



Jahanara Imam's 16th anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 16th death anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam.

Jahanara Imam, who lost her son Rumi in the Liberation War in 1971, became the symbol of mother of martyrs (Shaheed Janani) for her contribution to the Liberation War and her pioneering role in the movement for the trial of war criminals.

The author of 'Ektatturer Dinguli' (The days of '71), Jahanara Imam passed away due to cancer at a hospital in the USA on this day in 1994.

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) will hold a discussion at the Maitree Auditorium of Mukti Bhawan at Paltan at 4:00pm to mark the day.

In the morning, different organisations will place wreaths at the grave of Jahanara Imam at Mirpur in the city.

BSS adds: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued a message on the occasion, recalling the role of Jahanara Imam.

The contribution of Shaheed Janani to the Liberation War and her role against the communal forces is unforgettable, she said.

The Ektatturer Ghatok Dal Nirmul Committee, formed by Jahanara Imam in 1992, had revitalised the spirit of the Liberation War, the prime minister added and expressed her determination to hold the trial of the war criminals.

"I firmly believe that due respect would be shown to the Shaheed Janani through the trial of the war criminals," she said.

Tanveen J Ehsan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Tanveen J Ehsan, assistant producer of private television channel Rtv, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and discussion will be held at RTV office in the afternoon.

Tanveen was killed in a road accident on the Mirpur-Ashulia link road on June 26 last year.

Muhith returns home

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Minister AMA Muhith returned home yesterday after attending the 35th Annual Meeting of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Azerbaijan.

The two-day meeting was held on June 23-24 in Azerbaijan capital Baku.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan accompanied the finance minister.

Rough weather disrupts cargo handling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rough weather forced suspension of cargo handling at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port since early hours of yesterday.

As the sea became rough due to the impact of low in the Bay of Bengal, handling of cargo became difficult when lighter vessels could not reach the ships at the outer anchorage, said the sources.

Water Transport Coordination Cell (WTCC), an organisation that coordinates lighter vessels movement, assigned some 40 lighter vessels for loading and offloading of goods at 19 ships at the outer anchorage.

But, the lighter vessels, which were already engaged in cargo handling, were forced to stop work and come back while the other even could not reach the outer anchorage due to rough weather, said WTCC Executive Director Commodore (Retd) Abu Zaher Nizam.

"Some 40 lighter vessels are now staying at the safe shelter of Ghat No. 15 for resuming handling after the weather becomes calm," Commodore Nizam said while talking to The Daily Star at 7:00pm.

Met Office sources said deep convection taking place over north bay was resulting in squally weather that affected the maritime ports and coastal areas.

All maritime ports at Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal No 3.

LETTERS TO PURBACHAL, UTTARA ALLOTTEES NEXT MONTH

New Rajuk plots at Jhilmil by Dec

BSS, Dhaka

After distributing the allotment letters for Purbachal and Uttara 3rd project from July, the Rajuk is going to offer more plots and apartments at its Jhilmil Residential Project in Keraniganj by December.

In Purbachal New Town Project allotment letters for over 5,611 plots of different sizes --three kathas, five kathas, seven and half kathas and ten kathas -- while in the Uttara 3rd Project, over 600 allotment letters for two sizes -- three and five kathas -- would be handed over to the allottees.

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) Chairman Engineer Md Nurul Huda told BSS that making the allotment letter for Purbachal and Uttara 3rd project is almost complete and expressed hope that distribution process will start from next month.

Replying to a question, he said, distribution of letters to the respective allottees has been delayed, as our staff were busy with the refund of money to the unsuccessful applicants.

Over 1.57 lakh applications were received, of them Rajuk refunded deposit to over 1.40 lakh applicants, who could not succeed in getting plots in the lottery conducted by

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technologies (Buet).

Reducing pressure on the capital and expanding civic facilities to the city dwellers in the extended area, The Rajuk chief said we are going for planned urbanisation at Jhilmil project between Dhaka and Keraniganj.

The Jhilmil project is located in Keraniganj across the river Buriganga, beside the Dhaka-Mawa highway, eight kilometres off the zero point in the capital. Rajuk is going to construct a three-kilometre long flyover from Golap Shah Mazar to Babu Bazar that will connect the Jhilmil area to the city centre.

