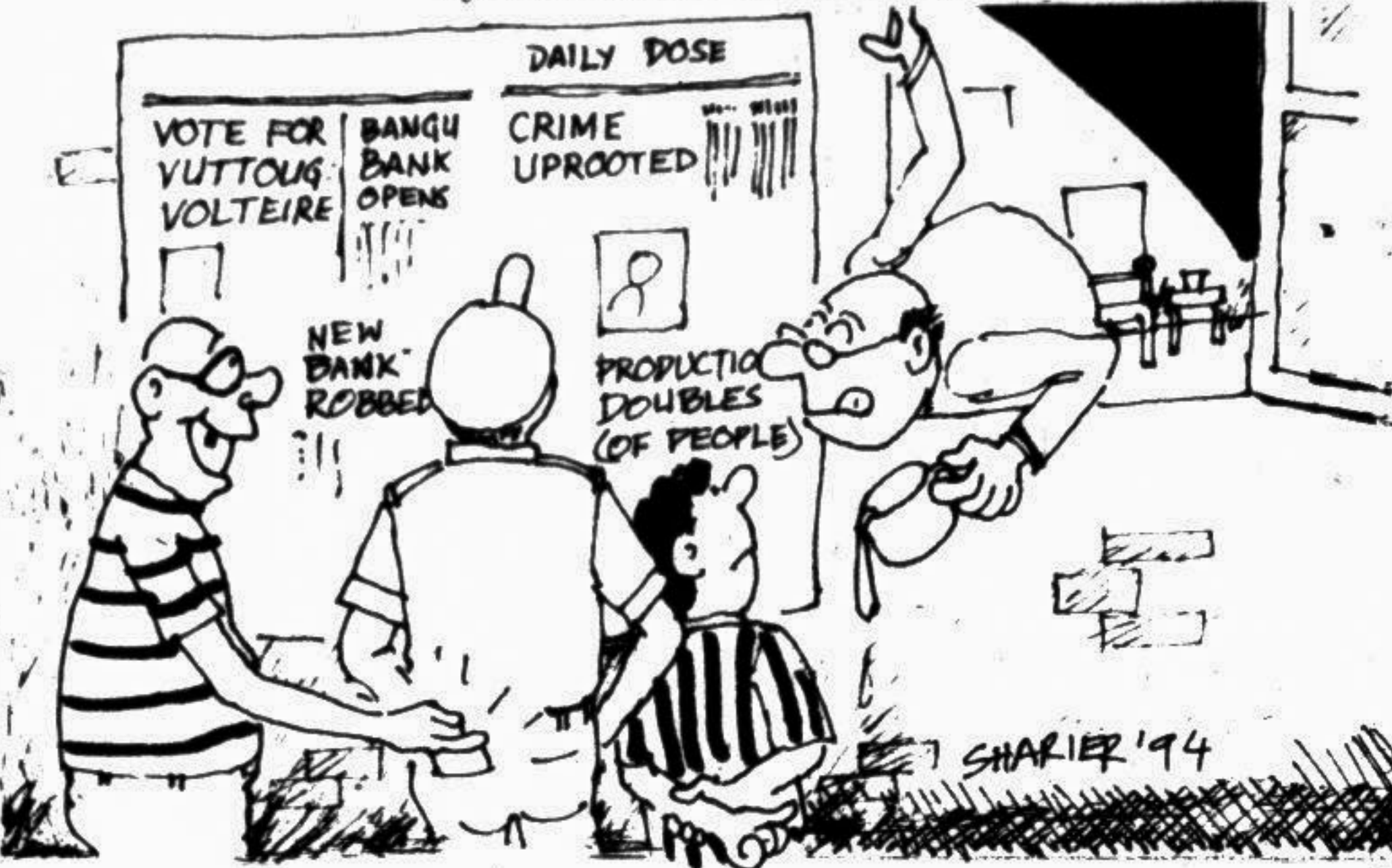


Dhaka Day by Day

Newspapers' Neglected Readers

by Iftikhar A. Chowdhury



"A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread — and Thou"

Omar Khayyam's poetic disposition could find contentment in nothing less than *sura* (wine) and *saki* (woman). Anti-poetic as modern man is, his demand too is prosaic and far more down-to-earth. A cup of tea will do instead of wine and the beauty's place has been taken up by a still more intriguing thing, a copy of newspaper. Cliche though it may sound, yet but it is true that neither of them is complete without the other. Then not all people in our country can afford either the leisure or the expense of a morning newspaper at their breakfast table.

