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DSE MARKET

DSE price index: 1121.91 (+1.19%)
Market capital: 706.82 cr
Transactions in volume: 379134
Transactions in value: Tk. 6.82 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index: 468.77 (+1.09%)
Market capital: 4162.67 cr
Transactions in volume: 29189
Transactions in value: Tk. 6.82 cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



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NEWS BRIEFS

ALjt meet today

A joint meeting of the Bangladesh Awami League and its front organisations will be held today at the party central office at 23, Bangabandhu Avenue in the city at 11 a.m. AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman has requested all concerned to attend the meeting, a party press release said, reports BSS.

Admission procedure

All government and private colleges as well as madrassah this year will follow the same admission procedure of the last year. Marks obtained in all previous public examinations will be the only basis for admission into intermediate, degree and honours classes. Government, in this regard, has already issued a circular to all heads of the institutions, said an official handout yesterday, reports UNB.

2 electrocuted

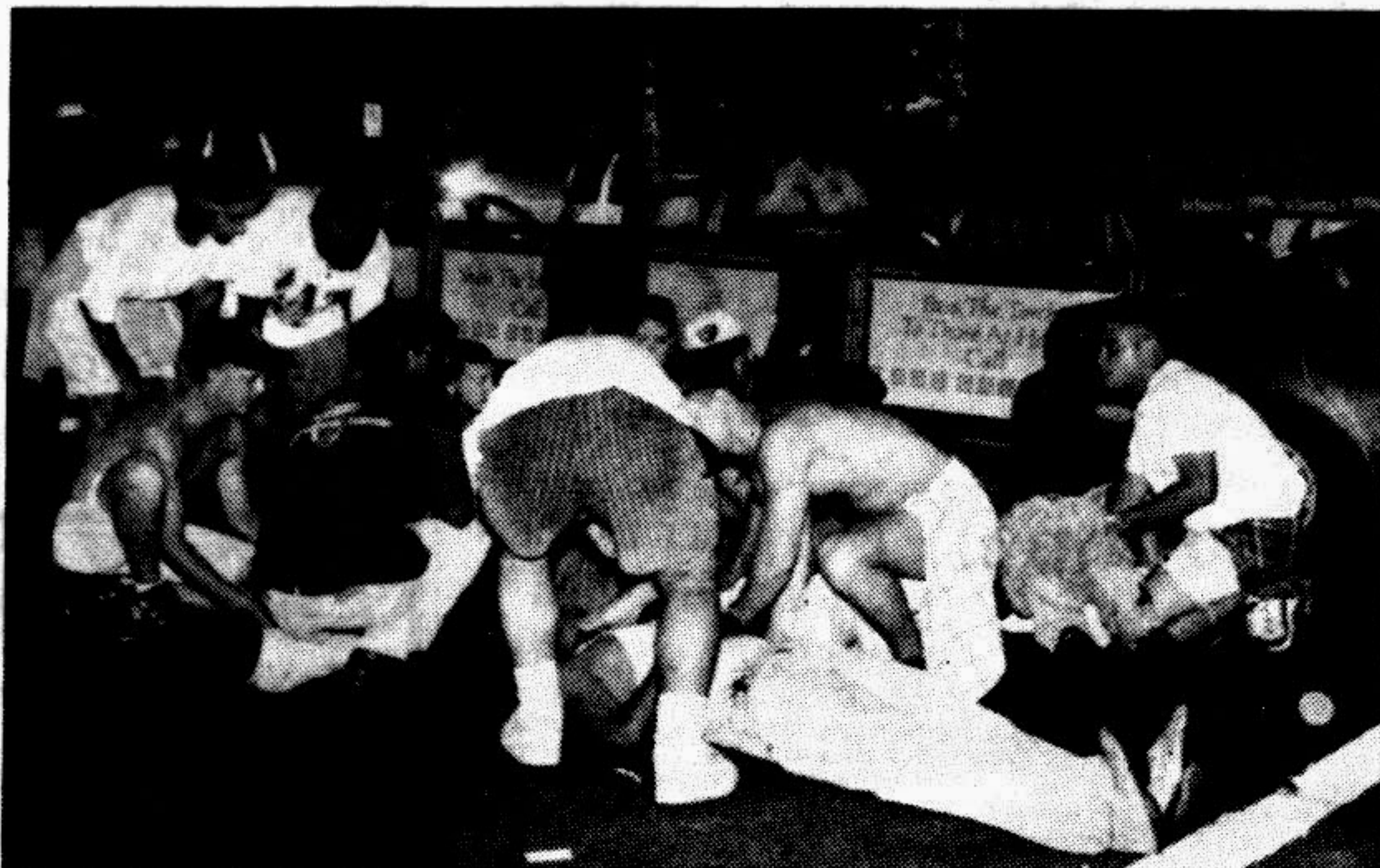
By Staff Correspondent
Two labourers were electrocuted while installing water pipelines at Pallabi in the city yesterday. One of the victims was identified as Yunus Miah, 30. The identity of the other, aged about 29 could not be known immediately, police said.

