

UNAB discussion on WFUNA held

The United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) held a discussion in support of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) World Congress at the UNAB office in the city on Thursday, reports BSS.

Syed Ahmad Hossain, Secretary-General of UNAB, was the main speaker while advocate Quamrul Islam, Prof Ratsuddin Ahmed, advocate Mollah Moqbul Hossain, Rafiqul Islam and Advocate Paleta Parmeen took part in the discussion.

Syed Ahmad Hossain in his speech urged the United Nations to chalk out more programmes for poverty alleviation, eradication of illiteracy, disease and hunger for establishing a lasting and durable peace in the world.

Installation ceremony

By Staff Correspondent

The Rotary and the Rotaract Clubs of Dhaka Rosevale held their first installation ceremony, in which the club's Charter was also presented, yesterday at the ICMA auditorium, in the city.

In his speech, the chief guest, Mahbubuzaman said that although Rotary movement started back in 1905, women were allowed to become members only from 1987 onwards. They had to struggle hard to achieve this success, he added.

The ceremony was attended by prominent Rotarians, Rotaracts and Rtn M Ali Mahbub, PHF as special guest and Oberlin Huq as guest of honour.

Water-logging in city Authorities urged to solve problem immediately

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) yesterday demanded that authorities solve the problems of water-logging and traffic jam in the city on an urgent basis, reports UNB.

In a press release, it said water-logging and traffic jam cause a lot of suffering for the people.

CAB pointed out that traffic jam is a regular feature in the city, particularly in Maligab, Shantinagar, Motijheel, Mirpur, Gulistan, Shajhanpur and Sonargaon Hotel crossing.

It suggested removal of stagnant water by fire brigade until a permanent solution was found.



Members of Salman Shah Fan Club brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding proper investigation into the filmstar's death. — Star photo

'Zainul's famine sketches protest man's inhumanity to man'

Speakers at the publication ceremony of a folio, containing 16 drawings of the 1943 famine, by Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin on Thursday said that his works have proved timeless and would continue to appeal to all, transcending geographical barriers and evoking deepest emotions, reports BSS.

They said the efforts by some to devalue the works by the late artist had already proved to be in vain and that Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin's brush had made him immortal.

They described the late painter as among a few Bangladeshis who have glorified Bangladesh by their deeds.

Zainul's works, they said, have the universality of appeal to all, irrespective of colour and creed, as they depict the stark reality of helplessness of human beings created by fellow human beings and at the same time he bold protests against the wrongs.

Begum Jahanara Abedin widow of the great painter, was the chief guest, while the speakers included artists Qaiyum Chowdhury, Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam and Prof Khan Sarwar Murshed, at the publication ceremony held at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium. It was chaired by Prof Kabir Chowdhury.

Reproductions of 16 of Zainul's sketches of the 1943 famine in black and white, on art paper in black and white, have been brought out by the Shilpakala Academy, 53 years after the originals were drawn, to popularise them across Bangladesh, said the Academy functionaries.

The Shilpakala academy said that the folio had been priced at Tk 100 but at Thursday's launching they were sold at a special price of Tk 80 per folio.

They said that it was an honour for the Shilpakala Academy to publish the folio containing the sketches that earned Zainul Abedin instant worldwide fame when he drew them, pained by the man-made famine in 1943.

The cover illustration of the 12 50 inches by 9 50 inches folio has been done by Qaiyum Chowdhury a former student of Zainul Abedin.

Begum Jahanara Abedin thanked Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy for bringing out the folio at a low price to make available the works of Zainul Abedin to all in Bangladesh.

She said that although Zainul drew the sketches after witnessing the distressed humanity on the streets of the city of Calcutta, it was the picture of the famine-afflicted Bengal of 1943.

Qaiyum Chowdhury said Zainul intimately knew the rural life of Bangladesh as he grew up in a village of Kishoreganj before moving to Calcutta to study painting.

He said before gaining worldwide fame for depicting the harrowing pictures of the 1943 famine, Zainul earned fame across the subcontinent by winning an all-India painting award.

He said Zainul actually drew between 20 to 22 sketches on the famine, being touched by the daily occurrence of deaths due to lack of food.

Qaiyum Chowdhury said that in those days of scarcity, Zainul drew the original sketches on packing paper in Chinese ink on paper.

Zainul drew famine in black and white, he said, because he knew that colour could not correctly depict the harsh reality of the colour less life of the poverty stricken people of Bengal of the time.

