

WAR OF LIBERATION 61 foreign friends get awards today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will present awards to 61 of its foreign friends today for their outstanding contributions to the country's Liberation War 41 years ago.

The foreign friends' support came when Bangalees stood up against the atrocities of Pakistani army and contributed to the eventful emergence of sovereign Bangladesh through a nine-month war in 1971.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will present the awards at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre at 10:00am.

The awards will be given in two categories- "Bangladesh Muktiyuddho Sammanana" (Bangladesh Liberation War Honour) and "Muktijuddho Moitri Sammanana" (Friends of Liberation War Honour).

Former Indian prime minister IK Gujral and former Nepalese prime minister late Girija Prasad Koirala will receive Bangladesh Muktiyuddho Sammanana. Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka will receive the award on Gujral's behalf, while Sujata Koirala, daughter of Girija Prasad, will receive the award on her father's behalf.

The awardees each will receive a citation on silk cloth and a gold-plated silver plaque in which the replica of the national mausoleum has been engraved.

Two of the recipients will receive Bangladesh Muktiyuddho Sammanana awards while the remaining 59 will get Muktijuddho Moitri Sammanana, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said at a press conference yesterday.

Of the recipients, 52 are from India and the rest are from Nepal, United States, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Australia, Sweden and Italy.

This will be the third phase of awarding foreign friends and organisations after conferring of "Bangladesh Freedom Honour" posthumously on Indira Gandhi.

Foreign friends of Bangladesh who supported the country's emergence during the 1971 Liberation War place wreaths at National Memorial in Savar yesterday to pay respect to the 1971 martyrs.



PHOTO: STAR

Fulbaria bus terminal to get reclaimed rail lands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will recover railway lands from illegal occupants and hand those over to the Fulbaria bus terminal authorities to reduce traffic congestion in Gulistan area, said Railways Minister Mujibul Haque yesterday.

During a visit yesterday to Fulbaria area with Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Mujibul Haque said legal process would continue to recover the lands from the illegal occupants.

Obaidul Quader said the number of bus terminals in the capital is not sufficient and so the bus owners cannot be reprimanded

for illegal parking.

He said five ministries, including communications, would work together to reduce traffic congestion, suffering of passengers and crime ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

The ministers and state minister also visited cattle markets of the capital.

Mentioning that cattle markets on city roads is a cause of traffic congestion, Nanak said the government would take action against those who set up cattle markets on the streets.

On extortion, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan said the government would take action against the extortionists.

"We will not only take action against those who extort from cattle-carrying trucks but also against those who extort from passenger buses," he said.

BNP rejects govt's report on Ramu

UNB, Dhaka

The main opposition BNP yesterday rejected the government probe report on Ramu attacks, saying that it was done as per the government's dictate to shift the blame on the opposition.

"It is an administrative probe...it has no acceptability," senior BNP leader Moudud Ahmed told journalists after visiting ailing Language Movement veteran Oli Ahad in a hospital in the capital.

He reiterated his party's demand for a judicial probe body to debunk the mystery behind the September 29 attacks on Buddhist households and places of worship in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

The government body investigating the attacks submitted its report to the home ministry on Thursday, holding mainly the opposition men responsible for the violence.

Six arrested with Yaba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six drug traders have been arrested with 3,930 pieces of Yaba tablets from the capital's Motijheel area.

The arrestees are Sarwar Kamal, Abdul Jabbar, Muktar Hossain, Manzur Ali, Md Nasim, and Md Kamal alias Hriday.

Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of Police, told journalists yesterday that they raided a hotel in Fakirerpool area on Thursday and held the young men.

Police also seized Tk 6.58 lakh during the drive, he said.

The arrestees were produced before a press briefing at Dhaka Metropolitan Police Media Centre.

The arrestees admitted that they were involved in the illegal business. They used to buy the drug items from Teknaf and sell those in wholesale markets in Dhaka, Chittagong, Narayanganj, Munshiganj and Comilla, police said.

Meanwhile, four people were held with Yaba tablets from Khagrachhari Thursday.

Prof Yunus condoles death of Dr Karim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noble laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Dr ABFM Karim, a renowned oncologist of the country.

In a condolence message, he said, "I am deeply saddened by his death. The country has lost a dedicated researcher through his death."

Prof Yunus also sympathised with Karim's bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

He said the world has recognised Karim due to his pioneering role in cancer research.

Dr Karim passed away at his residence in Dhanmondi due to brain haemorrhage on Thursday. He was 84.

Five Hizb-ut men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested five members, including two women, of banned Islamist outfit Hizb-ut Tawhid and recovered books and compact discs on Jihad from Joypurhat on Thursday night.

The arrestees are Mukta Begum, 31, Rupali Begum, 21, Saifullah, 21, Rabiul Islam, 22, and Samsur Rahman, 17.

Sources in Rab said on a tip off, a team of Rab-5 raided the house of one Hamidul Bari Mukul in Joypurhat Sadar upazila, arrested the five, and seized leaflets, 140 books, and 5 compact discs on Jihad.

A case was filed in this connection.



With complete disregard for personal safety, this man rides precariously on a coupler right at the front of a train engine at Tejaon in the capital yesterday. Such dangerous acts are commonplace among the destitutes along the Dhaka-Narayanganj and Dhaka-Joydevpur routes, right before the eyes of railway police and station masters.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

RAILWAYGATE SCANDAL ACC asks Azam to face it Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has again asked Azam Khan, whistleblower driver of Omar Faruk Talukder, APS to former railway minister Suranjit Sengupta, to appear before the commission on Sunday over the railwaygate scandal.

The move came after Azam in a recent television interview pointed finger at Suranjit.

"On October 10, ACC for the third time issued letters to Azam to give his statement. He was asked to come next Sunday," said Rashedur Reza, assistant director of ACC.

Earlier, the ACC sent two copies of the same letter to the family members of Azam, who went into hiding since the incident on April 9, ACC sources said.

A family member of Azam received the letter at Azam's residence at Naoga village in Motlob South upazila of Chandpur, they said.

About Azam's security, ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman said, "If Azam seeks security, we will ask relevant agencies to provide him with security. He deserves it as a citizen."

On April 9 around 11:30pm, Azam drove Faruk's microbus into Pilkhana and blew the whistle that there was illegal money in the vehicle.

Advertisement for Yamaha motorcycles. It features two Yamaha models, the Fazer 153cc and the FZS 153cc, with the slogan 'YES! YAMAHA LEADER OF THE PACK'. The ad includes the Yamaha logo, the text 'এখন নতুন রঙে, নতুন ডিজাইনে', and contact information for Karnaphuli Karmaphuli Ltd.

Advertisement for Star Campus. It features the Star Campus logo and the text 'COMING OUT TOMORROW LINKING YOUNG MINDS'. The ad promotes a weekly publication with interesting articles, including one on violence, and offers a free copy to readers who bring a copy of Star Campus to the event.

Advertisement for Watchman security services. It features a black silhouette of a person wearing a mask and the text 'CONCERNED to ensure security for your premises? Call: 01755 66 01 22'. The Watchman logo is also present.