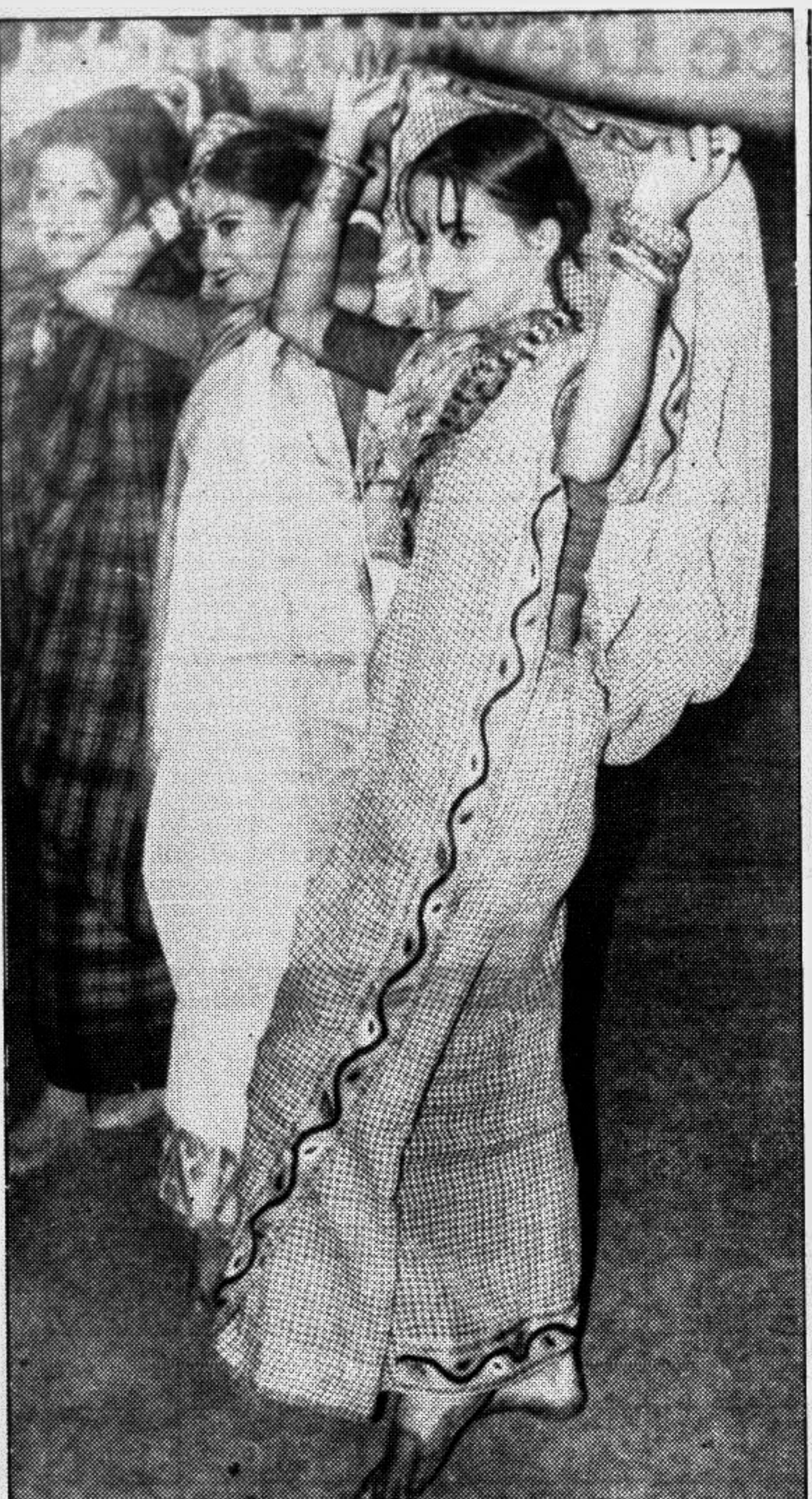


What's on today....

