



**Birth anniversary of Vivekananda today**

Vivekananda Shiksha and Sangskriti Parishad will celebrate the 134th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda today. The programmes include prayer at 6.30 am, rally for harmony at 10.00 am from the sculpture of Swami Vivekananda in Jagannath Hall. A discussion meeting will be held at 3.00 pm in Public Library auditorium Prof AK Azad Chowdhury Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University will inaugurate the meeting.

Foreign Minister of Abdus Samad Azad will be the chief guest. Srimat Swami Aksharanandaji Maharaj will be the honourable guest. Prof Duragadas Bhattacharya, Provost of Jagannath Hall, DU Prof Enamul Haque of BUET will be the special guests.

**Reunion of '70-71 BCL committee Tuesday**

A reunion of the central leaders of the 1970-71 committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Swadhin Bangla Chhatra Sangram Parishad will be held at 3 pm on Tuesday at the Gulshan residence of the committee president Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui, reports UNB.

The reunion at Road 50, House 12, Gulshan-2 will be followed by an Iftar party.

In a statement yesterday, former BCL president Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui and former general secretary Shahjahan Siraj requested members of the 1970-71 central committee to attend the function.

The meeting will discuss the glorious and historic role of the student community in the struggle for independence and the Liberation War.

All concerned may contact Ekramul Haq (Tel: 9553574), MA Rashid (Tel: 9335136) and reunion coordinator Sharif Nurul Ambia (Tel: 507252 Res. or 955972 Office).

**Ershad's release on bail concerns HR bodies**

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of four human rights organisations Thursday expressed their surprise at what they said, the speedy process of obtaining bail by former president Ershad since the formation of Awami League, Jatiya Party and JSD (Rob) government of national consensus. "It is true that quick disposal of cases is one of the pertinent objectives of the rule of law. But it appears to us that the prosecution did not oppose as strongly as it was supposed to do against bail prayers by Ershad, accused in corruption cases, which may lead to apprehension about neutrality of the judicial system among the people," they said.

They added that they did not observe the same agility by the prosecution in disposing of cases of other citizens as in the case of Ershad.

Besides, during the reign of Ershad, a number of students, workers and peasants were killed in police firing while struggling for democracy. Specific cases were filed in these connections in different police stations. But those complaints are yet to be disposed off. Even the government, like its predecessor BNP government, remained unconcerned and silent on the fate of these cases," the human rights leaders said.

They demanded publication of a list of the 'slain workers of the democratic struggle during Ershad regime and progress of their cases as well as speedy disposal of them.

The statement was issued by Dr Kamal Hossain of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Adilur Rahman of Odhikar, Luftar Rahman Shahjahan of Jatiya Ainjibi Parishad and Saira Rahman of Ain-o-Salish Kendra.

**Bangladesh envoys in Sweden meet trade minister**

The Bangladesh Ambassador in Sweden, Syed Noor Hossain, met Swedish Minister of Trade Bjorn Von Sydow yesterday, according to a message received here, reports UNB.

During the meet in the Swedish capital of Stockholm, the Bangladesh ambassador briefed the minister about various positive developments that have taken place in Bangladesh under the new government.

The ambassador discussed with the trade minister about ways and means of further promoting economic relation between the two countries.

He upheld the investment climate in Bangladesh and urged the trade minister to send a delegation businessmen and investors to Bangladesh.



Visiting British Prime Minister John Major called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

**'Govt firm to ensure education for all'**

The present government is determined to eradicate illiteracy and ensure education for all within the next 10 years, reports UNB.

State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharraf said this while addressing a gathering of guardians of Zhiakatola Primary School in the city yesterday morning, on the occasion of Primary Education Week '97.

"Development of a country depends on its rate of literacy", the state minister said adding that education is essential to build a happy and prosperous country.

Later, the state minister visited the exhibition stalls at the school.

**President tells British PM Scope for increasing bilateral trade exists**

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed hoped the historical ties between Bangladesh and Britain would further strengthen in future through enhanced mutual cooperation, specially in trade and investment, reports UNB.

He was talking to visiting British Prime Minister John Major when the latter made a courtesy call on the President at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Welcoming the British Prime Minister, President Shahabuddin observed his visit is a testimony to this relationship. "Bangladesh attaches great importance to her relations with Britain," he said.

President Shahabuddin expressed satisfaction over the growth of bilateral trade between the two countries, saying there is scope for further increase in the flow of trade between the two countries.

He expressed the hope that British investors would take positive steps in investing in Bangladesh. He referred to various policies undertaken by the government to attract foreign direct investment.

