

NEWS IN *brief*

Thai princess meets Hasina

BSS, Dhaka

Princess of Thailand Maha Chakri Sirindhorn yesterday made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban.

They discussed various matters relating to mutual interests, including cooperation in the areas of agriculture, food security, women empowerment and child nutrition.

The prime minister said both the countries have agreed to sign a MoU for bilateral cooperation in the areas of agriculture and fisheries and livestock.

She said Bangladesh is keen to develop poultry, fisheries and other agro-based industries following the Thai successes and experience in these sectors.

BBC Janala receives two international awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BBC Janala, the multi platform English language learning initiative by the BBC World Service Trust, Bangladesh, has received two international awards in acknowledgement of its innovative initiative of using information and communication technology for development.

The awards are 'eAsia Award 2011' and 'Manthan Award 2011'.

BBC Janala received the awards in the category of 'Building Capacity: Best Open and Distance Learning Programme' and 'E-Education and Learning' respectively, said a press release issued by BBC World Service Trust.

BBC Janala is part of English in Action, a major initiative launched to raise the language skills of 25 million people in Bangladesh by 2017, funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development.

Chevron donates 3,000 textbooks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chevron Bangladesh has donated 3,000 textbooks on petroleum and mining engineering to Jessore Science and Technology University recently.

The textbooks, worth about Tk 30 lakh, were donated to the Department of Petroleum and Mining Engineering of the university, said a press release.

Jessore Science and Technology University is the first public university to introduce such a department.

Old Faujians assoc event held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A huge turnout marked the get-together of Old Faujians Association (OFA), an association of former students of Faujdardhat Cadet College in the city on Friday.

The OFA family night held at Cadet College Club in Gulshan was entertained by 'Shamoy' a band of ex-cadets.

The outgoing committee of the OFA Dhaka chapter was awarded with crests for their outstanding performance during their tenure of 2009-2011.

The association's newly elected Dhaka chapter president Mahmoodul Haque, former NBR member Harun Ur Rashid, Engineer Ruhul Matin and Maj Gen (ret'd) Amsa Amin among others spoke at the event.

NGO forum changes its name

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To work on public health situation all over the country 'NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation' changed its name as 'NGO Forum for Public Health' yesterday.

The forum took the decision at a meeting at its office in the city after getting approval from the NGO bureau of the government, said SMA Rashid, executive director of the forum.

A total of 850 NGOs work under this forum, he added.



No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary or partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during mid night till morning, Met office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:14pm today and rises at 6:33am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.9 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	24.3	17.4	58	61
Chittagong	27.2	16.0	68	46
Rajshahi	22.0	14.0	87	84
Rangpur	23.4	13.5	79	75
Khulna	25.5	16.0	75	70
Barisal	26.2	15.5	85	85



A state honour is being given to National Professor Kabir Chowdhury at Dhaka University mosque. Right, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offers prayer standing beside the coffin of the eminent educationist at his Naya Paltan residence yesterday. (More stories on Pages 1, 10)



PM's last respect to Kabir Chy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited the residence of educationist and National Professor Kabir Chowdhury at city's Naya Paltan to pay her last tribute to him.

The premier stayed for sometime beside the coffin of Prof Kabir Chowdhury and prayed for his eternal peace.

She talked to his wife and other relatives and offered doa seeking salvation of the departed soul.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, PM's Adviser to Defense Affairs Major General (Retd) Tareque Siddiqui, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Captain (Retd) Tajul Islam and PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present.

WAR CRIMES

'Trial should be for justice, not for revenge'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday said the war criminals should be tried immediately not to extract revenge, rather for providing justice to the family members of the martyrs during the War of Liberation in 1971.

They said the nation has to pay tributes to the martyrs by punishing the war criminals.

The commemorative programme, organised by Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA), was held at Shahid Buddhijibi Chattar of the university marking the Martyred Intellectuals' Day.

In the programme, family members of the martyred shared their grief and expectations on the eve of 40th anniversary of the country's independence.

Presided over by DUAA Secretary General Rakibuddin Ahmed, the programme was addressed, among others, by freedom fighter and cultural personality M Hamid, the New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, and University Grants Commission (UGC) AK Azad Chowdhury.

BANGABANDHU'S STRUGGLE BNP-led govt destroyed BTV footages, says DG

BSS, Dhaka

The previous BNP-Jamaat alliance government had destroyed Bangladesh Television's (BTV) rare video footages on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's long democratic struggle against the Pakistani dictatorial rulers.

"The footages contained some rare visual documentations of the 23-year struggle of Bangalees led by Bangabandhu that culminated in the war of liberation in 1971," Director General of BTV Quazi Abu Zafar Siddiqui told the news agency in an interview.

He said after coming to power in 2001, the then government destroyed the documentaries.

The then BTV had recorded new footages on those tapes that preserves invaluable video footages of Bangabandhu, showing lame excuses of scarcity of tapes.

