

Space museum next time

Organisers of space festival want to focus on astronomy but needs funding

BISHAWJIT DAS

City dwellers a few days ago enjoyed a three-day space festival dedicated to the discovery and first flight of the aeroplane 'Kitty Hawk' by the Wright brothers.

"The objective of the festival was to motivate young talent and scholars in science and technology," said Mash-hu-rul Amin, president, Bangladesh Astronomical Association (BAA) organisers of the festival which was held on the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) campus on December 17, 19 and 20.

"This year we concentrated on aviation as December 17 marked the centenary of flying by the Wright brothers," said Amin. The festival had a life-size replica of the 'Kitty Hawk'. In addition it exhibited a model of a space shuttle.

BAA organises such festivals every three years. "We are hoping to build a space museum for the next festival. The focus would be on astronomy and are looking forward to inviting an astronomer then," informed the president.

"Our country does not have many opportunities to encourage children in science and its methods. Science fairs at school level are insufficient to motivate and feed the e-generation. Organisations like ours should initiate more science-oriented programmes," he added.

This festival attracted more crowds than the previous ones. Students of all ages enjoyed the exhibitions, flying demonstrations, competitions and plays that were part of the arrangement.

The BAA still felt the astronom-



Bangladesh Astronomical Association (BAA) organised the space festival at BUET to mark the centenary of flight by Wright brothers.

ical exhibitions were inadequate. "We concentrated more on aviation rather than astronomy. We lacked financial support. Only a handful of organisations are willing to support programmes of this nature," lamented Amin.

A cultural show, directed by Faiz Zahir of Arrayak Natyadal, titled "Life Infinity" focussing the evolution of life merged with science was well appreciated by the visitors.

Another attraction of the festi-

val was flying of remote control (RC) planes by amateurs, few of whom brought in different types of airplanes to exhibit their expertise.

Zaveer H. Khan, one amateur, launched a RC Flying Club and exhibited 30 different types of planes. "Flying is my hobby and I would like to encourage people in this field," he said. It was super-hit with not only children running round the planes but crows also joining them.

Some of the other exhibitions were the evolution of sun, evolution of life, busts of 14 great scientists of all times by sculptor Shanker Dhar.

Other interesting stalls, which captured the visitors' attention, included star finding, creations by BUET and Cox's Bazar Science Club students who also displayed on-line telescopes and gliding aeroplanes.

A seminar by Syed Akhtar on the history of aviation took place

on the opening day of the festival.

Paper plane-making competitions took place on the second and third day for school and college students. They were rewarded with a chance to circle over the capital on Singapore Airlines.

Ten-year-old Samir was noticed roaming around the festival wearing an astronaut's suit. He wants to be one when he grows up and BAA expects this sort of interest from the young.

NU admission tests in 151 colleges in Mar

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Admission examinations for the first year honours students for the 2003-2004 session in the colleges under the National University curriculum will be held in the third week of March.

The examinations in 31 subjects will be held in the 151 colleges across the country. Around one lakh seats have been allocated for entry level students.

New changes have been made in the grading system for freshmen requirements.

In the past a second division pass in the SSC and HSC was the requirement for those who wished to sit for the examinations. But according to the new grading system, a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 in both the SSC and HSC examinations is a pre-requisite to sit for the admission examinations.

The examinations will carry multiple-choice questions like last year, totalling 100 marks.

Students can obtain application forms from any college and sit for the examinations in any part of the country but admissions are made centrally.

On passing students will be admitted on merit. If students do not fare well in the merit list of a college, they will not be admitted to that college. In such cases, the student will need to try for the merit list in another college and thus try for admission there. The admission will also require a TC (transfer certificate) from the previous college.

"The numbers of entry-level students last year were not as many as expected," said a senior official of the National University at Gazipur, "The same trend may repeat itself, this year."

A legal aide in aid of the poor

CITY CORRESPONDENT

A few are aware of the National Legal Aid Organisation (NLAO) Dhaka that provides legal aid for those who cannot afford expenses but seek justice.

"The necessity of legal aid has arisen because the agonising gap between the ideal of equal access and availability of legal justice reached almost a breaking point," Chief Justice KM Hasan told a recent workshop at LGED Bhaban.

Over the past two years, the NLAO, providing legal aid for the people earning less than Tk 3,000 a year, has dealt with 838 cases.

