

Here and There

British ODA official meets Rehman Sobhan

The visiting Under Secretary of the British Overseas Development Administration, Mr. Richard Manning, on Sunday called on the Adviser for Planning Prof Rehman Sobhan at his office, reports BSS.

They discussed and exchanged views on different aspects of bilateral issues and matters of mutual interests, a PID handout said.

The adverse impact on the country's economy due to Gulf war also came up in the discussion.

They also exchanged views on quicker disbursement of British assistance in different development projects in Bangladesh.

Senior officials of the Economic Relations Division were present during the meeting.

Training on cyclone preparedness

The week-long training programme on "Cyclone preparedness and disaster management" concluded with certificate awarding ceremony held in the Bangladesh Red Crescent auditorium in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The programme organised by the Cyclone Preparedness

Programme (CPP), RDRCS in association with the South Asian Disaster Management Centre (SADMC), was attended by 44 upazila officers and team leaders of CPP.

Lt. Col. (Retd) Heshamuddin Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation distributed certificates among the participants.

Dr. M. Altmullah Mtyan, of the Disaster Management Centre and Mr. Marcel Fortier, head of the delegation, League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Bangladesh were present in the function.

Mr. Heshamuddin Ahmed in his speech reiterated the importance of training for volunteers and advised the CPP to draw up programme for training of its volunteers and team leaders.

The function was also addressed by Mr. Emdad Hossain, Director of CPP, and Dr. Abdur Rab, Academic Co-ordinator of the training programme.

Sena Kalyan motor driving training

Applications for driving training at the Sena Kalyan Sangsha Motor Driving Training School in Dhaka have been invited from young and able bodied ex-servicemen and their children of 20 years and above age, an ISPR Press release said, reports BSS.

The last date of submission of applications is February 20. Test and interview for selection of candidates will be held on February 23, at 10.00 A. M. and will continue upto February 26, at 194 AB Tejgaon Industrial Area. During the training and final test, the trainees will be required to stay in Dhaka on their own arrangement. Detailed rules and instructions will be available alongwith prescribed application forms, the press release added.

Prescribed applications form for the admission will be available from District Armed

Services Board and Head Office of Sena Kalyan Sangsha in Dhaka on production of original pension or discharge certificate of ex-servicemen.

No separate letter will be issued nor any TA/DA will be allowed for interview.

Applicants must bring their own or father's original discharge or pension certificate at the time of interview.

Death anniversary of Shariatullah

Islamic Foundation Bangladesh will observe the death anniversary of revered politician Haji Shariatullah in Dhaka today (Monday) through holding of a seminar, reports BSS.

Prominent educationist Professor Nurul Karim will preside the seminar titled "Struggling life of Haji Shariatullah, to be after the asr prayer at the auditorium of the foundation, a press release said.

Professor Hasan Abdul Quayyum will present a paper in the seminar, where among others, Maulana Abu Sayeed Md. Omar All participate in the discussion.

Workshop on land management held

A workshop on "Land Management" organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) was held at Bonhaban, Mohakhali in the city on Sunday, reports BSS.

Group Capt (Retd), Saeed Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, inaugurated the workshop.

Dr. Omar Ali, Member Director of BARC, presided over the workshop, while Dr. Zakir Hossain, Prof Anun Nishat, Dr. Mahiuddin Faruque, Mr. Haroon-Er-Rashid, among others, took part in the discussion.

Anti-smoking seminar Jan 30

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Peace and Development Mission will organize a seminar on 'the role of student in converting Bangladesh free from smoking' at the Notre Dam College auditorium on January 30.

Prof. Yeazuddin Ahmed, Adviser for Food and Cultural Affairs of the Bangladesh Government will attend it as chief guest and Brigadier (retd) Prof. Abdul Malik as special guest.



Irshad Khan at a sitar recital held at Sonargaon Hotel on Sunday. — Star photo

16-point code of conduct for Feb 27 election

The Bangladesh Election Commission while announcing 16-point code of conduct on Saturday said the "legality of the representative government so elected will be above all controversy", reports UNB.