According to Police, the accident occurred when they touched an underground electric cable near plot No. 9 at about 12.30 pm.

Pedestrian succumbs to stab injuries

By DMC Correspondent
A pedestrian stabbed by muggers at Khilgaon Friday night died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday. Arenal, 40, was attacked by a gang of muggers at Khilgaon Chowdhury area at about 9.30 pm Friday. The muggers assaulted Arenal and also stabbed him when he refused to give them money.

Bomb rocks Atlanta: Two die



Victims of the blast are attended to by medics after an explosion rocked Centennial Park, build for visitors to the Olympic Games in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, early yesterday.

— AFP/UNB photo

ATLANTA, July 27: A pipe bomb in a park killed two people and injured 110 today in a bloody attack on revelers at the Atlanta Olympics which US President Bill Clinton condemned as an "evil act of terror", report agencies.

It was the worst attack on the Olympics since 11 Israeli athletes were killed by Palestinian guerrillas at the Munich Games in 1972.

"We will spare no effort to find out who was responsible for this murderous act. We will track them down. We will bring them to justice," a grim-looking Clinton said in a statement at the White House.

The explosion happened as thousands of people were visiting the Centennial Park, especially built for the Olympic Games which were opened last week by President Bill Clinton.

FBI spokesman Woody Johnson said police were trying to clear the area when the bomb went off.

He added that the bomb had been hidden in a paper bag near a stage in the park where a rock group was performing.

Another jail escapee arrested in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 27: Selim Haider, one of the 13 escapees from Dhaka Central Jail was arrested by Kotwali thana police this evening.

According to police, he sought shelter in the house of Asaduzzaman Litu, Commissioner of Ward No-24. But the Ward Commissioner who is a leader of Jubo League, refused to give shelter to the fugitive.

The jail escapee who was serving ten years' RI for murder and facing trial in another murder case was bound for Benapole for going to Calcutta tomorrow.

Police said he was caught at Nirala residential area at about 7 pm near the ward commissioner's residence.

The fugitive hails from village Kushangol under Nalchity PS of Jhalakati district, police said.

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Govt to ensure political order for successful economic drive: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would ensure political order to initiate a successful drive in the economic arena, reports UNB.

"My government is determined to provide this much-needed conducive political order based on the principles of rule of law and capable of gaining strength over time through broad consensus on governance," she told an international seminar.

"At the same time," the Prime Minister assured, "We are committed to pursuing continuity and stability in economic policies so that the best can be made out of the conducive political order."

The three-day seminar on "Learning from East Asia: Lessons for South Asia" has been arranged at a local hotel by the Centre for Policy Dialogue, a local think-tank, to discuss the factors contributing to a rapid development in

the East Asian states.

Pointing at the economic miracle of the East Asian countries, Hasina said while evaluating the growth experienced in these countries, more often than not, an emphasis is placed on the conducive effects of political stability.

Frequently, the Prime Minister said, such a stability is taken as a synonym of socio-political status quo or continuance of a power-that-be at the seat of power of the state.

"On the contrary, learning one hard way in our country over the last 21 years, we have come to believe the basis of stability is rule of law, assurance of personal freedom and respect for democratic rights, values and institutions and not continuance of the status quo that may be wrought raw and hard on the society by a coercive drawing power from muscle, conceit and white terror."

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Budget today

By Staff Correspondent

The national budget for fiscal 1996-97 will be announced today with an estimated revenue earning of about Taka 17000 crore and expenditure of about Taka 12000 crore.

This will be the first budget of the Awami League government which came to power last month after 21 years.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria will present the budget at the Jatiya Sangsad at 3 pm. An official announcement said. The budget speech of the finance minister will be telecast and broadcast live from the Sangsad, the announcement said.

The finance minister earlier indicated that the budget would reflect Awami League's pledges made in its election manifesto and put emphasis on agriculture and export-oriented industry sectors. He had said that subsidy would be given to the agriculture sector.

It is expected that the budget would aim at achieving a GDP growth rate of six per cent.

Announce pay commission soon: Khaleda

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday demanded immediate announcement of pay commission for workers and employees, reports UNB.

She also demanded reopening of mills and factories, which were closed recently, in the greater national interest and for enabling the workers earn their bread and butter.

Begum Zia was addressing leaders of different units of BNP's labour front Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal at the party's Kakrali office in the city last night.

