

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.

Replying 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

premises of different institutions and organisations.

In reply to a supplementary, the forest minister said if any private land in the Sitakunda Hills remains vacant after 1995, the Forest Department itself would take measures for its afforestation.

In reply to another question from Nizamuddin Khan (BNP-Manikganj), the minister said in 1971 a total of 12,965 square kilometre and 10,815 square kilometre were under the control of the Forest Department and the deputy commissioners of the districts respectively. He said, the Forest Department now has in its record 15,128 square kilometre of land while the deputy commissioners have only 3,770 square kilometres.

In reply to a supplementary, he said that the deputy commissioners had given lease to private parties on long and short term basis, the forest areas under their control and in some cases they leased out the land which were under the control of the Forest Department.

Workshop on women held

A grass-root level workshop aimed at formulating recommendations from the NGO perspective for the fourth world conference on woman was held in Jessore recently, says a press release in Dhaka yesterday.

The workshop was attended by 66 participants from greater Khulna, Jessore and Kushtia districts.

Prof Dr Nazma Chowdhury, who was present as chief guest, said, a status report of the Bangladeshi women — comprising 12 important issues emerged during the Manila conference last year — is processing.

Among other issues, women rights and violence on women, women's economic-political empowerment, environmental health were also came up for discussion.

Executive Director of USHA Hosne Ara Khan presided over the inaugural session.

She stressed the emergence of an inter-dependent society based on equality and justice.

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.

Call for creating host of disaster managers

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called for creating a galaxy of disaster managers to help the country develop reducing damages caused by natural disasters, reports UNB.

"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 (SADMC) 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) and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) are collaborating with the SADMC in organising the workshop.

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

The president said management of disaster is at present the crying need of Bangladesh as devastating cyclones, floods, tidal bores, river erosion and drought became part of its everyday life.

He pointed out that 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 the training of the trainers programme on disaster management would contribute to emergency performance capabilities of the participants for quickly responding to disaster.

Release of Nodir Naam Modhumoti iterated

By Staff Correspondent

Fifty-seven socio-cultural organisations in a joint statement yesterday protested the Censor Board's denial of issuing Certificate of Release for the Liberation War-based film titled "Nadir Naam Modhumoti" directed by Tanvir Mokammel.

The statement termed the Censor Board's decision regrettable, and demanded immediate release of the film without any editing.

The cultural bodies that issued the statement, included Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, Group Theatre Federation, Federation of Film Societies, Jatiya Kabita Parishad, Short Film Forum, Mahila Parishad, Abriti Samannaya Parishad, Udichi Shilpee Gosthee, Kanthashilon and Bolthaki Sangeet Charcha Kendra. Earlier, similar statements were also issued by different organisations and individuals.

Shifting of court sites urged

A group of lawyers yesterday urged the government to relocate Dhaka Judge's Court, Metropolitan Magistrate 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, Luxmibazar, Mitford, Badamtali and Sadar Ghat areas.

Besides, many business activities, various educational institutions, including Jagannath 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

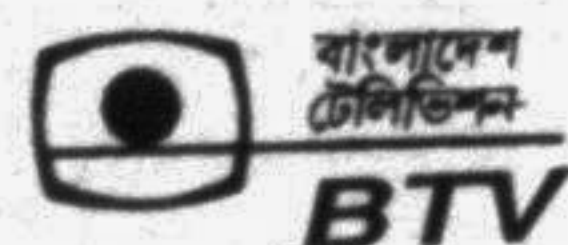
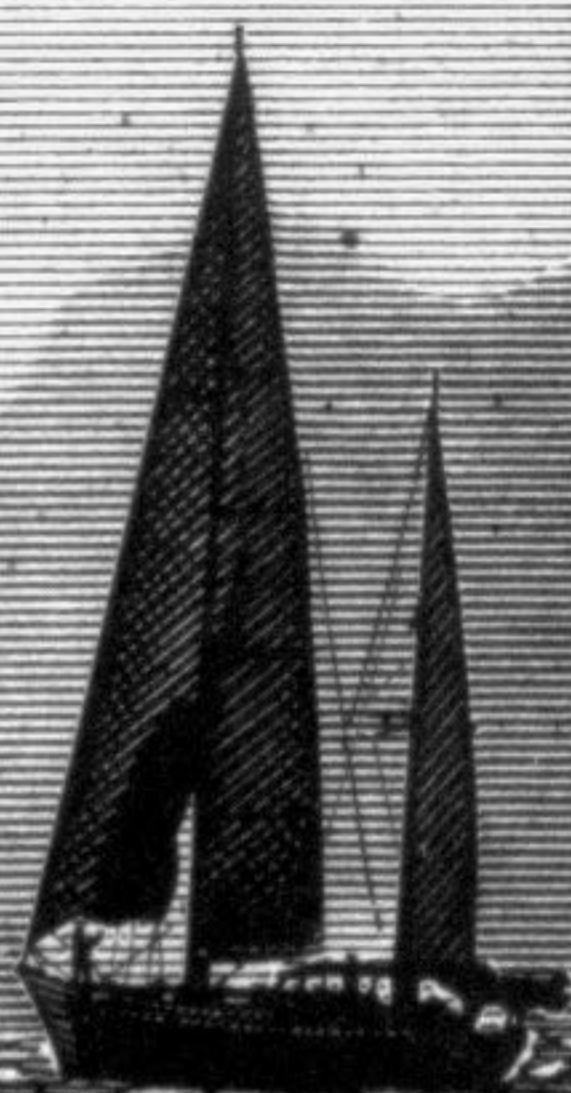
CHITTAGONG, Nov 20: Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) today called upon the concerned authorities to immediately constitute a new wage board and declare 60 percent dearness allowance for the journalists, reports BSS.

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 realise the same.

BFUJ leaders including its secretary general Shahjahan Meah, joint secretary general Zakaria Kaja and DUJ 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.

THE NO.1 INTERNATIONAL CIGARETTE IN BANGLADESH BY FAR.



Monday

- 4-40 Opening announcement
- 4-45 Programme summary
- 4-45 Cartoon film: Captain Planet and Planetoids
- 5-10 Sangbad
- 5-25 Sports programme
- 6-30 Bikkhan
- 7-25 Nazrul songs
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-25 Jannatkhana
- 8-30 Jannat
- 9-00 Special programme on Armed Forces Day
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Comedy series: Murphy Brown
- 11-00 Comedy series: Coach Khabar/The News
- 11-30 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11-40 Closing

Weather

Dry weather likely

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

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:

City	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.4	16.0	66	71
Chittagong	30.7	18.4	92	72
Cox's Bazar	30.0	19.0	66	83
Sylhet	29.2	17.3	66	71
Comilla	30.0	15.8	82	74
Rajshahi	28.7	14.4	56	78
Rangpur	27.8	15.5	75	74
Dinajpur	28.5	13.0	69	77



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