We import machinery, but can't apply them fruitfully'

Professor

"technology import, transfer and its application" in Dhaka on Friday underlined the importance of national consensus in formulating policies and programmes for indigenous technological resources and their optimum use, reports

The seminar, organized by Carl Duisberg Samiti Bangladesh (CDS) was held at German Cultural Centre and Goethe Institute here. Chaired by Dr Iqbal

Engineering and Technology (BUET) the seminar was participated by Mrs H Lechner, Director of the Institute as the guest of honour. Prof Nurul Islam, Director,

Bangladeah University of

Institute of Appropriate Technology, BUET, read out the keynote paper in the semtnat, while Mr M Badiuz Zaman was the chief reviewer.

Prof Islam in his main paper said lack of understanding about the important role of

University Prof.

The Education and Cultural

Affairs Minister said, at pre-

sent there are 249 public h-

braries at upazila level and a

sum of Taka 55 lakh was spent

for each of them every year. He

said, the BNP government will

take steps towards lowering

postal cost of sending books

within country and abroad and

holding of more exhibitions of

Prof. Chowdhury said the

spirits of the Liberation War

and Language Movements have

created a new chapter in our

cultural heritage and enriched

feel proud for our literature

and culture. He also called

upon the litterateurs and in-

tellectuals to uphold the image

of the country abroad through

better projection of our litera

for the coming term aimed at

expanding facilities for the

Kabir, First Vice-President-

Islam (Mymensingh), Third

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and Rehabilitation Secretary-

Ali Shahed Khan, Publicity and

Cultural Secretary- Shahar

Banu Salam, and Members-D

P Barua, M Lutfur Rahman,

Alhaj Fariduddin Chowdhury,

Mahmudun Nabi, Cdr (Retd)

AJM Hamed Hussain, Abdullah

Al-Mamun, M Z Islam Mamun

(Dhaka Division), Dr. M A

Rahim (Chittagong Division),

Zahirul Islam Khan (Khulna)

and Sheikh Md. Kamaluddin

(Rajshahi Division).

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The Treasurer of the

He said, as a nation we may

our literature.

ture and culture.

mentally retarded.

Plan to rehabilitate

mentally-retarded

The Society for the Care nual report and working plan

1991.

books at home and abroad.

Maniruzzaman Mia.

Ban on import of books under study

Minister for Education and Cultural Affaires Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury on Friday said the government would consider to take measures to stop import of different books including books of primary education which creates obstacles to flourishment of our literature and culture, reports BSS.

He said, our language, literature and culture are our pride and those who nourishes our literature and culture are our good friends.

The Minister was address ing as chief guest at a book exhibition in observance of Bangla New Year, held at the Central Public Library auditorium in Dhaka on Friday after-

Sponsored by Muktadhara the function was presided over by Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka

and Education of the Mentally-

Retarded (SCEMRB) held its

day-long annual general meet-

ing on Friday and worked out

programme for the welfare and

rehabilitation of the mentally-

retarded throughout the coun-

the National Institute of

Mentally Retarded (NIMR), the

meeting with Mr. Alamgir M A

Kabir, President of SCEMRB,

in the chair, was attended by

nearly 120 councillors repre-

senting 24 branches of the so-

outgoing Secretary-General of

SCEMRB, presented the an-

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Dr. Salahuddin Ahmed, the

ciety in the country.

Held at the auditorium of

try, reports BSS.

technology (technoware, humanware, inforware, orgaware) was one of the many causes of slow economic growth of our country.

We import technology (machinery, equipment, know how), but we cannot organize its successful applications or its effective use." As a result we cannot achieve technology transfer, he said.

Mr. Islam further said, during the pre-independence period writings on political independence was used to be considered as the subversive literature by the colonial masters. Similarly during the post independence period, critical observations about technology transfer/technological self-reliance were treated as unwanted activities by the vested

interested groups. But the greater interest of the nation on such important issues should be debated in different open forums in order to help make national policy decisions.

Outsiders clash on DU campus, 3 injured

Three unidentified youths were injured when two groups of outsiders clashed on the Dhaka University campus on Friday noon, reports UNB.

One of them received stab injuries and one round of gun shot was heard during the

The clash occurred during the day long musical soiree organised by the Bangladesh Musical Bands Association.

Eyewitnesses said both the group at about 12 noon chased each other with fire arms and

Security in Persian Gulf stressed

A lively discussion here Friday on the "Post-war developments in the Gulf' focussed on the current scenario in the region with the hope that security and other problems in the Persian Gulf would be well taken care by the international community, reports BSS.

