

Dateline Khulna

Metric system to be promoted in 94 UZs

From Syed Isa

KHULNA, Mar 18: The Fifth Metric System Implementation Week began here on Saturday.

Organised by Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution, Khulna the week is being observed in all 94 upazilas of the division.

The department is reported to have put all its efforts to make the week a success.

About 100 officers and employees have been engaged to supervise the implementation of the system.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner of Khulna and the Chairman of the Divisional Metric System Implementation Committee has already sent directives to all the Deputy Commissioners, Upazila Nirbahi Officers and District Public Relations Officers to make all efforts for successful observance of the week.

The Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner who is also the Chairman of the Metropolitan Metric System Implementation Committee has also advised the relevant officials and bodies to observe the week.

It has been gathered that

Looted ornaments recovered: 5 criminals held

CHITTAGONG, Mar 17: Kotwali police recovered some looted ornaments and arrested five criminals including two involved in the looting last night, a police press release said today, reports BSS.

The ornaments weighing three tolas were allegedly snatched away by two youths at dagger point from Mrs Shahinul Islam Chowdhury when she was travelling with her husband in a richshaw through S.M. Ali Road here at 8 p.m. last night. Her husband was also robbed of a cash of Taka 4,200 and a wrist watch. Immediately after the incident patrol police with help of some people arrested one Ali Akbar along with the cash, the wrist watch and a dagger.

Police later arrested his accomplice Delwar Hussain and recovered the looted ornaments and a dagger.

Kotwali police also arrested three alleged burglars and recovered a stolen TV set and a two-in-one.

during the week stern disciplinary actions will be taken against the users of old system of weight and measurements through conducting mobile courts and task forces.

Body to maintain sanctity of Ramadan

A 51-member committee consisting of local imams, alicms and representatives of different political parties and socio-cultural organisations was formed here on Friday to

Osman's death anniversary today

The 20th death anniversary of Alhaj Khan Shaheb Osman Ali, a founder member of Awami League and an associate of the late Hussain Shahid Suhrawardi, will be observed today (Tuesday), reports BSS.

Guran Khwani and milad mahfil will be held at his residence 'Baitul Aman' at Narayanganj. Haji Osman Ali Smriti Sangsad will hold a discussion on the life and works of the late Osman Ali.

Late Osman Ali, a member of the Legislative Assembly of the undivided Bengal, was the Editor of 'Sabuj Bangla' which was published till 1935.

50 rendered homeless as 12 tin-sheds gutted

CHITTAGONG, Mar 18: Twelve tin-sheds were gutted in a fire at Railway Fourth Class Employees Quarters near Central Railway Building here this afternoon, Fire Service sources said, reports BSS.

The cause of the fire and the loss could not be known. Fire Service personnel extinguished the fire after an hour-long fighting.

At least 50 persons were rendered homeless due to the fire.

maintain the sanctity of Ramadan. Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh on Saturday brought out a procession calling upon all to maintain sanctity of Ramadan.

Prize distribution

The prize distribution ceremony of the District Education Week '91 was held at Khulna Zila School premises recently.

Presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, Khulna, the ceremony was addressed by Abdul Kayyum Khan, Firoza Begum and Principal Majharul Hannan.

Mr Fazlul Haque Mia, the Divisional Commissioner, Khulna attended the function as the chief guest.

Later, the chief guest distributed prizes and certificates among the winners.

Training course

A five-day training course on modern oven manufacturing began here at the local CFP office premises on Sunday last. The modern ovens will save fuel substantially.

The Khulna Unit of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) and the Rural Reconstruction Centre have jointly organised the training course which was inaugurated by Ferdousi Ali, President ADAB, Khulna Chapter.

A total of 12 trainees are participating in the course.

Time-limit for collecting Prize Bond money extended

The Government has extended the time limit for collecting the prize money of the prize bonds to six years from one year, according to an official handout in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

Prize money of the concerned prize bonds could now be collected within six years after the draw. Demand for the prize could not be raised after the expiry of six years.



Members of Bangladesh Medical Association holding a demonstration calling for arrest and trial of Dr. Jafrullah and Dr. Aziz, alleged to be killers of Dr. Milon. Milon was shot dead on the campus late last year when anti-Ershad stir had gripped the campus. — Star photo

LICROSS chief says

130 cyclone shelters to be built in high risk areas

Mr. Par Olav Stenback, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said in Dhaka Monday that a large number of people would be benefitted with the implementation of the agreement signed between the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at Hotel Sheraton, Mr. Stenback said the agreement, termed the framework for development cooperation, would be effective for a period of five years when 25 million US dollars is spent.

Under the framework, some 130 cyclone shelters in the most vulnerable high risk areas would be built, he said.

The LICROSS would also help consolidate the community development activities and health services around the existing 62 cyclone shelters and to develop the same in the vicinity of new shelters.

Mr. Stenback, who hails from Finland, had been his country's Education and Foreign Minister and Member of Parliament for long 15 years. He joined the League in early 1988.

