

**Metropolitan**

**Biman completes carrying of hajj pilgrims**

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday completed carrying of a total of nine thousand ballotee hajj pilgrims, the highest number of all time, a press release of Biman said, reports BSS.

The nine thousand ballotee hajj pilgrims were sent to Saudi Arabia by 31 Biman flights in time and without any dislocation, it added.

It also said that Biman had planned to carry the highest number of non-ballotee hajj pilgrims of seven thousand five hundred.

Out of the total non-ballotee hajj pilgrims, one thousand five hundred have already been carried to Saudi Arabia.

**Print exhibition by Australian aboriginal artists begins**

**By Staff Correspondent**

A week-long print exhibition of Australian aboriginal artists opened at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, M Akhtaruzzaman MP, the chief guest, lauded the cultural exchange programmes between Bangladesh and Australia.

Charles H Stuart, the Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh said that the enthusiasm for aboriginal art as a distinctive statement was found all over the world.

Shamsuzzaman Khan, Director General of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, pointed out that the artists were fighting for their land and political rights through their paintings.

For forty thousand years the Aboriginal people have inhabited Australia, but from 1788 these people have been dispossessed of their land. The paintings are to show the rest of the world that they own their country.

The artists whose works are displayed include Robert Campbell, Ellen Jose, Banduk Marika, Jimmy Pike, Poaraar, Bede Tungualams and Sally Morgan. Each artist has four entries.



Print exhibition by seven Australian aboriginal artists began at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Gallery yesterday. — Star photo

**Happy Birthday**



*"Doubt thou the stars are fire,  
Doubt thou the sun doth move,  
Doubt truth to be a liar,  
But never doubt, I love."*

**OFA CONVENTION & CGB ELECTION**

**Day : May 01, 1997 (Thursday)**  
**Venue : Eskaton Ladies Club, Dhaka**

**Program :**  
Morning Session (0900 hr. to 1230 hr.)  
Business Breakfast, Convention Assembly and CGB Election  
Evening Session (1830 hr. to 2200 hr.)  
Introduction of New CGB, Cultural Show and Dinner

**Invites :**  
Old Faujians & their family members and all ex-teachers of FCC

**Convention Registration :**  
Single : Tk. 250, Couple : Tk. 500, Students & Children : Tk. 150

**CIRCULAR : ELECTION OF OFA, CGB for 97 & 98**

Election to the following posts will be held as under :

**Posts :**  
Chairman, Two Vice Chairman, Secretary General, Two Jt. Secretary General, Treasurer, Publication & Office Secretary and Six Members

**Finalization of Voter List :** April 20 '97  
*Please clear your membership subscription before April 15, 1997*

**Filing of Nomination Paper :** April 23 '97 (1800 - 2000 hrs.)  
**Scrutiny of Nomination Paper :** April 23 '97 (from 2000 hr.)  
**Withdrawal of Nomination Paper :** April 25 '97 (1800 - 2000 hrs.)  
**Final Contestants List :** April 25 '97 (1930 hr.)  
**Election :** May 01 '97 (1030 - 1200 hrs.)

*Please confirm your attendance by April 27, 1997*

**OFn. M Najmul Hasan**  
Secretary General

**Registration & other information**  
OFA Secretariat  
Suite # 15 & 16, Floor # 8  
Eastern Plaza, Hatirpool, Dhaka  
Phone : 506579, Fax : 864250  
E-mail : ofa@ncl.com

**OFA**  
CONVENTION 97

**Launching of comprehensive AIDS awareness programme in villages suggested**

A team of ICDDR, B experts suggested launching a comprehensive AIDS awareness programme in the rural areas of the country as knowledge about the killer disease is extremely low among men and women living in villages, reports BSS.

"A comprehensive AIDS educational campaign would probably be the most effective approach towards preventing an AIDS epidemic in Bangladesh," the team members said in a survey report. A survey was conducted in three thanas under Chittagong district late last year.

According to the study report, about 20 per cent of the females and 40 per cent of the males reported having heard about AIDS. "About 33 per cent females and 66 per cent males of those heard about AIDS could specify probable transmission mechanism of this killer disease," the report said.

The survey was conducted among 1,876 married women of reproductive age and 1,506 married men. The survey revealed that awareness about AIDS was higher among the educated than uneducated respondents. Middle-aged women or women with fewer children were more aware of AIDS than other women, it noted.

The team members, however, expressed the opinion that if participatory research methods were applied, the villagers would participate enthusiastically in mass awareness campaigns for diseases like AIDS.

Another team of ICDDR, B conducted a survey on AIDS awareness in three unions of Chakaria thana in Cox's Bazar district during the same period last year. The survey was conducted among 300 men and 300 women aged 18 to 60 years.

At least 38 per cent of the respondents in the post-intervention survey reported to have heard about AIDS compared to 19 per cent in the pre-intervention survey. The level of increase in knowledge was higher among males than females.

Of those who have heard about AIDS, the survey said, the knowledge of prevention was 24 per cent before intervention compared to 36 per cent after intervention.

**Canadian envoy calls on Noor Uddin**

The Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Nicholas Etheridge, called on Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Lt Gen (Retd) Noor Uddin Khan at the latter's office yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed matters relating to mutual interest and hoped that the existing friendly relations and economic ties between Bangladesh and Canada would be strengthened further.

Welcome to the

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**Weather**

**Thundershower likely**

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office predicted no appreciable change in the day temperature over the country during the period.

Country's highest temperature 34.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 16.6 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets today at 6:16 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:43 am.

**Protest rally at BOU**

**By Staff Correspondent**

Officers and employees of the Bangladesh Open University (BOU) held a rally in the varsity campus at Gazipur yesterday protesting alleged misbehaviour with the Vice Chancellor by some teachers.

A press release issued by the BOU Officers' Association said, recently two officers and one teacher of the varsity were temporarily suspended for airing wrong information in the BOU Radio programme. It said further that protesting the suspension order of the teacher, some teachers of the university misbehaved with VC Prof M Aminul Islam.

**Election officials from 6 C'wealth states to meet in city Apr 7-10**

**By Staff Correspondent**

Senior officials from the Commonwealth election management bodies in Asia and the Indian Ocean will meet in the city from April 7 to 10 to consider ways of strengthening practical cooperation and improving the organisation of elections.

A press release of the Election Commission said that the workshop will be attended by Chief Election Commissioners and senior electoral officials from India, Maldives, Malaysia, Mauritius, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

**Hale-Bopp now seen in naked eyes**

The much awaited comet Hale-Bopp is now seen over the north-west horizon of the sky just after sun set. It has developed excellent coma and prominent tail attaining brightness upto minus 1.7 magnitude. The tail is about 30 degree long stretching upto pole star. The brightness of the comet is now at its peak it will start dimming its brightness from next week, says a press release.

The best time for observing the comet Hale-Bopp is upto 8th April because in these time moon will remain in the eastern sky. April 9, moon will rise in the western sky and the brightness of the sky comet will be interfered and much of its dazzling effects will be diminished.

The comet now lies in the constellation of andromeda, moving towards the constellation of orion to reach there by early May when the comet will be set down in the western horizon to say goodbye.

The comet Hale-Bopp is a long orbited comet. If you want to see it again, you shall have to wait another 4,000 years only!

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