Folk cultural function: National Museum and Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre has organised a folk cultural function. Venue: Museum auditorium, Shahbag. Time: 5 pm. Chief guest: State Minister for Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader.
BA discussion: In observance of poet Michael Madhusudan Datta's death anniversary, Bangla Academy has arranged a discussion meet. Venue: Academy seminar room. Time: 11 am. Keynote paper: Aminur Rahman will present a paper on 'Portrayal of women in Madhusudan's works'.
National Seminar: The Bangladesh University Teachers' Association Federation will hold a seminar on 'Problems of Education at University Level and Their Solutions'. Venue: Osmany Memorial Auditorium. Time: 8:30 pm. Chief guest: President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. Special guest: Education Minister ASHK Sadique.
Asiatic Society of Bangladesh: A general meeting of the society will be held. Guest speaker Dr Chowdhury Abdul Momen Khan, ex-Deputy Director, Folklore Division, Bangla Academy, will speak on 'Anthropological Study on Rituals and Rites of Bangladesh'. Venue: Society's seminar room, 5 Old Secretariat Rd, Ramna (Nimtal). Time: 5 pm.
Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5 pm.
Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Officers' Club, Baily Rd. Time: 5:30 pm.

HERE and THERE

BCS General Education Assoc Election to the central executive committee of the BCS General Education Association was held recently, says a press release. Principal of Dhaka College Prof Najyer Sultana, Principal Md. Kafiluddin and Masum-e-Rabbani Khan were elected as President, Secretary General and treasurer respectively, while Prof. ABM Janab Ali, Prof Jahanara Begum and Prof Md Abu Yusuf were vice presidents from Dhaka for a tenure of two years.
Bikrampur Students Welfare Assoc DU A 27-member executive committee of Bikrampur Students Welfare Association of Dhaka University was elected recently with Maksud Alam Dablu and Abdul Hamid as president and general secretary respectively, says a press release. Other office bearers include: Senior Vice President - Md Alamgir Kabir, vice presidents - Md Saiful Islam, Nur Mohammad Masud and Al-Mamun Pathan. Office secretary - Md Shahidul Kadir Jewel.



A fashion show, sponsored by Jordana Cosmetics, was held at IEB auditorium in the city yesterday. —Star photo

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Noor Uddin tells JS BNP's remarks about gas field fire irresponsible Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Lt Gen (ret'd) M Noor Uddin Khan yesterday said following the fire incident in the Magurchhara gas field, it was expected that the opposition would extend its helping hands to the government in facing the problem, reports BSS. But the opposition rather called hartal in Maulvibazar and uttered irresponsible comments which has put the government in a difficult position to take up the issue, with the concerned foreign company, he said. Participating in the budget discussion in the Jatiya Sangsad Gen Noor Uddin alleged that the BNP is making irresponsible comments on the armed forces in a bid to mislead the members of the armed forces against the government.

Tk 30 cr deficit at BRCS, JS told Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) Chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) Abdus Salam MP has said the society turned a deficit during the five years from 1991 to 1996, reports UNB. "It is very difficult to make the BRCS financially sound as its total deficit now stood at about Tk 30 crore," Salam said, participating in the budget discussion in parliament. He said in December 1991, the BRCS had net resources of Tk 16.26 crore, but turned a deficit of Tk 1.22 crore in 1996 during the administration of the former chairman. "When I took the responsibility, I found the Red Crescent Society as a bankrupt institution with deficit of crores of taka, widespread corruption, nepotism and mismanagement," said the BRCS chairman. He said being dissatisfied with the mismanagement of the then administration, the Red Crescent headquarters imposed 11-point condition for providing any assistance. But the new management, he said, had successfully neutralised the conditions. General Salam said the total manpower of the organisation was 890 in 1981 that rose to 1750 in 1996. As a result, the expenditure of the society for staff salaries increased to over 6 crore from Tk 1.94 crore.

Hasina visits AL leader at CMH Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) to see Mohammad Ali Khan (Abu Mia), president of Gopalganj District Awami League, reports BSS. Khan is under treatment at the hospital following a road accident in Barisal on June 25.

Star production manager leaves for Japan By Staff Correspondent Rathindra Nath Sanyal, Production Manager of The Daily Star, left for Japan yesterday to attend a scholarship programme on Quality Control Management, sponsored by the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) at Yokohama, Japan, which will begin from today. Sanyal, a postgraduate in Applied Physics and Electronics, is a member of Bangladesh Computer Society, Bangladesh Electronics Society (Treasurer), Bangladesh Physical Society and IBA Alumni Society. An ex-BNCC and UOTC Cadet, Sanyal is also associated with different social activities.

Weather Moderate rain forecast Heavy rainfall is likely at places over the country in the next 12 hours commencing 6 pm yesterday, reports UNB. The Met Office also forecast moderately heavy to heavy fall at places over the country during the period. Moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at most places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Chittagong division. Temporary south-south-easterly squalls at the speed of 55-70 kph is likely at places over the country. The sun sets today at 6:50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:15 am.

