



Assistant Picture Editor of Time Magazine Eleanor Taylor conducted a workshop on 'Print Media and Photo Journalism' at the S M Ali Library in The Daily Star office yesterday.

— Star photo

'NGOs to highlight cause of poor at world confcs'

By Staff Correspondent

Ahead of two very important world conferences next year, the private voluntary development organisations, better known as NGOs, say they would try to highlight the causes of the poor, particularly those in South Asia.

Briefing newsmen yesterday on the preparations for the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (WCW), the NGO representatives, however, pointed out that the success of the two conferences would largely depend on how poor countries translate the promises into action.

Association of the Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), the apex body of the country's NGOs, organised the briefing at its Lalmoni head office in the capital.

The World Summit on Social Development is going to take place in March at Copenhagen, Denmark while the World Conference on Women will start in September in Beijing, China.

Speaking at the press briefing, ADAB leaders said that voluntary development organisations in South Asia have united on broad platform to emphasise the uniqueness of the shared societal and cultural plurality of the region.

The South Asian NGO Declaration on WSSD, known as the Kotta Declaration, has called upon the world community to adopt a 'people-centered' development approach for establishing a society based on an equitable sharing and control of resources, said Zehin Ahmed, Convenor of the NGO group for the WSSD.

The platform of about 56 NGOs of the region would

'Seek verdict to decide who will conduct polls'

A group of citizens yesterday called upon the government and the Opposition to seek verdict from the people to decide who would conduct future elections, reports BSS.

They said that the politicians are not playing their part as per the rules provided in the Constitution and have failed to evolve a formula acceptable to both the contending sides.

The citizens said that alternative before the people of

DTA elections

From Page 1 Col 8

White panel nominees Prof A F M Yusuf Haider of Physics Department and Prof Arun Hossain of the Institute of Business Administration were elected Vice-President and Treasurer respectively while Blue panel candidate Dr Md Hossain Mansur of Geology Department was elected Joint Secretary.

The elected executive body members from the Blue panel are Dr A M S Arefin Siddique of Mass Communication and Journalism, Prof Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury of Pharmacy, Prof M Mostafa Chowdhury of Political Science, Prof Khan-dawker Bazlu Huq of Management, Prof Muhammed Moshi-huzzaman of Chemistry and Prof Md Shahadat Ali of Zoology Department.

Prof Zinnatunnesa Tahmid Begum of Botany, Prof Tajmery Selima Akter Talukder of Chemistry and Prof Habiba Khutun of Islamic History Department — from White panel and Prof K A M Sad Uddin of Sociology Department — from Pink panel — are the other elected members of the DUTA executive committee.

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No headway yet in probing Sabuj murder

By Staff Correspondent

Police until yesterday failed to make any headway in their probe into the murder of a young businessman Sabuj Chowdhury.

Both Ramma police and the Detective Branch (DB), investigating into the crime for the last 36 hours, had failed to come up with any clues.

According to a police source, several persons were interrogated but no suspect had yet been found.

Meanwhile, a number of people in a procession gathered near the Jatiya Press Club yesterday and condemned the crime and demanded punishment of those responsible for the murder.

Sabuj Chowdhury, 30, a contractor of the Public Works Department (PWD), was shot dead by a gang of unidentified gunmen Wednesday while he was coming out of the PWD building at Segunbagicha.

Police suspect Sabuj was murdered because of a feud involving either his business associates or rivals.

400 gm of heroin recovered in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 22: Four hundred grams of heroin was recovered from a residential hotel in the Jakiganj thana headquarters Tuesday midnight. One person has been arrested in this connection. The packet, which contains heroin, was printed with 'Made in Thailand', a source said.

A case has been filed.

FFs' Trust opposes sit-in at Swadhinata Bhaban

The authorities of Bang-

ladesh Mukti Joddha Kalyan Trust in a statement yesterday said they would uphold the image of the trust as a generous and traditional organisation of the country, reports BSS.

The trust has described as propaganda a news published in various newspapers regarding a possible sit-in organised by several persons in the name of Kendriya Sangram Parishad for realising demands of the war-injured freedom fighters and shaheed families.

The authorities said that they have taken several decisions following the government announcement on December 14 to resolve the prevailing problems in the trust.

