

Dhaka Day by Day

An Afternoon of 'Pithas'

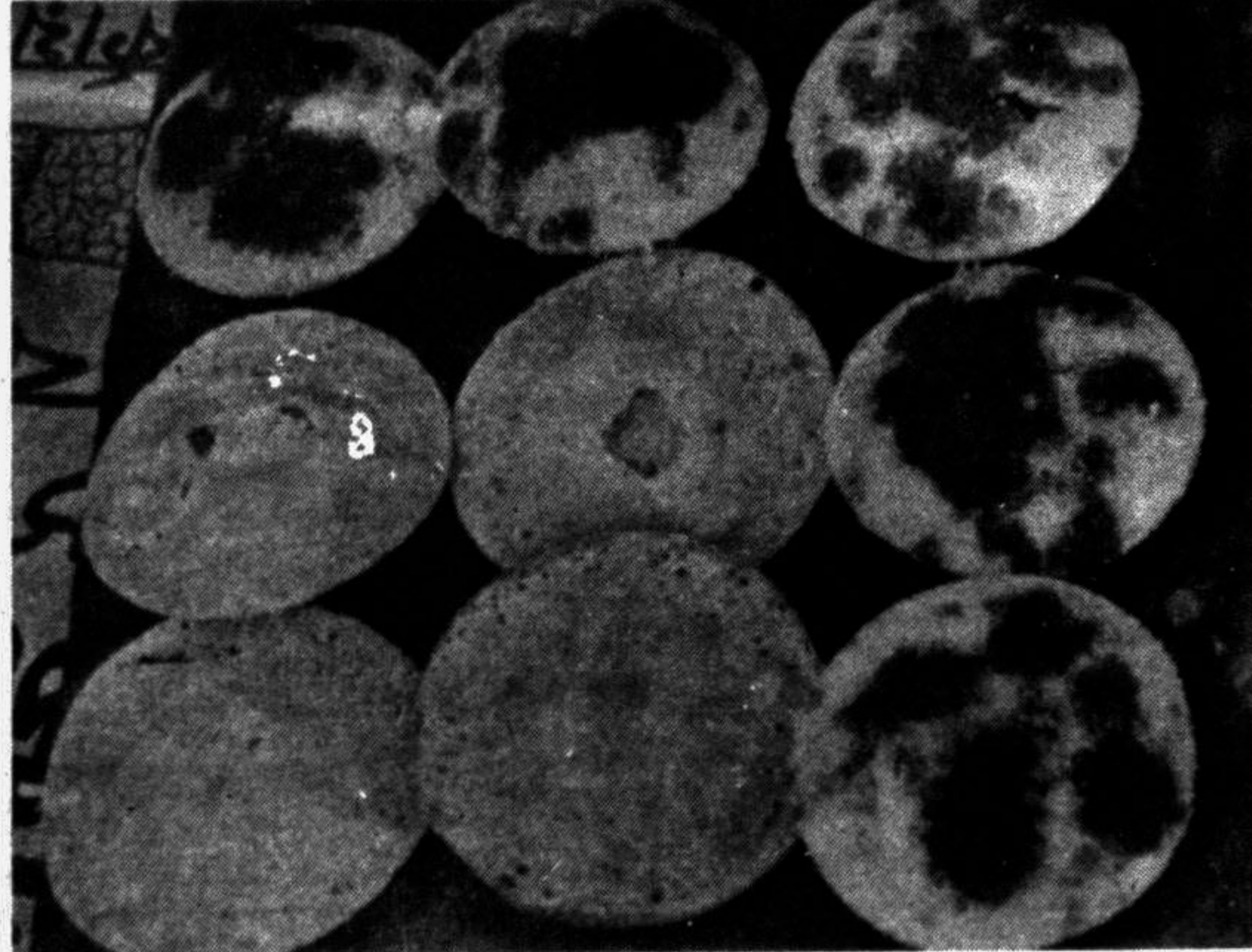
by Parveen Anam

It was a festival with a difference: as the rays of the setting sun cast long shadows on the tastefully decorated 'shamiana', the feast spread out on the tables was a joy for sore eyes. There are festivals and there are festivals, but few, I am sure, bring such culinary pleasures, as a 'pitha festival': pithas being the traditional rice cakes prepared in rural Bangladesh and a great delicacy with young and old alike.

