

Metropolitan

What's on today . . .

Workshop: A two-day workshop on 'Innovations in negotiations - a Harvard model' will begin. Dr Rajen Mehrotra, vice president, Sandoz (India) Ltd, will conduct the workshop, organised by Management Consulting Group. Venue: BASC training hall. Time: 9 am.

Prize-distribution ceremony: Prizes will be distributed among the winners of a children's hand-writing competition organised by the Bangladesh National Museum on the occasion of 'Amar Ekushey'. Venue: Museum auditorium, Shahbag. Time: 3 pm. A cultural function will follow.

AGM: The annual general meeting of the BCS (Taxation) will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 9 am.

Dance festival: The Tagore dance drama, 'Chandralika', will be staged on the opening day of Fair and Lovely Dance Festival '97. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

Closing ceremony: The closing ceremony of the 1st Dhaka International Environmental Video Festival will be held. Venue: Community Development library auditorium, House: 39, Rd: 14A, Dhanmondi. Time: 5 pm.

Apex Bangladesh: The 15th annual general meeting of Apex Bangladesh foundation will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 4 pm.

Reception: The weekly 'Chaltipatra' will accord a reception to journalist-writer Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury. Venue: Gazi Bhaban, 41, Naya Paltan (adjacent to Jonaki Cinema Hall). Time: 6 pm.

Reunion: A reunion of the former students of the Philosophy Department, Dhaka University, will be held to mark the 75th anniversary of the department. Chief guest: President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. Venue: TSC auditorium. Time: 9:30 pm.

Diabetic Awareness Day today

Diabetic Awareness Day will be observed in the country today to create awareness among the people about the disease, reports UNB.

Different social organisations including the Diabetic Association have taken up various programmes on the occasion.

To mark the day, a discussion meeting will also be held at BIRDEM auditorium in the city at 1:30 pm. Former Chief Adviser of the caretaker government and former Chief Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman will attend the meeting as chief guest.

Secretary General of the association Dr Fashuddin Mahtab will discuss on the objectives of the Diabetic Awareness Day. Prof Wahid Uddin Ahmed will preside.

Iran may supply more rly coaches

Iran has expressed desire to supply more railway coaches to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Visiting Iranian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Alauddin Brujerdi informed this when he called on Communications Minister Anwar Hossain at his office yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of bilateral relations and hoped that the existing relations between the two brotherly countries would be strengthened further in future.

Iranian Ambassador Mahmud Bayat was present. Meanwhile, the Iranian minister also called on Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan at his office.

They discussed matters of mutual interest with particular emphasis on investment in oil and gas.

Denmark to aid sanitation, water supply sectors

Denmark will assist Bangladesh in the field of sanitation and pure drinking water supply, reports UNB.

An eight-member delegation led by Foul Nielson yesterday called on LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman at his office.

The Danish minister said assistance from Denmark would increase in the field of integrated rural development, improved healthcare and uplift of the rural poor.

Denmark is interested to assist the coastal belt people in the greater Barisal, Noakhali, Feni, Borguna and Patuakhali districts, the delegates said.

They expressed interest in infrastructural development in the rural areas and establishing destination plant under inland water system development programme.

The Danish minister said the businessmen and investors of his country are interested in investing in agricultural industries and sectors like rural development in Bangladesh.

The visiting Danish minister said Bangladesh government's transparency and accountability has created enthusiasm in the Danish business community.

Weather

Thundershower forecast

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Barisal, Khulna, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi division in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office said night temperature may remain nearly unchanged throughout the country.

The country's lowest temperature 14.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Teknaf and the highest 31.0 degrees at Rangamati and Patuakhali.

The sun sets today at 6:01 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:21 am. Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Min	Max	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	18.6	29.0	80	63
Chittagong	17.0	28.5	64	45
Rajshahi	17.6	28.5	73	77
Khulna	17.5	30.8	80	—
Barisal	17.4	30.0	80	67
Sylhet	17.0	27.0	84	68
Co's Bazar	16.0	30.2	54	68



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking at the 14th national conference and the annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Medical Association at Shaheed Dr Milon auditorium in the city yesterday. — PID photo

President opens confce of Statistical Assoc

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday laid emphasis on collecting correct data for proper planning and execution to take the country on the road of progress, reports BSS.

