

Metropolitan

NDI conducts polls observation workshop

By Staff Correspondent

The Washington-based Organisation National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) conducted a workshop on poll watching and election observation Wednesday at Hotel Sonargaon.

The NDI team which has recently come to Bangladesh for primary assessment of the polls situation arranged the workshop for the poll watchers who are being organised under the leadership of Father Tim, the chief of a non-government organisation for enforcement of human rights in Bangladesh.

The NDI which came to Bangladesh in 1990 to observe the upazila elections, made a detail recommendation for holding free and fair elections. The organisation identified three potential obstacles to free and fair elections which are: security issues and threat of intimidation and violence, ballot irregularities, fraud and manipulation.

The NDI team also met with the political leaders to know about the programme of the respective parties to make the poll free and fair.

Earlier, a team from SAARC-NGO observer group sponsored by the International Society for Ethnic Studies, Colombo also visited Bangladesh for primary assessment of the situation.

According to Foreign Ministry source, these two organisations have confirmed that they would send their observers during the elections.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry has sent invitation to the United Nations organisations and Commonwealth organisations requesting them to send observers during the elections.

Besides, the foreign missions in western countries are also instructed to know the desire of the respective countries whether they would send

Session on theatre begins

By Staff Correspondent

The first working session of a three-day seminar on Theatre Magazine in Asia: Cooperation through Communication, organised by International Theatre Institute, Bangladesh Centre started today (Friday) at a city hotel. 60 representatives including eight foreign delegates are participating in the seminar. 25 representatives took part in the morning session, which was presided over by Ramendu Majumder, Editor, Theatre Magazine. Ashok Mukherjee of India presented the key-note paper.

The second session was presided over by Dr. Anisuzzaman and Professor Kabir Chowdhury presented the key-note paper.

Speakers said theatre can play an important role in making the people conscious about social problems.

Nankar Pala by Aranyak Theatre group was staged at Mahila Samity auditorium organised in connection with the seminar.

Sixty seven Advocates of Dhaka Judge Court have hailed Bangladesh Peace and Development Mission's programme of Tobacco-free election campaign and observance of no-tobacco day on February 27, reports BSS.

They appreciated the programme and invited government, all political parties, journalists and conscious people of the country to come forward to make the programme a success.

A.K.M. sohrab, Wahiduzzaman sikder, Dewan Md. Tofazzal Hossain, S.M.A. Kayum, and Md. Nazmul Ahsan are among the advocates who hailed the programme.

Dhaka - ME postal link suspended

The Postal communication between Bangladesh and several Middle-East and Arab countries has been suspended until further orders in view of the present crisis in the Middle-East, an official handout said in Dhaka on Thursday night, reports BSS.

The countries are: Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Yemen, Iran, Turkey, Syria, Kuwait, Jordan, and the United Arab Republic.

People have been asked not to send anything by post to those countries.

Call to halt Gulf war

Bangladesh Legal Aid Society Wednesday held an emergency meeting at the Supreme Court Bar Association Hall with Mr. H. Ki Abdul Hye, President of the society, in the chair.

The speakers in the meeting fervently appealed to the warring and belligerent parties involved in the Gulf war to halt the war immediately. They also urged the parties to sit in the negotiation table and find out a solution to the dispute.

The lawyers appealed to the warring parties to save the world people from the catastrophe of the nuclear warfare.

22,015 books seized in Ctg

CHITAGONG, Jan 18: Chittagong metropolitan police seized 22,015 books for class one to five from a house at Serajuddowla road here Wednesday night, a police press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The seized books are meant for free distribution among Government Primary School students. No unauthorised person can stock them.

Police took into custody the owner of the house and a case has been started against him.

The arrested person admitted that he stocked the books for selling at higher prices, police said.

Dateline Khulna 68 prisoners freed

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 18: Sixty-eight prisoners were released in two days from the District Jail under government amnesty that followed a two-week prison revolt.

Of them, 59 were released on Tuesday and the rest on Wednesday.

statement issued on Wednesday strongly condemned the police firing on the students of Dhaka City College causing death to Shamsuddin Mito, a student of the college. They urged the government to inquire into the matter and bring the culprits to book.

