



PHOTO: STAR

With the Eid drawing closer, a number of exhibitions of saree and other dresses began in the city to attract the shoppers. (Left) A special exhibition of sarees painted by noted artists began at Gallery Dhrupad in the city yesterday. The exhibition will continue till November 25. (Right) Singers Sadi Mohammad and Mita Haque inaugurated a three-day punjabi exhibition by designer Shamima Shirin Laizu at Gulshan yesterday.

7 fish farm owners killed in 12 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Seven fish farm owners have been killed by extremists in Bagerhat district in last 12 days amid ongoing operation by joint forces.

They were killed for not paying toll to the extremists.

The rise in murders has created a panic among other fish farm owners in

Chitalmari, Mollahat and Fakirhat upazilas. They are now thinking of winding up their businesses to save their lives.

The seven victims were killed in the period from October 31 to November 11. They are Liton Sarker, 32, Awami League activist Shaikh Alimuzzaman, 38, Belayet Shaikh, 35, Minto Shaikh,

Bhupal Chandra Brammon, 45, Upendra Nath Goldar, 35, and his employee Kamalesh.

Liton, also a member of Mulghar Union Parishad was shot dead at Kalkalia on the night of October 31.

Khulna unit of Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters' Association has expressed deep concern over the rise in murders.

Japan to provide \$ 3 lakh for vocational edn

BSS, *Dhaka*

Japan will provide 3,00,000 US dollars for promoting vocational and technical education in Bangladesh.

Japan would channel the money through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) for the training of the vocational teachers at different institutions.

Education Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Alam and Unesco Country Representative Wolfgang Vollmann signed a contract in this regard yesterday.

Education Minister Dr. Osman Farruk, visiting Director General of Unesco Koichiro Matsuura and Secretary of Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco Syed Jaglul Pasha were present at the signing ceremony.

The training programme would be launched soon, Shahidul Alam said, adding that the government wants to attract more students to technical and vocational education from general education.

38 criminals held in Ctg

BSS, *Chittagong*

The Chittagong Metropolitan Police in separate raids netted 38 criminals from different parts of the city during the last 24 hours ending at 3.00pm yesterday.

They also arrested a listed criminal and recovered an abandoned light gun (LG), a CMP press release said.

The listed criminal, Mohammad Selim alias Burma Selim, 28, was held from Azad Colony at Madhya Halisahar.

UNB adds: Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Koichiro Matsuura visited a Unesco-funded Vocational Training Institute for Working Children at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Matsuura, now on a five-day official visit to Bangladesh, went round the classes and talked to the teachers and students of the institute, run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Established in 2001, the institute has been providing training on vocational trades to working children living in the city slums.

The Unesco top executive was also shown a multimedia presentation on the activities of the institute and the Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Deputy executive director of the Mission Ehsanur Rahman gave the presentation, said a press release.

35 to contest DRU election

UNB, *Dhaka*

A total of 35 candidates will contest the election to 21-member executive committee of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) for the year 2004.

Senior reporter Alamgir Hossain of daily Ittefaq and senior reporter Mahfuzur Rahman of BSS will vie for the post of the Unity's president while staff reporter Saleh Shibby of UNB and staff reporter Sakhawat Hossain Badsha of Banglabazar Patrika for the post of general secretary.

The final list of candidates was announced yesterday at a meeting of the election commission formed to conduct the election.

Indian Navy ships leave Chittagong

BSS, *Chittagong*

Indian Navy ships, INS Sharabh and INS Amba, left here yesterday, ending their three-day goodwill visit.

The ships had a complement of 39

officers, five under trainee officers and 299 sailors, an ISPR press release said.

During their stay in Bangladesh, officers and sailors of the ships visited Bangladesh Naval Academy in Chittagong and BNS Shaheed Moazzem at Kaptai. Besides, a contingent of the

ships also visited a Hindu temple at Sitakunda in Chittagong.

Other programmes of the visiting ships included friendly volleyball match with the local BN team. The ships were also kept open to a limited number of visitors.