The President was inaugurating the sixth biennial conference of the Bangladesh Statistical Association at the Planning and Development Academy, Nilkhet in the city.

State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir was present as special guest.

Presided over by the president of Bangladesh Statistical Association, Walul Islam, the conference was addressed by the secretary general of the association Professor M Nurul Islam.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said the main theme of the conference "human development, productive employment and poverty alleviation: issues and problems measurement", is very important and a timely step in the present perspective of socio-economic condition of the country. He expressed the hope that the conference would play a vital role in identifying the problems of country's socio-economic development and provide guidelines for their solution.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed urged the country's statisticians to perform their duties sincerely for expansion of statistical technology and ensure the availability of correct data.

Acute shortage of drinking water in Khulna

KHULNA, Feb 27: Residents of Khulna town are facing acute shortage of drinking water due to frequent load-shedding and fall in ground water level, reports UNB.

The WASA here at present is supplying only 50 lakh gallons of water daily, against the requirements of 2.5 crore to 3 crore gallons, official sources said.

The supply dropped mainly because of sharp fall in the ground water level during the past one and a half months, leading to the closure of six pumps out of 45 pumps of WASA, they added.

However, the situation turned worse following the current load-shedding in the town. Supply of electricity remains suspended for six to seven hours daily hampering the lifting of water, local dwellers said.



Zonta Club of Dhaka-I accorded a reception to Dr Syeda Firoza Begum, an eminent gynaecologist and obstetrician of the country, in the city recently. The Club awarded her the Zonta Crest for "Woman of Achievement" for her outstanding contribution in the field of medicine and continuous service for social and community development. — ZI photo

ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংকার্স, বাংলাদেশ
জাতীয় কাউন্সিল, নবম তলা
৯০/১, ইনার সারকুলার রোড
কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০

কোচিং ক্লাশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা শহরের পরীক্ষার্থীদের জন্য ১লা মার্চ, ১৯৯৭ থেকে অধ্যাপিকা ব্রিজেট টেনিং ইনস্টিটিউট, ৩৫/সি, নয়পল্টন, ভিআইপি রোড, কাশপিয়া প্রাঙ্গণ, ঢাকায় ডিপ্লোমা পরীক্ষার কতিপয় নির্ধারিত বিষয়ে কোচিং ক্লাশ শুরু হচ্ছে। বিস্তারিত সূচী ইনস্টিটিউটের কার্যালয় এবং সব ব্যাংকের প্রধান কার্যালয়/বিসিপিএল অফিস/রিজিওনাল অফিস/জোনাল অফিস/লোকাল অফিসে পাওয়া যাবে।

Amsterdam confce begins No child labour in garments industry: Mannan

Bangladesh is committed to eliminate child labour and has already taken a number of measures in this regard, said State Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan, reports UNB.

The State Minister was speaking at the plenary of the first day of the International Child Labour Conference in Amsterdam on Wednesday, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

Mannan said about 315 schools have been set up under BGMEA project in cooperation with the ILO and UNICEF, and two NGOs, BRAC and GSS, in which about 8,000 children formerly garment workers, are enrolled.

"Now, there is no child labour in the garments industry," he said adding that if this project succeeds, Bangladesh would consider replicating it in other industries.

The state minister also said realistic long and short-term programmes including the economic empowerment of poor families are required for the progressive elimination of child labour from Bangladesh.

He said generous international assistance will be needed for multi-disciplinary programmes to eliminate child labour.

Over three hundred participants from more than fifty countries, and several NGO representatives have been invited by the Netherlands government to participate in this conference, organised by the government of Netherlands in close cooperation with the International Labour Organisation.

Minister from more than ten developed countries and eleven developing countries are participating in the two-day international conference.

President attends waz mahfil

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed attended a waz mahfil, organised by Sobhanbagh Mosque and Madrasah Complex at Dhanmondi Maidan yesterday, reports BSS.