Chhatra oikyo samity

President and General Secretary of Khulna District Unit of Chhatra Oikyo Samity in a

Freshers' reception

A freshers' reception organised by Daulatpur College unit of Bangladesh Islam Chhatra

Shibir was held on Tuesday in the college premises. The president of the central committee of the organisation Mr Aminul Islam attended the function as the chief guest.

In his address, Mr Aminul Islam called upon the workers of his organisation to help holding a free and fair elections ceremony presided over by Mr Abul Khair the function was addressed, among others, by Hamid Hossain Azad, Belaluddin, Sk Quamrul Alam and Mustafa Kamal Jahangir.

Demonstration

All Party Oikyo Jote and the workers of Bangladesh Match Factory on Tuesday staged a demonstration in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office demanding reopening of the match factory.

Police lobbing teargas shells to disperse unruly mob here early this week.

Reports to be placed before new parliament

29 Task Forces to review development issues

The Planning Commission has set up 29 task forces to review a variety of development issues which will need to be addressed by the coming elected Parliament and the government to be formed by the majority party, reports BSS.

Planning Commission sources said in "each of these areas action will be immediately required to improve the performance of the economy, identify development priorities and review various policy alternatives for the future development of the national economy on a sustained and self-reliant basis with a view to improving the conditions of deprived segments of the community."

The task forces, organised on non-partisan lines where the best available Bangladesh professional talents drawn from within and outside the government, have been mobilised on a strictly voluntary basis to contribute their services in order to facilitate the decision and policy making process of the new government and parliament, the sources said.

The task forces will complete their reports by mid-February so that the papers can be ready for presentation to the new parliament and the public by the beginning of March, 1991.

The works of these task forces will be presented to all the parties elected to the new Parliament and placed before the country to promote awareness of the critical development issues facing the nation and to encourage public discussion on these issues.

More than 200 professionals drawn from the government, professionals, business and academic life representing a broad range of opinion on most issues have been assembled in the various Task Forces to ensure that policy-makers are exposed to a variety of views and policy options.

Following is the list of the Task Forces and names of the Convener.

1. Current state of economy and macro-economic policies (Convener)-Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Dept of Economics DU, 2. Agricultural Production Strategy (Convener) - Abu Ahmed Abdullah, BIDS, 3. Flood Action Plan (Convener)-Prof M Aminul Islam, Dept of Geography, DU, 4. Land Policy (Convener)- Prof. Moazzem Hossain, Dept of Cooperative (BAU), 5. Poverty Alleviation (Convener)-Dr Mahub Hossain, DG, (BIDS), 6. Industrial Policy (Convener) Dr. Mahub Hossain, DG, (BIDS), 6. Industrial Policy (Convener) - S.M. Al-Hossainy, Chairman, PSC, 7. Role of Private Sector (Convener) - Dr Abdullah Farouk, Treasurer, DU, 8. Role

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Iranian film festival opens

A five-day Iranian film festival has inaugurated by the Adviser for Culture and Food, Prof Iajuddin Ahmed at the Institution of Engineers, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion Prof Iajuddin said, the age-old cultural and traditional relations between Bangladesh and Iran are unique. This film festival would help exchange views and strengthen the existing relation between the two countries, he added.

Iranian Ambassador in Bangladesh Ganjidoost, Md of FDC Syed Yousuf Hossain, eminent film artists Bulbul Ahmed and H Ali Madani also spoke on the occasion.

