

TASTE OF VICTORY



Anti-clockwise from top left: A day of festivity to many, December 16 is marked by the supreme sacrifice of martyrs. Like elsewhere, Dhaka University campus wore a festive look with people celebrating. A flower crown and a headband inscribed with "Victory Day" worn by a girl gives a glimpse of celebrations near TSC, DU. A short distance away, at Shahbagh, a boy carries a miniature national flag while riding on a man's shoulders. Children under the banner of Shishu Academy take part in a procession in the same area. Doyel Chattar is decked in red and green. To mark the day, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand in solemn silence after placing wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar.

PHOTO: STAR, PID



AL sets up Bijoy Mancha to run campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday launched the Bijoy Mancha (stage of victory) across the country to run a two-week election campaign till December 28.

With the theme "Amar vote ami dibo, muktijuddher pokkhey dibo" (I will cast my own vote, and do it in favour of Liberation War), Sammilita Muktijoddha Sangsad and Sammilita Sangskritik Jote has taken the initiative.

The main stage is set up in the capital's Shahbagh, and the others at upazila and district levels.

The platform will feature programmes from 4:00pm to 9:00pm every day, including discussions, photo exhibition, film screening, playing of patriotic songs, poetry recital, and displaying of banners, festoons, and posters on history of the Liberation War.

Addressing the inauguration at Shahbagh, Health Minister Mohammad Nasim said the stage was set up to seek vote for the alliance. "The upcoming election is very important like that of 1970, as anti-Liberation War forces are hatching conspiracies," he said.

Nasim, coordinator of the alliance, said he expects people to vote for "boat" to give a

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Case filed over attack on Kamal's motorcade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed yesterday with Darussalam Police Station in Dhaka in connection with the attack on Dr Kamal Hossain's motorcade on December 14.

Abu Bakar Shaju, a Jatiya Oikyafront-nominated candidate from Dhaka-16 constituency, filed the case accusing 12 ruling party men and many unknown persons, said Selim Uz Zaman, officer-in-charge of Darussalam Police Station.

The case statement said the attack was carried out by Convener of Darussalam Thana Swechhasebak League unit Md Islam, activists Md Badal, Md Juwel and Md Faruk; President of Darussalam Thana Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) unit Sheikh Rajon and activist Nabil Khan; President of Shah Ali Thana BCL unit Md Jakir, Secretary Saikat, Organising Secretary Mofijul Islam Shuvo, activist Shaon; and Joint Convener of ward-12 Jubo League Md Sohel.

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Reliving horrors of '71

Meghna Guhathakurta shares experience with children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around midnight of March 25, 1971, horrifying sound of gunshots filled the air around the three-storey residential building near the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka University, where Prof Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta, then provost of Jagannath Hall lived with his wife and teenage daughter Meghna Guhathakurta.

Prof Guhathakurta and his family members hid under the bed.

Suddenly, three Pakistani Army soldiers entered the flat on the ground floor, through the back door. One of the soldiers asked, "Where is the professor?" They took him

[Prof Guhathakurta] outside and shot him in the neck and waist, leaving him critically injured.

As there was curfew across the city, it took his family two days to take him to the hospital 200 yards away. After two days with hardly any medical attention, Prof Guhathakurta died due to severe loss of blood.

His daughter Meghna Guhathakurta, now a professor at DU following her father's footsteps, narrated the harrowing events of the night yesterday at a Victory Day programme, organised by Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela, at its headquarter in the capital.

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3 DU journos say BCL men assaulted them

DU CORRESPONDENT

Three journalists of Dhaka University were allegedly assaulted by a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) on Saturday night.

BCL men of Sher-e-Bangla Hall unit of Buet -- including former deputy office secretary Asif Raihan Minar, former science and technology affairs secretary SM Mahmud Shetu, former joint secretary Nafiu Alam Fujji, former publicity secretary Niladri Niloy Das, former joint general secretary Iftekharul Haque Fahad and former vice-president Santur Rahman -- allegedly confined the journalists to the dorm for nearly an hour and assaulted them.

The victims -- Mehedi Hasan, Kabir Karon and Muntasir Zihad -- are Dhaka University correspondents of Bangla dailies Kaler Kantho, Ittefaq and Janakantha respectively.

A Buet student and resident of the hall, wishing to be unnamed, said to have witnessed the incident. They affirmed identities of the accused.

The journalists claimed that they went to Sher-e-Bangla Hall

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Man dies of 'cardiac arrest' in police custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died allegedly of cardiac arrest early yesterday after he was arrested by Jatrabari police from Kajla area in the capital.

The deceased was identified as Jamaluddin Ripon, 45, wanted in five separate cases. Ripon died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) around 12:30am, said Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station.

Ripon's wife Maya Chowdhury, however, claimed that police killed Ripon after taking him to custody.

"As far I know, Ripon had no serious health conditions which could lead to death," she said.

According to police, a team from Jatrabari Police Station arrested Ripon from Kajla's Shekdi Bazar area around 9:30pm on Saturday night and took him to the police station. After arrest, Ripon started complaining of chest pain, and police took him to nearby Islamia Hospital.

Later, Ripon was shifted to DMCH for better treatment where the doctors pronounced him dead, claimed police.

OC Kazi Wazed said that Ripon was wanted in five

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