

Dhaka Day by Day

If art has a purpose!

by Fayza Haq

Barbara Mundel, who has been a assistant director and director for various theatres such as that of Hanover Amphitryon, Bavarian State Theatre Munich and the Basle Theatre, was here in Dhaka recently to hold a workshop with 50 participants at the Goethe Institut.

"From the beginning to the end of the workshop I found that the participants paid a lot of attention and were enthusiastic to learn," Ms Mundel commented. She had been earlier to Sri Lanka and India about which she commented, "I found more rapport with the group in Calcutta than with others elsewhere, as in New Delhi and Madras, as I spent more time with the people there, exchanging ideas." The themes that she dealt with at Dhaka included the contemporary stage design concept, modern German dance theatre, the question of feminism, and the political theatre. Ms Mundel also dealt with adaptation of Shakespeare.

When asked as to what she considered was the most important element in drama Ms Mundel said, "For me, all things have the same importance — from acting to stage design to the text. It is very vital, however, that the play should come over to the audience. The reaction of the audience is important. The reaction need not always be a positive one — it could be an angry one too."

She continued, "The purpose of drama is not always to entertain. I am not sure that art has a purpose or not. It is not just for emotional satisfaction that a play is held — it should cater to the mind as well."

Asked what was the difference between a poem and a novel and a play, Ms Mundel said, a play enables many people to have a common experience. It is a very communicative art. Drama means crying, laughing and enlightening. At the same time, the audience should not be sermonised. The plays are a combination of dream and reality."

Speaking about her ideals she said that she

was influenced by the Greek and Shakespearean plays and contemporary dramatists such as Heiner Muller and Elfriede Jelinek. Dwelling on Broadway and Hollywood hits, she said that she adored art films like 'Casablanca'. She added that she did not have a high opinion of the average Hollywood productions and she did care for the routine run-of-the-mill films as she found some of them quite dangerous such as the 'Rambo' type films.

Talking about whether the electronics had affected the modern theatre, Ms Mundel commented, "The whole drama world has definitely been affected by it. It is only too apparent as how the video culture has influenced our society. Young people in Europe today do not have the patience to sit through a three hour production."

She added that opera was a passion with her and had been a part of her cultural education. She hoped to direct 'The Barber of Baghdad'. "I love the music, costume and the wild imaginative settings. I have also written a radio play, but I must admit that I am not so familiar with the radio plays. The same goes for the TV, which I watch only when I am very tired."

When asked about how she felt about the unification of Germany, she said, "I saw it on TV from Germany and I did not take to it. I do not think that people

are prepared for it and I understand that many people are confused and are facing problems."

So far Ms Mundel, who is stationed in Berlin, but is roving all over Germany with her work, has directed about 17 plays including 'The Merchant of Venice', 'Hamlet', 'Finale in Smyrna', a comedy after motifs of C Goldini, 'Endgame', 'The time and the Room', 'The Nutter' and the 'Limping Man'.

For hobbies, she collects paintings, listens to music and goes horse riding.



Ogata lauds Hasina's role

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina had a meeting with UNHCR Chief Ms Sadako Ogata at a local hotel last night, reports UNB.

S A M S Kibria, Advisor to Hasina, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, MP and UNHCR Representative Darioush Bayander were among others present during the meeting.

During the talks, Ogata appreciated the fact that the Bangladesh opposition leader was the first to invite the involvement of UNHCR to solve the Rohingya refugee problem.

The UNHCR chief was also informed that the Bangladesh government initially rejected the idea in the name of 'quite diplomacy and wait and see' policy. Subsequently they sought cooperation of UNHCR as was demanded by Sheikh Hasina at the outset of Rohingya problem.

Ms Ogata and Hasina also discussed the possibilities of humanitarian solution to the Rohingya problem.

FAP conference begins May 17

The third conference on the Flood Action Plan (FAP) to review the progress of the five-year (1990-1995) flood and water management studies will begin on May 17 at the International Conference Centre here, reports BSS.

Arranged under the auspices of the government and the World Bank, the four-day conference will be attended by the representatives from concerned government agencies, international donor community, research institutes, universities, NGOs and flood study teams.

