

Dhaka Day by Day

Boi Mela

A Thick Crowd is not a Blessing

by Iftikhar A Chowdhury



Too many visitors. — Star photo

This urban habitat, Dhaka, is gradually being transformed into a megalopolis. But its people are left with very few recreational choices. So, fairs of any kind, be it a Meena Bazar, an Expo or a Book Fair — unfailingly pulls a lot of crowd. The book fair or the Boi Mela organised by the Bangla Academy on the sombre occasion of Ekushey February is no exception.

other things apart from books (cassettes, posters, handicrafts etc), they have so many items to choose from. But there are also avid readers, who buy and read books with unflagging attention and they come to the fair to buy as many books as their purse allows them to. One such visitor Muhiit Rahman smilingly admits, "I cannot really make you understand how tempting it is to see the new books of our favourite authors in a book stall. It really turns me on and as a result I know that I will return home from the Boi Mela flat broke tonight."

Tk 519.61cr spent for flood control: JS told

Government spent over Tk 519.61 crore during the last two fiscal years for implementing various flood control projects in the country, reports UNB.

Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Majid-ul Haq said this in Parliament yesterday while replying to a question from Tabibur Rahman Sardar of Awami League.

The minister informed the House that more than Tk 348.83 crore had been allocated under the current Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the flood control projects.

He said over Tk 33.35 crore had been spent for the Dhaka Flood Control Project in last two fiscal years and over Tk 54.48 crore was allocated for it under the current development programme.

Vacant posts of 3rd, 4th class employees

About 43,000 posts of 3rd and 4th class government employees remained vacant till December 1993.

State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haq disclosed this in Parliament yesterday while replying to a question from Hafeza Asma Khatun (Jamaat).

Giving a break-up, he said some 35,334 3rd class and

7,513 4th class posts remained vacant.

Replying to another question from Abdul Khaleque Talukdar (AL), the minister said 14 secretaries went on retirement and 21 officers were promoted to be secretaries since January 1, 1993.

Barrister Huq said some 977 officials were working on deputation and 152 others were working on contract basis in different government and semi-government organisations.

BSS adds: State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that situation arising out of dispute over land boundary between Jamalpur and Bogra districts along Maderganj and Islampur thanas of Jamalpur district was under control.

Police patrol had been deployed there to tackle eruption of any situation, he said adding a committee comprising district administration of both the districts had been entrusted with to re-fix the boundary pillars along the already decided demarcation line.

The State Minister for Land was replying to a notice of public importance from Awami League member Mirza Azam on demarcation of boundary line between Jamalpur and Bogra districts along the Maderganj and Islampur thanas of Jamalpur district.

6,056 units of small, cottage industries set up

A total of 6,056 units of small and cottage industries were set up in the country during the 1990-93 period, creating 69,503 employment opportunities, reports UNB.

This was informed at the 19th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Industries, held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

State Minister for Industries Lutfur Rahman Khan presided over the meeting.

It elaborately reviewed the progress of implementation of the Industrial Policy of Bangladesh.

The meeting also discussed the existing bottlenecks and possible steps to overcome those for accelerating the process of industrialisation in the country.

Syed Manjur Hossain, Mia Abdullah Wazed, Begum Shamsunnahar Khwaja Ahsanullah of BNP, M Sultan-ul-Kabir Chowdhury and Sheikh Haroonur Rashid of AL and M Abdus Sobhan of Jamaat-e-Islami were present in the meeting.

It was also attended, among others, by Industries Secretary AHM Abdul Hye, Commerce Secretary AH Mofazzel Karim, Chairman of Tariff Commission Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Chairman of NBR Dr Akbar Ali Khan, the Managing Directors of different banks, high officials of the ministry and representatives from different chambers.

Makhan's death condoled

President of Muktijoddha Sammilani Sector-5 Lt. Col(Retd) A S Helal Uddin yesterday expressed his deep grief at the death of Abdul Quddus Makhon, reports BSS.

In a condolence message, Helal Uddin said the country had lost a real son of the soil with the death of a great hero like Abdul Quddus Makhon.

Munajat for late Justice Misbahuddin Friday

A ceremony for offering 'doa' and 'munajat' on the occasion of death of Justice Syed Misbahuddin Hossain, Member of Election Commission, has been arranged on Friday at 10:30 am at the residence of deceased at A/2, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, reports BSS.

DHAKA CITY SIGHT SEEING TOURS

Regular Dhaka city sight seeing tour available on every Friday from Tourist Information Centre, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Time : 09.00 Hrs. to 12.00 Hrs.

