

NEWS IN *brief*

Pray for ailing president: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the country's people to pray for ailing President Zillur Rahman for his early recovery.

Hasina made the appeal while addressing a function at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) arranged to honour 62 foreign friends of the Liberation War.

The president has been suffering from various diseases for the last a few days.

Hasina told the audience that the president was scheduled to attend the BICC function but he could not join it due to his illness.

She expressed her hope that Zillur will come round soon.

JU holds 'Nobanno Utsab'

JU CORRESPONDENT

"Nobanno Utsab", a festival marking the harvest of new crops, was organised by Jahangirnagar University's Bangla department yesterday.

The celebrations started with a colourful procession on the campus, led by the department Chairman Prof Khaled Hossain and participated by students attired in the golden colour of paddy.

The daylong programmes included traditional dance and folk music and honouring of freedom fighters.

The country's farmers celebrate the festival during this period marking the harvest of the season's prime crop - Aman.

Mob beats 'mugger' to death

UNB, Gazipur

An alleged mugger was beaten to death by a mob in T&T area of Tongi in Gazipur on Friday night.

The deceased was Enamul, 20.

Police said locals caught Enamul after a chase when he attempted to commit a snatching in the area around 7:00pm.

Later, they gave him a thrashing and left him at the roadside.

Police sent Enamul to Tongi Upazila Health Complex where he was declared dead.

Meanwhile, police arrested another alleged mugger Razib, 22, in front of Anarkoli cinema when he was preparing to snatch belongings of the pedestrians at that night.

14 shops gutted in fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fourteen shops were gutted in a fire in the Port Connecting Road area in Chittagong city yesterday.

Sources at Agrabad Fire Service and Civil Defence Station said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop in New Port Market in the area around 3:15am and soon spread to adjacent shops.

On information, four fire fighting units from Bandar and Agrabad Fire Stations doused the fire around 5:00am.

Fire service officials estimated the damages at Tk 10 lakh.

The light and flower decorations make up the number "41" in Bangla corresponding with the 41st anniversary of the nation's victory in the Liberation War. Students of Dhaka University put it up on a campus-ground yesterday.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Nation celebrates 41st anniversary of Liberation War victory today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a vow to establishing a non-communal and prosperous Bangladesh imbued with the spirit of independence, different government and political, social and cultural organisations will celebrate today the country's 41st anniversary of victory in the Liberation War.

On this day in 1971, the nation emerged victorious from a nine-month-long hard-fought war against the Pakistani occupation army.

People across the country and the Bangladesh missions abroad will celebrate the occasion by paying tributes to the three million martyrs for their supreme sacrifice, which eventually earned the nation the glory of independence.

The celebrations of this year's Victory Day call on the people, especially the young generation, to vow to bring positive changes to the nation with a hope of a prosperous Bangladesh.

On the occasion of the day, the capital city has taken a festive look with patriotic songs playing on loud speakers at different intersections and flags flying on cars of the general people, while many were seen draped in green

and red clothes matched to the National Flag.

In separate messages, President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia have greeted the nation on the occasion.

Today, a public holiday, will be heralded by 31 gun salutes at dawn at the National Parade Ground in the capital, while the Bangladesh flag will be hoisted atop government, semi-government, and autonomous offices.

The prime minister will place a wreath at the National Memorial in Savar at dawn followed by other political, social and cultural organisations and individuals.

The army, navy, air force, BGB, police, Ansar-VDP and fire service will stage a special parade at the National Parade Ground at 10:00am.

Special prayers will be offered at mosques, temples, churches and other religious institutions seeking divine blessings for peace and progress of the country.

Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Bangladesh Betar along with private TV channels and radio stations will broadcast special programmes, and newspapers will publish special supplements on the occasion.

The cultural organisation, Utshe Bangladesh, has chalked out a three-day

programme titled "Bijoye Parbone" [the occasion of victory], which began yesterday on the central playground of Dhaka University.

Nine different organisations of Dhaka University students have organised three-day celebratory programmes at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC).

Meanwhile, at a protest rally yesterday, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu demanded banning the visit of collaborators of Jamaat-e-Islami to Shaheed Minar, the National Memorial, and the monuments for the martyred intellectuals.

To mark Victory Day, a dozen organisations held a number of programmes yesterday.

On the day in 1971, General AAK Niazi, who commanded the Pakistani occupation forces, surrendered with his 93,000 soldiers to the allied forces of Bangladeshi freedom fighters and Indian army at Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka.