The video documentaries included the rare footage of six-point demand movement, upsurge of 1969, non-cooperation movement, Bangabandhu's 19-minute 7th March historic speech, live footage of Bangabandhu's home coming event, election of 1970 and Bangabandhu's interview taken by journalist KG Mustafa in 1972.

The BTV chief, however, said the BNP-Jamaat alliance was not able to destroy 67 cassettes on Bangabandhu as those were preserved in a safer place.

New Canadian envoy keen to strengthen ties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The newly appointed Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Heather Cruden yesterday said that she would work for deepening and strengthening ties with Bangladesh focusing on development, trade and mutual interests.

"Media acts as an important bridge between our two countries in strengthening the relationship," she made this remarks at a lunch with editors and senior journalists at her official residence.

The new Canadian envoy said the year 2012 coincides with the 40th anniversary of Canada's diplomatic relations with Bangladesh. "There will be series of events throughout the year to celebrate our shared values of democracy, good governance, rule of law and cooperation," she said.

Nation shocked at death of Kabir Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political, social and cultural organisations and individuals expressed deep shock at the death of eminent intellectual, writer and national professor Kabir Chowdhury.

Kabir Chowdhury, a former director of Bangla Academy, died of cardiac arrest in the city early yesterday at the age of 89.

In a condolence message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the nation has lost a great citizen, who will be alive forever being a forerunner of freethinking.

She said, "I myself have lost a guardian and a well-wisher."

She added the role of Kabir Chowdhury as an educationist, litterateur and social activist was in favour of the liberation, democracy, and the mass people specially he was out spoken in the demand of the trial of the killers of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and war criminals.

She prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

In another message, President Zillur Rahman expressed his profound shock and sorrow at the death of the eminent educationist.

The president said Kabir Chowdhury made immense contribution in expansion of education as well as development of quality education throughout his long professional life.

Opposition Leader and BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia also expressed deep shock at the death of the national professor.

Khaleida said the nation will remember Kabir Chowdhury with respect forever for his outstanding contribution in research works on language and literature.

Speaker Abdul Hamid in a message said

Kabir Chowdhury was an extra-ordinary teacher and cultural personality.

"Through his freethinking, farsightedness, non-communal outlook he contributed to build a modern, and progressive society," said the Speaker.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid in another message said Kabir Chowdhury was a living legend in the democratic spirit of teaching, freethinking, liberation war and non-communalism.

"The nation will recall him as the chairman of the national education policy formulation committee for his contribution and directives to bring changes in the education policy for modernisation and qualitative change" he said.

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus in a message said Kabir Chowdhury made significant contribution to our education sector. Kabir Chowdhury was a crucial link to the past and a bridge to the future for Bangladesh, he added.

In a condolence message, Ekattorer Ghatk Dalal Nirmul Committee said Kabir Chowdhury played the role of the guardian in the democratic movement for the trial of the war criminals, and establishment of a communalism and fundamentalism free Bangladesh.

Awami League, BNP, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Jatiya Kabita Parisahd, Bangabandhu Lekhok Parisahd, Sector Commanders Forum-Liberation War-71, Bangla Academy, Dhaka Chamber's of Commerce and Industry, Ain o Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Mahila Parisahd, National Front of Teachers and Employees, Nazrul Institute, Institution of Diploma Engineers also expressed deep shock at his death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 40th death anniversary of martyred Prof Giasuddin Ahmed of

history department at Dhaka University, says a press release.

Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators killed him brutally after taking him from his residence at Mohsin Hall of the university on this day in 1971.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil have been arranged at the residence of his sister Prof Sajeda Banu at Eskaton Garden road after Maghrib prayers, the release said.

