published by Nabajug Prokashoni. The book contains the stories about women, their rights, power and science.

Women have always played an important role in society and politics. They have always been aware of their voting rights, Matia said, describing the role of women in the country's politics.

The minister further said that women are also contrib-

uting to the national economy Advocate Sultana Kamal Prof Golam Murshid, writer Selina Hossain and Prof Geeti Ara Nasrin spoke at the programme with noted folklorist Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan, also director general of Bangla Academy, in the chair.



Ruhal Haque formally inaugu-

rated the health camp at

Memorial Trust for organising

such a countrywide

programme, health minister

said providing health services

would be easier if different

sules and deworming tablets.

Thanking the Bangabandhu

Dhamrai under Dhaka division.

Rotarian Zainul Abedin speaks at a seminar on cancer awareness in the city recently. Rotary Club of Dhaka Cosmopolitan and sanofi-aventis Bangladesh jointly organised the seminar.

## Health camp begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Memorial Trust organised a two-month health programme at every upazila in the country that began yester-

The programme was organised marking the homecoming day and birth anniversary of Bangabandhu.

At least 500 people in every upazila will be provided with free health services under the programme. On the scheduled dates, the specialist doctors from nearby medical colleges and hospitals would come to provide free health services to the spe-

cific upazilas.

Bangladesh Medical Association has been assisting Health Minister Prof AFM the programme.

### the CG did Says Moudud DU CORRESPONDENT

Govt treating

BNP the way

BNP leader Moudud Ahmed vesterday said there is no difference between the present government and the previous caretaker government in terms of attitude towards the BNP.

The present government is showing similar attitude towards the main opposition like the caretaker government did, Moudud said at a discussion organised by Chirontan Bangladesh Foundation, a pro-BNP social organisation, at the National Press Club.

"We [BNP leaders] cannot go abroad due to embargo. We had faced similar situation during the previous caretaker government. But there is no such embargo on Awami League leaders right now," the former

law minister said. "Our bank accounts have been frozen like in the past. But no such action taken against the Awami League leaders," he

added. At the programme, Chirontan Foundation honoured 10 persons, including leaders of the BNP and Jamaate-Islami, for their 'courageous role' in the wake of the 1/11

political changeover in 2007.

They are BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, BNP standing committee members Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Jamaat leader Muhammad Qamaruzzaman, Acting Editor of daily Amar Desh Mahmudur Rahman, Swadhinata Forum President Abu Naser Mohammad Rahmatullah and Chirontan

Foundation President Dr Mostafizur Rahman Iran. Former chief election commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf, Wing Commander (retd) Hamidullah Khan and Jatiya Press Club President Shawkat

#### Course on public relations begins METRO DESK

and

Mahmud also spoke.

A two-week training course 'Modern Techniques of Public Relations Communication' organised by Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media (BIJEM) began at the

press release.

The main objective of the course is to develop the image of certain institutions as well as organisations by strengthening the skills of public relations officers (PROs) through theoretical and practical

institute yesterday, says a

Dr Shakhawat Ali Khan, supernumerary professor of the department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University, and BIJEM Executive Director Mirza Tarequl Qader spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

Bangladesh Navy, Grameenphone, Dhaka Wasa, Privatisation Commission, Prime Bank Ltd, Sylhet Agricultural University, BARC, HBFC and Compassion Int'l Bangladesh are participating

organisations come forward with such programmes. The health minister also A total of 13 PROs from visited different vaccination centres on his way to Dhamrai from where the children aged under five were provided with polio vaccines, vitamin-A cap-

in the training.

## 12:45pm. Consultation meet