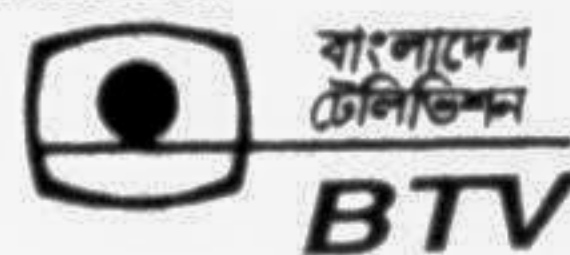
Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control M Majidul Haq will inaugurate the function as the chief guest.



Lily Chowdhury's chehnum tomorrow

Chehnum of Lutfunnessa Chowdhury (Lily Chowdhury), daughter of Kader Baksh of Dinaipur and wife of Dr Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury, will be held tomorrow (Friday) at her residence, house # 32, Road # 2, Dhanmondi residential Area, says a press release.

She was also President of Azampur Ladies Club and a student of Lady Brabourne College. Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad after Asr prayers and pray for her departed soul.



Thursday

5:20	Opening announcement Al-Quran
	Programme summary
5:25	School debate
6:30	Esho Para Shikhi
7:25	Nazrul Songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:40	Drama of the week: Aadim Playwright: Mamunur Rashid
	Producer: Fakhru Abedin
10:00	News in English
10:30	Film show: China Beach
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11:45	Closing

Roche meets BUET VC

Dr Douglas Roche O C, a veteran Canadian parliamentarian and former chairman of the UN disarmament committee, called on Prof M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), at the latter's office yesterday, reports BSS.

During the meeting they discussed possibilities of cooperation in various fields and different aspects of Alberta University (Canada) and BUET linkage project.

Prof Shahjahan informed him about the academic and research activities of BUET. Dr Roche expressed his deep satisfaction at the excellent academic atmosphere of the BUET.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 1.5 lakh recovered

CHITTAGONG, May 12: Bangladesh Navy in cooperation with local sea Customs authority recovered smuggled goods including crockeries and cosmetics worth about Taka 1,50,000 from a ship at the outer anchorage Tuesday night, reports BSS.

The smuggled goods were recovered from MV Banglar Robi, which arrived here from Singapore recently.

Ogata hails govt's efforts in solving Rohingya issue

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Dr Sadako Ogata, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Christopher R Willoughby, UNDP Resident Representative Charles Henri Larsson and Secretary of the Flood Control Ministry M Asafuddinwahid will speak at the inaugural session.

State Minister for Agriculture M H Shahjahan will chair the inaugural function.

Issues of the inter-regional impacts of FAP projects and peoples participation in flood planning will be the special topics of the conference.

The other issues of the technical sessions include North-West Regional Study (FAP-2), North-East Regional Study (FAP-6) and South-East Regional Study (FAP-5).

During the meeting, President Biswas said that the people of Bangladesh had got fellow-feeling despite their own socio-economic difficulties in maintaining huge number of refugees from Myanmar for more than a year.

He said Bangladesh expected early repatriation of the refugees after signing of the agreement between the two

governments but it could not be materialised despite our goodwill and sincere efforts.

President Biswas hoped that Dr. Ogata's visit and signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would provide positive impetus to all concern to work for early solution to the problem so that the refugees could go back to their homes safely and with security.

Dr. Sadako Ogata appreciated the endeavour of the government of Bangladesh for solution of the Myanmar refugee problem.

The UN High Commissioner thanked the government for maintaining such a large number of refugees for a long time

Water supply to remain suspended

By Staff Correspondent

Water supply in Mohakhali and adjoining areas will remain suspended from 10 am to 6 pm today (Thursday) because of preventive maintenance works at Mohakhali Laboratory Pump.

Water supply in Barobag and Kalwalapara of Mirpur also will remain suspended on May 16 for preventive maintenance works at BIM pump from 9 am to 9 pm.