Three million people sacrificed their lives for the freedom, while two lakh women fell victim to physical tortures, including rape, by the occupation forces and their local collaborators - Razakars, Al-Badar, and Al-Shams - during the war.

ABSENT DOCTORS Political link keeps them beyond law

Says NHRC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No government action is taken against the 30 per cent of doctors who remain absent from work because their political affiliation places them above the law, said National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Mizanur Rahman yesterday.

The country's entire healthcare system is commercialised with the state only facilitating the process, he told a views exchange meeting organised by the Law Commission in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

Discussants at the meeting stressed the need for enacting a law to combat negligence in healthcare and pointed out the hurdles to developing quality health services.

Emphasising the need for controlling the private practice of doctors, Barrister Misbah Uddin asked, "What would happen to the justice system if judges ran private practice in the evening?"

The majority of barristers, researchers, medical experts and other stakeholders at the meeting agreed that a law was necessary to prevent wrong diagnosis and doctors' negligence.

However, Mizanur Rahman said, "Not even capital punishment will put an end to their negligence unless there is a limit to the private practice by doctors."

On why the government hospitals are poorly maintained, he said doctors made more profit when fewer people went to government hospitals.

Victims of wrong diagnosis who filed cases against doctors placed their demands at the meeting, presided over by Law Commission Chairman Prof Dr M Shah Alam.

Bangladesh Academy of Pathology launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Academy of Pathology (BAP) has recently been launched to achieve excellence in education, research and quality in the field of pathology, the study and diagnosis of diseases, in the country.

With participation of 58 specialist pathologists from across the country, the BAP has recently held its first general meeting at the Department of Pathology of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said a press release.

Dr AJE Nahar Rahman was selected president of the organisation, while Dr Mohammed Kamal became its president elect and Dr Maleeha Hussain general secretary.

Dr Kaniz Rasul was selected vice president and Dr Ashim Ranjan Barua treasurer.

The other councillors are -- Dr Md Sadequell Islam Talukder, Dr SM Badruddoza, Dr Sukumar Saha, Dr Abed Hossain, Dr M Shahabuddin Ahmed, Dr AFM Saleh, Dr PK Gosh, Dr Shabnam Akhter, Dr Shamiul Islam Sadi, Dr Kamrul Hassan Khan, Dr Farooque Ahmed, Dr Abdul Mannan Sikder, Dr Col Mahbubul Alam, Dr Taslima Hossain and Dr AUM Muhsin.