With the price escalation of almost all the purchasables in our country, newspapers too have recorded the ballooning of their subscription. Many people, specially from middle and lower-middle classes, now cannot afford the monthly subscription for a newspaper. But for many, reading the dailies is an old habit that has died hard. Avail they must of the facility any way — either borrowing a copy from a neighbour or directly going to a newsstand. Most of the time they give the impression — that they are looking for something serious and the moment they come across that important thing, they will make the purchase. They know better than anyone how they are deceiving themselves. Fortunately enough, in Dhaka and other major cities of the country an alternative system has been put in place to satisfy the insatiable thirst for news of these avid readers.

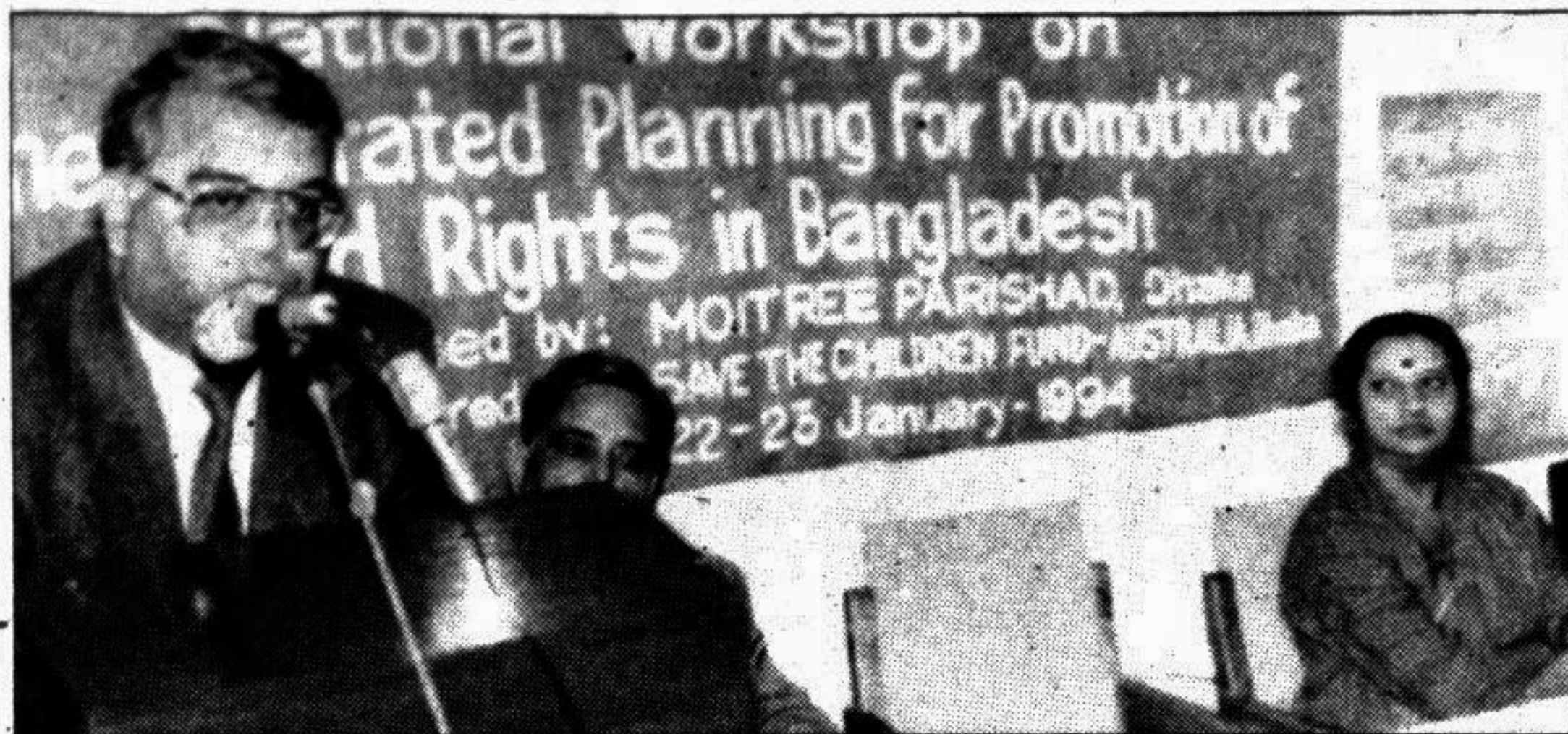
The facility, as it exists, comes in the form of newspapers pasted on the walls. Although a relatively new practice, it is now widely known. Even a decade back, there was scarcely any such facility in Dhaka, let alone other cities of the country. Today, one can come across the free offer near all the major road intersections of the metropolis — starting from Science Laboratory to Syedabad Bus Terminal, Gulshan to Gulshan, Topkhana to Taltola and Gabtoli to Tikatoli; Farmgate to Sadarghat etc.