Tender Notice

Tenders are invited from A, B & C class contractors of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority & Bangladesh Power Development Board for construction of complaint centre room on the garage in Lalbag Office compound of O & M Division under Works Division, Greater Dhaka Electric Supply Project, DESA, 1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka. Tender schedule will be available at Taka 100/- (one hundred) per set (non-refundable) from (1) Additional Chief Engineer (Planning & Development), (2) Superintending Engineer (Extension & Implementation), Greater Dhaka Electric Supply Project, Gulshan & (3) Rupali Bank, Foreign Trade branch, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka up to 29-5-93 subject to prior permission.

Tenders will be received at the above serial Nos (1), 2 & the office of the undersigned up to 12:00 Noon on 30-5-93 and opened on the same day at 12:30 pm in presence (if any) of the tenderers of the above tender.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer
Civil Works Division

DFF (BA) 4076-9/5
C-631

1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka

Weather

Showers, gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday) says rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong, Barisal divisions and at a few places over Khulna, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country.

The Met office forecasts day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The maximum temperature of the country recorded yesterday (Wednesday) of 39.2 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi and the minimum of 18.0 degree from Sylhet.

The amounts of rainfall recorded in 24 hours from 6 pm Tuesday to 6 pm Wednesday were: Sylhet 32 mm, Cox's bazar 13 mm and Srimangal 4 mm.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6:33 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5:17 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	34.0	21.3	85	74
Chittagong	32.0	20.4	74	75
Rajshahi	39.2	26.0	64	57
Khulna	34.3	21.8	79	73
Barisal	33.0	20.8	87	86
Cox's Bazar	31.0	22.0	77	73
Sylhet	25.5	18.0	100	77
Dinajpur	31.6	23.0	87	82



AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina called on Dr Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Hotel Sheraton yesterday.

Tk 2.79cr spent for electric supply in JS Bhaban

Tk 510.21 lakh were spent during the current fiscal year for electricity supply and repair works in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, MP hostels and other buildings in the complex, reports UNB.

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia said this in the Parliament yesterday, responding to Musharraf Hossain of Awami League.

The Minister informed that Tk 279.02 lakh were spent for electricity supply to parliament building and other buildings in the Sangsad Bhaban complex during 1992-93 fiscal.

Foreign investors' interest fully secured: President

The Ambassador-designate of the State of Qatar to Bangladesh, Atique Nasser Sultan Al-Badar, presented his credentials to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Accepting the credentials, President Biswas said that Bangladesh greatly valued the fraternal ties with Qatar that were deeply rooted in common religion, shared heritage and culture.

He said, both the brotherly countries have common perception and close identity of views on issues of mutual concern through the development of fine tradition of cooperation on regional and international matters.

He hoped that as brotherly country, Qatar would continue to provide its valuable support to our endeavour.

President Biswas stressed the need for joint ventures with Qatar in Bangladesh and assured all cooperation in this regard as per the liberal industrial and investment policy of the present government.

Foreign investors' interest was fully secured in this country, he added.

Presenting his credentials, the envoy said that the Amr of Qatar personally was keen to further improvement of rela-

tions between the two friendly Muslim countries.

Regarding joint ventures and investment of Qatar in Bangladesh, the envoy informed the President that his country would lay importance on this matter.

Atique lauded Bangladesh's role during the Gulf War and hoped that the existing friendly relations between the two countries would be strengthened in the years ahead.

He also conveyed best wishes to the President from the Amr of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani.

Earlier, on arrival at

Bangabhaban, the ambassador was given a 'guard of honour' by the President Guard Regiment. He took salute and inspected the guard.

30 more Indian double-decker buses in next fiscal

Thirty more double-decker buses will be arriving from India, parliament was told yesterday, reports UNB.

