

# Early warning system for stock markets recommended

By Staff Correspondent

An early warning system and watch dog vigilance over the stock markets are the most important things to protect the stock markets from shocks.

This was said, in a number of recommendations made by the recently concluded 10th South Asian Federation Accountants (SAFA) conference.

The recommendations of the conference were disclosed yesterday at a press briefing at a local hotel.

Briefing the journalists about the outcome of the conference the current SAFA President Jamal Uddin Ahmad said, as many as 27 recommendations have been emerged from the technical papers, commentaries and floor discussions at the conference on "Capital Market Development in the SAARC Region."

The two-day conference was held on 21-22 March last in Dhaka. President Abdur Rahman Biswas inaugurated the conference and over 450 delegates from SAARC countries attended.

At the conference four papers were presented by experts from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh explaining the important features of Capital Market Development in their respective countries.

Jamal Uddin Ahmad said, for the development of the stock markets, there should not be any difference between local and foreign investors. "Foreign investors are always welcomed but they should be treated as equal as the local investors in the capital market," he added.

The SAFA President and a member of the advisory committee of the securities and exchange commission also commented against the lock-in period system for the foreign investors in the stock market.

He said, in the event where local and foreign investors operate on the same footing, no lock-in period for foreign investors or for local investors would be necessary.

Habibur Rahman, the former SAFA president, Mozaffer Ahmed, secretary 10th SAFA conference committee, Anwaruddin Chowdhury and Anil Chandra Nath of the conference committee were also present.

The conference recommended to make the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) a fully autonomous and independent institutions, answerable to the people without any interference from the government.

# Three-way suggestions to solve Farakka crisis

Speakers at a seminar Saturday

underlined the need for ensuring Bangladesh's rightful shares of waters of the international rivers, as well as solving the staggering Farakka problem to save the country from desertification, reports UNB.

The seminar on "Farakka and Water Crisis" was held at the National Sports Council auditorium under the auspices of the Workers Party. Amal Sen, the Workers Party chief, presided over the discussion.

Describing the huge damages caused by the Farakka barrage, former Water Development Board Chairman Anjad Hossain Khan pointed out the adverse effects of

Farakka on Bangladesh. He said the major rivers of the country have been dried up, surface water has gone down creating a scarcity of drinking water, and different industries are facing closure.

Amjad suggested that Bangladesh should proceed in three ways to solve the problem: Long-term solution of Farakka and other rivers, regional and international solution, and taking pragmatic steps internally.

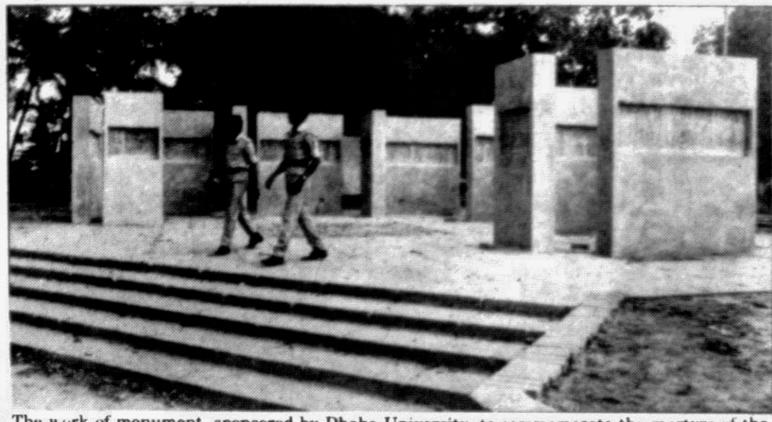
Referring to the Agriculture Minister's speech, Amjad said Bangladesh's estimated loss is Tk 11,300 crore since the Farakka barrage was built and commissioned by India.

# Centre for flood information opens May 2

The flood information centre of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) will start functioning from May 2 for disseminating day-to-day information about rainfall and river levels in the country, reports BSS.

It would normally remain open from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm and up to 6:00 pm under emergency situations.

The centre will be located at the 8th floor of WAPDA building, Motijheel, Dhaka. All interested parties have been requested to contact the centre at phone numbers 233118 (direct) or 457473 or 462 of PBX 831821-29 and 831841-55.



The work of monument, sponsored by Dhaka University, to commemorate the martyrs of the Language Movement and the War of Liberation is expected to be completed soon. The picture was taken on Saturday.

# Workshop on software industry held

By Staff Correspondent

Government is ready to extend full support for promoting export-oriented software industry in Bangladesh, State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan disclosed this at a workshop in the city yesterday.

The theme of the workshop was "Strategy Formulation for Software Industry of Bangladesh". The day-long workshop was organised by Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan addressed the inaugural function as special guest. Secretary of Science and Technology Ministry Dr Muihuddin Khan Alamgir, UNIDO Country Director G L Narasimhan and Executive Director of BCC also spoke on the occasion.

John Morrison, UNIDO consultant and Prakash Chandra Mishra of UNIDO presented papers on software industry in Bangladesh.

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury of BUET, Dr Lutfar Rahman of DU, A Y M Ahmed of IBCS Primax, Samudra E Haque of Pradeshta also took part in the discussion. Dr A M Sharifuddin presided over the first session.

The speakers said that due to lack of skilled manpower, BCC could not take part in any significant activity in the computer sector in the past. But with the initiative of Ministry of Science and Technology the activities of BCC had been diversified and strengthened.

