

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Boi Mela Anything but Books

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

The size of this year's Boi Mela, has been a much talked about subject. But it is not just the fact that there are more than twice the number of book stalls than last year's. It is the scores of other stalls outside the Bangla Academy compound selling anything and everything except books, that threaten to attract larger crowds than the book stalls can ever hope to. Stretching from TSC Sarak Dvip to Doel Chatter, this part of the Boi Mela looks like a huge meena bazar, so much so that one may forget this is actually a book fair.

Leaving out the line of food stalls, there are stalls of everything under the sky. If you are a little tired of the usual super markets in Dhaka city and want a change of scene, just try the book fair. Whether it is cute knick knacks for your drawing room or mundane necessities like your kid's tiffin box, everything is available at this fair.

A store called 'Bichchu' (scorpion) named just for the fun of it, sells small decorative items such as clay elephants, tortoises and camels, fish-shaped candle stands, wall hangings and so on. Other stalls offer cross-stitched jute bags in bright colours, shell dolls and leather products. School bags with clocks or sad looking rabbits stand by for the weary parents of school going youngsters.

Among the most visited stalls are the poster stalls with their blow-ups of sultry, buxom Indian film actresses and shiny, smiling actors. Among these one may find Sheikh Mujib next to a 'Kothao Keo Nay' (a popular drama serial) poster with everyone's favourite Baker Bhal flanked by his two cronies.

Many of these stalls sell mainly 'bideshi' (foreign) goods. Alarm clocks, trinkets, hair-bands and 'magic capsule pens' that do some-saults, all have their 'made in Taiwan', or Hong Kong or Japan or even India seals. This precisely what makes them so appealing to some. "In fact, every thing in my store is bideshi," smiles a stall keeper with pride.

The Manipuri and Chakma stalls stand out for their beautiful traditional handicrafts and jewelry. But if it is innovation one is looking for there is plenty in this side of the mela. A stall selling 3ft long ball-point pens seems to have won the most strange and wonderful prize, especially with the slogan it comes with: 'Ak

Kolome BA Pash' (one pen that completes a BA degree!). The sticker stalls, however, seem to attract the largest crowds, offering them something to laugh about. Cartoon products' stall, for example has its share of bizarre and sometimes irreverent stickers. Bengali slogans include 'There is no cure better than a good bashing up', a warning that says 'Sarcastic remarks are prohibited here', and another one that says 'Blowing up bombs are prohibited here'. A multiple choice question also in Bengali tries to define 'love' in different ways; it says the other name for love is a noose around the neck, a slap on the head, a hole in one's wallet, a sign to flee the scene and so on.