It was an idea with a difference: Gulshan Club decided to have an afternoon of 'pithas' and tea, to introduce specially its diplomat members both to the facilities offered by the club and the delicious 'pithas' of Bangladesh. The 'pithas' had been specially prepared by the ladies of the club at their respective homes and not only was one impressed by the variety, but one could also be sure of the highest stan-

pecially made when the new paddy harvest is brought in and it is a time of joy and merry-making for the entire village. The slightly burnt smell, of the 'pithas' roasting over a spit-fire, is enough to make the mouth water, of many a staunch diet-watcher. There are fried 'pithas' and there are roasted 'pithas'; there are steamed 'pithas' and 'pithas' cooked in milk. And there are 'pithas' eaten only with poultry meat, freshly cooked, or 'pithas' eaten only with fish just caught from the pond or the river and freshly fried. 'Pitha' making is a skill, highly technical and precise and not many are blessed with it. Since the staple ingredient is rice flour, the new harvest is just the time for the 'pithas'.

Although the 'pithas' at the Gulshan Club were not cooking over the spit-fire or being



dards of hygiene being maintained. There were 'pithas' of various designs and colours: there were sweet 'pithas' and there were hot 'pithas'. All mouthwatering and delicious.

'Pitha' making is an art, highly developed and requiring great skill and practice: it is an art which unfortunately is dying out with the times. But a glance at the laden tables at the Gulshan Club, that afternoon, would have left many of us speechless. It brought back fond memories for the elderly, of misty, cold mornings, with entire families gathered around the fire, the master of the house spinning out his yarns and the mistress dishing out the hot 'pithas'. Trips were made specially to the village homestead, to eat 'pithas', traditionally eaten during the winter months. 'Pithas' are

eaten with the fish of the poultry, it was a treat for all. There were as many as twenty varieties of 'pithas' with an equal number of eye-catching names like, 'pathi shaptha', 'bhapa pitha', 'choi pitha', 'mera pitha', 'chitha pitha', etc., etc.

And one could only come away feeling sorry, that our physical limitations do not allow us to savour as many 'pithas' as our eyes feast on. For the 'pithas' spread on the tables was a feast fit for kings — or maharajahs. Perhaps more of these 'pitha festivals' in Dhaka city would encourage and revive an art, dying out fast. Life is all too complicated and intense to indulge in 'pitha' feasts, unfortunately. A fact which leaves many of us sighing in memory of days gone by.



Mahfuz Anam, Executive Editor of The Daily Star speaking at a discussion meeting on the significance of Dec 6 in our national life, organised by the Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum in the city yesterday evening. Also seen are (from right) Deputy Leader of the House Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Minister for Law and Justice Mirza Golam Hafiz, forum president Justice T.H.Khan and secretary Advocate Abdul Wadud Khandaker.

Directive to examine vehicles properly

Necessary measures have been taken for widening and development of roads, highways and bridges and construction of traffic signals at road-sides, reports BSS.

It was stated by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed on Wednesday while inaugurating a seminar here on 'accident prevention'.

The minister said, directives have also been given to the officials and employees of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority to examine vehicles properly before issuing fitness certificate and the test to test the skill of the drivers copiously while issuing driving licences.

He urged all concerned to strictly follow the traffic rules. The three-day seminar was jointly organised by Bangladesh Police and World Health Organisation (WHO).

Presided over by Inspector General of Police M Enamul Haque, the inaugural session of the seminar was also addressed by Home Secretary Lutfullah-el-Majid and WHO representative Dr ANA Abyeundure.