At first, the initiative was taken by the newspaper owners as a publicity drive and many newspapers really succeeded in arresting the attention of the readers through this endeavour. And, in turn, the readers who couldn't buy a copy for themselves received it

as God-send. So, it was always a two-way traffic. But lately, along with the newspapers, some clubs and philanthropic organisations have also joined hands in Dhaka and elsewhere. The space for different newspapers at the passengers' sheds of bus stops has been allocated.

So, if in the morning, one notices a motley crowd clustered beside a wall, each craning his neck over the shoulder of the other, there is nothing to be surprised. They all gather here to feast their eyes on the free spread — in contrast with flow — of news and information. A cross section of people come to read these newspapers everyday. Some office-goers who are always on the run, would probably go through the headlines and read one or two news items that may catch their attention. A large number of youths in their middle and late twenties also gather here with unhappy faces. They persevere through the ads, looking for employment opportunity. They note down addresses and other required information almost religiously. As they usually have enough time to spare; they stay there longer than others. There are another group of office-goers who seem to have all the time in the world. They would perhaps come out of the tea stall, light a cigarette and stuff a paan in their mouth and then start going through the paper in a lethargic manner. Of course, there are a few retired clerk or service-holders whose presence at these wall-newspapers is almost as regular as the sun. Some of them are type character and some will evoke a sense of pity.

These people are a living proof that means and interests do not always go together. The readership of newspapers could certainly go up had the daily literature in a hurry been less costly. Some people, thanks God, have realised the gap existing between the ability and eagerness for knowledge and information. They have tried to provide an answer to the problem in their limited ways. The newspapers on the wall have definitely been a rich contribution to the promotion of knowledge and information. This shows that such private initiatives and contributions can go a long way in the expansion of our reading habit and facilities. Libraries and schools have a golden tradition of coming into existence in this part of the world through such private efforts.



Information Minister Nazmul Huda speaking at the inaugural session of a 2-day workshop as the chief guest on Integrated Planning for Promotion of Child Rights in Bangladesh held at the Caritas auditorium yesterday. Also seen seated (from L to R) S A Reza Hossain, Chairman of Maitree Parishad and ADAB Chairperson Khushi Kabir. The Maitree Parishad in co-operation with the Save the Children Fund, Australia organised the workshop. — Star photo

Harkins Bill an int'l conspiracy : Huda

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday dubbed Harkins Bill as an international conspiracy and said it had been framed not to protect children's rights but to obstruct the growing garment industry of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The much-talked-about Bill placed in the US Congress seeks a ban on import of products made with child labour.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of a two-day workshop on "Integrated Planning for the Promotion of Child Rights in Bangladesh" at the Caritas auditorium. Maitree parishad organised the workshop while Save the Children's Fund-Australia has sponsored it.

Huda underlined the need for large-scale planning for the development of country's millions of underprivileged children. "Children's development is a priority sector and the government is very much sincere to improve the condition of toddlers," he said, adding the Zia government had created Women's Affairs Ministry and established Shishu Academy for their uplift.

The minister said some aspects of Children Rights Declaration could be incorporated into the relevant law for better and constitutional application and preservation of child

rights.

Addressing the function as special guest ADAB Chairperson Kushi Kabir said overall development would not be possible if the condition of 80 per cent people who live under poverty-line and 60 per cent landless was not improved.