Society Dr. G W H Chowdhury presented the budget for Speakers at the discussions heaved a sigh of relief that The following persons have Kuwait was liberated by the albeen elected office-bearers lied forces with minimum posand members of the National sible casualties but said other Executive Committee of issues like the problems of the SCEMRB for 1991-93. Palestinians now must be seriously addressed to in a view to President- Alamgir M A

removing sources of irritation. Organised by the Interna-Ashraf-Ud-Dowla, Second tional Relations Alumi Associa-Vice-President- M Wazedul tion of the Dhaka University, the discussion was participated by the Soviet Ambassador in Bangladesh, Mr. V S Smirnov, the Iranian Ambassador, Mr. Mohammad Ganjo Doost and Dr. Akmal Hossain. Mr. ATM Shamsul Huq, President of the Association, presided over.

In an open discussion, members from the audience also took part and analysed the Gulf situation from varying points of view.

The Soviet Ambassador said United States and his country cooperated in the United Nations Security Council in matters that involved sovereignty of nations like that of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. He expressed confidence that his country's total support to a meaningful conference on the Middle East with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

JU classes resume today

JU Correspondent Classes of Jahangirnagar University resume today after 26 days Etd vacation.

Earlier, the university authorities reduced the vacation to meet the current session jam of the university.

Resident students have already started returning to their halls.

Parliamentary team off to Bangkok

A four-member parliamentary delegation left Dhaka on Friday for Bangkok on way to Pyongyong to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Union(IPU) conference, reports UNB.

The 85th IPU conserence begins in the North Korean capital on Monday.

Delegations from almost all parliaments around the world will participate in the 6-day moot to promote inter-parliamentary relation and coopera-

ASM Hannan Shah will lead the Bangladesh team. Other members are Mashiur Rahman MP, Shamsuzzoha MP and Secretary of the Parliamentary Secretariat Abdul Awal.

Bangladesh delegates will stay in North Korea for seven days further after the end of the IPU conference as guests of that country, officials said.



Folksongs presented at an Alliance Francaise soiree

-Star photo.

Besotted with the 'baul'

The electricity had failed but the audience at the case of the Alliance Francaise sat attentive and completely absorbed with the feast of Bhawaias, Bhatiali, and Jari songs of well-known singers and "bauls."

The people, who were mostly foreigners, specially French, and a few members of the local elite from the Fine Arts and Sociology Department, were fascinated by Shahjahan Miah, the blind "baul" singer, who lives in Manikgani. For the last 21 years he has devoted himself to the songs of the "baul" Lalon Shah.

'Baul" is taken from the Bangla word meaning "mad" or "affected by the wind". The "bauls" of Bengal are mystic troubadours of essentially humanist tradition transcending religious orthodoxy. They have their sources in Buddhist, Vaishnava (Hindu) and Sufi (Muslim) mystic traditions. Their search is for the essential human within each person.

Shahjahan Miah accompanied himself on the "dotara" which is a four-stringed instrument tuned to two notes. He was accompanied by his fellow musicians on the "ek-tara", a singlestringed drone instrument, the "dhol", and "jhuri", which are finger cymbals. Shahjahan Miah said he

earned about Tk 4000 a month going from village to village and this sufficed his

Rathindranath Roy, who also sang at the function, only earlier, talked of how the Bhawaia is the bullock cart song of the road. There is always a sad note to the songs as the man is leaving behind his wife. He elaborated that the Bhawaia can be of various types.

Rathindranath explained the different types of Bhawaias. There was the "Chatka" with its rhythm of young lovers. "Khiral" was more detached and dealt with the beloved far away. "Dehototto" dealt with the parts of the body, while sea sonal songs, which were six in number, were sung when planting, cutting and threshing rice. The belt of the Bhawaia includes Rangpur, Dinajpur and a part of Assam, the elaborated.

Dwelling on Bhatiali, Rathindranath spoke of how these songs essentially dealt with rivers and boats, with the boatman or the fisherman singing merely to entertain himself. While he dealt with the subject of crossing the river, the singer insisted, the fisherman added the subject of conflicts of life and the hereafter. Speaking in the