Mr Oli Ahmed saying that the present government had taken a number of appropriate and practical steps to reduce road accidents, he underlined the need for identifying the causes of accidents and prevent those with conscious and

coordinated efforts of all concerned.

Other speakers laid emphasis on the need for formulation of a 'national accident prevention policy', inter-departmental coordination and sincere cooperation among all agencies to prevent accidents.

Bhutanese envoy calls on Hafiz

Bhutanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Karma Dorjee called on law and justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz at his secretariat in Dhaka on Thursday, reports UNB.

The Ambassador stayed with the minister for sometime and discussed matters of mutual interest.

What's on today . . .

Workshop

A workshop to train up the painters on application procedures of modern painting system will begin today (Thursday) at the Sohag Community centre at New Eskaton road.

The workshop sponsored by the Berger Paints will be inaugurated by its Managing Director at 9.30 am.

ICMAB workshop

The concluding session of the five-day workshop jointly organised by ICMAB and UNDP will be held today (Thursday) at 3.30 pm at Hotel Purbani International.

Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism will attend the function as chief guest.

Institution of Engineers' polls

The election of the office bearers and council members of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) for the 1992-93 term will be held today (Thursday) at 9 am and will continue up to 5 pm.

Patriotic Democratic Front

A discussion meeting in observance of the Shaheed Budhijibi Dibash will be held today (Thursday) at 3 pm at the NAP office under the auspices of the Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF). Noted intellectuals and the front leaders will address the meeting.

Discussion on Bhashani

Motilana Bhashani Jatiya Smriti Sangsad will hold a mlad mahfil and discussion meeting today (Thursday) at 5 pm at its Nayapaltan office in observance of the 111th birth anniversary of the late leader.

Discussion on Ershad Mukti Dibash

North Bengal Students Welfare Association will hold a discussion today (Thursday) at 10 am at the Noor-tower at Motijheel in observance of Ershad Mukti Dibash.

The meeting will be presided over by Mamtazul Karim, President of the Organisation.

. . . and tomorrow

Qul Khwani of Fazlur Rahman

The Qul Khwani of Ahmed Fazlur Rahman, one of the accused in Agartala Conspiracy case will be held tomorrow (Friday) after Asr prayer at his residence at Gulshan.

Naripakkha

Naripakkha will hold a discussion and cultural programme tomorrow (Friday) at 5 pm at the Central Shahid Minar to commemorate the Martyred Intellectuals' Day.

Chhatra Kallyan Sangstha

Bangladesh Chhatra Kallyan Sangstha will observe the Shaheed Budhijibi Dibash tomorrow (Friday). An elaborate programme has been chalked out including discussion meeting, set speech competition, recitation and art competition for the children.

Anti-drug procession

Ahban, an anti-drug organisation will bring out a colourful procession tomorrow (Friday) at 10 am in the city to protest against drug abuse.

The procession will start from Wari and end in front of the National Press Club.

BCS conference

The 15th Annual Conference of Bangladesh Chemical Society (BCS) begins here at the auditorium of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) from tomorrow (Friday).

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will inaugurate the 3-day conference as chief guest, while the Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan and BCIC Chairman Rakibuddin Ahmed will attend the meeting as special and honorary guests respectively.

A list of 40 research papers will be presented at the conference in five technical sessions. About 800 distinguished chemists from home and abroad will take part in the conference. Compiled by SM

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office forecast Wednesday that weather is likely to remain dry over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Wednesday.

Night temperature may fall by one to two degree Celsius over the region of Rajshahi, Khulna, Jessore, Kushtia, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Comilla and likely to remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

The lowest 13.4 degree Celsius temperature was recorded at Rajshahi and Srimangal.