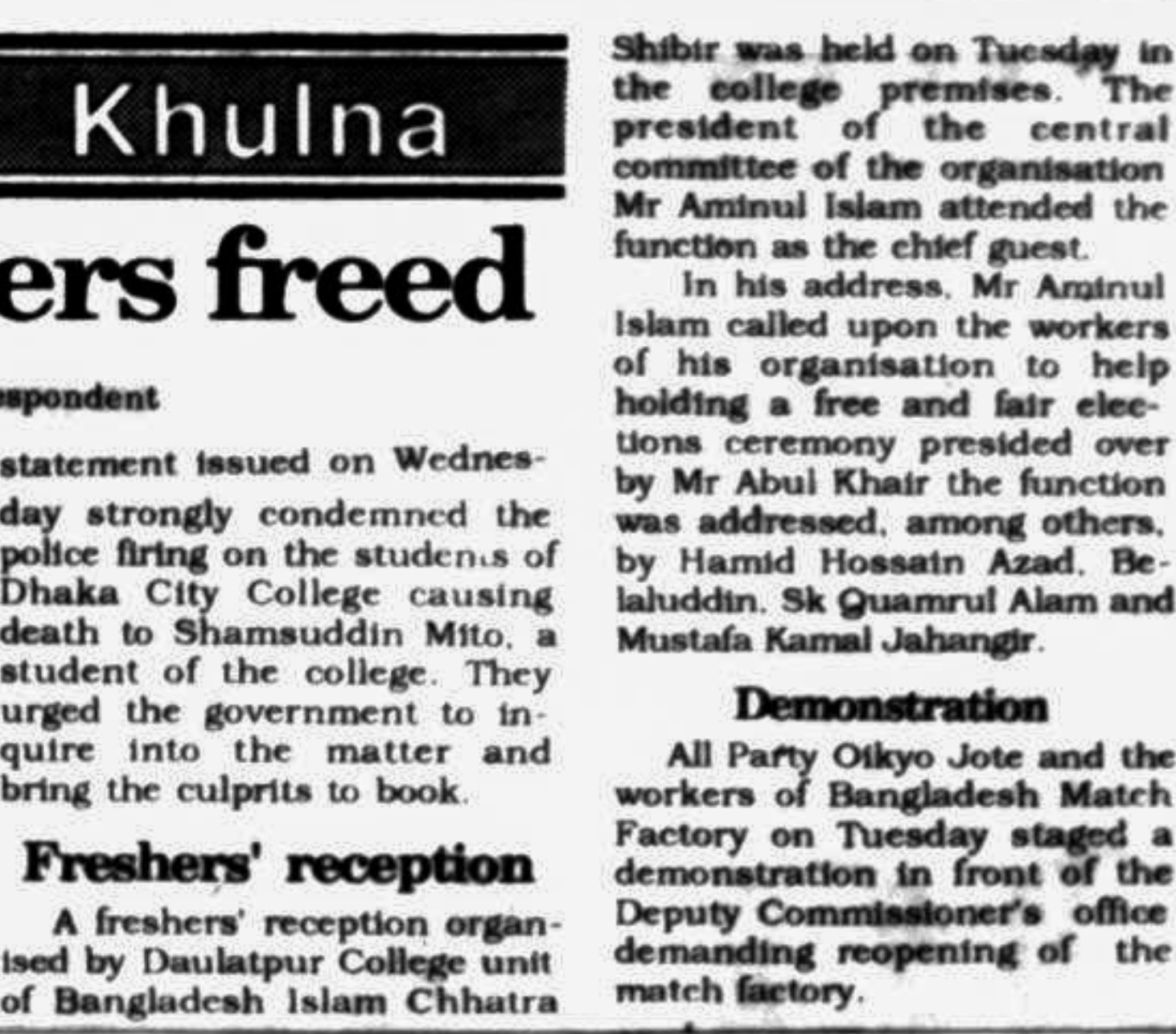
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—Star photo.

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Student attacked

Our Medical Correspondent

Khandaker Shafiqur Rahman Milon (20), a student of Dhaka Polytechnic College, was seriously injured when a group of youngmen attacked with hockey sticks and knives in Azampur government colony on Thursday.

They also snatched away gold chain and money from him. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Death anniversary

SAVAR, Jan 18: A milad mahfil will be held at the campus residence of late Vice-Chancellor Prof. A. F. M. Kamaluddin of Jahangirnagar University in observance of his third death anniversary after asor prayer.

Children's festival held

Adviser for Social Welfare,

Mr Alamgir M A Kabir Friday urged the parents to rear up their children with proper care and guidance to build them as worthy citizens, reports BSS.

He called for availing of the facilities so far provided by the government to explore the latent talent of the children.

The Adviser was addressing as chief guest the winter children's festival and certificate awarding ceremony organised by the Bangladesh Shishu Academy in Dhaka.

The function was presided over by Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharfuddin.

THE STAR SERVICE

Table listing various services including Hospitals, Bus Service, Hotels, Police, Others Public Service Office, and Railway.