Following are the points of the code of conduct:

- (1) The contesting parties must abide by all election rules and regulations.
- (2) All parties and candidates will cooperate with the law enforcing agencies in maintaining law and order and peaceful atmosphere which are the preconditions for free and fair election.
- (3) Every one must respect other's democratic rights.
- (4) All contesting parties will cooperate with election officials in discharging their duties and will untiedly ensure their security until completion of all activities related to the election.
- (5) To build up a smooth and healthy electioneering atmosphere so that the electorate can cast their votes freely and without fear according to their will.
- (6) All political parties should exercise restraint and tolerance in utterances to prevent any activity that may disrupt the peaceful election atmosphere.
- (7) While criticising the opponent's candidates none should take recourse to indecent, provocative and teasing remarks. In case of any misunderstanding between the contesting candidates, the same should be resolved by an "election coordination committee" formed with representatives of all concerned parties.
- (8) Political parties will not give indulgence to terrorism. They should help the law enforcing agencies in recovering illegal arms. They will not seek release of any person caught by police in or around the polling centres during the voting.
- (9) All political parties and candidates will enjoy equal campaign facilities and none will disrupt other's projection meetings, processions or campaigns.
- (10) The contesting candidates will take help from the nearest law enforcing authority to resist any election crime.
- (11) Everyone should be conscious about election crimes like attempts to collect votes in exchange of money or enticement and hiring or using

transports for carrying voters other than one's own family members.

(12) Political parties must reach a consensus against occupying a polling center by muscle power or against attempts to collect votes by resorting to illegal activities in the polling centres.

(13) No candidate will give or pledge any subscription or grant to any institution in his constituency publicly or in a clandestine manner as part of election campaign till the polling was over.

(14) None should indulge in any rumour or conspiracy that may vitiate the election atmosphere.

(15) No polling camp will be erected by any party beside the polling centre or in the restricted area, and none will campaign inside the polling centre.

(16) Besides the polling officers and employees, only voters will have access to the polling centres. Political parties should not allow their activists to roam about inside the centre. Polling duties will perform their duties seated in the area earmarked for them.

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Biman flights to repatriate Bangladeshis suggested

Bangladesh envoys in the Gulf countries have suggested resumption of Biman flights to facilitate return of the Bangladeshis from the war zone, reports UNB.

A Foreign Office spokesman on Sunday quoted Ambassadors to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain as saying "resumption of flights will be economically feasible."

Biman, along with several international lines, suspended its flights on all routes to the Gulf after the pre-dawn eruption of war on January 17.

An official of the national flag carrier said recently it was contemplating re-start of air traffic on the Gulf routes.

Of the about 4,00,000 Bangladesh nationals now staying in the Gulf countries, nearly 2,00,000 are in Saudi Arabia, in addition to 2,230 troops.

Names of 3 injured Bangladeshis

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sunday gave names and particulars of the three Bangladeshis wounded in an Iraqi missile attack on Riyadh Friday.

According to a message sent to the Ministry from the Bangladesh embassy in the Saudi capital, one of the injured is Md. Chunnun Miah, son of late Rawshan Ali Matbar of Village Bangola in the Sadar upazila of Manikganj district. He had minor injury on the corner of right eye.

The second injured was identified as Md. Zahidul Islam, S/o Samzuddin, Vill. Chanulla, UZ- Mirzapur, Dist. Tangail. He suffered slight injury on the right foot.

The third one is Zakir Hossain Ziku, son of late Nazer Ali, Vill-Damdama, UZ- Sonargaon, Dist- Narayanganj. His present address is: Pathanvilla, 112, Colachipa, College Road, Narayanganj. He got minor injury on the left foot.

All were given first aid in Riyadh Central Hospital and released immediately.

"They were among 140 Bangladeshis staying in a building about 200 metre away from the building which was hit by a Scud missile," the message said.

The Embassy message also said they are employees of a cleaning and maintenance company, "Al-Hasna Trading Establishment".

Troops in Saudi Arabia safe

Another report adds: All members of Bangladesh contingent of troops in Saudi Arabia are safe and in sound health, according to an ISPR press release on Sunday.

APSU meet today

All Party Students Unity will hold a meeting of all categories of citizens, including the leaders of political parties, students, workers, cultural workers, professional groups, lawyers and intelligentsia today at 10 am at Battala in the Arts Faculty building in support of its 10-point demands, a DUCSU press release said.