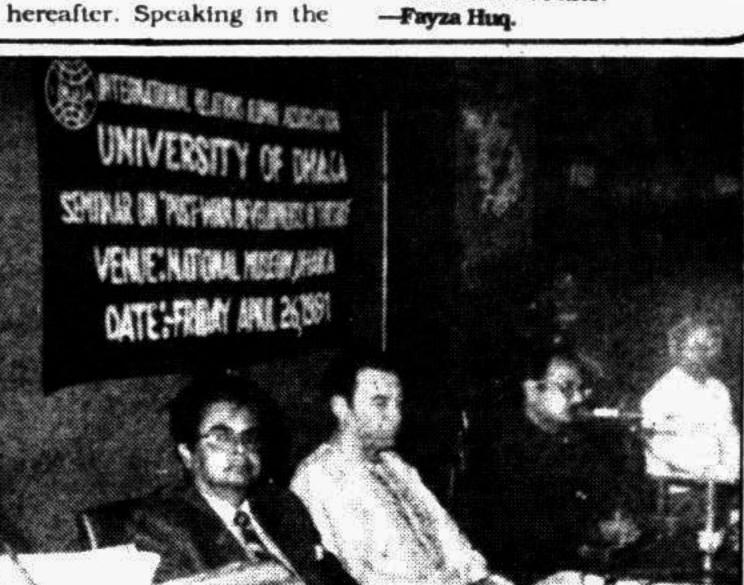
same vein, the singer spoke of the Murshidi. They show the way to lead a perfect life," he commented. "They are highly spiritual," he

Speaking on the "ektaras" and the "dotaras," that were being used for the performances, Rathindranath believed that there was little way of preserving them. He himself cannot earn a living by merely singing although he performs both on the TV and the radio. They get Tk 600 for the top TV performance and Tk 375 for the radio. He works in a chemical firm to ensure a secure

The Baul and Bhatiali songs in films are never quite appropriate, he commented as the music directors bring in modern singers.

Abdul Rehman Bayati and his party of four including Nayan on the "dhol" Obinash on the "dotara", Md. Alam on the harmonium also made an impact. Abdul Rehman Bayati has toured London, Japan, and Hong Kong. He enjoys travelling from village to village and singing for the pleasure of the multitude in Bangladesh too.

Selecting from the performances at the Alliance Francaise cafe, musicians are to be chosen to give six concerts at Paris.



Iranian Ambassador in Bangladesh Mohammad Ganji Doost speaking at a seminar on 'post-war development in Gulf' at National Museum auditorium, in the city on Friday. Seen in the photo are (from left) Qazi A K Refaul Huq, General Secretary, IRAA, Vitali S Smirnov, Soviet Ambassador in Bangladesh, A T M Shamsul Huq, President, IRAA and Dr Akmal Hossain, Associate Professor, Department of IR, Dhaka University.

Dateline Khulna

Re-excavation work of Bhadra river faces problems

Our Khulna Office completed by the time.

river were completed and the

completed within April 30. He

however, told The Daily Star

that works may be suspended

in Buri-Bhadra river near

Trimohini under Keshabpur

upazila due to "absolute non-

cooperation" from the local

ning, a total of 3,66,540

labourers were needed to

complete the works while only

over 1,25,000 workers worked

in the project so far. It is al-

leged that the workers were

being deprived of their normal

works of both Bhadra and Buri-

Bhadra river reexcavation

could be completed that could

help removing stagnant water

of 21 beels of the areas and an

additional quantity of foodgrain

of about two lakh tons could be

42 advocates join BNP

Khulna District Bar Association

joined Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi

Forty two advocates of

It is expected that if the

wages as per rule.

produced.

According to project plan-

people.

KHULNA, Apr 26: The An official of the Water works on re-excavation of Development Board, Khulna, Bhadra and Buri-Bhadra river however, refuted the allegation and said that about 75 per cent of the works of Bhadra

at the border of Khulna, Satkhira and Jessore districts under the supervision of the Water Development Board could not be completed within rest of the works would be the stipulated time. As a result, thousands of

acres of cultivable land of Dumuria, Keshabpur and Tala upazilas under Khulna, Jessore and Satkhira districts respectively are apprehended to remain under stagnant water and the plan for bringing about another 44 thousand acres of land under three-crop cultivation in the areas is also feared to be foiled. Works for about Taka 75 lakh already done for the project might be a total wastage due to early rains expected this year.

As reported, dilly-dally in forming project committees, shortage of day labourers and local factionalism were the main reasons behind the unusual delay in starting the works for the project.

