

Metropolitan

DUTA team meets Rafiq

A 10-member delegation of Dhaka University Teachers Association led by its President Professor Mostafa Choudhury made a courtesy call on Home Minister Rafiqul Islam at his secretariat office yesterday, reports BSS.

PS to PM hosts tea party for journalists

By Staff Correspondent

Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, Jawadul Karim, arranged a tea-party for the journalists, covering the Jatiya Sangsad proceedings at the Sangsad cafeteria yesterday evening.

The 'meet-the-press' programme of the press secretary was arranged nearly nine months after his appointment. Turning up at the cafeteria, the invitees found their host absent.

However, other members of the PM's press wing and PID officials, received the journalists and offered them tea.

On arriving later, the press secretary was seen busy talking to a few newsmen, who volunteered to meet him. However, he did not apologise for his delay, nor did he take the trouble to get himself introduced with all the journalists he had invited.

UNICEF reception cancelled

A UNICEF reception, arranged for tomorrow at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in honour of Dr Urban Jonsson, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia, has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, says a press release.

Int'l Family Day observed

The government has taken up various welfare oriented programmes to upgrade the socio-economic status of family, reports UNB.

"A violence-free society can be established and a prosperous nation can be built up on the foundation of peace in the family," the State Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain told the International Family Day function at Shilpakala Academy yesterday.

Dr Mozammel said despite resource constraints, various multipurpose programmes including poverty alleviation, human resource development, eradication of illiteracy and credit disbursement were being implemented to achieve the objective.

This year's theme of the day is: "Building family based on partnership."

Wage Board

Newspaper men announce 7-day programme

A meeting of the central coordination committee, consisting of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Press Sramik Federation, Bangladesh Sangbad Patra Karmachari Federation and Dhaka Union of Journalists was held at the Press Club yesterday, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by its Convenor Fazole Imam, the meeting chalked out a week-long programme from May 17 to hold meetings in different units of the federation to warm up their demand in connection with the 5th Wage-Board Award.

British HC calls on PM

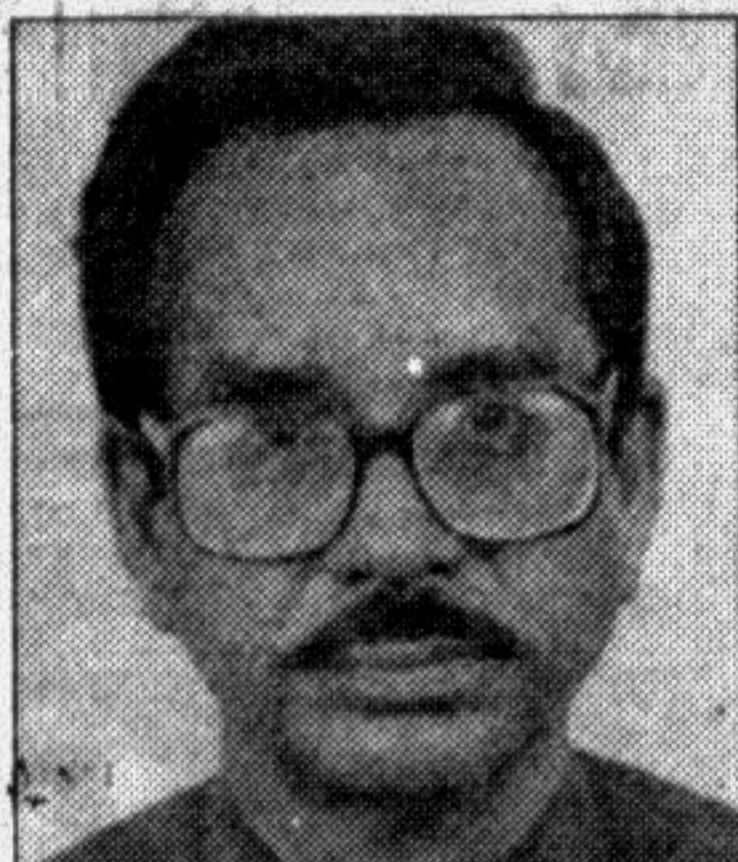
The British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, David Walker, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence at Ganobhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

During the meeting they discussed matters of mutual interests.