Mugda Para residents held a rally protesting the closure of Mugda-Kamalapur connecting road in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. —Star photo

PM assures police of all logistic support

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the members of the law enforcing agencies to take stringent measures to ensure safety of life and property of the people and assured all logistic support for the police to ensure law and order, reports UNB. "There is no alternative to improvement in law and order for development," she said while addressing a meeting on law and order and development in greater Rangpur at the Rangpur Circuit House yesterday. "We will do each and everything for development of police force. But you have to ensure security and safety of the people," she told the police officials. The Prime Minister asked the police officials to go for action against the criminals wherever they are. Regarding law and order situation in the region, Sheikh Hasina said the scenario is not so good as is shown in the report. "A more improved law and order is a must." Referring to a recent incident at polytechnic institute, she said unfair means in exams would not be tolerated. Police should handle the matter quickly and strictly. The Prime Minister also asked the administrative officials to work sincerely to make Bangladesh free from hunger and poverty. Regarding Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge, the Prime Minister said, "We are trying to bring gas line in the northern region through the bridge." Divisional Commissioner Rizwanul Haq, DIG of Rajshahi range Abdus Salam, DC of Rangpur Moazzem Hossain and SP MA Mannaf and DCs of Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Gaibandha also spoke.

Bangladeshi peacekeepers lauded for professionalism

When unruly behaviour of UN peacekeepers from several European countries has aroused a lot of controversy, soldiers from Bangladesh serving under the United Nations have been singled out for discipline and professionalism, reports UNB. According to information confirmed by a UN spokesman in New York, Canadian, Belgian and Italian soldiers serving in UN peacekeeping missions in Somalia in 1993 were involved in several atrocities. Belgian soldiers have been accused of burning a Somali child over an open fire, Canadian soldiers have been documented while killing another child and the Italians photographed when torturing a Somali man with electrodes. The charges are now being investigated. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has expressed his outrage at the alleged atrocities. In a statement, released through his spokesman, Annan said such behaviour by UN peacekeepers was unacceptable and promised to take action to prevent such incidents. According to a Reuter report, Bangladesh was among the countries which took immediate action against its soldiers on peacekeeping duty for any alleged violation of military conduct. Any infraction is punished by a quick trip home, the agency noted. When asked to comment on the report, a UN official said Bangladeshi peacekeepers have shown great courage even when faced with adversity. Disciplinary actions are routinely taken for the slightest violation of rules, he said, adding that a Bangladeshi peacekeeper was sent back home from Haiti after the commanding officer received a verbal complaint from a US service woman. He said Bangladeshi soldiers stationed in Kuwait were reprimanded for quarreling in public. Over 1,100 Bangladeshi soldiers are presently serving in various peacekeeping mission, making Bangladesh the second largest contributor of troops to the United Nations.

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Business Advisory Service (BAS) for Export Oriented Small & Medium Enterprises Prospects of Exporting Fresh Flowers and Living Plants The Business Advisory Service (BAS), a project of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) in collaboration with the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), wants to identify the possibilities of promoting Export of fresh flowers from Bangladesh and to assess the problems faced by the exporting companies. A half-day workshop on this subject will be held on Wednesday, July 23rd, 1997 from 02.00 p.m. up to 5.30 p.m. If you are an exporter/commercial grower/trader of fresh flowers as well as other living plants, you may kindly register at the BAS Office. Last date of Registration : Tuesday, 15 July, 1997. Participation is free of COST. Contact Persons : Mr. Md. Emdadul Haque/Mr. Golam Kabir Business Advisory Service (BAS) Project. Dhaka Chamber Building, 5th floor. 65-66, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Phone : 9550074 and 9550104 Fax : 9567149

Job Opportunity American International School/Dhaka, United Nations Road, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212 is looking for a suitable candidate for its Procurement Officer position for immediate appointment. Candidate must have (i) a Bachelor's Degree (ii) working experience in any Multinational Company or Foreign Mission for at least five years (iii) fluency in English (iv) typing ability (v) computer literacy (vi) ability to perform catalogue purchase, shipment formalities and store handling and (vii) proficiency in business communications. Salary will be a minimum of Taka 20,460.00 per month with other benefits as per AIS/D service rules which include bonus, provident fund, medical allowance, etc. A higher base salary may be offered to a deserving candidate. Application with a resume and a recent photograph should reach by July 06, 1997 (Sunday). Candidate not ready to change present employment by the end of July, 1997 need not apply.

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