

Demands should be limited: Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday underscored the need for human resource development by imparting education and modern know-how, reports BSS.

sources we would have to attain desired development. He said basic education, health and family planning, rural development were the priority areas.

The Finance Minister was addressing the annual general meeting of the Jalalabad Association at the Institution of Engineers, here.

Referring to the demands put for by the association, the Finance Minister said demands should be limited within the resources available to fulfil. He said that because of the constraint resource many of the general problems could not be fulfilled. He urged all to work hard in their respective areas with utmost sincerity so that the country could maintain development and build a happy abode for the posterity.

Presided over by the president of the association Abdul Malik Chowdhury, the function was addressed by former minister MA Haque, General Secretary Syed Mahibul Hasan, and eminent educationist Dewan Muhammad Azaf.

After the day long deliberations the annual conference would up with a cultural function.

Saifur Rahman said that the present government was embarked upon implementing development programmes on priority basis. He said by best utilisation of constraint re-

2000 lecturers to be recruited soon

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Strar yesterday said about two thousand lecturers would be recruited very soon to fill up the vacant posts in the government colleges, reports BSS.

trying to restore academic atmosphere on the campus at all costs. He said the government was determined to reestablish the tradition and reputation of our university abroad. He called upon the lecturers and teachers to put in their best efforts for making compulsory primary education and mass education programmes a success for eradicating illiteracy from the country.

Steps have already been taken towards solving the problems of the teachers' community in the interest of the education system, he added.

He said steps were being taken to regularise the services of the teachers of 65 government colleges.

The Education Minister was speaking as chief guest at the national conference of Bangladesh Government College Teachers Association held at Bangla College premises here.