On child labour, she said "we cannot force them out to the street in the name of protection of children's rights". Initiative for providing education, medicare, wages and other facilities should be taken for the juvenile labourers, Khushi suggested.

She said there can be accountability and law to control NGO activity, but discussion with NGO people is needed before changing and laws relating to the non-government organisations.

A move is underway to update the existing law concerning the NGOs in order to better regulate their activity.

Chairman of Maitree Parishad Reza Hossain and Vice-Chairman Feroz M Hasan also spoke at the inaugural session.

Helen Rahman, Rina Sen Gupta, Rokhsana Khandkar, Col (Retd) Mohammad Hossain, Prof Lotfia Akand and Mrs Shaheen Akhtar Munir presented keynote papers on different issues of children at the working session of the workshop.

Sangbadik Sangstha team meets Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said the government had ensured full freedom of the press and called upon journalists to make best of it through projecting problems as well as ongoing development works, reports UNB.

"Press is the fourth estate and plays a very significant role in country's socio-economic development and protecting the rights of the people," he said while talking to a 24-member delegation of the Jatiya Sangbadik Sangstha which called on the President at Bangabhaban.

"Since you represent different far-flung areas, try to project in a neutral, objective and responsible manner various problems of your respective areas as well as the development activities going on throughout the country," Biswas told them.

He asked the journalists to motivate the people for availing of the facilities provided by the government under the mass literacy programmes and get their children educated as quickly as possible. "Nobody should be left outside the school."

The delegation, led by M Mustafa Ali, president of the central executive committee of the Sangstha, submitted to President Biswas a memorandum of 12-point demands for betterment of their organisation and smooth discharge of their professional responsibilities.

Miniature Bangladesh at Sonargaon likely

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Majidul Huq yesterday said that steps would be taken to set up a "miniature Bangladesh" at Sonargaon reflecting the heritage and traditions and the nature and environment of the country, reports BSS.

The main objective behind setting up the miniature at this ancient capital is to present the eternal image of the country and at the same time make the historic Sonargaon more attractive to the tourists, he said.

Huq was inaugurating a week-long folk festival and a handicrafts exhibition here.

Organised by the Bangladesh Folk and Handicrafts Foundation, the inaugural function was presided over by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahanara Begum. Local MP Rezaul Karim and Secretary of the Ministry of Culture Islamuddin Malik also spoke.

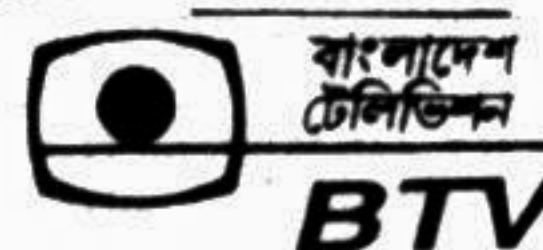


Chinmoy Mutsuddhi and Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, were elected President and General Secretary of the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB). — Star photo

Stressing the need for saving the nation's culture from decadence, the minister also called upon all concerned to save the new generations from the influence of alien culture.

Huq said that steps would be taken to develop the infrastructures of Sonargaon, nationalisation of local degree college and save the locality from river erosion.

Later, a session of tribal dance and baul songs were held.



Sunday

- 8.45 Opening announcement
- Al Quran
- Programme summary
- 9.00 Live telecast of the exhibition one-day cricket match between Bangladesh and Pakistan
- 4.45 Cartoon show: Tom and Jerry Kids Show
- 5.25 Dosh O Biggan
- 6.00 Sports programme
- 6.30 Mayeder Jannya
- 7.00 Open University
- 7.25 Tagore songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Probaho
- 9.00 Drama series: The Sword of Tipu Sultan
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Surbarane
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with fair sky is likely to prevail over Bangladesh.

Met office forecasts, night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Country's highest temperature of 27.6 degrees Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and lowest of 8.2 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimongol yesterday.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5:38 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6:42 am.

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Mix	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	25.4	10.6	77	48
Chattagong	24.8	13.5	80	53
Rajshahi	25.1	9.0	79	84
Khulna	25.9	10.6	70	61
Bansal	25.4	10.2	84	67
Sylhet	26.6	11.5	79	65
Dinajpur	25.0	10.8	88	66
Cox's Bazar	26.0	17.0	57	61

Iraqi envoy makes farewell call on PM

The outgoing Iraqi Ambassador Zuhair Muhammad Alomar, made a farewell call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia at Prime Minister's office yesterday, reports BSS.