# Assoc formed to feed information to UNHCR

A private non-profit organisation was floated in the city yesterday to act as an information advisory group to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on all matters related to refugees and migratory movements, reports UNB.

The organisation, Bangladesh Association for UNHCR, has been launched at a meeting chaired by Dr Kamal Hossain, President of Gano Forum.

It will engage in activities which include educational motivation to inform the Bangladeshis about the work of the UNHCR, to disseminate information on refugees and promote durable solutions of the problem.

Similar national associations are being formed in India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

# BARL new body

Following were elected office-bearers of the Bangladesh Amateur Radio League (BARL), the national society of radio amateur (HAM) in Bangladesh at its annual general meeting in the city Friday, says a press release.

Saif D Shahid — president; Iqbal Ahmed and Nasim Anwar — vice-presidents; Nizam Chowdhury — general secretary, Samudra Haque — assistant general secretary, Muneem Hossain Rama — treasurer.

# Maiden show

By Staff Correspondent

The first show of the drama 'Hoibadan', the fifth production of Natyayakendro will be held at the Mahila Sanity auditorium at 7 pm on Wednesday.

The drama, translated by Shonkha Gosh from the original by Girish Karnad will be directed by Toukir Ahmed, says a press release.

# What's on today...

**Talk on class struggle:** Shaheed Asad Parishad has organised a discussion on class struggle on the occasion of the May Day. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 10:00 am.

**Discussion on May Day:** Labour Directorate has organised a discussion on the occasion of the May Day. Venue: Shiphakala Academy. Time: 10:00 am. Chief guest: Minister for Labour and Manpower Mir Shawkat Ali.

**BFUW fair:** A *mela* (fair) organised by the Bangladesh Federation of University Women (BFUW) will be held. Venue: BPWC premises, 1, New Bailey Road. Time: From 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.

**German film show:** Chalachitram Film Society in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut has organised the German expressionist film session. Venue: New premises, German Cultural Centre, House 10, Road 9 (new), Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm. Today's film — The Cabinet of Dr Caligari. Film-maker: Robert Wiende.

**Children's painting contest:** A two-day painting competition for the children will begin. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts, DU. Time: 9:00 am. Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam Foundation, Kanika, has organised the competition on the occasion of the 66th birth anniversary of late Jahanara Imam.

**Cultural function:** On the occasion of the May Day, a cultural function organised by the Bangladesh Home-workers Women Association (BHW) will be held. Venue: BHW auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10:30 am.

**Russian film show:** The film — They Fought for Their Motherland — directed by S Bondarchuk will be held. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 6:00 pm.

**Photo show:** A joint photographic exhibition by Md Kamal Uddin and Abu Naser Siddique will open. Venue: La Galerie. Time: 5:00 pm. The show is open from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm everyday till May 7.

**Rotary Club of Ramna:** Regular Weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Seminar on diplomacy in S Asia:** Bangladesh Centre for Policy Research and Response (BCPRR) has organised a seminar on 'coercive diplomacy in South Asia'. Venue: Auditorium of the Institute of Modern Language, DU. Time: 4:45 pm.

**Theatre workshop concludes:** The concluding session of the Theatre Centre-sponsored workshop will conclude. Venue: Centre premises, 4, Green Square, Green Road. Time: 6:30 pm.

**Founding anniversary:** The 43rd founding anniversary of Central Khelaghar Asar will be held. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 4:30 pm.

# Star Entertainment Guide

**Monday 1st May**  
(All programmes in local time)

**4:00** Opening announcement: **4:10** Recitation from the Bible: **4:15** Cartoon film: Captain Planet and the Planet Rangers: **4:45** Tal-O-Chanda: **5:10** News in Bangla: **5:25** Nazrul songs: **5:50** Sports programme: **6:30** Shikhhangan: **7:00** Open University: **7:25** Antare-Antare: Musical Programme: **8:00** News in Bangla: **8:25** Documentary programme: Janmahume: **8:30** Janomat: Family Planning Programme: **9:00** Geetishatolal: **10:00** News in English: **10:30** Comedy Series: Murphy Brown: **11:00** Comedy series: Benson: **11:30** Khabar/The News: **11:40** Tomorrow's programme summary: **11:45** Closing.

**9:00am** BBC World News: **9:25** Time Out: **10:00** BBC Newsday: **1:00** BBC World News: **2:00** BBC World News: **2:25** On The Record: **3:00** BBC World News: **3:25** Time Out: **3:50** Spain On A Plate: **4:00** BBC Newsdesk: **4:00** BBC World Headlines: **5:05** Correspondent: **6:00** BBC Newshour: **7:00** BBC World News: **7:10** World Business Report: **8:25** Time Out: A Question of Sport: **9:00** BBC World News: **9:15** The Money Programme: **10:00** BBC World News: **10:25** Time Out: Tomorrow's World: **11:00** The World Today: **1:00** BBC World News: **1:05** The Money Programme: **2:00** BBC World News: **2:25** Time Out: Holiday: **3:00** World News: **3:25** World Business Report: **4:00** BBC World News: **4:25** World Business Report: **5:00** BBC World News: **5:25** Newsnight: **6:00** BBC World News: **6:25** World Business Report: **7:00** BBC World News: **7:25** World Business Report: **8:00** BBC World News: **8:25** World Business Report: **9:00** 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