Pramathesh Barua

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Pramathesh Barua, former

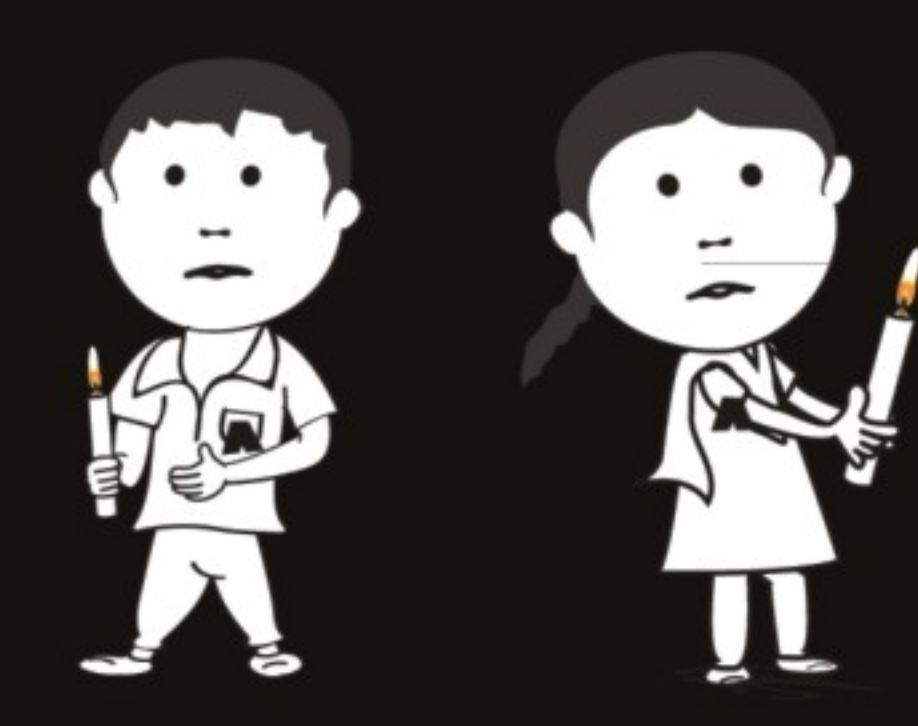
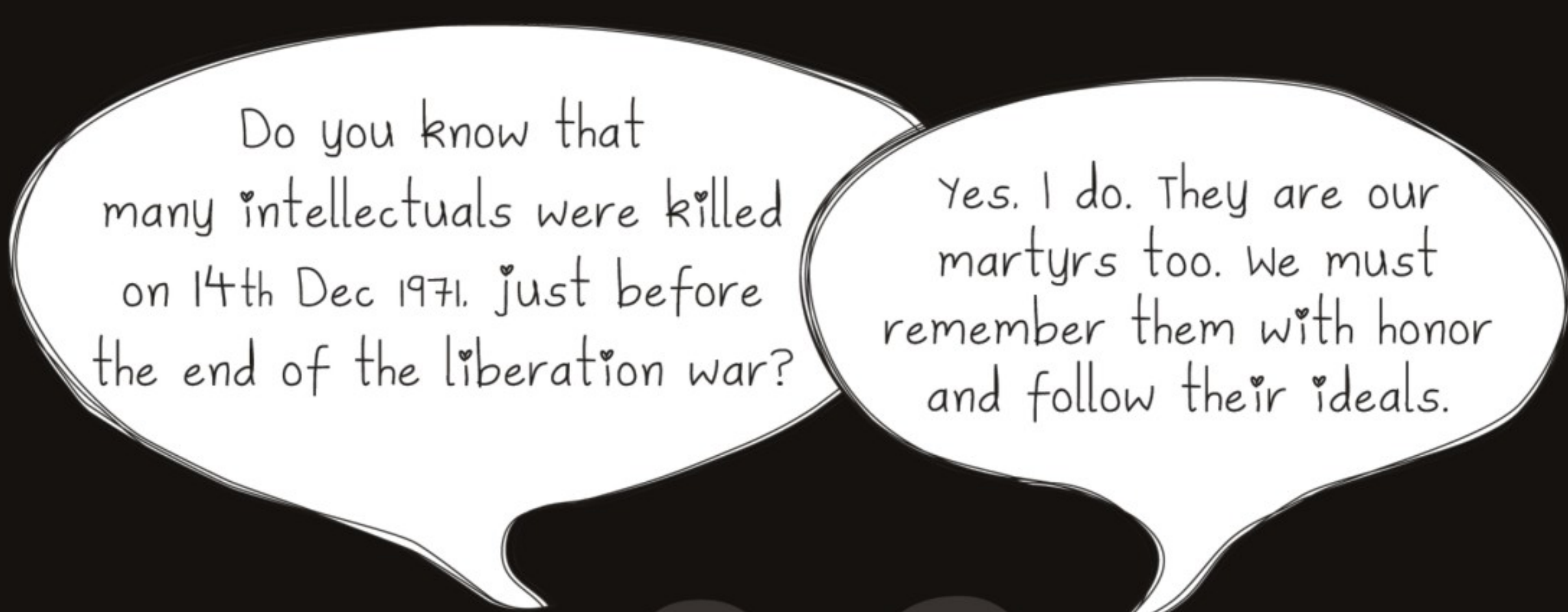
engineer of Chittagong City Corporation and father of Dwaipayan Barua, staff reporter of The Daily Star, Chittagong bureau office.

Pramathesh Barua was killed in a road accident on this day.

On the occasion, a religious programme and family get-together will be arranged at his residence in the afternoon.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programmes.

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১৪ ডিসেম্বর শহীদ বুদ্ধিজীবী দিবস। ১৯৭১ এর এই দিনে পরাজয় নিশ্চিত জেতে দেশের মেধাবী সন্তানদের বর্বরোচিতভাবে হত্যা করেছে শত্রুরা। এ ক্ষতি কোনোদিন পূরণ হবার নয়। আনান ও জেরিন এর মতো সশ্রদ্ধ চিন্তে আমরাও তাঁদের স্মরণ করি।



স্বাফল্য আশবেই