

**Justice Sayem's death condoled**

Justice Chowdhury A T M Masud, former judge of the appellate division and ex-chief election commissioner yesterday condoled the death of former president and the country's first chief justice Abusadat Mohammad Sayem, reports BSS.

In a message of condolence, Justice Masud recalled with respect the former president's commitment towards the cause of democracy, rule of law and independence of judiciary.

He prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Condolence books have been opened at Bangladesh diplomatic missions abroad at the death of former President Justice Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem, Foreign Office sources said, reports UNB.

**More donations to PM's Relief Fund**

Different organisations donated over Taka 47 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for cyclone victims, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the donations at her Jatiya Sangsad office yesterday.

The donors include Ministry of Education—Taka 7 lakh 83 thousand, Science and Technology Division—Taka 3 lakh 69 thousand, Ministry of Works and its various departments—Taka 12 lakh 19 thousand, Ministry of Foreign Affairs—Taka 2 lakh 11 thousand, Islampur Cloth Merchants Association—Taka 10 lakh, Ministry of Youth and Sports—Taka 2 lakh 50 thousand, Cultural Division—Taka one lakh 53 thousand, Association of Travel Agencies, Bangladesh—Taka five lakh, and Players Association—Taka two lakh 20 thousand.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presiding over a meeting of the National Economic Council at the NEC Bhaban yesterday. —PID photo

**Bangladesh, Italy cultural exchange programme to be signed July 17**

A three-year cultural exchange programme between Bangladesh and Italy will be signed by the ministers for cultural affairs on July 17, an official handout said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Raffaele Minero called on State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader at his office, the handout said.

They discussed matters relating to cultural exchange programme which is going to be signed between two friendly countries under the cultural exchange agreement of 1991.

**What's on today . . .**

**Drama:** The 300th performance of the comedy 'Kanjush' will be held. Venue: Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Time: 6 pm.

**AGM:** The inaugural ceremony of the eighth annual general meeting (AGM) of the College of General Practitioners of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: NIPSOM auditorium. Time: 8-30 am.

**UNAB:** In observance of the World Population Day the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a discussion meeting. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 10-30 am.

**Publication ceremony:** A publication ceremony of a book on Japanese short poems titled 'Kyoto Itako' by Hasnat Abdul Hye will be held. Venue: Auditorium of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Bhaban. Haiku Society of Bangladesh has organised the ceremony.

**Exhibition:** A 3-day exhibition of handloom textiles, handicrafts and jute products has been organised by Bibi Productions on the occasion of its 2nd anniversary. Venue: Shilpakala Academy. Time: 4 PM. Chief guest: Finance Minister SAMS Kibria.

**Theatre:** Prachyanat, a new theatre group, will present 'Kadrey Mana' and 'Dui Balader Galpa'. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, 754 Satmasjid Rd, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:45 pm. Chief guest: Dr Selim Al Din.

**ICSBA seminar:** International Centre for Study of Bengal Art (ICSBA) has arranged a seminar on 'Ancient semi-precious beads from Wari-Bateshwar of Narsingdi district, Bangladesh. Speaker: Dr Seema Pawankar. Venue: ICSBA library, House 32 E, Rd: 17A, Banani. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Tk 270 cr for development of BR western zone sanctioned**

RAJSHAHI, July 10: Government has sanctioned Taka 270 crore during the current fiscal year, which is Taka 38 crore more than the last fiscal, for implementation of various development projects in western zone of Bangladesh Railway, reports BSS.

Md Sayeed Hossain, General Manager, West Zone, Bangladesh Railway, said this while exchanging views with local journalists at Rail Bhaban here this afternoon. High railway officials were also present on the occasion.

He said that the west zone of Bangladesh Railway had earned Taka seven crore revenue during the last fiscal year. About 70 per cent revenue income had come from 20 inter city trains, he added.

In reply to a question, Sayeed Hossain said that the west zone procured 20 locomotive engines-10 each from Germany and India during the last fiscal year. Ten locomotive engines had been purchased from Germany at a cost of Taka 160 crore under German government grant while 10 locomotives were purchased by government from India at a cost of Taka 60 crore, he added.

He informed that the rehabilitation work of 37 km mm rail line between Jessore to Benapole which started in May last will be completed during the current fiscal year at a cost of Taka 20 crore.

