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The World on Time

Trade fair drawing large number of visitors

By Rafiq Hasan



Rush of visitors at the Dhaka International Trade Fair.

— Star photo

The month-long Dhaka International Trade Fair at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city is drawing an increasing number of visitors from all walks of life.

A large number of people were gathered at the fair every day to buy or have a glimpse of various types of products ranging from frozen fish to air-conditioned car coming from different parts of the world.

In addition to several hundred local business houses, a large number of foreign companies setting up a total of 121 stalls and pavilions are displaying attractive goods and rare products. Companies from at least 24 countries are participating in the fair to advertise and display their products.

Young sales executives, including some ladies, were trying to attract the people to their stalls and pavilions, declaring attractive and expensive prizes against lucky coupons.

"If you buy Tk 50 to 100 worth of goods you get a lucky coupon and the first prize against these is a 1300CC Toyota car," sales executive of Esinteks Ltd., a business house from Turkey.

Besides big size refrigerators, tape recorders and various other electronic products, the Rangs Group has offered for sale 53" television sets. The price of this large size TV set is Tk 2.60 lakh.

Panach Bhai Engineering, a company from Dhaka, has put on display and sale a number of locally made machinery like concrete mixer, roof wheyest, crane, diesel engine and tower crane.

The prizes against lucky coupons issued by most of the companies like Nabisco Biscuit, Aromatics, Unitek Industries, Rupchanda Oils range from Dhaka-Calcutta air tickets to

private cars and Colour Televisions.

Attention of the visitors was being drawn to a white four-wheel vehicle made by a Turkish company which cost Tk 2.50,000 only. A local representative of "Otoser," the manufacturing company, told this correspondent, "If we had enough stock, we could sell at least five vehicles every day." But the vehicle which can be a substitute for local tempo was only for display.

"You probably will see this four-wheeler on the streets of Dhaka soon, as a number of buyers have already put up orders," said Mahabubur Rahman, sales executive of "Esinteks Ltd," a business house from Turkey.

A gathering was seen in a large pavilion set up by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the middle of the exhibition venue, where expensive Persian carpets, ornaments, melamine goods and food items were put on sale and display by more than two dozen Iranian companies.

The price of a beautiful Persian carpet of standard size was Tk 12 thousand while packets of Iranian sweets and peanuts cost Tk 200 to 750.

Apart from their own decoration cost, a local company had to pay Tk 50 thousand for an ordinary stall and Tk 1.25 lakh for a pavilion while the foreign companies were charged 500 dollars for a stall and 1000 dollars for a pavilion, sources in the Export Promotion Bureau which organised the fair said.

Sadhpur

From Page 1

police arrested 32 people including 13 Ansars posted in a camp at Sadhpur set up early last month on a 100-acre land reportedly belonging to Partex Real Estate Ltd.

Meanwhile, the 10 Ansars following interrogation during the three-day remand confessed that they had fired 84 shots during the incident.

However, the CID team was yet to confirm whether other type of fire arms were used during the incident on February 28.

Besides, the CID asked the authorities concerned to take steps so that some senior officials of Partex Group can not leave the country before the investigation was completed.

Vietnamese PM

From Page 1

also likely to be signed for setting up of a joint chamber by the apex trade bodies of the two countries.

Expansion of trade between Dhaka and Hanoi will be emphasised at the official talks.

Vo Van Kiet will address the business community at a reception organised by the FBCCI during his stay.

The Vietnamese Prime Minister will pay a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed. He will also visit the National Memorial at Savar to pay tributes to the heroes of the Liberation War. A state banquet will also be hosted for the visiting dignitary.

He will leave Dhaka Monday afternoon.

Women's Day

From Page 1

while various other organisations also held different programmes.

Poet Begum Sufia Kamal, in a message on the occasion, recalled the contribution of Clara Jetkin for the cause of oppressed women and called for removing all sorts of discrimination between men and women.

The Nari Samaj procession started from in front of the National Museum. Its rally was held at the TSC road island, followed by a cultural function.

Speakers at the rally raised various demands including, trial of the persons responsible for murdering Yasmin and Shima, immediate publication of the probe report on abduction of tribal girl Kalpana Chakma, formation of a special tribunal to try war-criminals and rapists, introducing 'Uniform Family Code', full ratification of CEDAW, an international charter for elimination of discriminations against women, proper recording of women's role in the history of the country's liberation, shifting of women from 'safe custody' in jails to safer places and more representation of women in parliament.

Farida Akhter, Sultana Akhter Ruby, Krishna Chanda, Maleka Banu, Kavita Chakma and Fatema Begum addressed the rally chaired by Shirin Akhter.

Environment and Forest Minister Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury led the procession, organised by her ministry on the occasion. It started from the Central Shaheed Minar, and terminated near the Engineers Institution.

Thousands of women joined the colourful procession to create mass awareness against the bad impact of black smoke spewed out by vehicles.

Jatiya Mahila Party also held a discussion and brought out procession in observance of the International Women's Day.

The meeting, held at its office, was attended by Jatiya Party (JJP) Presidium member Begum Zinat Hossain MP as chief guest and former MP Begum Amina Bari as special guest while it was chaired by Bulbul Nahar and conducted by Begum Farida Sikder.

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