

Iranian aid to ICTVTR assured

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, A. Broujerdi and members of his entourage Sunday visited the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) at Board Bazar, Outpur, reports BSS.

Broujerdi assured that Iran would extend all possible assistance to the ICTVTR to enable it to function as a centre of excellence for the benefit of the Muslim Ummah. There would be more participation to OIC in general and the ICTVTR in particular from the Islamic Republic of Iran, he added.

The Iranian Ambassador in Bangladesh, Ganjdoost accompanied the Deputy Minister during the visit.

Earlier, Prof Dr A M Patwari, the Director General of the centre and senior teachers and officers received the Iranian delegation. The minister and the members of his delegation were apprised of the objectives and various activities of ICTVTR which is being developed as a centre of excellence for the service of the Islamic Ummah.

Director General apprised him of the progress so far made.



Bangladesh Teachers Oikya Parishad leader Qamruzzaman addressing a teachers rally in the city Sunday.

'Womenfolk to get priority in development process'

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Sunday underscored the need for hard labour and sincere efforts of all to achieve national progress in the present democratic system, reports BSS.

He called for everyone's participation in the nation building activities through amity, harmony and unity to establish a welfare society which was the aim of the present democratic government.

The President was inaugurating a conference of the Inner Wheel Club-District 328, Bangladesh at a local hotel Sunday afternoon. Presided over by the club's Chairman Farhat Rahim, the function was

also addressed by past chairman of the club Asma Abbas and conference chairman Zarina Akhter.

President Biswas said the present government was pledge-bound to build up the women-folk as a potential workforce by giving them priority in all spheres of national development process. Economic emancipation of the society cannot be achieved without massive participation of the women-folk, he said adding that the Inner Wheel Club would come forward with its new programmes for self-development of the women.

The President said every conscious citizen of the country should stand by the side of the distressed people and hoped that the voluntary organisations would also come forward with more programmes for the downtrodden.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas called upon all to extend their cooperation towards government initiatives for meeting basic needs of the people.

Speaking about the erosion of social values, the President said it could be checked by attracting the people towards democratic norms and sense of responsibility.

He also called for protecting the generations from the wrath of smoking and drug abuse to ensure sound health of the nation.

The President called upon all to develop frugal manner in themselves to build a self-reliant economy which would infuse a new life in the national development.

Speaking about world arena, President Abdur Rahman Biswas said democratic atmosphere was now prevailing all over the world and called upon the women community to take the advantage of that situation for their own development.

Quoting from the holy Quran, the President said service to the humanity is a great task, particularly the poor and the distressed.

He urged the affluent section to stand by the poor.

Removal of BUET teacher demanded

Architecture Department Student's Union (ADSU) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) demanded immediate removal of Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed, Associate Professor of the department for his autocratic attitude towards the students, reports BSS.

In a press conference held at the EUCSU Bhaban Sunday the student's union accused Dr Ahmed of practising high-handedness towards the students by misappropriating his power.

In a written statement, read out by Akil Akhter Chowdhury, union General Secretary the ADSU categorically held several allegations against Dr Ahmed including capricious attitude, availing the services of the students for his personal interest, willfulness as an examiner and trying to place the Teacher's Association of BUET before the students.

The students in the statement alleged the inquiry committee, which was formed earlier by the Vice-Chancellor to investigate the situation, was motivated.

Among others, Nazmul Haque Khan, Shawkat Pasha and Asfur Rahman addressed the press conference.

Meanwhile, the All Party Student's Unity and Engineering University Central Student's Union expressed their solidarity with the students of Architecture Department.

Since the resumption of classes in the BUET on January 4, students of architecture department have been boycotting their classes on the issue.

Palli rationing system to be recast

The government is taking steps to recast the existing palli rationing system, Food Minister M. Shamsul Islam told the Jatiya Sangsad Sunday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Dharendra Nath Samdhua (AL-Barguna) the minister said under the existing system very few people enjoyed the benefit of the palli rationing.

He said the government had planned to reduce the rate of corruption and mismanagement in the palli rationing system and there was the need for recasting the present system.

Obituary

Shafiqat Ahmed, a Deputy Director of the Directorate of Family Planning, died of a heart attack here Saturday, an official press release said here Sunday. He was 49, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, two sons, mother, colleagues and admirers to mourn his death.

Nurunnahar Khatun, a prominent social worker of Khulna, and mother of Tariqul Alam, a former journalist and litterateur and Public Relations Officer of the Bangladesh Election Commission died in Dhaka on January 8 at the Shamrita Nursing Home, reports BSS.