Temperature and humidity recorded at other important cities and towns on Wednesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree	Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min	9 am 6 pm
Dhaka	27.5	18.5	76 66
Chittagong	29.0	17.0	83 79
Khulna	28.8	15.4	- 68
Rajshahi	27.5	13.4	80 81
Dinajpur	26.8	13.8	82 77
Mymensingh	28.7	16.7	80 73
Srimangal	27.8	13.4	81 75
Cox's Bazar	29.0	18.0	74 61
Barisal	28.4	15.8	67 66

Sunset in Dhaka on Thursday at 5-13 pm and sunrise Friday at 6-32 am.

Death anniversary of five muktijoddha brothers today

By Staff Correspondent

The 20th anniversary of death of four brothers and their brother-in-law who embraced martyrdom on the eve of final victory of the liberation war against the occupied forces of Pakistan in 1971 will be observed today (Thursday).

Sons of late Motahar Hossain of Pabna, Makarram Hossain Mukul (26), Mansur Hossain Manju (24), Moshataq Hossain Anju (22), Mosharrar Hossain Ranju (20) and their brother-in-law Mohammad Yousuf (29) were killed on December 11, 1971.

Anniversary of Ahmed Karim's death today

By Staff Correspondent

The 15th death anniversary of Ahmed Karim an eminent poet, educationist and litterateur of the country will be observed today (Thursday).

A close associate of poet Nazrul, late Karim has a lot of literary works to his credit including Bengali translation of some of poet Wordsworth's famous poems.

He read out the self-written address of welcome when Nazrul was warmly received by the people of Noakhali and presented him with pen and ink pot made of gold at the Noakhali Town Hall in 1928.

To mark the occasion, a mlad mahfil will be held at the Shamsun Nahar Hall residence of his daughter Jahanara Rahman after Asr prayer. Another mlad mahfil will be held at the Battush Sharaf Mosque, Farmgate at the same time.

All his friends and admirers have been requested to attend it.

TV Thursday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Reading from the Geeta
- 5.30 Jana Ajana
- 6.00 Cartoon: The New three stooges
- 6.30 Jiboner Alo
- 7.05 Antarang
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.40 Drama of the week
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama series: Twin Peaks
- 11.30 Khabar /The news
- 11.40 Friday's programme
- 11.45 Closing.

BMA polls today

Elections to the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) will be held in 61 polling centres all over the country today (Tuesday), reports UNB.

The polling begins from 9 am and will continue till 5 pm. BMA sources said.

Two panels are competing for the 32-member body association.

In one panel the present President of BMA Dr. MA Majed and Dr Gazi Abdul Huq Assistant Prof (Anatomy) of the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) are competing for the posts of President and Secretary General respectively.

Former Principal of Dhaka Medical College Dr. Waliullah and present Secretary General Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mahiuddin is contesting in the other panel for the same post respectively.

In all 9,025 voters are enlisted for tomorrow polls.

Two buses presented to JU students

Maintain peace on campus: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas on Wednesday presented two buses to the students of Jahangirnagar University at a simple ceremony at Bangabhabna, reports BSS.

The President handed over the keys of the 52-seater buses to the Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed.

Talking to a group of students in this connection, President Biswas advised them to maintain peaceful academic atmosphere through the united efforts of the teachers and students.

He lauded the initiatives of the students of the university for maintaining peaceful academic atmosphere and helping the institution run without dis-

ruption of classes and session jam.

The President advised other students to follow the example set by the students of the Jahangirnagar University.

Prof Salahuddin Ahmed expressed his profound gratitude to the president and the government for their gestures to the students of the university.

The function was attended, among others, by secretary to the President ANM Yusuf, president of the Bangladesh University, Teachers Federation Prof Enamul Huq Khan, VP and General Secretary of the university's central students union Muniruzzaman Munir and Zahidul Hassan.

Tender Notice

No 20 of 1991-92

Separate sealed tenders in Form No T-1 are hereby invited from 'A' and 'B' Class Contractor of BWDB for the following works under SSSFCDI Project during the year 1991-92.