The law in Bangladesh is

concentrated in the hands of the rich and went beyond the reach of the poor, who missed out on justice because they are illiterate and ignorant too, he said.

To add more to the point, Justice Hasan said: "Millions of downtrodden people are pushed out of the judicial system not only for its expensiveness and delay but because of the nature of the legal and judicial process."

"The NLAO is of great help to the poor, helpless and deprived," said Nasrin Begum, director of the organisation.

Muklesur Rahman, general secretary of Dhaka Lawyers Association and NLAO secretary, said the poor were not

aware of the service meant for them and blamed it on lack of publicity.

But Barrister Amir-Ul Islam, vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, points out a flaw in providing legal aid for the people of a particular income bracket, adding: "Income should not determine who is and who is not eligible for legal aid."

Listed to provide legal aid are 106 lawyers, who feel discouraged by the low pay. A lawyer's fee for an appearance is Tk 100 and Tk 200 for assembling witnesses and filing bail petitions.

"The pay is much too little for lawyers to survive," Rahman said.



Commuters face long waits on the stretch of Panthapath between Green Road and Sonargaon crossing, regularly gridlocked during working hours. This snarl-up is reminiscent of the Bangla Motor crossing at New Eskaton Road. Both the crossings are difficult for pedestrians, and although there is an underpass near the Sonargaon crossing, Bangla Motor still lacks an underpass or a footbridge for the pedestrians who take life in their hands when crossing the road.



Projonmer Chetana, a youth organisation, held a silent protest in the city Friday against the Iraq war and called upon the world leaders to stop the massacre of innocent people.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals
Heart
 National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59
Burn
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit-8626812-6
Cancer
 National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9
Diabetes
 Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50
Mother & Child Care
 Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62
 Azimpur Mother & Child Health

Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980
Eye
 Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315
 National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807
Dental
 Dental College -9002035
Orthopaedics
 National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150
General
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6
 Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819
 Holy Family Hospital- 8311731-25
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9
 Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

Shamarita Hospital- 9131901
 Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800, 9122560-69
 Salimullah Medical College Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
 Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR)- 8811751-60
 Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135
Blood Bank
 Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
 Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
 Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
 Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9
Eye Bank
 Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040
Ambulances For Dead Body
 Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
 Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED
 Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
 Elephant Road-Friday
 Bishal Center-Friday
 Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday
 Polwell Market-Friday
 BCS Computer City-Friday
 Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
 Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
 Stadium Market-Friday
 Bangabazar Market-Friday
 National Museum-Thursday
 Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.
 New Market-Tuesday
 Gausia Market-Tuesday
 Mouchak Market-Sunday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday
 Muktiuddha Jadugar-Sunday
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
 Shishu Jadugar-Sunday

TAXI CAB
Yellow Cab
 Navana 9558065
 Salida 9344477, 0171620881
 Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
 Cab One 7113282-3
 Nihon 8624741-2
 Orion 9347277
 Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
 Capital 9352847
Union 8130485
 Kool 0171826731
Black Cab
 Cab Ex 9358401
 Cabline 8321162
 JBS Cab 019364575
 Sajjan 018126036
 Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611
TRAIN TIMING
Subarna Express
 Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm
Mahanagar Prabhati
 Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
Mahanagar Godhuli
 Leaves Dhaka at 3:05 pm
Turna
 Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm
Parabat Express
 Leaves Dhaka at 6:30 am
Joyantika Express
 Leaves Dhaka at 12:30 pm
Upaban Express
 Leaves Dhaka at 9:30 pm
Tista Express
 Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
Ekata Express
 Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
Upakul Express
 Leaves Dhaka at 6:00 am
Padma Express
 Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

Cab One 7113282-3
 Palki 0171052500
 Cab I 7113282
 Jatri 0171540074
 Nipun 9572277
 R-Cab 8914782
 Star Cab 9571919
 Shihab 018202477 & 018228675
 KGN 8620011
 Reaches Chittagong at 10:15 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 2:55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 9:11 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 7:05 am
 Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:55
 Reaches Noakhali at 1:35 pm
 Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO-
Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
 Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
 Shishu Academy- 9564128
 Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
 Bangla Academy- 8619550
 Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
 Nazrul Institute- 9114602
 Ford Foundation- 8116133
 Alliance Francaise- 8611557
 British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
 Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
 Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
 Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
 The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
 Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412