The BNP chairperson urged the government to protect the industries by maintaining stability in the industrial belt.

She blamed the ruling party workers' wing for occupying CBA and Sramik Dal offices in different parts of the country. She alleged that the elected

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Flood may hit more areas in Dhaka, adjoining dists

Flood situation in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Shariatpur and Madaripur districts took an alarming turn yesterday following rise of water above danger marks in the major rivers, report agencies.

According to Flood Information Centre, the low-lying areas of the capital have already been flooded while more areas in and around Dhaka and Narayanganj may be inundated soon.

The Dhaka-Aricha highway may go under water at several points.

Vast tracts of low-lying areas around the capital, including Mirpur in the northwest, Rampura and Madartek in the east and Kamrangirchar have

already been inundated by the flood water.

Flood situation in Daulatpur, Shibbalay, Ghior, Harirampur and Sadar thanas of Manikganj and Nawabganj, Keraniganj, Dohar, Savar and Dhamrai thanas of Dhaka district worsened further for the rise of water level in the river Buriganga.

The Turag, in the same basin, recorded further rise by 4 cm at Mirpur and by 4 cm at Tongi and the river was flowing 23 cm above its danger mark at Mirpur inundating vast areas.

Flood Information Centre's bulletin said light to heavy rainfall had been recorded at most places over the country with very heavy fall at one or

two places aggravating overall flood situation in the affected areas.

The situation in Shibbar and Sadar thanas of Madaripur district and Jajira, Noria and Vederganj, Goshaighat and Sariatpur sadar of Sariatpur district will deteriorate.

But the situation in Munshiganj, Goallunda, Pangsha and Rajbari sadar of Rajbari district, Charbhadrasan and Sadarpur of Faridpur, and Narshingdi, Khishoreganj, Comilla and Brahmanbaria districts remained unchanged.

The flood situation in the northern districts like Bogra, Sherpur, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Tangail and areas outside Pabna Irrigation Project in

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News Analysis: BIRDEM affair-II Putting up of Bangabandhu's portrait

By Mahfuz Anam

Yesterday we concentrated on the issue of formation of a three member committee and its implication for the future of BIRDEM. Today we want to analyse another incident that occurred at the same time and at the same place which is also likely to impact the future operations of that publicly claimed institution. We are referring to the putting up of Bangabandhu's picture in BIRDEM premises.

We would like to raise three questions concerning what happened. 1. What is the status of private institutions as far as obeying government order re-

garding whose photo to put up, and whose to not? 2. Employee associations, trade unions or similar bodies using Bangabandhu's picture as a means to score political points with the ruling party to gain favour. 3. What is a proper conduct of a government servants, and how far he can, or should, go in fulfilling the political agenda of the government that he serves?

As for the first question, it is clear to all that no government (even with the flimsiest of democratic credentials), however popular and powerful has the right, or any legal ba-

sis, to ask any private body to put up pictures of any leader. It has been confirmed to us it was far from the desire of the government to forcibly put up of Bangabandhu's picture in any private buildings, and that the Prime Minister had absolutely no idea that this was being done at BIRDEM. She is reportedly embarrassed and angry at what has occurred. So the question is whose idea was it? As a seasoned, and a well respected civil servant Mr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir knew well how far applicable a government order is for private institutions.

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JCD-BCL clash in JN Varsity: Two injured

By Staff Correspondent

At least two students of the Jagannath University in the city were injured in a clash between the activists of the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday.

The two identified as Kamal Hossain, 25, and Mehedi Hasan, 25, reportedly belonging to BCL were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

They are the second year students of the Department of Philosophy.

According to police and witnesses, several bottles were exploded during the half an hour clash that began on the campus at about 2 pm. Chase and counter chase between the rival groups created panic in the area.

'All party' meet at DMC Cases filed by rivals to be withdrawn by July 31

By Staff Correspondent

An "all-party meeting" at the Dhaka Medical College yesterday decided to withdraw by July 31 all cases against their respective student activists filed by rivals in connection with the July 10 incident to restore normalcy on the campus.

The meeting, held with principal of the college, Prof A B M Ahsanullah in the chair at his office was attended by leaders of the Dhaka Medical College Students Union (DMCSU) and all the student organisations at the college, said a press release signed by Prof Ahsanullah.

The leaders present at the meeting included Touhidul Islam John and Mohammad Nu-

ruzzaman Khan Ghoshur Vice-President and General Secretary respectively of the DMCSU, Mohammad Moshikur Rahman Bitu and Mohammad Anwarul Huq, president and general secretary of the DMC unit of Chhatra League, Mohammad Redanul Islam and Ashrafur Alam Nishu, convener and joint convener of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the press release said.