She was 87.

Ettehadul Muslimin

Alhaj Moulana Shah A F M Wahid and Professor Shaikh Mohammad Shamsul Huda, President and General Secretary respectively of Bangladesh Anjumaney Ettehadul Muslimin in a statement Sunday hailed the US government for voting in UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel for illegal deportation of 12 Palestinians from their motherland.

Dhaka Day by Day

Talking and Riding Rickshaws

By Sabir Mustafa

David Austin arrived in Dhaka early in 1989 a single man, with impressions of Bangladesh that were hardly likely to put this country in the Most Sought-After Tourist Destination category. Floods, tornadoes, political violence — you name it, and he'd read about it.

"The media coverage of Bangladesh in the West is all about disasters. But when one actually comes here, one finds there is more to this country than one thought", David, who completes his three-year tour of duty as the press and political officer at the British High Commission next Tuesday, said while talking to the Daily Star in his spacious, well-tended but soon-to-be-forgotten garden in Banani.

The image of Bangladesh that will stay with him is not of a country permanently under water and storms, but of a people permanently smiling above the water and fighting back the storms.

What's more, he will not be alone on his flight back to London where he is scheduled to take up a new post at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office next February.

Emma Austin, David's charming wife, seems as representative of British modesty as one could hope to meet (the British are always modest, except when it comes to football, cricket, Empire, English beer, snooker, the Beatles, Bobby Charlton, Ian Botham, Henry Cooper, Andy Capp and some, well, million other small things).

An avid reader of the Star (or so she claimed), Emma worked as the manager of the British Overseas Development Administration (ODA) guesthouse in Gulshan for the past two years.

In other words, her time here was not spent simply by playing tennis and travelling around the countryside, although there were plenty of those too.

"It was always refreshing to go out of Dhaka, particularly to places like Sylhet and Moulavi Bazaar which I enjoyed very much", Emma, who'd never travelled outside Europe before, said, totally unaware that she was risking incurring the wrath of 62 other districts in the process!

David had it easy in Dhaka, since his job involved a great deal of what the Bengalees liked most doing anyway — talking!

As the press and political officer, he had to gather social, economic, political information in the same way as newspapers do.

"Except we don't editorialise", he added hastily. That job, presumably, is done by the desk officers in London who receive the reports, before shuffling the files onto the minister's table.

Travelling around the country, which was part of the job, provided great opportunities to feel the place and gain an insight into Bengali rural life.

Like travelling on the rivers. Any river. Like the one time when the Austins were

stuck in the middle of the Meghna on the fabled Rocket steamer going from Dhaka to Khulna. It was so foggy, David recalled with obvious relish, that the boat simply dropped anchor and sat in the middle of vast river for hours.

Then there was the visit to Sonargaon, capital of ancient Bengal, and surrounding villages.

"We were just wandering around in Sonargaon once, and a couple of ladies from a nearby village came over and invited the two of us into their house for a cup of tea. They were very poor and we were complete strangers, yet they were so warm and friendly towards us", David said, adding, "Another thing was that it was monsoon time and the level of water in the area was rising quite high. But the villagers seemed least bothered and taking it totally in their strides. Amazing."

For David Austin, the arrival of parliamentary democracy was certainly the most important and exciting change in Bangladesh during his three years stay.

"One of my lasting memories will be the time of the February elections — talking to people, seeing the joy all around, watching the campaign build up. And then going down to Chittagong on election day and visiting polling stations as an observer", he said.

Then there was the visit to Bangladesh by Dr. Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1980. Dr. Runcie went to Mujibnagar and laid a wreath at memorial there, David remembered.

At Bolshobpur in the district of Meherpur, the Archbishop suddenly decided to go for a walkabout in the village. To his immense surprise, Dr. Runcie found that the villagers had put out banners around the place welcoming him, even though the walkabout in the village was not part of his officially-announced itinerary.

"We will remember the incredible sight and sound of this city and the countryside. And the rickshaws", David Austin said, with a tone of nostalgia creeping in prematurely.

For both the Austins, old Dhaka was certainly the liveliest and most interesting part of the city to visit. After making the horrendous mistake of taking their car to the old city once, they got wiser.

"Riding rickshaws through the old city was one of the most enjoyable experiences I had", Emma said, adding, "In fact, I'll miss rickshaws in general, as much as the hot weather. But the things I won't miss are the trucks and buses, which make life hell for rickshaws."