The President mentioned the strong support extended by the government, political leaders and the people of the United Kingdom during the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

President Shahabuddin conveyed his deep esteem through the prime minister, for her majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The British premier thanked the president for receiving him. He observed that the parliamentary election in Bangladesh was held properly and the economic programme of the new government is going on well.

John Major said he was happy to visit Bangladesh when the country was celebrating the 25th anniversary of its independence. British High Commissioner in Bangladesh David C Walker, secretary to the President Mohammad Enamul Haq and high civil officials of both the countries were present on the occasion.

**Nepalese asstt minister meets Mozammel**

The visiting Nepalese Assistant Minister for Women and Social Welfare, Duryodhan Singh, yesterday called on State Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs Dr. Mozammel Hossain at his secretariat office, reports UNB.

They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest with particular reference to organisational structure and functioning of the family courts in Bangladesh.

Dr. Mozammel Hossain apprised the Nepalese assistant minister of various steps taken by the present government for protecting rights and privileges of women. Violence against women is a global problem, he added.

Bangladesh has already taken some steps against repression on women and it also needs regional cooperation for taking measures against women and child trafficking, the state minister observed.

Duryodhan is accompanied by Khim Raj Nepal and Bhupendra Poudyal, joint secretary and secretary of women and social welfare ministry of Nepal respectively.

Nepalese Assistant Minister for Women and Social Welfare Duryodhan Singh called on State Minister for Law Abdul Matin Khasru at the latter's office in the city.

During the call on, the Nepali Minister showed keen interest to know about the family court including existing laws regarding protection of women rights in Bangladesh.

The law minister apprised Duryodhan about the laws of the country to protect women rights including the dowry prohibition act.

**Court timings during Ramadan**

The Chief Justice of Bangladesh has fixed a new time schedule for the High Court Division and all subordinate civil courts and their offices during the month of Ramadan, a Supreme Court press release said in Dhaka Wednesday, reports BSS.

According to the new schedule, the High Court Division will be in session from 10:30 am to 3:15 pm with a 45-minute break from 1:15 pm from Sunday to Thursday.

The offices of the High Court Division will work from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm with a break for 30 minutes beginning at 1:30 pm. The offices will also remain open on Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm without break.

The civil courts will be in session from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm with a 30-minute break beginning at 1:30 pm from Saturday to Wednesday. The court will operate from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm without break on Thursday.

The offices of the civil court will work from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm with a 30-minute break from 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm from Saturday to Wednesday. The offices will remain open on Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm without break.

**Training course on roof gardening**

A three-day training course on 'Roof Gardening' organised by Department Youth Development began at Jubo Bhaban in the city yesterday, reports UNB. State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader inaugurated the course with DG Fazlul Haq in the chair. Youth and Sports Secretary ASM Shahjahan attended the function as special guest.

**Shilpakala Academy meeting**

The 58th meeting of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Council was held yesterday with State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting appreciated the government's decision allocating one care of land for the academy adjacent to it.

The meeting has decided to constitute an expert committee to formulate a master plan for Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Among others, Aktaruzzaman MP, director general of BSA, Bangladesh National Museum, and Bangla Academy, artist Rafiqun Nabi and Cultural personalities Aly Zaker and Raushan Jamil were present in the meeting.

**WVA raffle draw**

The winning numbers of the raffle draw of WVA International Mela '97 are as follows:

2494	3104	3892
3817	3431	3457
3565	3675	169
2442	536	2375
2392	236	222

The chairman of the winning numbers have been requested to contact the WVA office at Phone No: 911-6228 on or before Jan 25, says a press release.

**Statement condemned**

A member of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) Nirmal Chandra Das yesterday condemned the statement of DUCSU vice-president Anwarul Haq and general secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon criticising the release of former president H M Ershad, reports BSS.



Deen Mohammad, Chairman of the City Bank Limited, addressing the branch managers' conference of the bank at a local hotel on Thursday. Vice Chairman AK Mehmood Directors Anwar Hossain, MA Hashem, Adviser SB Chaudhuri and Managing Director M Taheruddin are also seen in the picture.

**Frozen Foods Exporters' Assoc polls held**

The biennial election of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association was held at its head office in the city recently, reports UNB.

Managing director of Coastal Sea Foods Ltd Mohammad Golam Mostafa and managing director of Sundarban Fish Processing Ltd Dr. Altabuzzaman were elected president and secretary general respectively for the 1997-98 year.

Other office bearers included Kazi Shah Newaz and Mohammad Amin Ullah, vice presidents and Zillur Rahim Chowdhury, joint secretary.

**City Bank managers' confce held**

The managers conference '97 of the City Bank was held at a city hotel on Thursday, says a press release.

Deen Mohammad, Chairman of the bank, presided over the conference.