In the first phase, the project area comprises 381.19 acres of land, where 1,887 residential plots of different sizes with all necessary infrastructures and urban facilities including schools, colleges, hospitals, medical centres, mosques, temples, churches, playgrounds and lakes will be constructed.

The original cost of the project was Tk 136.17 crore and when it was revised it stood at Tk 353.75 crore. In the second revision it was proposed that the estimated cost would be Tk 3512.54 crore (1997-2014) and the project profile (PP) was submitted to the hous-

ing ministry on August 16 last year.

In the first phase at Jhilmil, the number of residential plots would be 1,674. Of them, 177 are of two and half kathas, 1,239 of three kathas, 144 of five kathas, 108 plots of seven and half kathas and nine would be different sizes while 213 plots have been earmarked for civic facilities.

The objective of the project is to reduce the pressure of population in the city by creating accommodation facilities for the city dwellers to maintain the balance of environment through planned urbanisation.

The Rajuk, since its inception is working hard to reduce acute problem of housing as well as expanding civic facilities by developing new township like Dhanmondi, Banani, Gulshan, Mohammadpur, Baridhara, Uttara, Purbachal and the latest one in Keraniganj by extending urbanisation.

In the residential flat project, Project Director Engineer Md Anwar Hossain said 9,224 apartments would be constructed in three categories B-1 type 1250 square feet, B-2 type 1030 square feet and C-type 850 square feet and the project would be completed by 2015.

Of the total 86 high-rise buildings,

consisting 3,284 flats B-1 type 20 storied 43 buildings, 4,337 flats B-2 type 20 storied 29 buildings and 1,563 flats C-type 15 storied buildings would be constructed.

Tk 3,200 was fixed per square feet for B-1 type apartments, Tk 3,150 per square feet for B-2 type and Tk 3,000 for C-type.

In the second phase at Jhilmil residential area, the total earmarked land is 1,109.33 acres, the estimated project cost would be Tk 3,082,20 crore and the Development Project Plan (DPP) has been submitted to the housing ministry for approval on January 26 in this regard.

In the second phase, the residential plots would be 2,102 of three kathas and 842 of five kathas. Of which, some 4.50 lakh people would be accommodated on 406 acres of land, the Rajuk official said. He said the project is expected to be completed by 2015.

Application was called for Jhilmil residential area in 2001. Over 600 people applied for plots. Of them, 20 were cancelled due to non-response from the applicants and finally published name of 585 allottees in the daily newspapers. Of them, 150 allottees had withdrawn their deposit due to delay.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia speaks at a press conference at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Debate workshop held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A daylong debate workshop was held in Chittagong yesterday to prepare students for The Daily Star-Mutual Trust Bank School Debate competition scheduled to begin on June 28.

Chief Executive Officer of Chittagong Stock Exchange Prof Dr Md Abdullah Mamun inaugurated the workshop at Chittagong Regional Public Administration Training Centre auditorium at 10:00am.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Mamun said the country and society can benefit if education system becomes pro-people with the inclusion of extra-curriculum activities like debate.

Practising the use of logic in debate will help one

develop skills to judge anything on its merit, thereby helping take a proper decision on the issue, he said.

Principal of Sunshine Grammar School Safia Gazi Rahman was the special guest at the workshop organised by Drishti, an educational and cultural organisation.

Drama artiste Shubhra Bishwas, Saif Chowdhury, Banokum Barua and Shahidul Islam also spoke at the inaugural ceremony, with Drishti President Masud Bakul in the chair.

National award winning debater Adnan Mannan, Jewel Chowdhury, Saber Shah and Saif Uddin Munna conducted the training. Some 187 students from 18 schools in the city took part in the workshop.

Muktijoddha Sangsad polls today

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad, a platform of the freedom fighters of the War of Liberation in 1971, goes to election today.

It will be the first time after independence that the grass-roots level freedom fighters will elect their representatives.