Books donated

A large number of books were presented by the department of Molecular Genetics of the Kumamoto University, Japan to Professor Emajuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, Dhaka University at an informal ceremony yesterday at the latter's residence office, reports BSS.



WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION (W.V.A.)
উইমেনস্‌ ভলান্টারী এসোসিয়েশন (ডব্লিউ, ভি, এ)

W.V.A Meena Bazar-1994
(For the benefit of underprivileged and disabled children)

4 February-Friday
From
11 A.M. to 5 P.M.

The Meena Bazar will have international and other stalls.

Entry Cards are available at the following:
VIDEO connection, Gulshan, Rajanigandha, Aarong-Banani, Mirpur Road, Kintuki Restaurant, Dhali General Store, Gulshan, WVA Office at 405/A, Rd-27 (Old), Dhanmondi and at the venue on 4 February. S-50

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A joint venture company having franchise for internationally reputed consumer products require young, intelligent, dynamic, hard working and self motivated people for immediate appointment.

- Position** : Secretary
- Age** : Flexible
- Qualification** : Graduate or equivalent with Diploma in Secretarial Science.
- Experience** : At least 5 years experience as personal secretary for Senior Management.
- : Should be well versed in English.
- : Active, efficient and pleasant manner.
- : Ability to handle all Secretarial job of Group Chairman.
- : Strong ability to work with computers.

The job offers excellent career opportunity and befitting remuneration and other fringe benefits which are negotiable on the basis of experience and knowledge. If you are the person we are looking for, please apply in own handwriting to G.P.O BOX-2548 within February 10, 1994 with a copy of recent photograph and CV.



MENG HORNG SHIPPING PTE LTD

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/ SHIPPERS

M. V. FONG YUN V-9403 IMP. ROT NO. 34/93 WILL TAKE BERTH CHITTAGONG PORT ON OR ABOUT 23RD JANUARY 1994 WITH IMPORT CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE FROM VARIOUS PORT AND ALSO CONTAINERS EX-SINGAPORE.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF GOODS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCHARGE. SURVEY APPLICATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO US WITHIN 3 DAYS OF DISCHARGE. NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED NOR ANY LIABILITIES ACCEPTED IN RESPECT OF DAMAGE TO AND OR SHORT LANDINGS OF CONSIGNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM STORAGE SHED. IN EVENT OF CONSIGNEES TAKING DIRECT DELIVERY SURVEY TO BE HELD AT SHIP'S SIDE ONLY.

CONSIGNMENTS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF UNLOADING EX THE SHIP ARE LIABLE TO BE CONFISCATED AND AUCTIONED AS PER SEC.167(8) AND SEC. 82 RESPECTIVELY OF THE CUSTOMS ACT 1969 WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE/REFERENCE.

THE VESSEL WILL LOAD CONTAINERS UNDER EXP. ROT NO. 42/94 FOR SINGAPORE AND ALSO FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT TO EAST/WEST COAST OF U.S., CANADA, U.K., CONTINENT, MEDITERRANEAN/JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND PORTS.

GENERAL AGENTS:

Bangladesh Shipping Lines Ltd.

(A HRC COMPANY)

DHAKA
19/F Sena Kalyan Bhaban
195 Motiheel Com. Area
Tel: 864546, 864547
Tlx: 632106 BSHBP BJ, 632656 HRC BJ
Telefax: 880-2-863734

CHITTAGONG
G/F Jiban Bima Bhaban
1053 Sk. Mujib Rd., Agrabad
Tel: 504313, 502123, 500793
Tlx: 633027 BSHBP BJ, 633126 HRC BJ
Telefax: 880-31-225625

KHULNA
1 Miapara Road
(PTI Moor)
Tel: 25255
Tlx: 633902 HRC BJ
Telefax: 880-41-21175

US Trade Show

Come Visit
"US BUSINESS IN BANGLADESH"