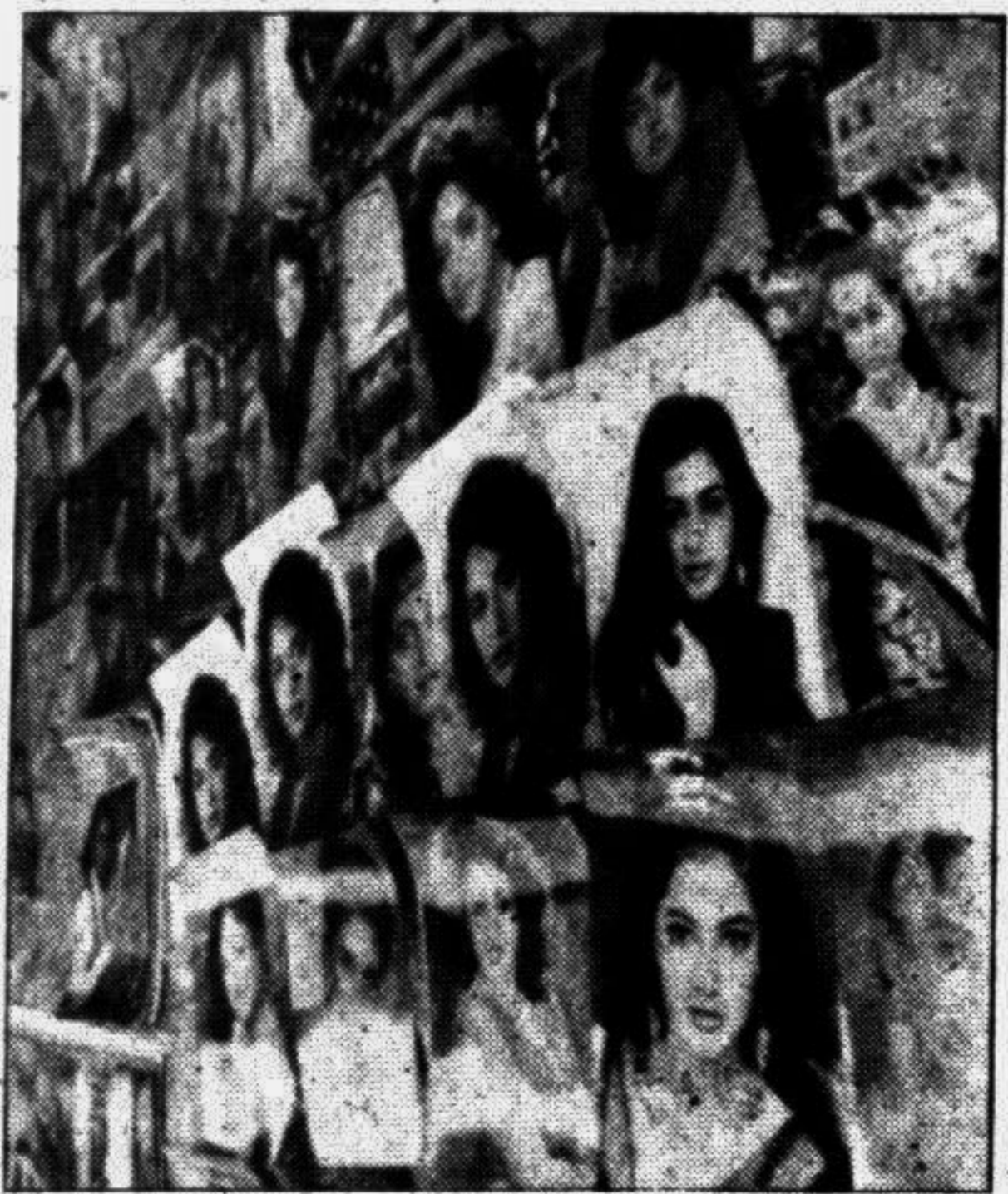
The sticker stalls also offer cartoon books with satirical themes such as a man visiting the Shaheed Minar with a book in his hand that says 'spoken English'.

To bring one back to reality is the stall that sells mundane household items such as aluminium utensils. These include huge 'da's (billhooks), 'khunti's (a type of spoon), 'daal' stirrers and the ever reliable 'sheet-pata' and 'hamam distas' (traditional spice and food mashers).

In the evenings when the crowd is considerably thicker and rowdier, even more amazing things can be seen. A man jumping through a ring of fire, or tiny children doing Chinese acrobatics are common scenes at this time making one wonder if one is in the middle of a mobile circus.