Sl No	Name and Location of the work	Approximate estimated cost	Earnest money
1	Construction of Kashibari 1 (One) Vent (1.80M x 1.50M, RCC Regulator in Upazila Patnitala, Dist. Naogaon under IDA CREDIT NO 1870-BD.	Tk 25,72,082/-	Tk 64,302/-
2	-do- -do- Ujirpur 1 (One) Vent (1.80X x 1.50M) RCC Regulator in Upazila Patnitala Dist. Naogaon under IDA CREDIT NO 1870-BD.	Tk 26,66,868/-	Tk 66,672/-

The tender will be received by the undersigned, Executive Engineer, Water Dev. Division, BWDB, Natore/Naogaon/The Superintending Engineer, DHAKA O&M Circle, BWDB, Dhaka and the Sub-Divisional Engineer, Nawabganj O&M Sub-Division, BWDB, Nawabganj for 3 (Three) consecutive days i.e. on 21-12-1991, 22-12-1991 and upto 12.00 Noon of 23-12-1991 and will be opened at 12.30PM on 23-12-1991.

The tender document and detailed information will be available at Sonali Bank Shaheb Bazar Branch, Rajshahi/Court Branch, Rajshahi/Greater Road Branch Rajshahi/Moithar Branch, Rajshahi/Court Branch, Rajshahi/Railway Branch, Rajshahi/BSIC Branch, Rajshahi/WAPDA Branch, WAPDA Building, Motijheel Com. Area, Dhaka/Pubali Bank, Natore/Agrani Bank, Naogaon/Nawabganj.

PANI-290/91-92
DFP(G)-14845-8/12
G-1058

Executive Engineer,
Rajshahi O&M Division,
BWDB, Rajshahi.

It's new just for you

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

For booking details, please contact :
Advertisement Manager
Phone : 246023-4, 863035

"NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES"

The containerised cargo ex. m. v. "Alligator Pride" V-29379 from Los Angeles, Kobe, ex. m. v. "Oceanus Tokyo" V-20242 from Barcelona, ex. m. v. "Sea Glory" V-9139 from Semarang, ex. m. v. "Mahbhum" V-84 from Bangkok have been relayed to M. V. "NEW GENLORD" V-6791, Import Rotation No. 854/91 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 12-12-1991 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from "FCL" containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.
103, AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA, CHITTAGONG.
AS AGENTS: MITSUI O. S. K. LINES LTD. TOKYO.
PHONES: 500440, 503317, 500686/88.

MEENA BAZAR !! MEENA BAZAR !!

The Gulshan Ladies Community Club will organise a MEENA BAZAR in aid of Free Medical Dispensary, Immunisation Center, Family Planning Clinic, Primary School for boys and girls, and Adult Literacy Center on Friday, December 13th, 1991 at the Gulshan North Park, Road No. 83, Gulshan.

Entry Cards will be available at the gate.

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel and Alliance Francaise present

FRENCH SUPERSTAR OF JAZZ. ROCK DIDIER LOCKWOOD GROUP

THE BIGGEST MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR
JAZZ CONCERT AND DINNER
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1991

All the way from France Superstar Lockwood and his group performs at Dhaka Sheraton Ballroom

Tickets : Tk. 750/- per person (all inclusive)
PROGRAM
● 7:00 p.m. : Door opens
● 7:30 p.m. : Dinner
● 9:15 p.m. : Jazz Concert
No admittance during concert.
Tickets available at :
Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Phone : 863391
and Video Connection. Phone : 602525

Dhaka Sheraton HOTEL

আজই একটি জীবন বীমা পলিসি নিন

আপনার পলিসি তামাদি হয়ে গেলে তা আবার চালু করার সুযোগ নিন।

আপনার পলিসির কোন সমস্যা থাকলে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশন
একমাত্র জাতীয় জীবন বীমা প্রতিষ্ঠান
প্রধান কার্যালয়
২৪, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা।

DFP(BA) 9823-3/12