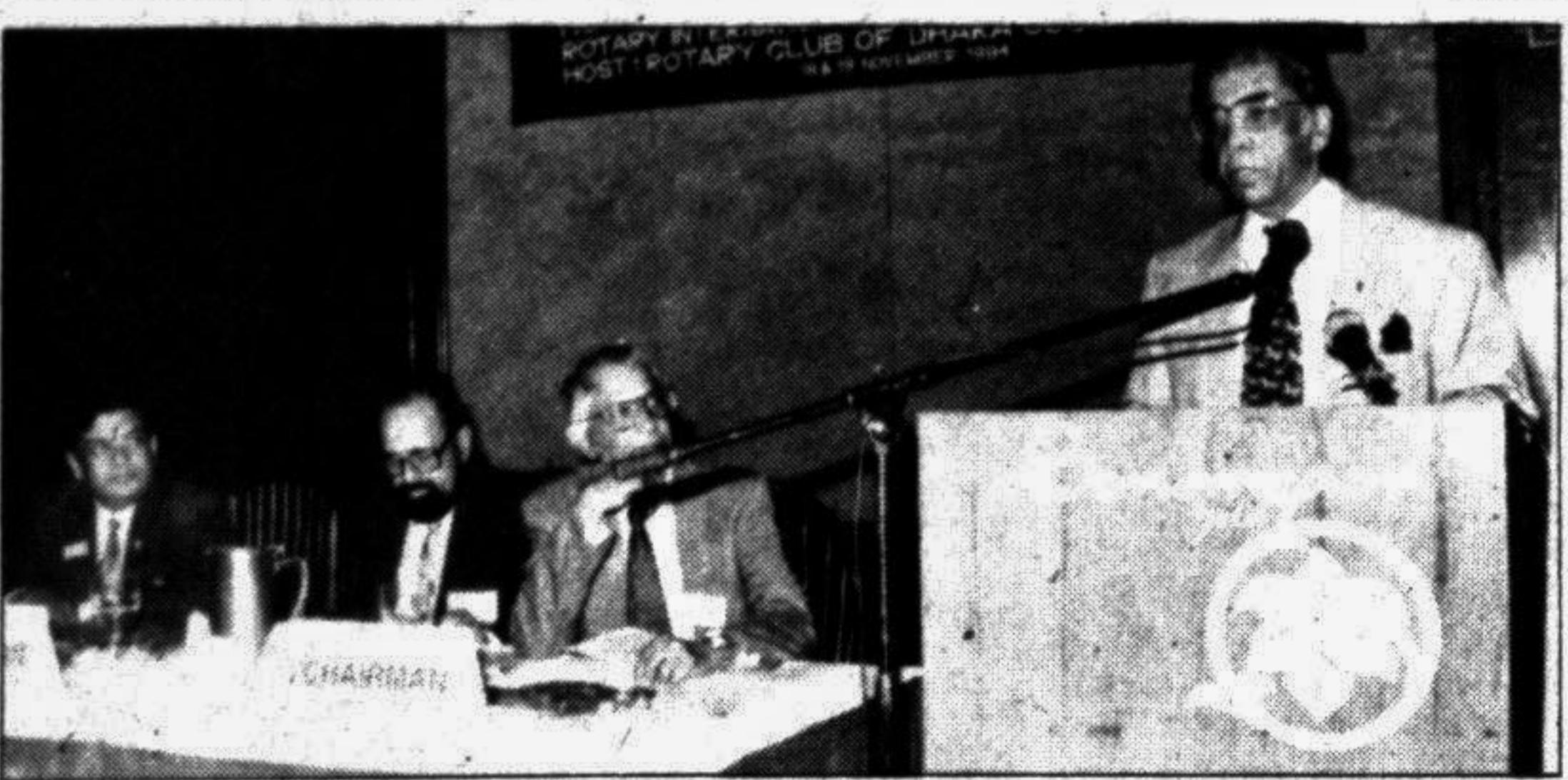


## Metropolitan

## Call for creating host of disaster managers



Minister for Commerce and Information M Shamsul Islam speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Rotary Foundation Seminar at a local hotel recently. On the extreme left is Rtn M Mosharraf Hossain.

Minister tells Jatiya Sangsad

## Tk 23 cr to be spent for afforestation this fiscal

The Forest Department will spend about Taka 23 crore during the current financial year for afforestation of over 47,000 acres of land along 32,000 kilometre of roads, highways and embankments, reports BSS.

Replies to a question at the Jatiya Sangsad from Sarder Sakhawat Hossain Bakul (BNP-Narsingdi), Forest and Environment Minister Akbar Hossain said implementation of the plan had already been started.

He said in addition, another Taka 30 crore plan for planting two crore trees in Chittagong Hill Tracts was expected to be passed by the Planning Commission soon for implementing in the current fiscal.