Mr. Stenback said the BDRCS would develop a zonal operational network and establish four zonal warehouses for effective disaster preparedness and disaster system. When implemented, 24 million people living in 116 upazilas will be benefitted and about 10,000 volunteers would be recruited and trained in flood prone areas.

The BDRCS would provide effective and systematic primary health care programme in Rajshahi zone through establishment of 15 rural maternity centres and 200 village health workers with greater emphasis on mother and child health.

The Secretary General said he had called on the Acting President Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and discussed the Red Crescent activities of Bangladesh and how the Apex body could help it

run smoothly. Replying to a question, Mr. Stenback said many donor have been assisting Bangladesh generously to fight the disasters. "In this context, Bangladesh can be termed as a favoured society," he said.

Mr. Stenback expressed the hope that although Bangladesh was vulnerable to floods, cyclone and other natural disasters, a large number of people living in disaster-prone areas would be benefitted by the framework.

Major General (Retd) A.F.M. Abdul Huq, Chairman of BDRCS, Mr. Ekramul Amin, Treasurer and Major (Retd) Ali Hassan Quoreshi, Secretary General of BDRCS, were present at the press conference.

Major (Retd) Quoreshi told the news conference that BDRCS would build 3,000 houses for the victims whose houses were being eroded by the river. He said the project was being finalised and the work would start as soon as funds were available.

He also explained various activities of the BDRCS and its on-going projects.

Mr. Stenback left Dhaka for Calcutta ending his two-day visit to Bangladesh.

Stolen car recovered

Mohammadpur police on Sunday evening recovered one stolen car from in front of a garments factory near Shaymoli Cinema hall in the city.

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THE DAILY STAR

Italy to give \$5 lakh food aid to Bangladesh

Italy will give 25 metric tons of freeze-dried vegetable soup food worth 500,000 US dollars to Bangladesh soon under the Italian food aid programme, reports BSS.

The freeze-dried soup consignment is expected to reach Bangladesh by the end of April. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Relief with the help of the representatives of the Italian producer of food, has arranged several cooking demonstrations at two orphanages of the city.

One such demonstration was held Sunday evening at the Lions Eye Hospital at Agargaon. Col (Retd) Hesamuddin, Secretary, Ministry of Relief,

Attache for technical cooperation in the Italian Embassy in Dhaka, Dr Gianfranca D'ignazio, Attache Mr Giancarlo Dominici and Dr Golam Mayeed, Chairman, Bangladesh Lions Foundation, were present on the occasion. Mrs D'ignazio handed over a packet of the soup food to Dr Mayeed before the demonstration began.

Freeze-dried soup is of high nutritional value, which could be conserved up to five years at any temperature. The Italian government and World Health Organisation have been using the soup food to fight hunger and malnutrition since 1981. The soup food has been used specially for supplementary nutritional programmes such as feeding at schools, orphanages, community feeding and in emergency situations.



Mrs. Gianfranca D'ignazio, Attache for Technical Cooperation of the Italian Embassy in Dhaka handing over a packet of freeze-dried food to Dr. Golam Mayeed, Chairman of Bangladesh Lions Foundation on Sunday. Col (Retd.) Hesamuddin (middle left), Secretary, Ministry of Relief and Mr. Giancarlo Dominici (middle right), Attache of the Italian Embassy are seen

Dateline Chittagong

Plea to ensure voting rights

CHITTAGONG, Mar 18: Bangladesh Jagrata Hindu Janata (BJHJ), a non-political organisation has congratulated the Acting President and his administration for holding a fair election in the country, reports BSS.

A meeting of the BJHJ held at its office in Chittagong on Friday last with Mr. Aruf Sengupta in the chair reviewed the pre and post election situations in Chittagong and expressed concern over what they called threat and intimidation held out to some voters at some places during February 27 Jatiya Sangsad election, a press release said Sunday.

The organisation called upon the concerned authorities to ensure rights of voting to every citizen of Bangladesh irrespective of caste creed and religious belief.

The meeting opined that citizens of the country should not be discriminated for their religious and political belief and that every one must be ensured of exercising his franchise without fear.

Messrs. Santosh Kumar Pal, Shyamal Chakraborty, Amalendu Bhattacharya, D. Jatendra Mohan Debnath and

engineer Subash Das addressed the meeting.

CUJ polls Mar 28

Elections of Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs of different units of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) were held Sunday, says a press release.

The Annual General Meeting of the Union will be held on March 28 at the temporary office of Chittagong Press Club while the inaugural function of the AGM will be held in the afternoon of March 27. The election of the office bearers of the union will be held on March 29.

Bengali Language Movement veteran Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury will attend the inaugural function as chief guest while Reazuddin Ahmed, Amanullah Kabir, President and General Secretary respectively of BFUJ, former BFUJ President Habibur Rahman Milan and former DUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury will attend the function as special guests.

An unidentified man aged around 35 was run over by a train at railway station in Chittagong Sunday morning,

railway police sources said. The victim, a destitute was run over when Dhaka-bound Karnaphuli express train was being placed at the platform. Railway police recovered the body, registered a case and sent the body for post mortem examination.

Two admitted to CMC with burn injuries

Sabur Ahmed (24) and Kabir Ahmed (28) both brothers were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with severe acid burn Sunday afternoon, hospital sources said.