A WIDE RANGE OF AMERICAN PRODUCTS AND SERVICES WILL BE ON DISPLAY

Venue : Dhaka Sheraton Hotel

Date : January 22, 23 & 24, 1994

Time : 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Co-Sponsored by

AMERICAN BANGLADESH ECONOMIC FORUM
and
THE US EMBASSY IN BANGLADESH

WELCOME AT THE 3RD U.S. TRADE SHOW AT HOTEL SHERATON ON 22-24 JANUARY 1994

VISIT OUR BOOTH # 54-55 AND SEE HOW THE WORLD'S BIGGEST AIR EXPRESS TRANSPORTATION COMPANY FEDERAL EXPRESS WITH MORE THAN 460 AIRCRAFTS, 30,000 DELIVERY VANS AND 98,000 PROFESSIONALS, OPERATE WORLDWIDE. BESIDES AVAIL OUR SPECIAL TRADE SHOW DISCOUNT FOR YOUR INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS DOCUMENTS AND SAMPLE PACKAGES FOR THE ENTIRE 1994.



BANGLADESH EXPRESS CO. LTD.
95, MOTIHEEL C.A., DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH
FAX : (880-2) 863027, Tlx : 632184 BAEI BJ
TEL : 237784, 232224, 239217, 239145, 236653
BILQUIS TOWER, GULSHAN CIRCLE-2, DHAKA
TEL : 885280, 602373
DHAKA- CHITTAGONG- KHULNA- NARAYANGANJ

JS body meet discusses docs' strike

The 19th parliamentary standing committee meeting of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed unauthorised absence of the doctors in the government hospitals and thana health complexes of the remote areas. Recent recruitment of doctors in the family planning departments, establishment of Family Welfare Centre (FWC) in the more appropriate place of the respective unions and progress of activities of the Directorate of Family Planning.

The meeting also reviewed the progress activities of district and thana health services development committee. Besides, the recently called off countrywide doctors' strike by the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) also came up in the discussion.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা

বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ-১

আপনার পরিবেশ ও সুন্দর পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন; আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের চলতি কমন্সের নবায়নকৃত বৈদ্যুতিক ট্রান্সমিটার এবং ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনে তালিকাভুক্ত ট্রান্সমিটারের নিকট থেকে নিম্নলিখিত কাজের জন্য বাংলাদেশ করম নং ২৯১১/৯৩ সীলমোহরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র আগামী ২৯-১-৯৪ ইং তারিখ কোলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকায় বিত্তীয় কমিশনার, ঢাকা, জেলা প্রশাসক, ঢাকা এবং সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল প্রকৌশল কোন কর্তৃক দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে। একই দিন কোলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে। খোলা হইবে। শর্তকরা হিসাবে দর পরিকার অঙ্কে এবং কথায় উভয়েই লিখিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। প্রাকলিত অঙ্কের ৫% উপর অথবা নিম্ন প্রাপ্ত দরের জন্য দর বিস্ত্রষণ (এনালিসিস) দাবি করিতে হইবে। প্রত্যেক কাজের জন্য উদ্ধৃত দরের ৫% হারে বায়নার টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য) যে কোন সিভিল বায়কের বায়ক ডাকট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে মেয়র, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের অনুকূলে দরপত্রের সহিত সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল জোনাল নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, সকল নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় ও হিসাবরক্ষক-এর নিকট হইতে নগদ নির্বাহিত মুদ্রার বিনিময়ে (ফেরতযোগ্য) দরপত্র সিভিল উন্নয়ন করা যাইবে। এতদসম্বন্ধে বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অফিস ডাকটালীন সময়ে নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (বিদ্যুৎ-১)-এর দপ্তর হইতে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।

দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত তারিখে সিভিল উন্নয়ন করা হইবে না। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দৃশ্যানে বাতিরেকেই যে কোন অথবা সমুদয় দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিরেকেই কমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাকলিত টাকা	বায়নার টাকা	সময়সীমা
১।	নাসির উদ্দিন সরদার লেন, পাঁচতাই ঘাট লেন, কুজুবাবু লেন, গোবিন্দ দত্ত লেন, রোজনগুর ইত্যাদি বস্ত্রাঘাট টিউব বাতির পোল, সিটিসে ব্রাকেট, তাল ও অন্যান্য মালমাল স্থাপনের কাজ, ওয়ার্ড নং ৪২।	টাকা ১,১৭,৪৬৮/-	টাকা ৪,৮৫৮/-	৬০ দিন
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ-১ ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা				