

**Nat'l seminar on CHT begins**

The 3-day national seminar on "Experience in Development of Bangladesh Hill Districts" jointly organised by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and Special Affairs Division, began in the hill resort town of Rangamati, Chittagong yesterday, reports UNB.

The seminar aimed at sharing development experience in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, is being attended by local as well as foreign experts. It was formally inaugurated by former planning minister Dr Fasih Uddin Mahtab at Rangamati Parjatan Complex in the morning.

The inaugural session was also addressed by the Director General of the Nepal-based ICIMOD, Egbert Pelinck, Chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) and GOC Chittagong Maj Gen Mohammad Azizur Rahman and Secretary, Special Affairs Division, Dr Mohammad Fazul Hasaq Yusuf.

Speakers at the function called for international assistance and increased local investment for development of human resource and infrastructure in the Hill Tracts.

The seminar will share existing knowledge and review development experience in the CHT with other ICIMOD partners and open new vistas of collaboration.

Four papers on development imperatives, plant resources, land use and management of sustainable productivity were presented in the technical session of the opening day by local and foreign experts, including Dr Tej Portab of Nepal.



**Qulkhwani**

Qulkhwani of Azizus Samad will be held Friday after Magreb prayers at 147, Green Road, the residence of his youngest son Iftikher Aziz, says a press release.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend and pray for the salvation of the departed soul. Samad died of a massive heart attack on January 22 in the Suhrawardi Hospital in the city.

Late Azizus Samad was the founder of the Dhaka Fisheries Limited. He was the eldest son of renowned educationist late Abdus Samad of Kishoregonj. Azizus Samad was the father of four freedom fighters including Shaheed Lt. Ashfaqus Samad, Bir Uttam. He suffered torture in the hands of Pakistani occupation Army during the war of Liberation. He was the eldest brother of renowned journalist Ataus Samad and Atiqus Samad.

**Bangladeshi wins Tk 1.75 cr lottery in Australia**

Gulam Kibria, a former official of the Agricultural Extension Directorate, has won the first prize in Lotto Game 94-95 held in New South Wales in Austria late last year, says a press release.

Kibria, who hailed from Haidganj of Patia thana in Chittagong district, became the first Bangladeshi to win the first prize of Tk 1 75,40 633 (5,59,011 Australian dollars).

Kibria went to Australia with an immigrant visa mid last year.

**Exports to United States**

**Dhaka achieves commendable progress in last 2 yrs**

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh has achieved commendable progress in its export to the United States of America in the last two years.

Ichiro Roy Fuzita, chairman of the United States-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce (USBCC) told newsmen this at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

Dr Zahangir Sayem, founder-president of the USBCC and Kabir Newaz, producer and director of the Bangla Vision — a Bengali TV programme in the USA, also spoke.

Formed last year by a group of American business people with the aim to boost trade between USA and Bangladesh, the USBCC will organise trade show every year in the United States.

Roy Fuzita, a Japan-born US citizen, said that in 1993, Bangladesh exports to the United States totalled 886 million US dollar against its import bill of 245 million.

In the first nine month of 1994, according to the US Embassy in Bangladesh, he added, that export of Bangladesh garments and knitwear to US market increased by 13 per cent, seafood and fish by 22 per cent, jute goods by 32 per cent and surprisingly, sporting goods increased by 65 per cent.

Fuzita suggested businessmen to utilise Japan's experience for further expansion of the trade between the USA and Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh is emerging very fast despite its political unrest and disasters... we feel that Bangladesh is finally ready to become the member of a growing international trade market in the world", Fuzita said.

"After my arrival in Dhaka, my impression about Bangladesh has changed outright," he said.

Dr Zahangir Sayem said, USBCC has undertaken a number of programmes to help ex-

port trade between the two countries which include first Bangladesh trade show in the US in June this year, setting up of an export academy in Dhaka and providing business education to the entrepreneurs of Bangladesh.

"We have already contact with the University of Southern California in Los Angeles who agreed to provide experts and teachers to run the academy and the programme," said Dr Zahangir Sayem, the founder president of USBCC.

He further said the chamber would also set up two computer data base — one in Bangladesh and the other in the USA — to offer correct business information to entrepreneurs and businessmen in both the countries.

Dr Sayem informed that they were keeping contact with American-Bangladesh Economic Forum, BGMEA, FBCCI, EPB and also with the exporters of seafood.



Professor Jahanara Begum, State Minister for Cultural Affairs presenting gifts to Dilip Kumar, at a reception organised by the ministry at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

**'Task of an artist is to spread love'**

The task of an artist is to spread the message of goodwill and love, and work for promotion of amity and harmony, living legend of filmworld of this part of the world Dilip Kumar told a reception in the city accorded by Ministry of Cultural Affairs yesterday, reports BSS.

He said countries of this region — Bangladesh, Pakistan and his own country India — are not free from trouble and violence which can be witnessed even in far-away Chechnya but concerted efforts transcending national barriers could contribute to establishment of peace.

The famous actor, on the second day of his six-day private visit, was given the reception by the ministry at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahanara Begum presided.

Earlier, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahanara Begum said Dilip Kumar took a generation by storm and this impact remains unaffected even to this day.

**Call to make Ekushey Book Fair a success**

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangla Academy authorities, students and cultural organisation leaders yesterday urged all to make the Amar Ekushey Granthamela '95 (book fair) a success.

Leaders of different student and cultural organisations in a joint meeting with the academy authorities, held at the Bangla Academy premises in the city, took a number of decisions regarding the book fair, scheduled to begin February 1.

The meeting decided that indecent books, obscene posters of actors and actresses and illegally published foreign books would not be allowed at the fair.

Besides, offensive names for the stalls will also be forbidden, as will be loudspeakers and playing foreign music.

Unauthorised connections of electric lines in the stalls will be prohibited.

The meeting also decided not to allow any stalls along the roads from the TSC to Doel Chatter.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Abdul Wadud Khokon, Bahadur Bepari, A B M Mosharrar Hossain, Nurul Islam, Abdullahi Quyyum, Moshrefa Mishu, Hasan Arif, Jahangir Hossain, Salahuddin Badal, Utam Kumar Roy.



**Bureau chief election**

By Staff Correspondent


Khandawker Zahangir Alam of Dainik Jatiya Nishan and Muhammed Badal Chowdhury of Dainik Uttar Barta have been elected the President and Secretary General respectively of the Bureau Chief Council (BCF).

The election to the eight-member committee of the BCF, the organisation of the Dhaka bureau chiefs of the daily newspapers published from outside the capital, was held at the bureau office of Dainik Giritarpan Saturday.

Md Motaleb Hossain of Dainik Janmohumi and Md Harun-ur-Rashid Chowdhury of Dainik Natun Bangladesh have been elected the treasurer and organising secretary respectively.

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**Weather**

**Mild cold wave likely**

A mild to moderate cold wave is likely to sweep the regions of Dhaka, Tangail, Mymensingh, Rangpur and Bogra during the next 24 hours ending at 6 am tomorrow, reports UNB.

The Met Office said a mild to moderate cold wave is also prevailing over the regions of Rajshahi, Patna, Dinajpur and Sylhet.

It said that dry weather will, however, continue throughout the country during the period.

Yesterday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 25 degree Celsius and the minimum 8.2 degrees while the country's maximum temperature was recorded 26.2 degree Celsius in Cox's Bazar and the lowest 5.5 degrees in Ishwardi.

The sun sets today at 5:39 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42 am.

City/ Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity	
	Max	Min	Morning	Afternoon
Chittagong	24.3	11.2	70	52
Dhaka	25	9	78	
Birisd	24.6	9.4	86	42
Rajshahi	23.3	5.9	73	62
Jessore	34	8	78	48