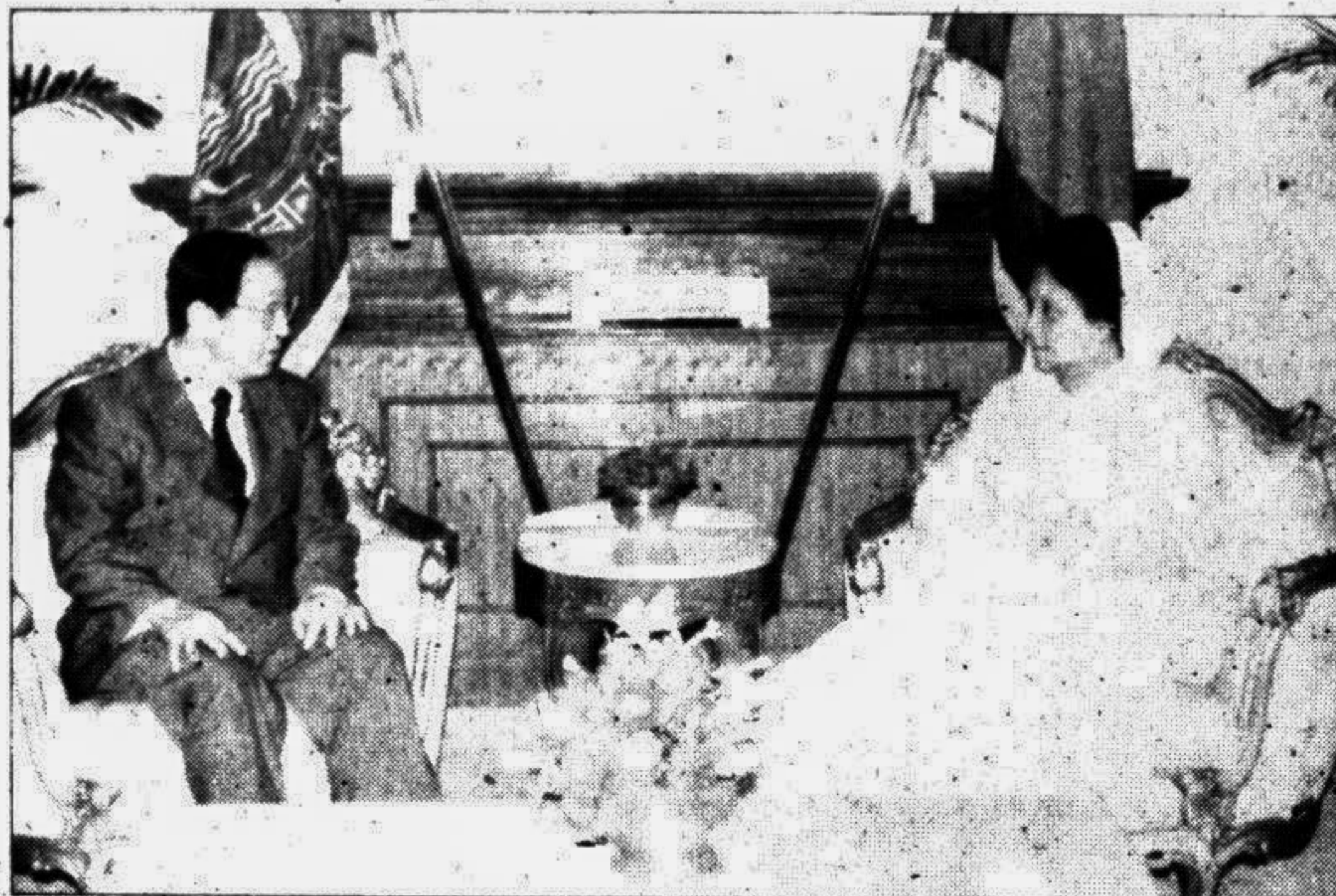
At this time, there is no doubt that one will have acquired total amnesia about what this fair was all about in the first place. It is hard to believe that this side of the book fair is part of the overall objective of promoting Bangla language and literature in memory of February 21st. The only reminders of this momentous time is the full-volume Bangla-poetry recitation from the cassette stalls although even this is drowned by blaring Hindi film songs such as 'choit ke piche'.

In fact many patrons of this 'Boi Mela' have come back disappointed and disillusioned with this hotch potch carnival-like atmosphere. Others think that it is good to have a little variety. But most people agree that there has been too much emphasis on other things which only serve to draw the attention away from the books defeating the whole purpose of the 'Boi Mela'.



Indian actresses make a fine show indeed.

— Star photo



The outgoing South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Sung Oh Shin made a farewell call to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

## Over Tk 17cr spent for SAF Games: JS told

A total of Tk 17 crore 21 lakh 80,000 was spent for the 6th SAF Games held in Dhaka last December, reports UNB. Of the total, Tk 25 lakh was spent on training for the national football team and Tk 15 lakh for making 1,100 blazers. The blazers made by different tailoring shops cost Tk 1,364 each, he said. Those who got the blazers included 246 sportsmen of the national team, members of the Games organising committee and standing committee, 244 members of 16 sub-committees and 160 liaison officials. The State Minister informed the House that a coach of the national football team for a long period with the aim to present a good display in the Games.

He said every body expected a good performance by the Bangladesh football team

## South Korean envoy meets Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called for strengthening economic relations between Bangladesh and South Korea through increased trade and joint venture investment, reports UNB. She made the call when the outgoing South Korean Ambassador, Sung Oh Shin, called on her at the Prime Minister's office in the afternoon.

During the discussion, the Prime Minister hoped that South Korean entrepreneurs would avail of the open economy policy of Bangladesh and invest more in joint venture projects here.

The Ambassador said he was very happy to see the development of Bangladesh under the leadership of Begum Zia.

Begum Zia also felicitated the people and the President of South Korea on the establishment of democracy in the republic and hoped it would take an institutional shape.

## Heads of Muslim state greet Biswas

The heads of state of different Muslim countries of the world have greeted President Abdur Rahman Biswas on the eve of the Holy Ramadan, reports BSS.

The heads of state who have greeted President Biswas included President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Amir of the State of Kuwait Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Amir of the States of Qatar Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, President of the United Arab Emirate (UAE) Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Sultan of Oman Qaboos Bin said, President of the Republic of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, King Hossain of Jordan and President of Yemen Akhkom Aiegriq Ali Abdullah Saleh.

