

Metropolitan

Nat'l seminar on leprosy eradication Mar 4

An international consultation is going to be held from March 5 to 6 in the city to formulate a community action plan with the view to eradicating leprosy by the year 2000. About 25 experts from nine countries, World Health Organisation, Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation and NGO's are expected to take part in the consultation, says a press release.

Prior to the international consultation, a national seminar jointly organised by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO, will be held tomorrow to create community awareness. About 250 participants representing various professions are expected to take part in the national seminar. The release added that Bangladesh has made considerable progress in achieving the target to eradicate leprosy from the country by the year 2000. In 1993, estimated leprosy cases in the country were one lakh thirty-six thousand and by the end of 1996, the figure has come down to eighty thousand only. The project for further development of TB and leprosy control services under the Directorate General of Health Services is optimistic of achieving the goal.

Finalisation of report on 4-tier local govt discussed

The Local Government Commission in a meeting yesterday discussed finalisation of its report on a four-tier local government for the country, reports UNB.

As suggested by it, the four local government bodies are Zilla Parishad, Thana Parishad, Union Parishad and Gram Parishad. Commission chairman Advocate Rahmat Ali presided over the meeting at Sangsad Bhaban.

Its member and Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta, other members Advocate Fazley Rabbi, Kazi Azhar Ali, A T M Shamsul Haque, Taherunnessa Abdullah and member-secretary A H M Abdul Hye attended the meeting.

Time of Shahabuddin's exhibition extended

The time of exhibition of Shahabuddin's selected painting now going on at the gallery of the Shilpakala Academy has been extended till March 5 (Wednesday), said a press release of the Academy yesterday. The exhibition will remain open from 2 pm to 7 pm daily, the press release added.

Japanese team calls on Speaker

A visiting Japanese delegation expressed its desire to take part in the infrastructure development activities in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

This was disclosed when the six-member team led by Koya Mita, Chairman of Itochu Aviation Company of Japan, called on Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury at his office yesterday.

Tk 2.5 lakh looted from bank official in Khulna

KHULNA, Mar 2: Muggers looted Tk 2,50,000 from a bank official at gun-point at Khalishpur in the city yesterday reports UNB.

Police said, three armed youngmen entered the Khalishpur office of the port authority and snatched the money from its cashier at 10:30 am as soon as the cashier Zahurul Haque came back with the money drawn from Janata Bank, Roosevelt Branch.

The amount was drawn for the paying the salary of the port employees. Khalishpur thana police arrested three people in this connection.



Chittagong Photographic Society honoured three eminent photographers of the country — Golam Kashem Dady, Manzur Alam Beg and Rashid Talukdar — with its 'Ekushey Padak' this year. M A Beg (L) is seen receiving his award from chief guest Prof Abdul Mannan, Vice Chancellor, Chittagong University, at a function held at the Alliance Francaise in Chittagong on Friday.

Time extended

The time for entries for Halima-Sharafuddin Award 1997 has been extended till March 31. The terms and conditions as laid down in the advertisement published January 23 in The Daily Star and the Bhorer Kagoj will remain unchanged. Entry forms may be obtained from the Asiatic Society's office from 10 am through 5 pm.

Training course at NU begins

A six-week training course, organised by National University (NU) for degree teachers of government and private colleges began yesterday, reports UNB.

Minister tells JS 90,000 bales of cotton produced annually

The country produces 90,000 bales of cotton against the annual demand of 5.5 lakh bales, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury informed the House yesterday, reports UNB.

BNP observes Day of 'Istehar' Reading today

BNP will observe March 3 as the 'day of reading out the 'istehar' (communiqué) of independence," reports UNB.

It will organise a discussion meeting on the day at the auditorium of the Diploma Engineers' Institute.

BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will be the chief guest while Shahjahan Siraj, who read out the 'istehar of independence' on March 3 in 1971, will be the key note speaker.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and other senior leaders will also take part in the discussion. Nazrul Islam Khan will preside.

Replying to a question from Nurul Amin Talukder, she said about 40,000 hectares of land has been brought under cotton cultivation and 95,000 bales of cotton are expected in 1996-97. The government has fixed a target to bring 60,000 hectares of land under cotton cultivation in 1997-98 season to produce 1.40 lakh bales of cotton, she said.

Cotton cultivation will be expanded on 70,000 hectares of land in the year of 2000 to produce 1.65 lakh bales of cotton, the minister added.

The country needs 70.93 crore pieces of bamboo a year, but it produces 65.62 crore pieces, according to a study carried out in 1993. This was disclosed by Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury in a written reply to a question from Harunur Rashid Khan Monno in the House.

The government has taken up a five year project, to be carried out till 2000, for production of bamboo in scientific method, the minister said.

8-member Japanese team due today

An eight-member delegation of the Japanese government arrives in the city today to attend the consultation on Overseas Development Agencies (ODA) loans, reports UNB.

Led by Futao Motai, Senior Assistant for Loan Aid, Economic Cooperation Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the delegation will attend the consultation with Bangladeshi counterparts on Wednesday and Thursday.

During their stay, the delegation is expected to visit several project sites, including Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge.

Canadian envoy calls on Razzak

The High Commissioner of Canada Nicholas HR Etheridge called on the Water Resources Minister Abdul Razzak at the latter's office yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed matters relating to mutual interest and exchanged views on various issues of the development of water resources.

The Minister briefed the envoy about the various points of the recent Ganges water treaty with India. Construction of the Ganges barrage also came up in the discussion.



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