Vice Chairman of the Bank AK Mehmood, Directors Anwar Hossain, MA Hashem, Azizul Haque Chowdhury, ABM Feroz, Adviser SB Chaudhuri and Managing Director M Taheruddin also spoke on the occasion.

Directors of the bank Ibrahim Mia, ZH Choudhury, and Mohammad Sheeb were also present in the conference.

**Weather**

**Dry weather likely**

Dry weather is likely to prevail across the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says no appreciable change in night temperature is expected during the period throughout the country.

Country's lowest temperature 8.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and the highest 28.3 degrees at Cox's Bazar. The sun sets today at 05:30 pm and rises tomorrow at 06:44 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	morning	evening
Dhaka	27.0	14.0	54	65
Chittagong	27.5	14.8	47	79
Rajshahi	25.8	09.0	83	64
Khulna	26.8	11.8	76	60
Barisal	27.3	11.4	77	76
Sylhet	27.4	13.5	79	63
Cox's Bazar	28.3	17.5	67	74

**WANTED**

**Internship Planning and Placement Officer**

**Qualification: Bachelor degree from North America/Europe strongly preferred. Must have excellent communication skills both written and oral (English) familiarity with MS Word and Excel. Previous experience helpful but not essential. Consolidated salary Tk.11,200/ negotiable in case of superior qualifications. Application, C.V. with Passport size photograph must reach Coordinator, Department of Career Services, North South University by January 20, 1997.**

**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
12 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka - 1213

**EVERGREEN**

**NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS**

FEEDER VESSEL M. V. FONG LEE VOY 9701 IMP. ROT NO. 1276/96 IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE CHITTAGONG OUTER ANCHORAGE ON OR ABOUT 12.01.1997 WITH EVERGREEN CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE EX FOLLOWING VESSELS:-

VESSEL	PORT	VESSEL	PORT
E. GUARD	HAKATA	E. RACER	LIAN HUA SHAN
0141-080W	KAOHSIUNG	0706RW-013	SHANGHAI
LNYN	LEAM CHABANG		MOJI
0806-023			YOKKAICHI
E. LOADING	KAOHSIUNG		HUNG KONG
0019-101W	NAGOYA		KAOHSIUNG
	SHANGHAI		PUSAN
UNL-PERMAL	JAKARTA	PANCARAN SINAH	JAKARTA
0320-320		1035A	

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO CLEAR THEIR CARGOES IMMEDIATELY ON DISCHARGE. CARGOES UNCLEANED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE ARRIVAL DATE OF THE VESSEL WILL BE DISPOSED WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO THE CONSIGNEES, AS PER CUSTOM RULES.

M. V. FONG LEE VOY 9702 WILL ALSO LOAD CONTAINERS UNDER EXP. ROT NO. 1216/96 FOR SINGAPORE FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT TO U.S.A. EAST & WEST COASTS, EUROPEAN, U.K. & MEDITERRANEAN PORTS.

**PLEASE CONTACT OUR BANGLADESH AGENTS:**

**BSL Baridhi Shipping Lines Limited**  
(A BRC COMPANY)

DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	KHULNA
19F Sena Kalyan Bhaban	MezF, Jiban Bima Bhaban	1, Maipara Road
195 Motijheel Com. Area	1053 Sk. Mujib Rd. Agrabad	(PTI Moor)
Tel: 9565184-7	Tel: 506142, 500594	Tel: 25255, 25123
Tel: 632666 BSLL BU, 632656 HRC BU	Tel: 633147 BSLL BU, 633126 HRC BU	Tel: 633302 HRC BU
Telefax: 880-2-9565183, 9565191	Telefax: 880-31-710825	Telefax: 880-41-21175

**Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim**

**First time in Dhaka City**

**Under the Project of Dhaka Urban Transport**

**Air-Conditioned Bus Service**

**Grand Opening: Today the 12th January at 1 p.m.**

**Chief Guest: Honourable Communication Minister Mr. Anwar Hossain**

**Special Guest: Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mr. Md. Hanif**

**Avoid Traffic Jam - Ride on Metro Bus**

**Uttara-Motijheel-Uttara Route**

Uttara (Sector -9) — Rajlaxmi Complex — New Airport — Chairman Bari, Banani — Mohakhali — Farmgate — Hotel Sheraton — G.P.O. — Motijheel (Opposite D.I.T. Building) Everyday from 6-30 a.m. to 10-00 p.m.

**Bangladesh Metro Bus Co. Ltd.**  
(A Member of Nitol Group)

**Camp Office: Joarsaha (Near BRTC Bus Depot), New Airport Road, Dhaka. Phone: 893742 Fax: 891688**

**Head Office: Ph - 416872, 418063, 413608, 838716 Fax - 838166**