PM : Opposition

From Page 1 Col 7

to halt the development activities of the BNP government through keeping the people hostage.

The citizens said that the present situation would lead the country to chaos and confusion and threaten the peace, tranquility and progress of the country.

Expressing their deep concern on the consequence of the resignation by the Opposition from Parliament on December 28 the citizens said if the contending parties agree to seek people's verdict the problem will be solved easily.

Prof Ejazuddin Ahmed, former chairman, Public Service Commission, Ahmed Reza, former chairman, Mukti Joddha Kalyan Trust, Prof M A Manan, former vice-chancellor, Dhaka University, Col (Rtd) Masudul Hussain Khan, director, Sena Kalyan Sangstha, Prof Islam Mirza, Director General BIRDIM and KAA Kamruddin, former Dean, Faculty of Law, Dhaka University were present.

Earlier, she inaugurated the newly constructed bridge on river Atrai on Mohadevpur-Saralgachi-Porsha road in the morning. The 138.38 metre long bridge was constructed at a cost of Tk 3.18 crore. Construction works of the bridge began in March 1992. She also opened a new children's park named "Shaheed Zia Shishu Park" at Mohadevpur.

HSC results : Reasons of anomalies discovered

By Masud Arif

The computer centre of the Engineering University (BUET) has found out the reasons for withholding the results of a number of students who appeared at the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations held under the four education boards this year.

According to sources concerned, the centre yesterday informed at least 10 reasons to the Dhaka Board authorities for not publishing the results of many students yesterday. Services of the centre were utilised for publication of the results.

Besides, the computer centre authorities hoped that they would be able to inform the reasons for withholding the results of many others of the Comilla, Jessor and Rajshahi boards by tomorrow.

The HSC examination results announced Tuesday created frustration among a large Some surgeon!

From Page 1 Col 4

man Ali. He had been suffering from peptic ulcer for long. The resident surgeon of Ward No 2 Dr Pramode Ranjan Singh performed the operation on November 12 in the absence of Prof Ali. But, he completed the operation keeping a scissors inside the patient's belly. The patient was released on December 1.

The patient had been suffering much since then. A number of new ailments forced him to get admitted to the Sylhet Sadar Hospital on December 22. The hospital authorities detected a scissors inside the belly of the patient when he was X-rayed yesterday. The matter was confirmed when he was X-rayed again at a private clinic.

The patient was transferred to the medical college hospital today from the Sadar Hospital for a fresh operation for removing the scissors.

The director of the hospital said necessary steps would be taken against the doctors responsible for this.

Meanwhile, a procession was brought out in the town today demanding stern action against the doctors concerned. Later, a meeting was also held.

The doctors concerned have gone into hiding. It is learnt.

number of students whose results were withheld.

Meanwhile, the computer centre sources said that results of around two per cent examinees of the Dhaka Board and roughly three per cent of three other boards were withheld. A large number of students who were shown absent in the attendance registers of the examination centres might not have been actually absent. Their results were also withheld.

Besides, it was found that a number of students who got 70 or 80 per cent marks in some subjects got only 10 or 15 marks in one subject. Results of those examinees were also withheld. It has now been planned to review the grading sheets which were supplied by the board offices, the sources said.

The board authorities also decided to withhold the results of a large number of students for different reasons. The board authorities would now review the reasons given by the computer centre and ask the centre for remedial measures by next week.

Sources concerned hoped that the problems would be resolved within a short time.

JUTA polls

From Page 1 Col 8

Economies got 87 votes. Newly elected general secretary AKM Shahneoz bagged 115 votes while the other contestant Afas Ahmed, the incumbent general secretary, got 91 votes.

The other elected candidates are Prof Abdul Hye of Chemistry, vice president (114 votes); Prof Zaheduzzin Mahmud Khan of Botany, treasurer (113 votes); and Jahangir Alam of Electronics.

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Berlusconi resigns

ROME, Dec 22: Premier Silvio Berlusconi, the media magnate who bulldozed into politics, resigned today after rebellious allies and a corruption probe tore apart his 7-month-old government, reports AP.

The collapse of the government comes a year after Berlusconi launched a conservative political movement to replace the scandal-ridden parties who led Italy since World War II.

Berlusconi submitted his resignation to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, who now must decide how to head toward Italy's 54th government since 1945.