All of them prayed to Almighty Allah for the peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh and for the personal good health and happiness of President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

## JS Business Advisory body meet held

The Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad at a meeting yesterday discussed the issues relating to the adjournment notice placed in the House over the recent complications of the judiciary, reports BSS.

Presided over by Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, the meeting also discussed possibilities of discouraging unscheduled issues in the House with a view to conducting the business of the Sangsad properly. Members from both treasury and opposition benches expressed the similar opinion, said a press release.

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Matur Rahman Nizami, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Jatiya Party member Manirul Huq Chowdhury, Mohammad Shams-uddouha and Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury attended the meeting which was held at the Sangsad Bhaban.

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister M Majidul Huq, Awami League leader Raifmat Ali and Deputy Chief Whip Mahbub Alam Tara attended the meeting on behalf of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina and Chief Whip Khandaker Dewar Hussain respectively.

## Science museum timing during Ramadan

National Museum of Science and Technology has announced its new visiting time schedule for the holy month of Ramadan, reports BSS.

According to new time schedule the display gallery of the museum will remain open for the visitors from 10 am to 4 pm with an interval from 1-15 pm to 1-30 pm from Saturday to Thursday except official holidays. The museum will remain closed on Friday.

## 53 held in city

Police rounded up 53 people on various charges from different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB. Of them 17 were arrested under Special Powers Act, one for robbery, and eight on charge of stealing and five were wanted criminals.

# Biswas for evolving work-oriented edn

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday stressed the need for building a balanced society through evolving work-oriented education and labour-intensive employment opportunities, reports UNB.

"Our commitment should be to transform the huge population into manpower by providing work-oriented education... youth and student community should opt for functional education. We have to end dependence through self-employment generation," he told a convention on education.

The President was inaugurating the Education Week and National Education Convention at Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the morning.

Education Ministry has organised the convention and the week to evaluate the prospects of work-oriented education and spread the message to the teachers, students and the guardians to make it popular.

Education Minister Jamir Uddin Sircar addressed the function as special guest. It was also addressed, among others, by Education Secretary Irshadul Haq and Deputy Secretary Matur Rahman Shah.

President Biswas said evolving applied education was imperative to solve the problems of society. "Education doesn't only mean obtaining a degree, it will be worthless if it has no use in solving the social problems."

A work-oriented education system will create the scope of self-employment and remove the dependency of the students, President Biswas pointed out.

This convention and the education week would help point out the problems of work-oriented education system and suggest a guideline for it to replace the existing system, he hoped.

Education Minister Jamir Uddin Sircar said the government had allocated the highest development budget for education, which is about 18 per cent of the national budget.

He informed the function that the budget would be increased to Tk 3500 crore next year from the current fiscal's Tk 2800 crore.

The education minister said only the structural development would not ensure overall educational development and that the government was trying to ensure a qualitative change of the educational system.

Education Secretary Ershadul Haq said the standard of education had declined though the budget had been increased.

"The main cause of this degradation is the hiatus between education and its application... work-oriented education system is essential to bridge the gap," said the secretary.

Educationists, intellectuals, school and college teachers of the country and education officials from different levels attended the convention.

After the inauguration, a working session on "Work-oriented Education" was held at the same venue.

Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University Prof Shamsur Rahman presented the key-note paper in the working session.

The session was addressed, among others, by BUET Vice Chancellor Dr Muhammad Shahjahan, Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharifuddin, Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Rafiqul Haq, Prof Abdus Sattar, Hamida Ali and Dr Ahmedullah Miah.

## Makhan's death condoled

Bangladesh Mohila Awami League has condoled the death of renowned organiser of the Liberation War and former MP Abdul Quddus Makhan, reports BSS.

In a condolence message, president and general secretary of Mohila Awami League Khaleda Khanam expressed their deep shock at the 'sad demise of the great freedom fighter and former general secretary of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU).

They said the country has lost a patriot and sincere politician at the death of Makhan.

The league leaders expressed their sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

Bhasani Jatiya Sangsad in a meeting yesterday condoled the death of the valiant freedom fighter, former Awami League Parliament member and a prominent student leader of the sixties, Abdul Quddus Makhan.

The meeting proposed that the newly-constructed hostel of Brahmanbaria University College be named after Makhan.