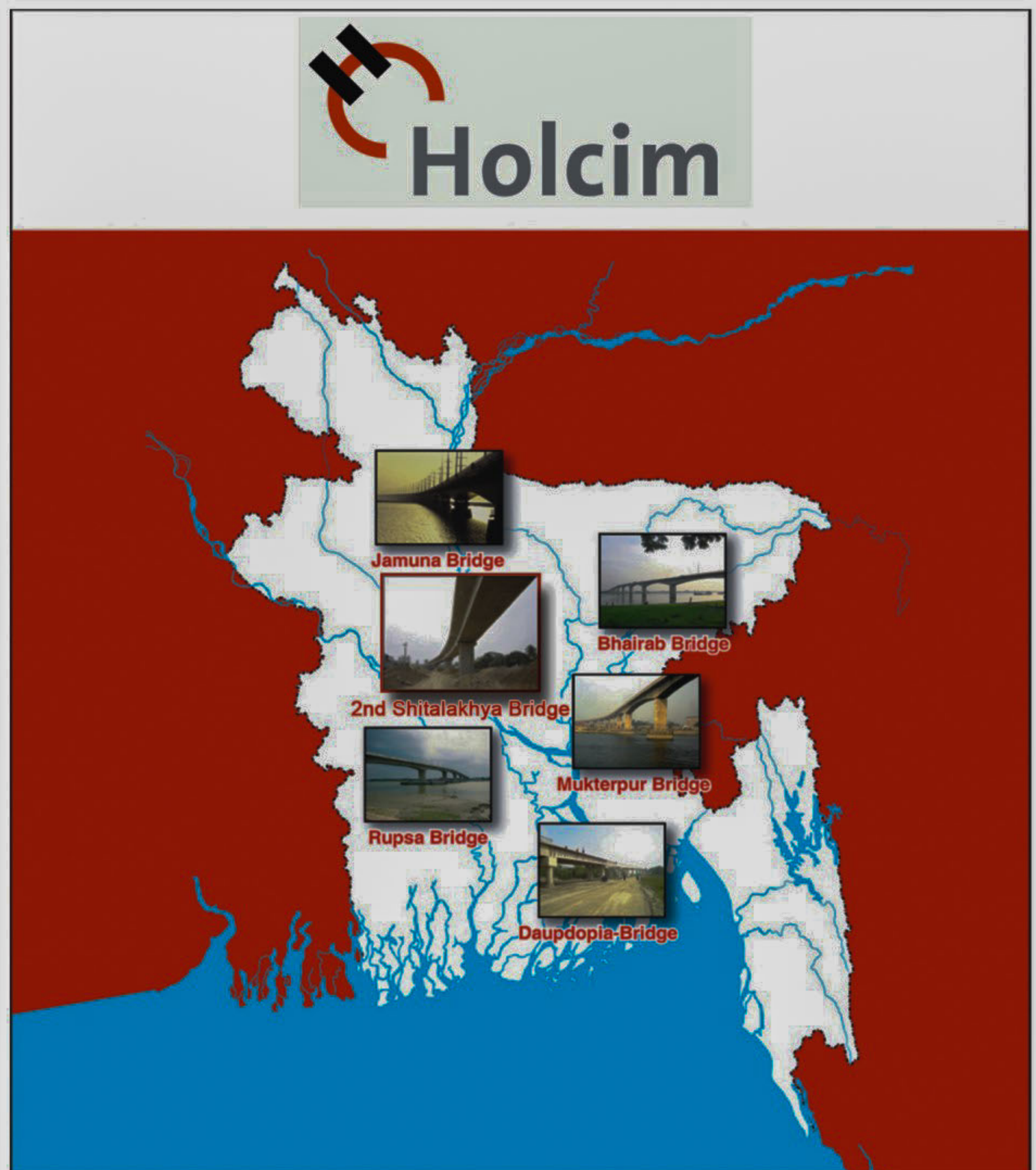
The last central committee of the Sangsad was constituted in 2001 with Muktijoddha Sangsad councillors as voters.

A total of 1, 62,355 voters will exercise their franchise at 481 centres across the country, said joint secretary of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs M Jakir Hossain.

He said the voters would elect 41-member central command council, 17-member district command council and 11-member upazila command council.

All preparations have been completed for fair and free election. Three panels -- Ahad-Mohiuddin panel, Gama-Salauddin panel and Helal-Matin panel -- will contest the election. Some independent candidates are also contesting for different posts.

A total of 216 candidates are contesting for 41 posts, of which 10 are for the post of chairman, 37 for six vice-chairmen posts and 15 for the posts of three secretaries general.



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