Qaiyum Chowdhury said Zainul drew the figures of the famine-stricken people longer, denying his academic knowl-

edge, to portray the harsh reality of the skeletons to which many people were reduced.

Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam recalled his association with the late Shilpacharya since 1945 and the inborn simplicity of the great painter.

Zainul depicted the stark reality of hunger, death and helplessness of human being he said, adding, from the famine of 1943 to the catastrophic cyclone of 1970 the works of the great painter are living protests of man's wrongs against man.

Prof Khan Sarwar Murshed said Zainul Abedin used the brush with great love for the common people.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury described Zainul as among a few Bangladeshis who glorified Bangladesh.

Prof Chowdhury said Zainul was heart and soul a Bangalee and that the opportunity to take pride in 'Bangaliness' had come back again after a long break.

A famished mother wailing before her lifeless daughter, other famished parents with their equally famished children with no hope of getting food, crows feeding on the corpse of a lifeless man and a dog trying to get food from a nearby dustbin, a famished and half-clad woman and a crow waiting with no hope of food are among the sketches included in the folio.

Subir Chowdhury, Director, Fine Arts, Shilpakala Academy, said the Academy had published a book on the works of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin in 1977, the year after his death.

Chowdhury said the book, which had since gone out of print, remains an invaluable publication for the students of art colleges.

He said the Shilpakala Academy would soon arrange to bring out the second edition of the book with certain additions.

'Pregnancy-related deaths in Bangladesh highest in S Asia'

Speakers at a workshop in the city yesterday said socio-economic rights of women, including their right to education and health, are still being neglected in the country, violating human rights, reports UNB.

Safe motherhood is very important but highly neglected, they said adding that reproductive health of women is almost absent in the society.

"In our society, women's opinion about pregnancy and child birth are not recognised by both family and the society. She is not the controller of her own body," said Dr Makhduma Nargis Ratna, in her key-note paper presented at the workshop.

The workshop on "Situation of Maternal Mortality, Morbidity and Women's Reproductive Rights in Bangladesh" was organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at the Business and Professional Women's Club in the city.

Dr Ratna said women's basic rights like health and education will remain neglected unless their position in family and society is improved and their empowerment and integration in the mainstream ensured.

Referring to maternal mortality, she said pregnancy-related deaths in Bangladesh are about the highest in South Asia as per the UNDP Human Development Report '95.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, some 600 mothers per 100,000 die of pregnancy in Bangladesh as against 460 in India and 500 in Pakistan.

She feared that the figure for pregnancy-related deaths may be more than 600 as the country lacks birth registration and trained birth attendants for the care of the lower-middle class pregnant women.

Dr Ratna said the pregnancy-related deaths were

BCAS seminar on constructed wetlands held

By Staff Correspondent

A seminar on 'constructed wetlands' was held in the city on Thursday under the auspices of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), according to a press release.

Dr M Nuttal, environment consultant to the Inland Water Transport Project, in his keynote paper highlighted the issues of low cost, low maintenance systems for the treatment of industrial, domestic and agricultural waste water in the country.

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Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Procurement of Gas Pipeline Materials under Cash Foreign Exchange

Date of Issuance of IFB: 19th September, 1996

1. Sealed Bids are invited from the bonafide manufacturers or their authorised agents for supply of Gas Pipeline Materials as listed below under Cash Foreign Exchange:

Sl. No.	IFB No.	Description of Materials	Cost of Tender Document	Bid Closing Date
1.	PD.2312/370-T&P	Polyethylene Tape & Primer	Tk. 1,500.00 or US\$ 35.00	28th Oct '96.
2.	PD. 2312/370-TM.	Turbine Type Gas Meter.	Tk.1,500.00 or US\$ 35.00	28th Oct '96.
3.	PD.2312/370-RM	Rotary Type Gas Meter.	Tk.1,000.00 or US\$ 23.00	29th Oct '96.
4.	PD.2312/370-DM.	Diaphragm Type Gas Meter.	Tk.1,500.00 or US\$ 35.00	29th Oct '96.
5.	PD.2312/370-REG.	Gas Pressure Regulator.	Tk. 1,500.00 or US\$ 35.00	30th Oct '96.
6.	PD. 2312/370-PV	Plug Valve.	Tk. 1,000.00 or US\$ 23.00	30th Oct '96
7.	PD.2312/370-FIK.	Flange Insulating Kit.	Tk. 250.00 or US\$ 6.00	31st Oct '96.
8.	PD.2312/370-SBN.	Stud Bolts & Nuts.	Tk. 500.00 or US\$ 11.00	31st Oct '96.

2. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Deputy General Manager (Purchase) at the above address.

3. Tender documents may be purchased by any interested bidder or their authorised representative upon payment of the cost of respective documents from Accounts Department of this Company at the above address from 09.00 hrs. to 13.00 Hrs. on all working days with effect from 28th September '96. Copy of Money Receipt evidencing purchase of Tender Documents is to be furnished with the bid. No document will be sold on the bid closing date.

4. All bids accompanied by a bid security for 2.5% of bid amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled Bank located in Bangladesh or Bank Guarantee issued by a scheduled Bank in Bangladesh or from any reputable foreign bank, duly endorsed by a scheduled Bank in Bangladesh must be delivered to Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd., at the above address on or before 11:00 hrs of the closing date of the respective IFB. The bids will be opened on the same day at 11:15 hrs in presence of bidders, if any. Should this day happens to fall on any holiday, bids shall be opened at the same hours on the first subsequent working day.

5. The company reserves the right to accept any bid or reject all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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BN passing-out parade held

The passing-out parade of a batch of new entry sailors of the Bangladesh Navy was held at BNS Shaheed Moazzam in Kaptai on Thursday, says a press release.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam reviewed the smartly-turned out parade and took salute at the impressive march past. He also distributed trophies and certificates among the outstanding sailors.

Speaking on the occasion, the Navy Chief called upon them to translate into practice the valuable training they obtained from the institute and to discharge their duties properly in future. Admiral Islam also directed them to achieve high standards of professional competence through continuous training, discipline and honesty in all spheres of life to build themselves as worthy sailors.

In the parade, MS Hossain OD/UT was adjudged the best all round new entry sailor in Seamanship Class and was awarded the Mahabub Cup, while B Khastagir ME-II/UT claimed the Cup of the Chief of Naval Staff securing top position in the technical branch.

The spectacular passing-out was witnessed, among others, by senior naval officers, sailors and some guardians of the new entry sailors.

Registration of village doctors demanded

Health and family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday said that government was considering formulation of a national health and drug policy, reports BSS.

"We are taking time because such a policy was announced earlier but did not yield any positive result," he said while addressing a function commemorating the martyrdom of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Institution of Engineers in the city yesterday.

Organised by Bangladesh Village Doctors Welfare Association, the function was also addressed by Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Secretary, Health and Environment Affairs of Bangladesh Awami League, Dr Zakir Hossain, director, Primary Health Care, Dr Mazharul Islam, former Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University and Dr Abdul Haque, secretary general of the association. Dr Abdus Sattar, president of the association chaired the function.

Referring to the demands of the village doctors, the health minister said the government would examine their demands and try to redress those problems.

Dr Abdus Sattar urged the government to give registration to the village doctors and allow them to store medicine worth Tk 20 thousand in their pharmacy.

BDA installation ceremony held

The installation ceremony of the newly elected executive council of Bangladesh Dental Association (BDA) was held at a city hotel yesterday, reports UNB.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary General of Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association (BPMPPA), Dr C M Dilwar Rana stressed on dental health care for ensuring general health care of the people.

Principal Information Officer Maqbul Ahmed urged the mediamen, particularly the electronic media, to play an important role in creating mass awareness on proper dental care as in most cases, people's negligence or ignorance is responsible for bad dental health.

Presided over by BDA President Dr A Hassan, the function was also addressed by its General Secretary Dr Mustafizur Rahman.

Obituary

Moslehuiddin Khan, a retired government official and father of Mujahidul Islam Khan Selim, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), died in the city yesterday. He was 87, reports BSS.

Khan is survived by his widow, one son and seven daughters. His sons-in-law include eminent banker Ahsanul Huq, and labour leader Marjuru Ahsan Khan and former leftist student leader and assistant editor of the daily Bhorer Kaganj Abdul Quayyum Mukul.

His Namaz-e-Janaza held at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque after the Jumma prayers, was attended by a large number of political figures including Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed.

Khan was later buried at the family graveyard at Savar.

Qukiwani of Khan will be held at his residence at 2/3 Naya Paltan (opposite Fakir-erpool water tank) after Asr prayers on Monday.

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