Meeting sources told The Daily Star that the administration of the college made it clear to the student leaders that the future elections to the students union in the college could be held if normalcy was restored and examinations

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5 killed in Sylhet bus collision

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 27: Five persons were killed on the spot and 50 injured, 10 of them seriously, in a head-on collision between two buses at Brahmanashan on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway today.

Of the injured persons 35 have been admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, according to official sources.

A passenger bus from Sylhet was on its way to Srimangal when it collided at about noon with another Sylhet-bound bus from Habiganj.

As both the vehicles were in high speed, those fell on roadside low lands, causing death of five people on the spot.

Of the dead only one has so far been identified as Mubashwir Ali, 32, of village Chintamani under Balaganj thana.

Body to probe import of 'rotten rice'

A two-member enquiry committee headed by retired Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman has been formed to probe the allegations that some quantity of rice imported by the Food Ministry in the fiscal year 1994-95 and 1995-96 were rotten and unfit for eating, reports BSS.

A FID handout said yesterday different quarters had raised the allegations that some quantity of rice imported by the Food Ministry in 1994-95 and 1995-96 were rotten and unsuitable for human consumption.

The other member of the committee is Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Khan Amir Ali.

The committee will submit its report to the Food Ministry within one month.



The number of doctors at the children's department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital outdoor is too inadequate to cope up with the increasing number of patients.

— Star photo

Liberalisation policy Right in present context: Saifur Too fast for us: Kibria

Former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman argued he was right in liberalising fast the trade regime, but his successor contradicted the claim as 'too fast' for the country, reports UNB.

In an encounter at an international seminar in Dhaka yesterday Saifur said the only way to make competitive the industry in the current context of the world trade, is to allow it to face competitions from the products coming from outside.

But the present Finance Minister, Shah AMS Kibria, countermanded the concept, saying that Bangladesh, unlike India and Pakistan, was too fast to open up its trade regime,

particularly imports. He said many of the newly industrialised countries like Malaysia and Singapore carried out their reforms with due deliberation, not in one go, but taking time, allowing their domestic industry to cope with the situation.

"But we rushed into it (import liberalisation)," Kibria said. As a result he pointed out, many of the country's industrial units collapsed. "Many of them would have survived if the government had allowed two or three years."

The finance minister preferred to go "more carefully" in liberalising domestic market considering the progress of other South Asian countries,

particularly India.

"I am not in favour of protectionism, but I am also not in favour of destruction of the domestic industry with cheap foreign imports," he told the seminar on Learning from East Asia: Lessons for South Asia.

Kibria, who spent about a decade in Thailand as head of a United Nations regional body, observed that the economies in the East Asian countries, which witnessed tremendous growth in recent years, were nurtured by restrictive regimes.

While Saifur Rahman attributed the success of East Asian nations mainly to their

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Pro-active media role to prevent ecological damage stressed

From M Anwarul Haq

cutting ceremonies participated by VIPs," said a South Asian journalist echoing the sentiments of the workshop participants.

Dr Sumit Yodmani, UNEP director for Asia and Pacific said "A well informed public is the key to good environmental citizenship."

Commenting on the workshop recommendations, Yang Mao, a seminar environmental journalist observed: "The biggest story in Asia and Pacific is the environment and development story. As pollution soars, people are worried about their future and the media has a duty to inform the public about ways to curb pollution."

Workshop participants stressed the need for a pro-active role of the media to help in the challenging battle against environmental degradation and ecological disaster and make the Asian region a better and safer place to live in.

Zhang Kunmin of China's NEPA said, "The government of China wants to work with people all over the world to curb pollution."

Here in Beijing serious, campaign against pollution is in progress and even smoking in many public places in the Chinese capital has been banned.

The participants suggested improving training of journalists, exploring ways to use new technology and gather information on development.

and development.

Newspapers' involvement in public campaigns like that carried out by South Korean daily Dong on Clean Water Search and Bangladesh's Daily Star on 'Save Dhaka' were cited at the workshop.

The participants were later taken to Liu Minyang, a model eco-village in Daxing County, outside Beijing.

The workshop was attended by mediemen from Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and Thailand.



LATEST FROM ATLANTA

Supermum Hattestadt

ATLANTA, July 27 (AFP): When you're just back from maternity leave, it's best to try and save your strength and ask Trine Hattestadt. The Norwegian supermum, who had to be persuaded not to take part in the World Championships last year when she was five months pregnant, took just one throw on Friday to qualify for the javelin finals. The 30-year-old unleashed her opening effort to 64.52m before packing up her bags and heading for the exit with a huge smile on her face. "It took a little longer than I expected to get back into shape but I feel great now," she beamed. The 1993 world champion, whose son Robin is now seven months old, was the only athlete to qualify with her first throw.