FRIENDS OF LIBERATION WAR

The following is the list of the 62 foreign friends of Bangladesh who were conferred "Muktijuddho Moitri Sammanana" (Friends of Liberation War Honour) at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday for their outstanding contributions to the country's Liberation War in 1971. This was the fourth phase of awarding foreign friends. The government earlier honoured 145 other foreign nationals and institutions.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 01. Chakra Prasad Bastola
<i>Former Minister and Ambassador, Nepal</i> | 22. Townsend Swayze
<i>USAID Official, USA</i> | 42. Prof Stephen Alan Marglin
<i>Professor, USA</i> |
| 02. Prof Ashrafi Begum
<i>Professor and Social Worker, India</i> | 23. Late Tarasankar Bandyopadhyay
Padma Bhushan
<i>Novelist and Politician, India</i> | 43. Margaret Rose Mawlong
<i>Former Government Official, India</i> |
| 03. Rinki Roy Bhattacharya
<i>Writer and Cultural Activist, India</i> | 24. Late Habul Banerjee
<i>Social Worker, India</i> | 44. Late Ila Mitra
<i>Professor and Social Worker, India</i> |
| 04. Hari Narayan Chakraverti
<i>Social Worker, India</i> | 25. Late Satyendranath Bose Padma Vibhushan
<i>Professor and Scientist, India</i> | 45. Late Ramen Mitra
<i>Politician, India</i> |
| 05. Dr Lincoln C Chen
<i>Physician and Social Worker, USA</i> | 26. Nikhil Chakraborty
<i>Politician, India</i> | 46. Late Hemanta Kumar Mukhopadhyay
<i>Singer, Composer and Music Director, India</i> |
| 06. Dr Martha Alter Chen
<i>Academic and Social Worker, USA</i> | 27. Renu Chakraborty
<i>Politician, India</i> | 47. Dr Prithwindra Mukherjee
<i>Researcher, Educationalist and Journalist, France</i> |
| 07. Khagen Das, MP
<i>Member of Lok Sabha and Leader of the Communist Party, India</i> | 28. Late Prabodh Chandra
<i>Former Minister and Author, India</i> | 48. Late Vivekananda Mukherjee
<i>Journalist, India</i> |
| 08. Sukharanjan Dasgupta
<i>Journalist, India</i> | 29. Late Abu Barkat Aatur Ghani Khan Choudhury
<i>Former Minister and Politician, India</i> | 49. Late Nepal Nag
<i>Politician, India</i> |
| 09. Krisna Debnath
<i>Journalist, India</i> | 30. Late Salil Chowdhury
<i>Music Director, India</i> | 50. Nibedita Nag
<i>Politician, India</i> |
| 10. Jishnu Dey
<i>Professor, India</i> | 31. Late Dan Coggin
<i>Journalist, USA</i> | 51. Late Maj Gen (retd) Gandharv Nagra
<i>Former Army Officer, India</i> |
| 11. Mira Dey
<i>Professor, India</i> | 32. Late Ajit Kumar Das
<i>Journalist and Social Worker, India</i> | 52. Late Jayaprakash Narayan Bharat Ratna
<i>Political Leader, India</i> |
| 12. Daman Nath Dhunghana
<i>Professor, India</i> | 33. Manna Dey Padma Bhushan, Padmashree
<i>Singer, India</i> | 53. Late William AS Ouderland Bir Protik
<i>Associate of Mukti Bahini from Australia</i> |
| 13. Dasho Karma Dorjee
<i>Former Ambassador and Social Worker, Bhutan</i> | 34. Late Dr Sujit Dey
<i>Physician, India</i> | 54. Late Shaheed Sepoy Ansuya Prasad Maha Vir Chakra
<i>10 Mahar Regiment, Indian Army</i> |
| 14. Pritish Nandy Padmasree
<i>Poet, Journalist, Politician, Media and Television Personality, India</i> | 35. Late Sunil Gangopadhyay
<i>Poet, Novelist and Lyricist, India</i> | 55. Late Shantimoy Roy
<i>Professor and Politician, India</i> |
| 15. Arjun Narasingha K C
<i>Politician, Nepal</i> | 36. Late Ritwik Ghatak Padmashree
<i>Filmmaker and Writer, India</i> | 56. Late Khasru F Rustomjee
<i>Former BSF Chief, India</i> |
| 16. Begum Nargis Jahangir Rabad (Shammi)
<i>Actress, India</i> | 37. Late AK Gopalan
<i>Politician, India</i> | 57. Late Bashab Sarkar
<i>Journalist, India</i> |
| 17. Abdus Salam Bar-at-Law
<i>Lawyer and Social Worker, India</i> | 38. Late Sir Senarat Gunewardene
<i>Former Minister, Ambassador and Human Rights Activist, Sri Lanka</i> | 58. Late Varun Sen Gupta
<i>Journalist, India</i> |
| 18. Niren Sen Gupta
<i>Artist, India</i> | 39. Late Syed Abul Mansur Habibullah
<i>Politician and Social Worker, India</i> | 59. Late Kalyanji Virji Shah
<i>Composer and Music Director, India</i> |
| 19. Anandji Virji Shah
<i>Composer and Music Director, India</i> | 40. Late Maqbool Fida Husain Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padmashree
<i>Artist and Politician, India</i> | 60. Devid Martin Scott Steel, KT KBE PC
<i>Member of the Parliament, UK</i> |
| 20. Syed Asif Shahkar
<i>Judge and Poet, Sweden</i> | 41. Baidyanath Majumder
<i>Social Worker, India</i> | 61. Gobind Ballabh Pant Hospital Agartala, Tripura, India |
| 21. Jagdish C Sharma Sena Medal
<i>Former Army Officer and Ambassador, India</i> | | 62. Pravda
<i>Political Newspaper, Soviet Union</i> |

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
National People's Party (NPP) will hold a discussion on Victory Day; Venue: In front of BNP central office, Nayapaltan; Time: 3:00pm.

Cultural programme
Kendriya Kachi-Kanchar Mela will organise a discussion on a film "Amar Bandhu Rashed"; Venue: 37/A

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely
UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:14pm and rises tomorrow at 6:35am.

Country's highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 13.6 degrees at Srimangal.

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

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.4	16.8	77	59
Chittagong	27.0	16.8	88	71
Rajshahi	24.5	15.0	99	90
Rangpur	24.0	14.8	96	87
Khulna	27.5	18.5	100	84
Barisal	27.2	16.5	100	88