Zail Singh in 'grave condition'

CHANDIGARH, Dec 22: The former president, Giani Zail Singh, today remained in a grave condition and had repeated convulsions, which were causing concern to the doctors attending on him in the PGH's Nehru Hospital here, reports PTI.

The hospital medical superintendent, Dr V K Kak, said the Giani had repeated convulsions during the past 24 hours causing concern. The convulsions were controlled with drugs, he said.

He said the supporting systems, including the dialysis, artificial ventilation and the pacemaker, were continuing.

The Midnight File

Order to release 9 IRA men

DUBLIN, Dec 22: The Irish government has ordered the early release — before Christmas Day — of nine of the 55 members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) currently held in Irish jails, the Justice Ministry said today. The IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, redoubled its demands for an amnesty for the political prisoners following an IRA ceasefire which came into effect on September 1, reports AFP.

Russia denies sacking of top commanders

MOSCOW, Dec 22: The Russian Defence Ministry today denied reports that top armed forces commanders in the breakaway region of Chechnya had been sacked, Itar-Tass news agency said. Ministry officials told Tass the reports — carried by Tass and Ria news agencies — were "disinformation aimed at destabilising the situation in the north Caucasus," reports Reuter.

the party's inaction towards ministers accused of corruption and would resign if Rao did not sack his tainted colleagues soon.

Two opposition parties including BJP demanded Rao's resignation and fresh elections, and said the 73-year-old Prime Minister had lost the will to govern, as parliament was immobilised by pandemonium for the eighth day today.

In another development, a member of Parliament for the Cong-I Party was charged today with inciting Hindu mobs to kill minority Sikhs in revenge for the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi 10 years ago.

The Central Bureau of Investigation filed a case in a New Delhi court against Sajjan Kumar and 12 others for involvement in riots that killed 2,700 people, almost all Sikhs. Thousands of others were injured and many Sikh families fled the Indian capital.

Meanwhile, police used water cannons and arrested hundreds of demonstrators here today during a protest by stone-throwing supporters of a campaign to carve out a state in northern India, witnesses said.

Police trained water cannons on the crowd of about 2,000 people after some of the demonstrators began throwing rocks and breaking through barricades in a bid to reach the Parliament building, they said.

They were demanding the creation of a separate state comprising eight hill districts in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

Papal visit in jeopardy

From Page 1 Col 5

tuted the central point, or rather the only point of this system. Nevertheless, both the Buddhist tradition and methods deriving from it have an almost exclusively negative ontology.

"Do we draw near to God in this way? This is not mentioned in the enlightenment conveyed by Buddha. Buddhism is in large measure an 'atheistic system'. We do not free ourselves from evil through the good that comes from God. We liberate ourselves only through detachment from the world, which is bad, the fullness of such a detachment is not union with God, but what is called 'Nirvana', a state of perfect indifference with regard to the world," the Pope says in his book.

The Archbishop played down the comments, implying it was more due to lack of knowledge of the religion than meant as an insult.

"What has, however, been written in the book in question, has to be taken in the context of the multiple religions that exist in the world. It is not possible and we do not expect, for example, a Buddhist or a member of any other religion to have the same concept or understanding of Jesus Christ or his teachings as we Christians have. Similarly, we, Catholics cannot have the same concept as Buddhists regarding Lord Buddha and his teachings. It is a question of perspective," the Archbishop said.

The statement comes as the government was finalising plans for the Pope's two day visit to Sri Lanka. The 74-year old pontiff will arrive on January 20th accompanied by an entourage of 23 officials. The Pope is due to meet leaders of other religions on the 21st morning before taking part in the beatification mass of Reverend Father Joseph Vae, the highlight of the tour.

The four Mahayana theras, who are the most important Buddhist religious leaders in the island, threatened to boycott the meeting with the Pope unless he apologises for his comments.

He directed the officials to take steps for repairing the non-operating tubewells installed by the BADC, different NGOs and farmers all over the country immediately.

Discussions also took place on the foodgrain supply and price situation in different areas of the country.

Agriculture Secretary M Akhtar Ali, Water Resources Secretary Mohammad Nazrul Islam and senior officials of departments concerned were present.

Task force

From Page 1 Col 8

minister urged the officials to ensure normal crop production in the forthcoming boro season.

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