Chief Imam and Khatib of the Masjid-e-Nobubi of Medina Allama Dr Sheikh Ali Bin Abdur Rahman Al-Huzafi was present at the mahfil and led the Magrib prayers.

President Shahabuddin, in his brief speech, welcomed the eminent guest to Bangladesh.

Publication ceremony

By Staff Correspondent

The publication ceremony of a magazine titled 'Dui Banglar Theatre' (Theatre of two Bengals) will be held at 6:00 pm tomorrow at the Kochi Kacha auditorium in the city, says a press release.

The magazine will publish writings by eminent dramatists, drama critics and playwrights of both Bangladesh and West Bengal, it said.

Obaidul Quader, Minister of State for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs, will be the chief guest at the ceremony, which will be chaired by Nasiruddin Yusuf, chairman of Bangladesh Group Theatre and chief advisor of 'Dui Banglar Theatre'.

Bibhash Chakraborty, a famous theatre director of West Bengal, Ataur Rahman, general secretary of ITI (Bangladesh), Dr Selim Al Din, general secretary of Bangladesh Gram Theatre, Nripendra Saha of West Bengal Theatre Academy, Dr Somnath Sinha of Theatre Department of Rabindra Bharati Biswabidyalay have been invited as special guests on the occasion, the release added.

Obituary

Qazi Nurul Huq, a retired government school teacher and text book writer, died in the city on Wednesday of old age ailments. He was 70, reports BSS.

Huq started his teaching profession in 1950 and retired as the headmaster of Government Muslim High School in 1981.

After his retirement, he went to Saudi Arabia, where he was the principal of the Bangladesh Embassy School in Riyadh for five years. He wrote about 50 text and note books for SSC and HSC levels. Till his death, he was associated with the weekly 'Robbar' as its advisory editor. He has left behind his wife, a son and a daughter.



Prince Charles talking to the students of an NGO-run school at a slum in city's Mohammadpur area yesterday. — PID photo

Danish minister meets Matia

A Danish mission will visit Bangladesh in March to work-out detailed strategies and programmes for the country's agriculture sector, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by the visiting Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, Poul Nielson, when he called on Agriculture and Food Minister Matia Chowdhury at the Secretariat yesterday.

The Danish minister explained in detail the future approaches and policies of the government and emphasised the need for the sectoral approach, empowering rural women, strengthening the seed sector and capacity building at different levels.

He further said that whatever policies and programmes are taken up would have to be coherent with overall policies of the government of Bangladesh.

Matia Chowdhury noted with appreciation the long-standing development and co-operation between Denmark and Bangladesh.

She particularly drew attention on the need for renovation of the agriculture sector with an open mind emphasising farmer-level grain storage capacity building, micro-credit for small and marginal farmers, small-scale irrigation programme in the rural areas, strengthening the pump household level and vegetable production for nutritional balance.

Appreciating the approach and priority areas, the Danish minister said the details of future programmes and actions would be worked out by the visiting mission in close consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mahbur Rahman attended the ceremony as the chief guest and awarded flying brevets to eight army officers who had come out successful in the 16-month long training course.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief of army staff said that the combat need of aviation of a modern efficient army could never be overemphasised. As confident professionals, the graduating pilots should observe flight safety instructions and abide by the do's and don'ts religiously, he added, an ISPR press release said.

Time limit for renewal of TV, VCR licenses extended

Duration for renewal of all types of television, VCR and STVR licenses without surcharge for the year 1997 have been extended upto March 31, a PID handout said Wednesday reports BSS.

The handout said that the time limit for the renewal of licenses without surcharge would not be extended further. Duration was earlier extended by one month.

All domestic licenses which have expired on December 31 last could be renewed from any branch of Jamata Bank by paying the fixed fee, the handout added. Renewal of commercial licenses would have to be done by paying the fixed fee at the office of the Controller of Bangladesh Television (License), Rampura.

On expiry of the duration for renewal of licenses, inspection team of Bangladesh Television will visit domestic houses and commercial premises to look for the defaulters, the handout said.