Australian envoy meets Ershad

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Charles Stuart made a courtesy call on Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad at his Bariadhara office yesterday, reports UNB.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters relating to mutual interests and also on international issues.



Asaduzzaman retires from USIS

Syed Asaduzzaman (Bachchu), Media Advisor and Chief Editor of the United States Information Service (USIS), has recently retired from USIS after 20 years of service, says a press release.

He is currently the managing director and chief editor of the Media Associates of Bangladesh (MAB), a media service organisation. Zaman started his career as a working journalist during his student life. He served Daily Paigam, Daily Azad and other newspapers in various capacities.

He also published and edited two periodicals - 'Rangon' and 'Byalikram'. He was stringer for the international news service Agency France Presse (AFP) and also the script writer for Voice of America (VOA) Bangla Service magazine programme.

BJF committee to develop its housing project

Bangladesh Journalists Foundation (BJF) has formed a seven-member sub-committee to explore ways and means for development of the land bought in Mirpur for its housing project, says a press release.

The foundation, at a general meeting on Friday at the VIP lounge of the Jatiya Press Club, also announced formation of an advisory fund for the members of the foundation. Presided over by BJF President Borhan Ahmed, the meeting was addressed by Secretary General Masud Nizami, joint secretary Selim Al-Hussein, vice president Momtaz Ahmed, Editor of The New Nation Alamgir Mohiuddin and other members of the foundation.

Meanwhile, the members of the housing sub-committee met at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon. They discussed various aspects of developing the land and decided to visit the spot on Wednesday before finalising any proposal.

Bangladesh Journalists Foundation came into being in 1992. It bought about 30 bighas of land under Digon Mujib in Mirpur for a housing project for about 150 members of the foundation.



Two-in-one: A sign board on a pole placed in an uncovered manhole serving twin purposes - helping the beauticians at city's Shabujbagh with free publicity and saving the city fathers the trouble of putting up a warning sign against the danger of an open manhole, whose top has been missing since long. - Star photo by Enamul Haq

Regional symposium on zinc begins

A two-day regional zinc symposium began in the city yesterday with a view to sharing scientific information on zinc available globally, reports UNB.

Some 160 researchers from home and abroad, including USA, UK, UNICEF and WHO are attending the symposium at the auditorium of Sasakawa International Training Centre of ICDDR,B, said a press release.

Research data from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and the USA covering the subjects on zinc and immune response, zinc and treatment of acute and persistent diarrhoea, zinc and prevention of diarrhoea and respiratory disease and zinc and growth were presented in the symposium.

A finding of Dr SK Roy of ICDDR,B disclosed that zinc increased weight and height of the children of Bangladesh and children recover early from both acute and chronic diarrhoea with zinc supplementation.

His finding was corroborated the findings of Prof Sachdev of India, Dr Adi Hidayat of Indonesia and Prof Zulfiqar A Butta of Pakistan which also showed protective effect of zinc on diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections.

Call to form anti-communal body at all levels

Speakers at a meeting in the city yesterday called for formation of anti-communal and fundamentalist citizen committees in thana and district levels to expand anti-communal movement across the country, reports UNB.

They made the call at the meeting of the 'Anti-Communal and Fundamentalist Citizen Committee' held at Ajker Kagoj Bhaban with Justice K M Sobhan in the chair, said a press release.

Among others, Prof Dr Nilima Ibrahim, Prof Dr Shamsul Huda, Kazi Shahed Ahmed, Mazharul Islam, Sontosh Gupta, Kamal Lohani, Syed Hasan Imam, Shahrier Kabir and Khushi Kabir addressed the meeting.