The minister said, during the 1993-94 financial year the Forest Department had raised forest on over 40,000 acres of land and along 5,500 kilometre roads, highways and embankments at a cost of about Taka 16 crore. He said under this programme about 30 lakh trees were planted in the

Laws to punish, fatwabaz demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity (National Women Lawyers' Association) demanded enactment of fresh laws to provide for stern punishment for those involved in issuing fatwas.

The annual general meeting of the association held on Saturday resolved that the existing laws relating to the repression on women be amended to make punishable any act of arranging shaitish (community arbitration), pronouncing fatwa (religious induction) or executing such fatwa by the persons not authorised by the laws of the land. The samity suggested for 14 years' jail term for such condemned action.

The meeting noted with concern that the women-folk of the country was alarmingly becoming victims of the fatwabaz hampering the developing activities. The government must take measures for enacting new laws barring the religious fanatics, it demanded.

### ICDDR,B Board of Trustees meets today

The 31st meeting of the Board of Trustees of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) begins at centre premises today, says a press release.

The meeting will review and consider reports of the programme committee for scientific activities and those of the committee concerning finance and personnel. The annual budget for 1995 will also be reviewed and approved by the board.

The meeting will be followed by a one-day meeting of the ICDDR,B Support Group. It will be chaired by Eimi Watanabe.

### Weather

#### Dry weather likely

Dry weather is likely to prevail across the country during the next 12 hours ending 6 pm today, reports BSS.

Slight fall in the night temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met Office said. However, it may improve during the next days.

The country's highest temperature 31.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati and the lowest 13.0 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets today at 5.11 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.18 am.

Temperatures and humidity percentage in different parts of the country recorded yesterday were given below:

	Temperature	Humidity		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.4	16.0	68	71
Chittagong	30.7	18.4	92	72
Cox's Bazar	30.0	19.0	68	83
Sylhet	29.2	17.3	66	71
Comilla	30.0	15.8	82	74
Rajshahi	28.7	14.4	58	78
Rangpur	27.8	15.5	75	74
Dinajpur	28.5	13.0	69	77

### Release of Nodir Naam Modhumoti iterated

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty-five participants drawn from government and non-government organisations, universities, training institutions, defence and international organisations are taking part in the workshop.

"There is close relationship between disaster and development... it is well-recognised that disasters cannot be always prevented but their effects can be minimised or reduced, through more effective mitigation measures," he said inaugurating a two-week workshop on "In-country Training of Trainers on Disaster Management" at NEC auditorium.

It

has

been

organised

by

South

Asian

Disaster

Management

Centre

(SADC)

at

the

International

University

of

Business

Agriculture

and

Technology

(IUBAT)

a

private

university

in

Dhaka.

Management

and

Training

Services

Division

(MSTD)

of

Commonwealth

Fund

for

Technical

Cooperation

(CFTC)

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Appreciating the arrangement

of the workshop, he said

the training of the trainers

programme on disaster management

would contribute to emergency performance capabilities

of the participants for quickly responding to disaster.

### Shifting of court sites urged

A group of lawyers yesterday urged the government to relocate Dhaka Judge's Court, Metropolitan Magistracy Court and the Deputy Commissioner office to a suitable place in the city free from traffic congestion, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Human Rights Lawyers' Forum at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club said judges, magistrates, lawyers, plaintiffs and defendants, officials and employees of the courts cannot reach offices in time due to traffic jam.

"Dhaka is dubbed as a city of traffic congestion, particularly old town where the courts are situated," Forum convenor Advocate Talukdar Golam Kibria said and attributed it to the density of population in Bangla Bazar, Islampur, Luxembazar, Mitford, Badamtali and Sadar Ghat areas.

Besides, many business activities, various educational institutions, including Jagan Nath College, Kabi Nazrul Islam College and Suhrawardy College, are situated in the areas. Inadequate roads and small sizes of lanes also compounded the sufferings of commuters, he said.

Journalists demand new wage board

CHITTAGONG, Nov 20: Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) today called upon the concerned authorities to immediately constitute a new wage board and declare 60 percent dearness allowance for journalists.

They said, if the announcement for constitution of new wage board and 60 per cent DA was not made in next one month BFUJ would launch a country wide agitation to re-allocate the same.

BFUJ leaders including its secretary general Shahjahan Meah, joint secretary general Zakaria Kajal and DÜJ general secretary Azizul Islam Bhuiyan were addressing a meeting of journalists held at the local press club, under the auspices of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ). Union president Akhtar un Nabi presided over the meeting.

They condemned attack on and filing of criminal cases against journalists saying such undesirable practices should be stopped.

### 120 arrested on various charges

Police rounded up 120 people on various charges from different parts of the city, in last 24 hours, reports UNB.

The arrested, who included 23 wanted criminals, six charged with robbery and eight for stealing, were produced before the court.

The country faced difficult economic conditions which were accentuated by natural disasters. But "our people are very courageous and resilient to disaster conditions and have demonstrated a remarkable ability to return to normal life quickly."

Appreciating the arrangement

of the workshop, he said

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