The victims, sons of one Abus Sabur Talukder, a farmer, were allegedly kidnapped from their Parua union home under Rangunia upazila by a group of miscreants. They were later found screaming at the adjacent paddy field with acid burn. Local people took them to police station from where they were rushed to the hospital. Family sources of the victims said that they had a long standing enmity following a land dispute with an influential quarter of his village. A case was being filed with Rangunia police in this connection, sources said.

Fahd greets Shahabuddin

King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud of Saudi Arabia and Custodian of the two Holy Mosques has in a message, congratulated Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, according to an official handout.

In the message, King Fahd said, "It gives me pleasure with the appearance of holy month of Ramadan to send to Your Excellency my heartfelt

congratulations and cordial wishes asking Almighty Allah to make it a month of blessings and we pray to Him to accept our fastings and night prayers and to make happy return to Islamic Ummah where as its aspiration of progress would have been achieved".

Crown Prince

Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud has also cordially congratulated Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.

In a message sent to Acting President, the Saudi Prince said, "I pray to Almighty Allah to make it a month of benevolence and blessings to our peoples and countries and to accept our fastings and prayers and to make happy return on Your Excellency with continuity of health and happiness and on your brotherly people and Islamic Ummah with continuity of progress and prosperity."

Shibir demands reopening of Ctg Varsity

Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir has demanded immediate reopening of the Chittagong University and urged the government to remove the Vice Chancellor for his alleged involvement in malfunctioning of the university, reports UNB.

In written statement Shibir leaders blamed Vice Chancellor Prof. A M Strajuddin for what they termed, his stubborn attitude, one sided vision and anti-student activities.

Shibir President Md. Aminul Islam read out the written statement at its office in the city Sunday afternoon.

The statement categorically singled out the Vice Chancellor for his "direct involvement in the conspiracy for keeping the university closed for about three months."

The Shibir leader alleged that denying requests of the departmental Chairmen and hall Provosts, the Vice Chancellor extended the closure of the university till 22 April.

Referring to the killing of Firoz Mahmood, a Shibir activist, Aminul Islam demanded arrest and trial of the killer responsible and also called to withdraw expulsion and show cause orders against their five leaders and 63 workers respectively.

The leaders questioned the reason for closing the university when the country got rid of autocracy. They also demanded releasing of report of the enquiry commission which was constituted by the caretaker government to investigate various issues relating to the Chittagong University.

Appointed resented

Engineers Service Structure and Welfare Committee, has expressed its grave concern regarding recent appointment of a non-engineer as Chairman of Water Development Board, says a press release.

Immediately after the death of Engr. Zakul Islam, Chairman, Water Development Board, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control has been appointed as Chairman of the said Organisation though many qualified engineers are there. Engr. Md. Ruhul Matin, Member-Secretary, ESSWC, in a statement has also expressed his deep concern over the appointment, the press release added.

New body of lawyers formed

A new forum of lawyers titled "Democratic Lawyers Association of Bangladesh" (DL-AB) was formed Saturday with the objective of consolidating democratic ideas, values and institutions, reports UNB.

The Association aims to organise "Legal Aid" in an institutionalised manner to ensure legal protection to the underprivileged, a press release said.

It will also endeavour to maintain professional ethics and take practical steps to create a positive environment for the enhancement of professional standards of the members of the legal profession.

The meeting held at the seminar room of Dhaka University's Teachers Students Centre, elected a 31-member Organising Committee with Barrister Shafiq Ahmed as President and Dr. Tarek M.R. Chowdhury as Secretary General.

A grand convention of lawyers will be held sometime in the last week of September this year, the meeting decided.

NAP's Black Day today

National Awami Party (Bhasani) will observe 'Black Day' today (Tuesday) as on this very day Indo-Bangla Friendship Accord was signed. To observe the day NAP will hold a discussion meeting at its Elephant Road central office at the afternoon.

A party press release said that the accord signed by Sheikh Mujib and Indira Gandhi, in 1972 is a deed of slavery imposed over a small country by a big country.

People of Bangladesh did never accept such accord, it added. NAP demanded cancellation of the friendship accord and urged the people to launch a move on this demand.

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BPSA prize-giving ceremony held

The prize distribution ceremony of Bangladesh Pharmacy Students' Association was held on Saturday at Pharmacy Department, Dhaka University, says a Press release.

President of BPSA Mr. Md. Mujibur Rahman Khan presided this ceremony and distributed prizes among the owners. The ceremony was also addressed among others by Prof. A.K. Azad Chowdhury, Mr. Nasser Shahrear Zahedee, Dr. Muniruddin Ahmed, Dr. Rezaul Jalil and officials of the Association.

Revolver recovered: 7 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Sutrapur police on Saturday recovered one country made revolver from a video shop at Municipal Market near Dhupkhola Maidan in the city and arrested seven persons in this connection.

The persons arrested are: Jhantu Alias Jafar Ali (18), Mohsin (20), Rajab (22), Zakir (20), Jasim (20), Anisur Rahman Alias Manik (21), and Mokhles (18).

A case has been registered with police.