USIS Director visits PID

John Kincannon, Director, USIS, Dhaka yesterday visited Press Information Department (PID) at Bangladesh Secretariat, said a press release.

Principal Information Officer Md Makbul Ahmed briefed Kincannon about dissemination of government information by PID to various media.

Sajeda tells Beijing confce Eradication of poverty must for environmental protection

Minister for Environment and Forests Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday called upon the developed nations to come forward with a stronger and liberal assistance towards combating the desertification threatening Asia, reports BSS.

She said the Asian countries were now united in their concern for the dangers of desertification and environmental degradation threatening the region.

Sajeda made these remarks when offering vote of thanks on behalf of leaders of delegations of the participating nations in the concluding function of the three-day Asian ministerial conference of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification

in Beijing, a message received in Dhaka said yesterday. The conference began on May 13 being hosted by the government of China, the message said.

Sajeda said the Beijing conference identified poverty as one of the principal factors contributing to the global environmental degradation. "Eradication of poverty is essential to achieve any progress in environmental protection," she added.

The minister said most of the Asian countries belonging to the developing world were not equipped to meet the gigantic challenges of the issue on their own.

"The pressure of growing population is responsible for the dwindling of forests and other natural resources result-

ing in aridity and dryness of lands," she said. The Beijing conference, Sajeda said, has successfully brought into light the environmental issues faced by the Asian countries and in adopting a regional plan of action which sought to address the issue collectively.

She said the conference was unanimous on the need for arousing awareness of the people at the grassroots levels and to ensure their participation in implementing action plans to achieve sustainable development.

The minister said the problem of desertification and other related environmental issues transcended across international boundaries and the entire human race is facing its affects.

Credit for self-employment projects to be increased

The government has decided to increase the amount of non-institutional credit from Tk 2,500 to 10,000 for self-employment projects of the youths who received training from Youth Development Directorate, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youths, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader yesterday disclosed this while addressing the concluding function of a month-long handiwork training course at Dimohoni in Sabujbagh thana.

Organised by the Youth Development Directorate, the function was also addressed by the director general of the Directorate Fazlul Haq.



Tofael Ahmed, Minister of Commerce and Industry, cutting the ribbon at the launching ceremony of 'Prado', a new Toyota land cruiser, at a city hotel yesterday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Directorate of Narcotics Control Ministry of Home 1, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 Memo No. DNC/1(3)/96-97/156 Dated: 4.5.97/21.1.1404BS

Essay Competition Notice

Drug abuse & illegal smuggling is an international problem today. In view of freeing the world from the scourge of narcotics & keeping the march of civilisation unabated, the United Nations in 1987 declared June 26 as the International Anti-drug Abuse & Smuggling Day every year. The Directorate of Narcotics Control has arranged for essay competition on the occasion of the Day. This competition will be held in two groups. The groups & subjects are as follow:

- Group 'A': For students (male/female) of Class IX & X. Subject: "Role of Family & Society in Building a Drug-free Society" (maximum 1000 words)
Group 'B': For students (male/female) of Class XI & XII. Subject: "Drug Problem & its Solution - Bangladesh & International Perspective" (maximum 1200 words).

Rules of Competition: All interested school & college students (male/female) of Bangladesh as well as SSC & HSC examinees can participate in the competition. Intending students (male/female) should send their distinctly hand-written essay in Bengali addressing the undersigned to the Directorate of Narcotics Control, 1, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000 by 15th July, 1997. The essay should be written on one side of plain sheets. Name of competitor, name and address of school/college should be written in a separate sheet and sent with the essay. Heads of school/college of the competitor should put their signature & official seal on the sheet in support of genuineness of the information. The words "Essay Competition 1997" & Group of competitor should be superscribed on the envelope containing the essay. The essay sent will not be accepted for consideration if the rules & regulations are not followed.

Prize: Best 03 essays will be awarded in each group. The winner competitors will be informed the date of awarding prize by mail later on. DFP-11204-10/5 G-1389 Fazzur Rahman Director (Preventive Education)

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