Sayeed Hossain said that the shifting work of Teestamukh Ghat from its present place to Balasud under Gaibandha district will be completed by September at a cost of Taka eight crore.

The general manager said that western zone rail authority has taken measures to check smuggling in all the trains. He said that one armed guard would be posted in each train to check smuggling for greater interest of the nation.

He said that four railway employees of western zone have been awarded prizes and certificates for their best services for which revenue income of railway increased during the last fiscal year. He handed over the cash prizes and certificates at a ceremony. The recipients are: Md Tajuddin, station master, Khulna, Md Asiruddin, station master Phulbari, Md Abdul Jalil, booking assistant, Amnura and Md Abu Teher, Junior TTE, accounts.

**Saudi Minister makes stopover at ZIA**

Saudi Minister for Islam and Waqf Mohasin Khan Turki made a stopover at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on his way to Indonesia yesterday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Mubammad Nurul Islam received the Saudi Minister at the airport.

The ministers held a meeting at the airport and discussed bilateral issues. They also hoped that the existing friendly relations between the two countries will further be strengthened in the days to come.

Bangladesh Hajj Consul in Saudi Arabia Badrul Hye, Director Islamic Foundation Mofazzal Hossain Khan, Saudi Charge D' Affairs to Bangladesh Hani Amin Singi and officials of Foreign Ministry were present.

**Bangladesh envoy elected president of Colombo Plan council**

Masum Ahmed Chowdhury, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, was unanimously elected president of the Council of Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific for 1997-98, reports UNB.

His nomination for the post was proposed by Malaysia and seconded by Pakistan at the Council's 220th session held in Colombo yesterday, according to a message received in the city.

The Colombo Plan embodies the concept of collective inter-governmental efforts towards the economic and social development of member countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Over the last two years, the Plan has expanded its programmes and established links with other regional organisations and development banks like Asian Productivity Organisations (APO), South East Asian Fisheries Centre (SEAFDEC), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Korean International Cooperation Agency (KICA).

**Lawyer, 2 assistants jailed for fraud in Khulna**

KHULNA, July 10: A lawyer and two of his assistants have been sentenced to three years in jail for fraudulence, reports UNB.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mizanur Rahman handed down the sentence to Advocate Idris Ali and his assistants Mohammad Ali and Rajem today.

He also fined the accused Tk 5,000 each in default, to suffer six months more in jail.

The case history in brief: One Bimal Biswas gave Advocate Idris Ali Tk 60,000 as a case fee in 1992, but the lawyer and his assistants did not take up the case.

**BSTI files 54 cases in Khulna**

KHULNA, July 10: Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) recently conducted four drives through mobile courts against the violators of weight and measurement rules in various markets in Barguna, Satkhira, Narail and Bhola districts, reports BSS.

Fifty four cases were filed against the defaulting traders who failed to implement the metric systems of weight and measurement.

Taka 17,250 (seventeen thousand two hundred and fifty) was realised as fine from them.

Meanwhile, the authorities also forfeited illegal measurement and weighing instruments.

Earlier, the BSTI Khulna office conducted at least 56 drives through mobile courts in Khulna and Barisal divisions during the 1996-1997 fiscal. They realised Taka 1,46,645 (one lakh forty six thousand six hundred forty five) as fine in this period.

**Prof Pulin Dey injured**

CHITTAGONG, July 10: Prof Pulin Dey, presidium member of Bangladesh Awami League and a close associate of late Masterda Surya Sen, was critically injured as he slipped and fell down on the street on the way back to his residence recently, reports BSS.

**BTV earned Tk 55.7 cr in last fiscal**

Bangladesh Television (BTV) has earned Tk 55.70,24,000 as commercial revenue during the fiscal 1996-97, reports UNB.

This shows an increase of Tk 14.84, 85,000, which is 36.35 per cent more than the previous fiscal year.

The income of BTV from this sector was only Tk 22,71,75,000 in the fiscal 1992-93, said an official handout.

But the TV authority took necessary steps to gear up the increase by stopping misuse of valuable TV time, increasing saleable TV time, restructuring of advertisement tariff and also by introducing a number of attractive programmes for the sponsors.

This earning has so far been the highest by the BTV's sales department since December 1971.

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By order of the Board  
(Fahruddin Ahmed, M. Com., FCMA, FCA)  
Secretary

July 10, 1997.

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