## Sher-e-Bangla High School's annual sports

State Minister for Textile Major (retd) Abdul Mannan has said that games and sports could play a vital role to project the country abroad as well as to keep body strong and mind fresh, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at a prize giving ceremony of the annual sports of Sher-e-Bangla High School at Modhubagh yesterday.

He called upon the students to take part in various extra-curricular activities.

He also advised the students to maintain peaceful atmosphere in the campus.

The function was addressed, among others, by Md Majiduddin Miah, headmaster of the school and the newly-elected Word Commissioner, Moulvi Abdul Majeed.



A three-day international youth camp was organised by Lions District 315B1 recently at Mouchak, Gazipur, District governor Lion Ataul Karim is seen presenting the Camp crest to Education Minister Barrister Jamir Uddin Sircar, the chief guest of the camp.

## BSCIC to set up industries in Rajshahi div

RAJSHAHI, Feb 13: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) under the self-employment programme will establish five new industries and rehabilitate another five in Rajshahi division during the current year, reports BSS.

Under the programme the industries will be set up and rehabilitated at Rajshahi, Bogra, Chapainawabganj, Sirajganj, Naogaon and Lalmonirhat districts.

BSCIC, Rajshahi regional office has allotted over Tk 23 lakh for implementation of the programme.

## Seminar on education Wednesday

A two-day seminar on 'The Role of Teachers' Organisation in Development of Education' will begin at the BMDC auditorium in the city on February 16, reports UNB.

The seminar has been organised by the Bangladesh Teachers' Federation (BTF) in cooperation with Educational International (EI).

Monday

4.30 Opening announcement Al-Quran

4.45 Programme summary Educational programme: Can You Do It

5.10 News in Bangla

5.25 Sports programme: Football

6.30 Moder Garab Moder Asha

7.00 Open University

7.25 Nazrul songs

8.00 News in Bangla

8.30 Janamat

9.05 Geet Bitan

10.00 News in English

10.30 Comedy series: Murphy Brown

11.00 Musical programme Disco Rally

11.15 Khabar/The News

11.25 Tomorrow's programme summary

## Weather

### No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with a fair sky is likely to prevail over Bangladesh during the next 24 hours commencing from 6 am today (Monday).

The Met Office forecasts, night temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country during the period.

The country's highest temperature of 30.2 degrees Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and the lowest of 9.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimangol yesterday.

The sun sets today at 5:53 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6:32 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	27.4	14.2	62	48
Chittagong	28.5	15.3	57	47
Rajshahi	27.2	11.4	75	53
Khulna	27.8	15.6	88	
Barisal	27.4	15.0	77	71
Sylhet	26.2	13.0	70	
Dinajpur	25.0	10.4	80	67

**Eastern Tubes Limited (BSEC)**

374, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka

## Re-Tender for Sale of Old Vehicle

জাতীয় অর্থনীতিতে বিক্রয়সহিত আন্তর্জাতিক মানের পণ্য সামগ্রী ব্যবহার করুন

**Eastern Tubes: Brighter Light with Lighter Bills**

1. Eastern Tubes Ltd (BSEC), 374, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka invites Sealed quotations from the bonafide buyers for sale of 1 (one) No Old Vehicle "as is where is" basis.
2. Tender document can be purchased from Account Department of Eastern Tubes Ltd, 374, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka and Cash Section, BSEC Accounts Division, BSEC Bhaban, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka on payment of Tk. 50/- (Fifty) only (non-refundable) till 27-2-94.
3. Tender will be received up to 11.00 am on 28-2-94 and will be opened on the same day at 11.15 am.
4. Earnest money @ 10% of the quoted amount with a minimum of Tk. 1000/- (one thousand) only in the form of P.O./D.D. favouring Eastern Tubes Ltd. from any scheduled bank is to be deposited along with the Tender.
5. The buyers may inspect the Transports during office hours on any working day in the Factory premises.
6. Eastern Tubes Ltd reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

No-BSEC/PRD/198-9/2  
DFP/BA/1077-9/2 G-250

# PARAPYROL

## Glaxo Bangladesh's PARACETAMOL

We announce with great pleasure that our Paracetamol tablets have been given a new name "PARAPYROL". To help consumers further, the Parapyrol strips are screen printed with a pink **Glaxo** logo. If you are paying for Glaxo Bangladesh's Paracetamol, please make sure you get the right strip, printed with the name "Parapyrol" and the **Glaxo** logo in pink across the strip.

**Parapyrol is available as paediatric suspension also.**

GLAXO BANGLADESH LIMITED