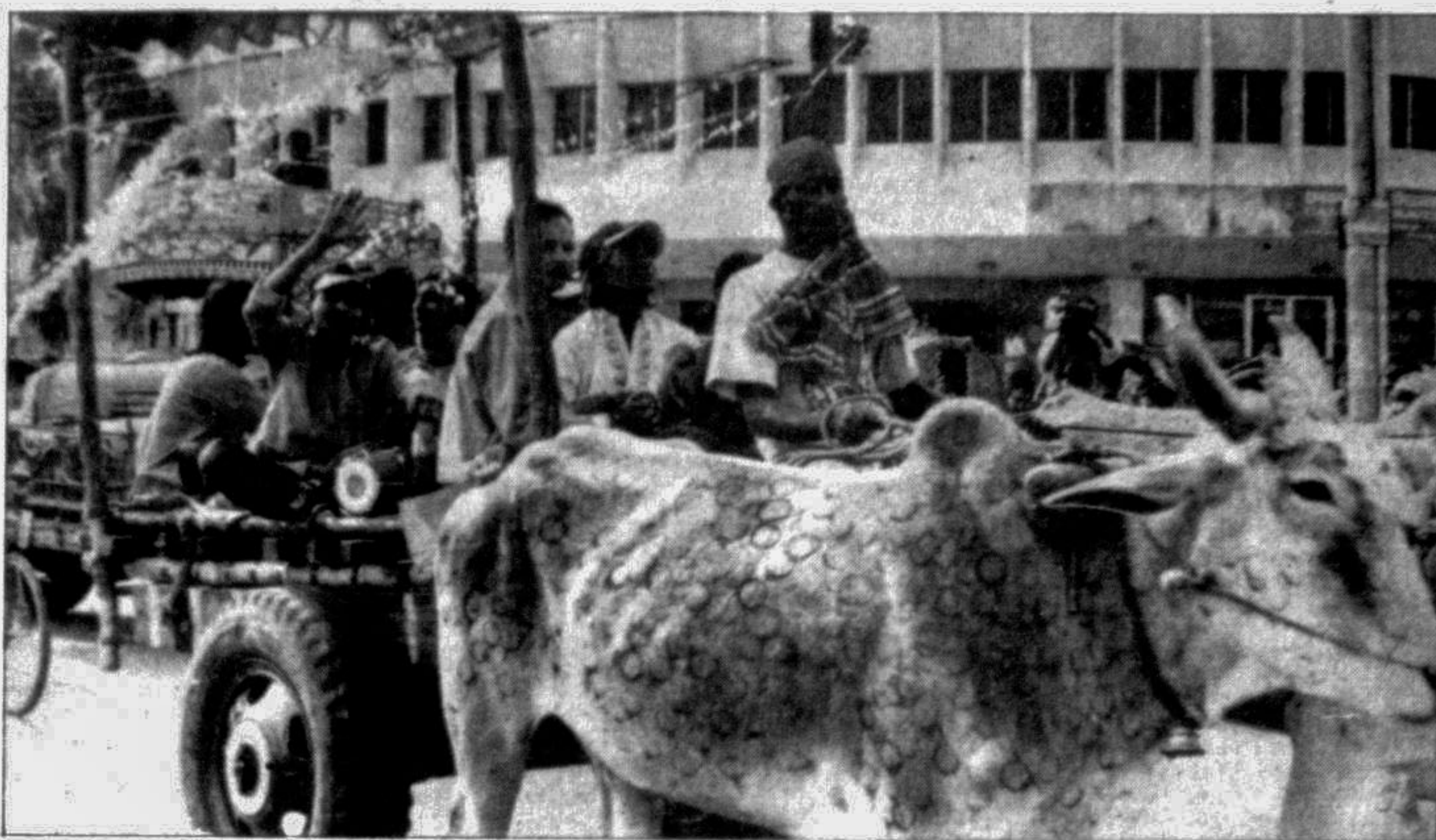
Office-bearers

Salman F Rahman, Group Deputy Chairman, BEXIMCO and Managing Director, Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd has been elected president of Bangladesh Aushad Shilpa Samity, says a press release.

Presided over by President of the Association Kamal Ataur Rahman, the function was addressed by State Minister for Education Principal M Eunus Khan and Chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission Prof Yazuddin Ahmed. Secretary General of the Association Omar Farooq and representatives from four divisions also spoke.

Other office-bearers of the committee are: S H Chowdhury — Vice Presidents, Aminul Islam Lasker — Secretary General, and M Abdul Karim — Treasurer.

The Education Minister said, violence on the campus was a matter of concern and the present government was



Dhaka City Corporation arranged a race of Bangladesh traditional vehicles as part of the tourism week '92 programmes yesterday. — Star photo

Siltation, salinity threaten Sunderbans

KHULNA, Feb 28: Increasing siltation and rapidly expanding salinity, caused mainly from dwindling upstream flow, have threatened the Sunderbans — world's largest mangrove forest, reports UNB.

Experts said that soil character of a vast area of the 2,300-square mile forest is undergoing changes because of siltation and salinity, making many of its precious mangrove species vulnerable.

They said as upstream flow of the Ganges has declined in recent years, saline zone is expanding fast in many of the rivers and rivulets crisscrossing the Sunderbans, threatening the sundari trees, particularly on the eastern part of the forest.

According to forest officials, more than 20 per cent of the sundari population — the most useful, multi-purpose timber in the Sunderbans — have been affected by "top dying", a unique disease in which the trees begin dying from upper portion.

Fun run held

On the fifth day of tourism week '92 a fun run was held yesterday from National Museum to Bijoy Sarani, reports BSS.

Experts apprehend that salinity was behind the dreaded disease as its outbreak is mainly concentrated in saline-prone eastern part of the forest. The disease spreads fast as the saline area expands.

Sadeq Hossain Khoka, State Minister for Youth and Tourism inaugurated the run as chief guest. Abdul Mannan State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism attended the function as special guest. Besides, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Habibur Rahman, Chairman, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC), A M M Nasrullah Khan were also present on the occasion.

As a result, authorities are forced to extract the disease-infested sundari trees much before their prime, despite a total ban on felling the trees until the year 2000.

Members of Rotary, Rotaract, Leo Club and Boy Scouts took part in the run. Besides ministers, officers and employees of Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation and Sonargaon Hotel also took part in the run.

Forest experts did not rule out eventual extinction of the sundari species unless salinity is checked.

Shahadat Hossain, an officer of BPC won the first prize — an air ticket on Dhaka-Jeddah-Dhaka route. Abul Hashem, an employee of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation won the second prize — another ticket on Dhaka-Katmandu-Karachi-Dhaka route. The third prize was also an air ticket on Dhaka-Bangkok-Dhaka route won by Raquibul Alam of Pallabi and the fourth prize a dinner for two persons at Sonargaon Hotel was won by Master Shamim, a student of Siddeswari Boys School.

Heavy siltation, caused by dwindling upstream flow, alongside the rivers and streams and the resulting water-logging inside the forest, said experts, was another threat to the mangrove species.

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Siltation is also leading to raising of river banks and, as a result, water which used to burst the banks and flush the forest during high tide cannot come out of it during low tide. Thus water-logging inside the forest area is becoming a regular phenomena now in the Sunderbans.

The press conference was addressed by Farhad Mazhar and Saleem Samad, the coordinators of the Group. Their views came on the eve of an official conference on the Flood Action Plan scheduled for Sunday.

Experts said stagnated waters submerge the respiratory roots of the mangrove trees, seriously disrupting their respiratory activity.

During their seven-day visit in Bangladesh the members of delegation called on Mirza Golam Hafiz, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Deputy Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Khan Panni, Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Seed germination is also being seriously hampered because of water stagnation and thus natural regeneration of trees has almost come to a standstill in those areas.

They discussed various matters relating to the use of Bengal in judicial field in Bangladesh.

"Like salinity, water-logging has been a serious threat to forest resources in the Sunderbans," said Nur Mohammad Sarker, the Forest Conservator Sarker, however, said the forest department is digging canals, with assistance from the World Bank, to drain out stagnated waters from inside the forest.

Besides, the West Bengal team visited the Supreme Court, district courts at Chittagong and Rajshahi to see the practical procedure of judicial business in Bangladesh.

He said actually it was from 1982 when water-logging started to occur in some points of the project and as a result several thousand hectares of land of Beel Dakatia and of Jessore zone including Bhabadaha were affected.

Companies interested for acreage block/blocks should address all inquiries to:

The Minister said 4,00,000 hectares of land were saved from saline water and facilities were created to yield more crops following construction of 1068 mile long embankment in and around 39 polders during the period from 1961 to 1974.

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He highly praised the role of the local journalists to focus this problem through the mass media and thereby draw the attention of the government.

Without ensuring regional water sharing with the neighbours, the implementation of 'gigantic' flood control would be a 'great mistake', the environmentalists warned.

Jatiya Sangsad Whip M Ashraf Hossain, Member of Parliament Salahuddin Yusuf and Chairman of Water Development Board ATM Shamsul Huda were present at the occasion.

Power will be suspended tomorrow (Sunday) from 9 am to 4 pm at areas from Bari-dhara Nutanbazar to north Solmat-Pragati Sarani Kuril to Kuratoli. Pallavi extension area, Rupnagar Arambagh Housing area, on Sunday and Monday at same hours. At Noorjahan Road, on Monday at same hours. At Mirpur Section 1-B/Buxnagar area and on Tuesday at same hrs at Mirpur Zoo Road and Kurm Shah Mazar area, says a press release.

Some local environmental activists have demanded of the government to make public the Flood Action Plan (FAP) which, they warned, will cause social, political and ecological problems, reports UNB.

Power supply suspension

Termining the FAP as anti-people, they said the plan was taken during the autocratic regime of Ershad in 1989.

Geography Dept Alumni Assoc

The group which claims to be a green umbrella of environmental scientists, academicians, lawyers, journalists and activists said that the officials responsible for the implementation of the FAP kept the people in dark.

Geography Dept Alumni Assoc

The previous government deliberately avoided public debate since the FAP was proposed by 26 donor countries and agencies, they said. The FAP is coordinated by the World Bank. It is a big-money game, they said.

West Bengal team leaves for home

The environmental activists further said the environmental impacts assessment (EIA) study is yet to be completed by the US team.

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HERE and THERE

UNESCO club

Mahbubuddin Chowdhury has been re-elected Secretary General of the National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh for 1992-94 in a Executive meeting held recently in Dhaka, says a press release.

Mahbub is also President, International Pen-Pals Club and Bangladesh-Japan Youth Friendship Association and General Secretary, Bangladesh Youth Council (BYC).

JAGPA

The chief of Jatiya Ganotantrik Party (JAGPA), Shaiful Alam Prodan will take over the charge of central control centre of Uerubari Long March Committee from Saturday. The long march will start from March 2.

Ainjibi Forum

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum in a statement on Friday demanded publication of the corruptions by former President Ershad and his cronies for the public knowledge. The statement said "Ershad Mukti Dibash" is a move to imbalance the rule of law in the country.

Workshop

The five-day workshop on 'need analysis' for women trade union leaders rounded off at the BMDC auditorium in the city yesterday.

Jointly sponsored by the Asia-Pacific Region and Bangladesh branch of International Confederation of Free Trade Union, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum was the chief guest at the winding up session.

Speaking on the occasion Prof Jahanara Begum said that the present democratic government was committed to improving lot of woman community. She said the woman should know about their right. Later, she distributed certificates among the participants.

Seminar

A seminar on Direct Taxation System organised by Bangladesh Tax Lawyers Association was held Thursday at Jatiya Press Club. The key note paper on "The role of Direct

Taxation in the Economy of Bangladesh" was presented by Faruq Ahmed Siddiqui. Banker Syed Ali Kabir, Prof of Dhaka University Syed Masud Hossain, former Tax Commissioner A K M Nuruddin, and Tax Advisors Syed Ahmed and Mahbub Alam discussed the topic.

Ittefaq men's hunger strike continues

By Staff Correspondent.

The second day of the hunger strike of the journalists, employees and press workers of the daily 'Ittefaq' demanding salaries, arrears of the bonuses and removal of all irregularities, was observed on Friday.

The second day's hunger strike was participated by Syed Shahjahan, Sirajul Haq, Rafiquddin Ahmed, Makhzan Lal Saha, Anwar Hossain, Rafiqul Islam, Anwar Khan, Habibur Rahman, Tazul Islam and Abdul Quddus.

CUJ demands

BSS adds: Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) yesterday held a rally in front of Chittagong Press Club demanding solution to the problems created by the management of Ittefaq.

Asian astrologers' confce opens

Information Minister Nazmul Huda Friday called upon the astrologers to utilise their profession for the welfare of the people, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the "Fifth Asian Astrologers Conference-1992" here yesterday morning, the minister said, "astrology is a science, and it can be used for benefit of the society."

He also underlined the need for flourishing of the astrology.

Editor of the Daily Al-Ameen Alhaj M Mokbul Hossain attended the inaugural session of the three-day conference as the special guest.

Chairman of Bangladesh National Astrologers Federation Abu Hasan Jessort presided over the session.

What's on today . . .

BBA

The BBA Curriculum Development Seminar of College of Business Administration (CBA) of the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will be held today (Saturday) at 3:30 pm at the Auditorium of the Academy for Planning and Development, Babupura, Nilkhet.

Food festival

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) has organised a Bangladesh Food Festival and a handicraft exhibition at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel today (Saturday) on the occasion of the Tourism Week '92. A cultural function will also be held at the hotel on the occasion.

Minister for Works Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia will attend the function as chief guest.

Joint art exhibition

A week-long joint art exhibition of Adriana Hernandez from Chile and Fareha Zeba of Bangladesh will begin today (Saturday) at 5 pm at the gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University. Adriana Hernandez is a ceramist while Fareha Zeba, a printmaker.

Rotary Club of Uttara

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Uttara will be held today (Saturday) at 5:30 pm at the Chilling Chinese Restaurant at Uttara. Dr M Moniruzzaman will attend the meeting as the guest speaker.

DU English Department

Department of English of the Dhaka University has organised a function today (Saturday) at 3 pm at the auditorium of the Institute of Cost and Management Accounts (ICMA) at Nilkhet to accord reception to the freshers and farewell to the outgoing students of the department.

Ganotantri Party

A meeting of the central committee of Ganotantri Party will be held today (Saturday) at 10 am at its office at Siddique Bazar Road.

Khulna Samity
A meeting of the executive body of the Greater Khulna Samity will be held today (Saturday) at 4:30 pm at its office at Mirpur.

BUET convocation

The third convocation of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will be held today (Saturday) at the university compound.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the convocation as the Chancellor of the universities. The convocation will be addressed, among others, by Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Shahjahan and Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Prof Shamsul Haq.

Zonta Club Meenabazar

Zonta Club 111 will arrange its spring carnival-cum-meenabazar today (Saturday) at the Gulshan Park starting at 10.30 am. Tickets will be available at the venue.

. . . and tomorrow

BCSIR

A four-week training course on 'Prevention of fruits and vegetables by solar drying' will begin tomorrow (Sunday) at 9 am at the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST) under the auspices of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR).

Bangladesh Ithas Parishad

The 24th annual general meeting and history conference of the Bangladesh Ithas Parishad will begin tomorrow (Sunday) at 10 am at the auditorium of the Bangladesh National Museum at Shahbag.

The conference will be inaugurated by Prof Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University while Prof Salahuddin Ahmed will preside over the conference.

Geography Dept Alumni Assoc

The annual general meeting and election of the executive committee of the Dhaka University Geography Department Alumni Association will be held tomorrow (Sunday) at 4:30 pm at the Geography Department of the university.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Forest Extension Division, Kushtia

Re-Quotation Notice No. 2

Sealed quotations are hereby re-invited from reputed suppliers/bona fide steel furniture manufacturers for supply of the articles mentioned in the schedule subject to following terms & conditions. Quotation will be received on 05/03/92 (21-11-98BS) up to 11-00 hours at the Office of the undersigned and at the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Extension Division, Bailey Road, Dhaka. Earnest money at the rate 5% of quoted amount should be deposited through Bank Draft in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Extension Division, Kushtia, otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled. Details may be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours except on holiday.

Schedule			
Sl. No.	Description of articles	No. of article	Quoted unit rate
1.	Iron pipe folding chair Back 15"X16" Seat 16"X15" 18 gauge steel sheet Foam rexine	80 Nos.	
2.	Tarpaulin -18'X15'=14.0 ounce	3 Nos.	

MA Hamida
Divisional Forest Officer
Forest Extension Division
Kushtia

DFP(G) 2785-22/2
G-213

Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)

Announcement

With reference to the announcement made through the Press on 4/5 August 1991 inviting bids under Production Sharing Contract for Petroleum Exploration in Block-22 (Covering Chittagong Hill Tracts and Chittagong areas), Petrobangla is pleased to announce that August 4, 1992 has been fixed as the closing date for the submission of bids for the said block. Interested company/companies may submit their bids in triplicate. Any information or clarification on bidding terms and technical data may be obtained from Petroleum Concession Division, Petrobangla, 3, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.

The Govt. of Bangladesh/Petrobangla reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Companies interested for acreage block/blocks should address all inquiries to:

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