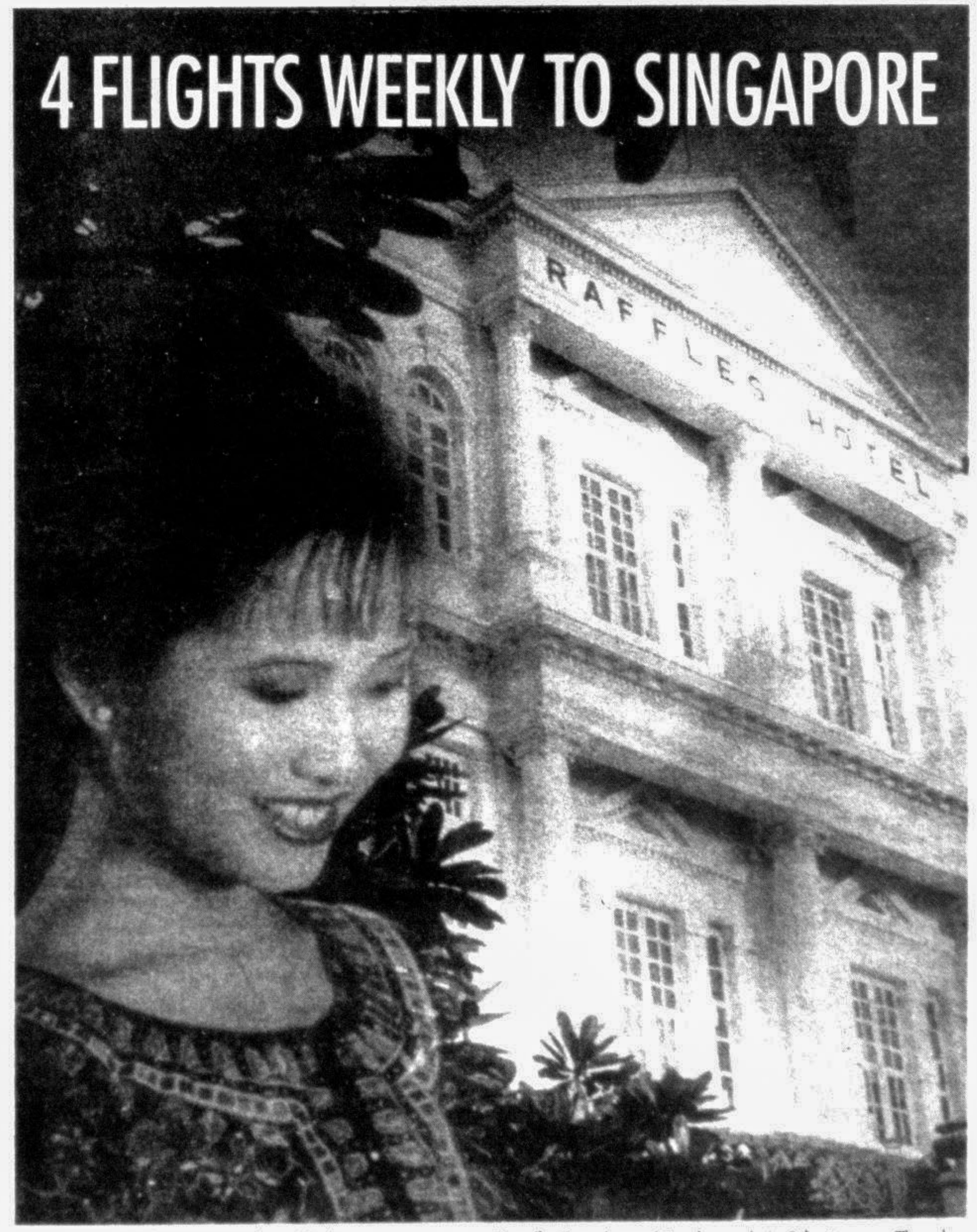
Communications Minister Oli Ahmed said this during the question hour, replying to Shah Mohammad Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury of Jatiya Party.

The buses will be imported during the coming fiscal year (1993-94) under the State Credit arrangement, he added.

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Opening: 14 May 1993 - Friday at 4-15 P.M.
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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES
The containerised cargo ex M.V. JAPAN SENATOR V-EM315 from Marseilles, La-Spezia, ex M.V. CHOYANG VOLGA V-WF321 from Busan, Osaka, Hongkong, ex M.V. DSR ROSTOCK V-EE319 from Rotterdam, Antwerp, Bremen, ex M.V. CARL METZ V-793 from Alexandria have been relayed to M.V. NGS EXPRESS V-1693 Imp. Rot. No. 384/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 15-5-93 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.
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