25 p. c. cut in diesel price kept in abeyance

The government will hold a high-level meeting today (Monday) for a review of fuel crisis in irrigation seriously affecting boro cultivation, officials said.

An official told UNB on Sunday emergency measures might be taken at the meeting on the basis of expert reports from field level to resolve the fuel problems due to exorbitant prices.

The interministerial meeting will have presentation from the Ministries of Agriculture, Finance and Energy.

To assess the extent of irrigation crisis, six expert teams were sent to countryside from the Agriculture Ministry fearing that high rates of diesel and lubricant might cause a big target shortfall of this season's high yielding variety (HYV) paddy output.

Officials put the possible production shortfall between 15 and 20 per cent, but unofficial sources apprehended it to

be much higher, as many farmers would not be able to afford to buy irrigation fuel.

Current season's production target is 75,00,000 tons, and uninterrupted fuel supplies to farmers for about three-and-half month is essential to achieve the targeted harvest.

But, officials cautioned, dearth of fuel would restrain the use of irrigation equipment, resulting in lower yield of the water-responsive paddy. The use of fertilizer would simultaneously decline.

Irrigation cost up by 90 p.c.

According to reports, irrigation cost has sharply risen about 90 per cent with diesel and mobile prices doubled in August.

Sources said the government had recently finalised a decision for a 25 per cent cut in diesel price in view of the situation. The decision was even raised for announcement,

but postponed with eruption of the Gulf war.

The postponement was prompted by the government fears that oil supply line might be disrupted, if war escalates.

The authorities, as an alternative, announced on Saturday higher purchase price of paddy. Uninterrupted supply of diesel and lubricant to the farmers was also assured.

An additional 1,000 fuel agencies might be fielded to ensure smooth oil supplies, it was learnt. Concerned officials, however, had reservation about efficacies of the measures.

They rather favoured 25 per cent cut in fuel price which, as per official estimate, would cost the government Tk 160 crore.

If the fuel price is not slashed, the production shortfall would cause much higher economic loss to the country and, at the same time, break the backbone of farmers.

Democracy key to literacy, confce told

Speaking at a conference in Dhaka Saturday called for evaluating past literacy and education projects and effective implementation of programmes to ensure education for all by the year 2000, reports UNB.

The conference at the Teachers' Training College auditorium was organised by Bangladesh Literacy Society in observance of its 15th anniversary of founding.

About 500 field workers from 156 villages of the country attended the national conference which was divided into three sessions.

The topics of the session were: first titled "15 years of Bangladesh Literacy Society", 2nd on "International Literacy Year and Education for All in Bangladesh", and the 3rd on "Education for All and Social Development Programmes".

Speaking as chief guest at the first session, Education Adviser Prof. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui called for coordination in evaluating past programmes to achieve desired success.

Education Secretary A. N. M. Yusuf and UNICEF Representative Cole P. Dodge also spoke on the occasion.

Prof Mohammad Osman Gani, Secretary-General of the Society, read out a paper on "International Literacy Year and Education for All in Bangladesh" in the second session, chaired by University Grants Commission Chairman Prof. Shamsul Haq.

It was addressed by former chief Justice Dadul Haider Chowdhury, Advocate Shamsul Haq Chowdhury, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Prof. Abdus Selim and A. K. M. Kamaluddin.

The speakers stressed the need for building up positive attitude towards solving the illiteracy problem and said education was the basic building block of all development.

3 killed in road mishap

Three persons including a minor boy were killed and 20 others injured Sunday when a Dhaka-bound minibus from Maulvibazar plunged into a roadside ditch near Bolta Bazar under Rupganj thana, about 25-kilometre from the city, reports BSS.

Fire service sources said the bodies of the three unidentified persons, a boy of about 10 years and two men in late thirties, were recovered after the ill-fated bus was lifted from the ditch. A team of the fire service men from its headquarters on being informed of the accident rushed to the spot and salvaged the bus.

The fire service sources said that the injured persons were sent to different hospitals.

The accident occurred as the driver lost control of the steering, local people said.

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