With no rickshaws and no chance of playing tennis for so many months in the year, what will she do when she gets back to London? "Looking for a job and trying to keep warm", Emma Austin said with a grin, probably hoping she wouldn't get quoted.

Some hope.



David and Emma Austin: Leaving the warmth of Dhaka

House to let

Independent 3 bed, attached bath near modern shopping centre Sector-3 UTTARA Model Town. Contact Phone : 504553

Notice of Sale

Under the Ramna Police Station at 22 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Panibagh, Dhaka-1000, a land measuring an area of 1 bigha 19 katha more or less and with a covered parking space, a club room, security room and well-built three storeyed office/godown building measuring 12,950 sq ft on 9 storeyed foundation will be sold by Glaxo Bangladesh Limited.

Quotations are invited from the intending buyers in their own letter heads along with a Bank Draft/Pay Order or 15% of the quoted price as earnest money in favour of Glaxo Bangladesh Limited. The Company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason whatsoever therefor.

All offers shall be received up to 3.00 pm Sunday, the 19th January 1992 and the offers will be opened at 3:15 pm on that day.

Glaxo Bangladesh Limited
22, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue,
Panibagh, Dhaka-1000
Phone: 863288

D-15

Cost Management Division



Bangladesh Bank
Head Office
Dhaka

**TENDER NOTICE
Third Call**

Sealed tenders invited from bonafide supplier firms for purchase of single ply (white) continuous business form of undermentioned description for use in IBM machine Model-370 printer-3203 of this Office Computer Division. Detailed description of the form/sample may be collected from the Materials and Stationery Section of Cost management Division of the bank during office hours any day up to 19-01-92.

Description of Form

- (A) 500 (five hundred) packets (200 sheets in each packet)
 - (B) Paper: 1 GSM white paper one side ruled (Single ply)
 - (C) Size: must be 15"x11" size
 - (D) There should be Bangladesh Bank monogram (water colour) in the middle of each sheet.
2. Intending supplier firm should submit - it 5 (five) per cent of quoted value as "earnest money" in the form of Bank draft / pay order from any scheduled bank in favour of General Manager, Cost Management Division, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka, with the tender and superscribing "Tender for continuous business form" on the envelope, drop in the tender box kept in room No. 4 at 5th floor of the bank's main building by 11.00 a. m. on 20-01-92 and the tender will be opened on the same day at 11:15 minutes in presence (if any) of the suppliers of their nominated representatives.
3. Sample of paper must be submitted with tender.
4. Tenders as unfinished incomplete, conditional and with out earnest money will not be considered. The Bangladesh Bank authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

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Alauddin Ahmed
General Manager

What's on today

Management consultancy programme

The management consultancy programme (MCP) of the Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University has organised a national conference on "Strategic planning for non-profitable organisations" today (Monday) at 9 am at the Hotel Purbani in collaboration with the UNICEF.

Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Khanzakar Mosharraf Hossain will attend the function as the chief guest.

Lecture on ante-natal diagnosis

A lecture on "ante-natal diagnosis" will be delivered by C.R. Stewart, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist of the Leicestershire Health Authority of UK today (Monday) at 12 am at the auditorium of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held today (Monday) at 5:30 pm at the Hotel Sonargaon.

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Dhaka City youth command will organise a rally today (Monday) at 4:30 pm at the Shantinagar crossing demanding trial of all war criminals including Golam Azam.

Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Chairman of the Central Command Council will attend the rally as the chief guest while Secretary General of the council Abdul Aziz will be present as the special guest.

Press conference

Former chairman of Natore Paurasava Aminul Haq has convened a press conference today (Monday) at 12 am at the Canton Chinese restaurant at Maghbazar to discuss the problems of the Natore Paurashava.

. . . . and tomorrow

Seminar on duty drawback system

A national seminar on "Duty drawback system" will be held tomorrow (Tuesday) at the conference hall of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries under the auspices of export development project.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will inaugurate the seminar as the chief guest.

Dateline Chittagong

Opposition indispensable in democratic system : AL

CHITTAGONG, Jan 12 : Bangladesh Awami League leaders here today said that their party would launch a strong movement in the country if the government did not help pass Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill during the current session of Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

The leader in a public meeting at Lalighi Maidan here, said that opposition political parties were indispensable in a democratic system and as such the government could not ignore their demands, particularly those having national importance.