Price per person : Tk. 200/- or USD5/-

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Head Office : 317836, 327842, 325155-9

Sonargaon Hotel : 811461/4937

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BANGLADESH BANK MOTIJHEEL OFFICE DHAKA

Tender for 91 day Bangladesh Bank Bill

Tenders for the 91 day Bangladesh Bank Bill will be received on Sunday, February 20, 1994. The intending tenderer should submit their tenders in the prescribed form which can be had from the General Manager, Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel Branch, Dhaka.

The completed tender should be placed in a sealed cover superscribed, "Tender for 91 day Bangladesh Bank Bill" and should be deposited in the box exclusively kept for the purpose in the Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel Branch, Dhaka before 12 Noon on Sunday, February 20, 1994. The results of the auction would be announced on Tuesday, February 22, 1994. Successful bidders would be required to make payment of cost price latest by 12 Noon on Wednesday, February 23, 1994 either in cash or through cheque.

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Awami League chief and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina placing wreaths on the coffin of Abdul Quddus Makhon as a mark of last respect in front of the party's central office yesterday. — Star photo

Modern testing lab at BSTI sought

The 6th meeting of the Council of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) was held yesterday at the conference room of BSTI. Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan was in the chair, reports BSS.

Industries Minister stressed the need for setting up a modern testing laboratory at BSTI so that all kinds of product could be tested easily and accurately. He particularly emphasised upon strict maintaining of quality of essential items relating to health and safety. He urged all concerned to extend their support to maintain the standard and quality of essential products in the country.

Khan said, present world market is very much competitive. If we cannot ensure the standard and quality of our product, these will not be able to enter into the international market, he added.

The meeting took decision to form two committees, one for standard formulation committee, another committee for fixation of certification marks fee.

Among others, Industries Secretary A H M Abdul Hye, Dr M Shamsur Ali, Vice-Chancellor Bangladesh Open University, Dr M A Wazed Miah, Member, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and other members of the council were present in the meeting.



Dr MD Stauffer, Vice-president of the Potash and Phosphate Institute (PPI), Dr JD Beaton, President PPI and Dr N S U Chowdhury, Executive Vice Chairman of BARC at a seminar on 'Sustainable Development in Agriculture'. — Star photo

Weather Light rain likely

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail and Sylhet during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today (Wednesday).

Night temperature, according to Met Office, may remain nearly unchanged across the country, during this period. The country's maximum temperature of 32.7 degrees Celsius was recorded at Teknaf and the lowest of 15.0 degrees Celsius at Srimangal.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and relative humidity recorded in the divisional towns yesterday are:

Table with columns: Towns, Temperatures in degrees Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (9am, 6pm). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal.

Rajuk allots plots of land to ROK Embassy

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakhya (Rajuk) yesterday allotted two plots of land of land measuring five bighas to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Bangladesh for the construction of embassy and chancery buildings, reports BSS.

Danish envoy meets Jute Minister

Danish Charge D'Affaires to Bangladesh Knud Kjaer Nielsen called on Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah at his office yesterday, reports BSS. They discussed matters relating to mutual interest with special reference to export of more jute and jute goods to Denmark.

Import duty on dates reduced

The government has issued a notification reducing the import duty on dates from 45 per cent to 30 per cent on the eve of holy Ramadan, reports BSS.

দরপত্র আহবানকারী বিজ্ঞপ্তি. A notice listing various items and their prices, including dates, jute, and other goods.

BTV Wednesday TV programme on HSC, SSC exams today. A discussion on method of filling up computer forms to be used in the essay type examination, objective test, practical examination and viva-voce of SSC and HSC examinations of the year 1994 will be telecast through Bangladesh television at 6:15 pm today.

Weather Light rain likely. A discussion on method of filling up computer forms to be used in the essay type examination, objective test, practical examination and viva-voce of SSC and HSC examinations of the year 1994 will be telecast through Bangladesh television at 6:15 pm today.

National Tubes Limited (BSEC) 131-142, Tongi Industrial Area Tongi, Gazipur. Registered Office: Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation "Steel House" 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Extra-Ordinary General Meeting NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held at the Factory premises of National Tubes Ltd. at 131-142, Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur on 2nd March, 1994 at 3:00 PM for amendment of Clause 8 (a), 105 (d), 106, 109 of the Articles of Association of the Company as necessitated in connection with the Government decision regarding sale/transfer of 51% shares of the Company now held by Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation on behalf of the Government. The draft of the Ordinary Resolution proposed to be passed for the amendments is given below: Agenda - 1 (Ordinary Resolutions):