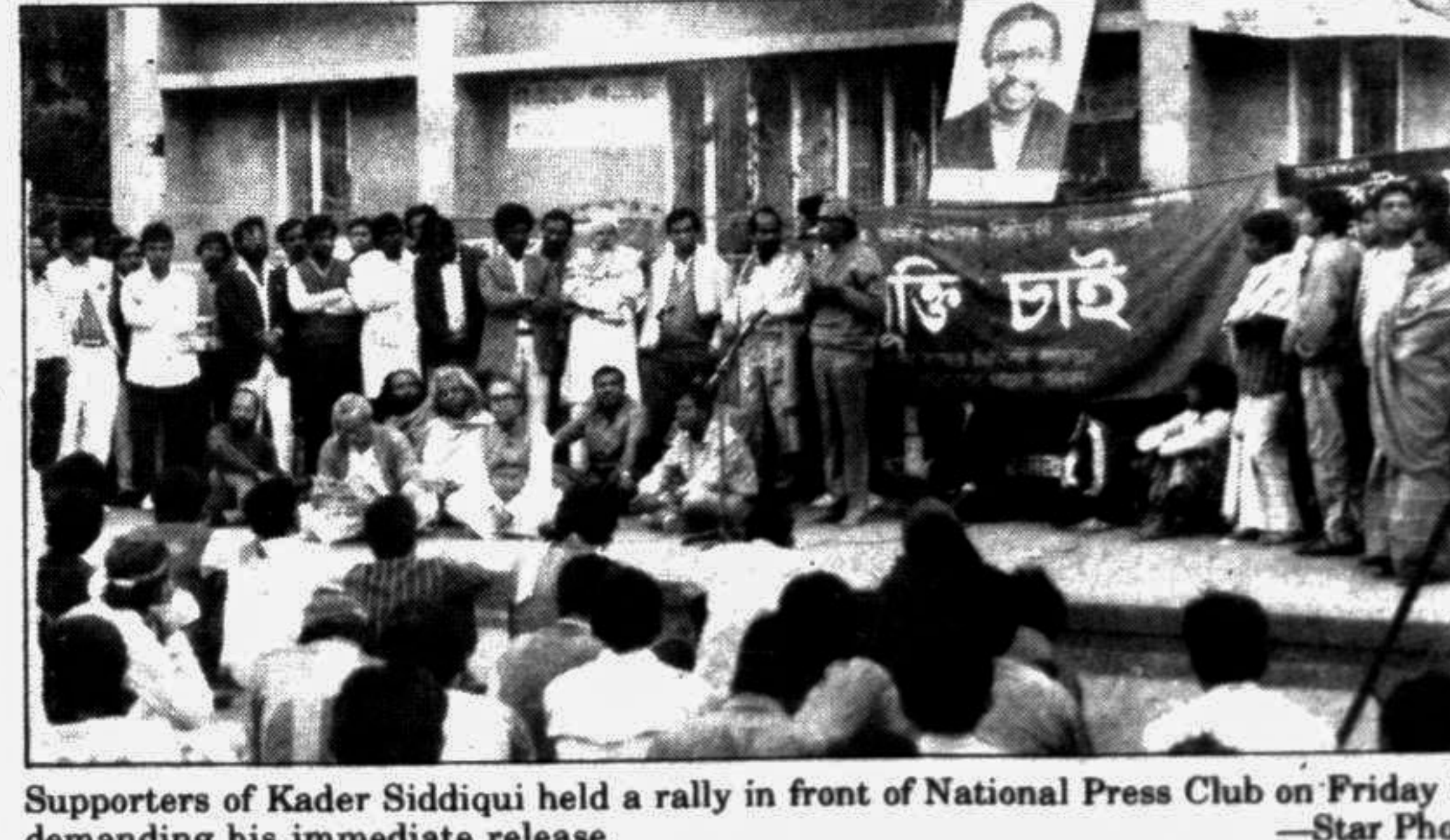
Table listing Airlines services such as Air India, British Airways, and others.

Table listing Arrivals and Departures for various airlines.

Table listing Intercity Trains with routes and schedules.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS section with details on how to place ads.

The Daily Star ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF section with detailed rates for display and classified ads.



Supporters of Kader Siddiqui held a rally in front of National Press Club on Friday in

Advertisement for 'দি ডেইলী স্টার' (The Daily Star) newspaper, including contact information and subscription details.