The meeting organised in observance of Bangabandhu's home-coming day, was presided over by party leader Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury MP. It was addressed by North

District AL President M A Wahab, General Secretary Mosharraf Hussain, South District AL General Secretary Mosleh-Uddin Ahmed, City Unit President M A Mannan and General Secretary A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

They said that the government would not be able to run the country without the cooperation of the opposition political parties. The people will lose confidence in government if it adopts a go-alone policy, they added.

The Awami League leaders criticised the government for what they said not allowing the people to know what was happening in Bangladesh. Myanmar border, removal of Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor and step-motherly treatment to Chittagong in re-

lution to its development.

The meeting passed a number of resolutions including development of Patenga Airport into an international one, construction of embankment from Patenga to Kumira, repair of Karnaphuli bridge, release of Chhatra League leaders and declaring two months' advance salary to cyclone affected government employees as relief.

The meeting also condemned Myanmar Lushin attack on Rezupara BDR border post and looting of arms and killing of innocent people by so called Shantibahini.

It also expressed condolence at the death of local Awami League leaders N G M Kamal, Nazimuddin and Chhatra League leader Moniruzzaman Badal and Kazi Shyamaul.

Bid to sabotage UP polls to be severely dealt with : CEC

KHULNA, Jan 12 : Chief Election Commissioner, Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf Sunday reiterated the Election Commission's firm determination to hold the coming Union Parishad Election peacefully, reports BSS.

"Any attempt to sabotage the holding of the Union Parishad poll would be severely dealt with", he said while addressing the contestants for the posts of chairman and members of Khulna district and cross section of people at a local cinema hall.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Amin Uddin Chowdhury Commissioner of Khulna division, Deputy Commissioner, Khulna

Asaduzzaman Bhuyan, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Osman Ali Khan and BDR Sector Commander Colonel Anwar.

Justice Rouf called upon all sections of people to cooperate in the peaceful holding of Union Parishad Election. He said overall development of the country, particularly the rural development, would depend on strong Union Parishads to be elected through the coming polls.

Referring to the Jatiya Sangshad Election and the referendum held freely, the Chief Election Commissioner said the coming Union Parishad Election would also be held in the similar manner. He also

said through this election, to be held for the first time under the democratically elected government, would further consolidate the process of establishing democracy in the country.

"There is no alternative to election in the democratic process and a meaningful election is the symbol of democracy," he said.

Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, who is on the last leg of his election tour of the southern region of the country, also addressed another meeting Sunday in Bagerhat. He will address a meeting tomorrow at Mongla upazila in Bagerhat district.

Janata Dal

Bangladesh Janata Dal Chairman Obaidur Rahman on Sunday said the terrorism would not be rooted out from the society if the educated unemployed are not provided with jobs. K M Obaidur Rahman was addressing a meeting at Tilapara area under Sabujgathan.

He said that the government failed to take any programme for the unemployed youths of the country.

Among others Mirza Abdul Halim, Mustafizur Rahman Mostofa, Anwar Hossain and Rezaul Shams addressed the rally.

Mahila Parishad

A meeting between the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and American Women Organisation 'Sanghati' was held in Dhaka on Sunday with Begum Sufia Kamal in the chair.

Selima Faruki, leader of the 'Sanghati' announced donation for the April '90 cyclone victims.

Both the groups exchanged views about their activities at the meeting.

HERE and THERE

JAGPA

Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (JAGPA) President Saiful Azam Prodhan and General Secretary Anisur Rahman on Sunday expressed concern over the killing in the hill district by the out-lawed Shantibahini.

They also expressed concern over the silence of the government on the issue.

Arambag Small Traders Assoc

Arambag Small Traders Association on Sunday demanded immediate release of ASM Abdur Rob.

In a statement President of the Association Anwar Hossain and General Secretary Shahjahan Saju said that Rob has been suffering from various diseases in jail.

He was a freedom fighter and hoisted the national flag first. So he should be released on humanitarian ground, they said.

Maniruzzaman's death condoled

The Zahurul Haq Student union leaders in a joint statement Sunday expressed deep condolence on the death of Maniruzzaman Badal who was killed by some unidentified assailants last Thursday.

The leaders demanded immediate stern action against the killers of Badal, the Organising Secretary of Chhatra League (S-A).

Gana Adhiker Parishad

Chairman of Bangladesh Gana Adhiker Parishad Advocate Ruhul Amin Patwari on Sunday demanded passage of Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill in the ongoing session of the Parliament.

In a statement he said that the passage of the Bill would help stop the politics of killing and conspiracy from the country.