The works started on February 15 last under Food for Works Programme of the World Food Programme and was scheduled to be completed by April 15. But, according to information, only

60 per cent works could be

Dal on Tuesday. In a meeting of the advocates in the Bar Library Hall, President of Khulna city of

BNP M. Nurul Islam and district Vice President Golam Sarwar Jamaddar welcome the advocates. KUJ President and General Secretary of the Khulna Union of Journalists Ayub Hossain and A K Hiru respectively con-

daily Janmobhumi Editor. Humayun Kabir was threatened to publish a news item in his paper recently on some gross irregularities of some officials of the Mongla Port

demned the threat to life of

Humayun Kabir Balu, the local

Authority. President and General Secretary of Khulna District Awami League Advocate Kazi Abdus Salam and Harunur Rashid Mia, MP, respectively and President and General Secretary of Khulna City Awami League Advocate Manjurul Imam and Talukdar Abdul Khaleque, MP, also condemned the threat to the

Editor. Another Member of Parliament Mostafa Rashidi Suja issued similar statement to the press condemning the heinous acts.

VTI, TTC students to stage hunger strike

Students of the Vocational Training Institutes (VTI) and Technical Training Centres (ITIC) will go for a two-day token hunger strike on April 29 and 30 to press home fulfillment of their 8-point charter of demands, reports UNB.

The strike will begin 9 am and continue till 5 pm in front of the Jattya Press Club.

The 8-point demand includes naming the VTIs and TTCs as Engineering Trade Institutes, introduction of 2year term higher education course, adequate scholarship and national pay scale for the trade engineers.

In case the demands are not met by April 30, the VII and TTC students said they will begin a hunger strike upto death from May 2.

It may be noted that 11 TTCs and 51 VTIs in the country have been closed since November 20 as students locked these institutions demanding realisation of their demands. Government formed a four

Comprehensive Agri policy in the offing

The present government gives priority to agricultural development and with that objective had waived land tax upto 25 bighas and farm loans upto Tk 5,000 with interest, reports UNB.

This was stated by Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Maj Gen (Retd) Majidul Huq during a meeting with the agriculture officials and scientists at Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) in Dhaka on Friday.

The meeting was also addressed by eminent agriculture scientists and extension officials of different organisations under the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Minister said the government would formulate a comprehensive agriculture policy for making the country self-reliant in agriculture as well as in fisheries and live-

BAMBA musical show at DU

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Musical Band Association (BAMBA) organised a grand day-long open musical show at the Kalabhaban mall area of Dhaka University on Friday. The musical show titled

"Baishakhi Bands festival" was organised to celebrate the Bengali new year, 1398.

Twelve musical band groups including Souls, Chime, Feedback, Obscure and Shocking Blue participated in the musical show.

The mall premises including the nearby trees, walls and roofs of the buildings were crowded with a large number of male and female spectators.

member enquiry committee headed by Additional Secretary in the Educational Ministry on December 22 to make and submit recommendations for solving the problem by one month. But the committee was yet to submit its recommendations, students alleged.

Islamic grand confce held

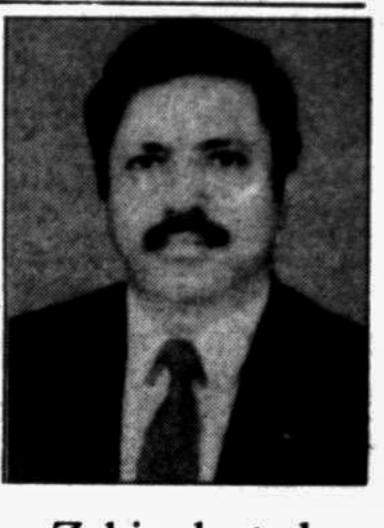
An Islamie grand conference organized by Adarsha Islamic Mission and Orphanage held at Lalmatia here Friday evening, reports BSS.

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury was the chief guest of the congregation while State Minister for Information Mohammed Nurul Huda, State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqui Islam and State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman were the special guests.

Moulana Habibur Rahman Juktibadi and Qari Habibullah Belali were the wazine-eqeram of the conference.

Contraband seized

The Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department setzed 1,036 pieces of Indian sarees and 210 bags of calcium carbonate from a truck near Meghna ghat on Dhaka-Chittagong highway late Thursday night, a customs press release said last night.



Zahir elected Lions Clubs Governor

Ln. Humayun Zahir has been elected uncontested District Governor in the 4th annual district convention of Lions Clubs International District-315A, Bangladesh held on Thursday and Friday. Ln. Zahir was also elected uncontested Lt. Governor in the 3rd annual convention last year, says press release.

A dedicated social worker Ln. Zahir was born in 1948 in the District of Noakhali. He is an Advocate of Bangladesh Supreme Court and a renowned businessman. He is the Chief Adviser of Janata Insurance Co. Ltd. and a Sponsor Director of United Commercial Bank Ltd. He is also the Director of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

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