MOU on agri research signed with Australia

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on agricultural research programmes was signed here yesterday between government of Australia and Bangladesh at Economic Relations Division (ERD) of Ministry of Finance, reports BSS.

M N Nabi, Joint Secretary of ERD and Charles Stuart, High Commissioner of Australia in Bangladesh signed the MOU on behalf of their respective governments.

This treaty will open up Australian technical assistance for development of agricultural research in Bangladesh.

Under this agreement, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), an apex institution of Australia will provide grants and send technical experts for different projects in Bangladesh.

The centre will try to resolve agricultural problems here where Australian science has developed special competence.

Charity concert

A charity concert will be held at Dhanmondi Monday Complex in the city on Monday to raise fund for the treatment of a seriously ill student of Dhaka University, reports UNB.

Kamrunnahar Mukul, a student of Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, is suffering from Thalassemia, said a press release yesterday signed by department chairman Dr K Nizamuddin.

Sadek tells JS Free education for girls up to class twelve likely

Education Minister A S H K Sadek yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the government had taken up a plan to make education for female students free of cost up to class twelve, following a directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

Replying to a question by Treasury bench member Abdul Latif Mirza (Siraiganj), the minister said female education from class six to eleven had already been made free of cost and the Planning Ministry is considering a project to make it free up to class twelve. Replying to a question by Mostafizur Rahman Sandwip (AL-Barguna), the minister said the government is considering to set up science and technology universities in every (old) greater district where there are no universities at present.

If the plan is approved, the universities will be established in phases.

In response to a question by BNP member Prof Shahidul Islam (Kushtia), the minister said some 896 non-government educational institutions have been selected for enlisting under MPO during the current fiscal.

UNB adds: The education minister yesterday told the House that the government has no immediate plan to establish a women's university in the country.

The minister made the disclosure while replying to a written question from Taslima Hossain (JP-Pirojpur).

Replying to another question from Taslima Hossain, State Minister for Women and

Children Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain said five day-care centres will be set up in the capital for the children of middle class women.

These centres will be set up at the Secretariat, Directorate of Women Affairs campus, Azimpur Officers Colony campus, Mirpur Circle No. 10 and Kamalapur area in next 1997-98 fiscal year, he said.

Dr Mozammel said there are 47 day-care centres in 22 districts, 13 centres in 13 thanas and 12 centres in six divisional towns.

The government has plans to set up 42 more day-care centres and the Establishment Ministry has already given approval to set up the centres in 42 districts, he said, adding the matter is awaiting approval from the Finance Ministry.

Meanwhile, a total of 676 teachers of different universities are now staying abroad, the education minister told the parliament.

Replying to a written question of Dharendra Nath Saha (AL-Narail), the minister said these teachers went abroad for higher education.

Of the teachers, 129 are from Dhaka University, 76 from Rajshahi University, 52 from Chittagong University, 179 from Jahangir Nagar University, 47 from Bangladesh Agricultural University, 115 from BUET, 25 from Khulna University, 14 from Islamic University, 35 from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology and five from Open University.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited by M/s. Meghna Wheels Ltd. from bonafied and reputed suppliers/manufacturers in triplicate for supply of Brand New machinery and equipment for a Bi-Cycles/Tri-cycles Rim Manufacturing Project to be financed by Rupali Bank Limited.

Tender Schedule may be obtained from the address as given below during office hours (from 10 AM to 5 PM) on cash payment of Tk. 1000/- (Taka One Thousand) only (non-refundable).

Tender schedule may also be purchased from Rupali Bank Limited, Foreign Exchange Branch, Dhaka by depositing Tk. 1000/- (Taka One Thousand) only (non-refundable) in current account of the company maintained with the said branch.

No tender schedule will be sold on the date of opening of tenders. Tenders in sealed covers addressed to the undersigned are to be dropped in tender box kept in the office of the undersigned up to 12 noon of 15-03-97 and will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of the tenderers, if any.

Incomplete and conditional tender will not be considered. The company reserves the right not to accept the lowest tender and also to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Managing Director
M/s. Meghna Wheels Ltd.
34, Bijoy Nagar, Dhaka.