

# Metropolitan



Visiting Air Force chief of Singapore Major General Goh Yong Siang called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

## Italian minister visits Bangabandhu Museum

Senator Ms Patrizia Toa, deputy foreign minister of Italy, yesterday visited Bangabandhu Museum at Dhanmondi in the city, reports BSS.

She placed a wreath at the portrait of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the museum premises.

Ms Toa went round different sections of the museum and expressed her deep shock observing many historic evidences of the brutal killings of Bangabandhu and most of his family members.

## More areas of Goalundo Lowhajang inundated

The Ganges continued to surge at all points inundating more areas of Goalundo in Rajbari and Lowhajang and Srinagar thanas of Munshiganj district, reports UNB.

Low-lying areas of Dohar and Narayanganj thanas of Dhaka district may also be flooded.

The Brahmaputra at Aricha, the Ganges at Goalundo and Bhagyakul, Surma at Kanaighat, Sylhet, Sunamganj and the Khushiara at Amalshid and Sheola were flowing above the respective danger marks till 9 am yesterday, said a Flood Information Centre bulletin.

Flood situation of Rowmari

and Chilmari thanas in Kurigram, Kazipur, Belkuchi, Chouhall, Shajapur and Sadar thanas of Sirajganj district may improve further.

The situation in Biani Bazar, Zakiganj, Kanaighat, Companyganj and Sadar thanas of Sylhet district and Chhatok, Doara Bazar and Sadar thanas of Sunamganj district may also continue to improve.

According to the bulletin, the Brahmaputra registered fall further at all points except at Aricha, and all the rivers except Meghna in the Meghna and Southeastern Hill basin also recorded fall during the last 24 hours ending at 9 am yesterday.

Forecasting for the next 24 hours, the centre predicted the Brahmaputra at Chilmari is likely to fall by 28 cm and may flow 78 cm below danger level, at Bahadurabad by 28 cm and may flow 15 cm below danger level, at Sirajganj by 24 cm and may flow 54 cm below danger level, and at Aricha by 6 cm and may flow just on the danger level.

The Ganges at Goalundo is likely to fall by 3 cm and may flow 7 cm above danger level while at Bhagyakul the river likely to rise by 2 cm and may flow 33 cm above danger level.

In Brahmaputra basin, only the river Brahmaputra was still flowing by 13 cm above the danger mark at Bahadurabad and by 6 cm at Aricha.

All the rivers in the Ganges basin were flowing below the danger levels, excepting the Ganges at Bhagyakul and Goalundo, where it was flowing 31 cm and 10 cm respectively above the danger marks.

In Meghna basin, the Surma was still flowing above danger marks by 9 cm at Kanaighat, 8 cm at Sylhet and by 25 cm at Sunamganj while the river Khushiara by 1.29 m at Amalshid and by 45 cm at Sheola.

Meantime, the rivers in Southeastern Hill basin were flowing below their respective danger marks.

## Bangladesh Uzbekistan sign protocol

Bangladesh and Uzbekistan have signed protocol of intentions on cooperation between Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan and National Broadcasting Authority of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Uzbekistan SK Sharif Hassan and Farhod Ro'ziev, Rais O'Rinbosari signed the agreement on behalf of their governments in Tashkent on Tuesday, according to a message received yesterday.

## What's on today . . .

**Workshop:** Democracywatch will hold an awareness workshop on drug, other addiction and AIDS. Venue: 7, Circuit House Road, Kakrail. Time: 6 pm.

**Geetanjali:** A session of Tagore's songs titled 'Jhorey Jhorajhore 'Srabandhara' will be held. It will be seventeenth presentation of the Geetanjali. Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 7.30 pm.

Songs will be presented by Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Naima Ali, Nahar Jamil, Salma Akbar, Nargis Chowdhury, Sajed Akbar, Mokbul Hossain, Meshbahul Alam.

**Rotary Club of Dhanmondi:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club upstairs family lounge. Time: 5.30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Jahangirnagar Dhaka:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officers' Club, Baily Road. Time: 5.30 pm.

**Islamic Foundation:** A fortnight-long programme on the holy occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi will be inaugurated. Venue: Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. Time: 7.10 pm.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will inaugurate the function.

**Zahir Raihan Film Society:** On the second day of the Mira Nair Retrospective two films made by Mira Nair will be screened. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No. 2, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm and 6 pm.

**Seminar:** A one-day dissemination seminar will be held. Venue: Sasakawa auditorium of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B).

**Discussion:** Tamuddud Majlis will hold a discussion meeting and *hamd-naat mahfil* on the occasion of the Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 5 pm.

Justice Mohammad Abdur Rauf will attend the function as chief guest.

**ISAB seminar:** International Studies Association, Bangladesh has arranged a day-long seminar on "South Asian Growth Quadrangle: Bangladesh Perspective". Venue: BISS auditorium, 1/46 Elephant Road. Time: 9:30 am-5 pm.

**Launching ceremony:** Asiatic Society of Bangladesh has arranged a launching ceremony of three books historical monuments of Bangladesh — 'Mainamati-Devaparvata', 'Sonargaon-Panam' and 'Gawr-Lakhnawati'. Venue: Society's seminar room, 5 Old Secretariat Rd, Nimitali, Ramna. Time: 5 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka North West:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club Ltd. Time: 5-30 pm.

## Rhetoric dominates AIDS symposium

By Staff Correspondent

Rhetoric and religion dominated an AIDS symposium Monday, short on concrete solutions to the epidemic.

"The politicians didn't make any commitment," said Muna Chowdhury, member of the One Step Ahead Development Organisation (OSADO). They agreed to sit together again but didn't say what they specifically wanted to do to educate the population or pass legislation to protect HIV positive and AIDS patients. It wasn't what we expected."

OSADO and the Bangladesh Anti AIDS Organisation invited politicians from all parties to speak at the symposium on "Political Commitments Towards AIDS Prevention in Bangladesh" at the Hotel Sonargaon.

Other speakers included Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, Maj. Gen. MR Chowdhury, Technical Chairman of the National AIDS Committee, and Prof. Nazrul Islam, Project Director of Bangladesh AIDS Prevention and Control Programme.

MR Chowdhury introduced a draft of Dhaka Charter 1997, which gave five proposals to fight AIDS. It called upon politicians both in government and opposition to come forward prevent AIDS in Bangladesh, adopt specific measures to prevent the spread of the virus and place special emphasis on the 'target population' that included students, rickshaw drivers and migrant workers and to meet from 'time to time' to discuss possible legislation in this regard.

But there didn't seem to be much interest in the Charter. There were a lot of empty chairs

in the Sonargaon ballroom and many politicians didn't stay to listen to others after they finished their speeches. One even appeared to fall asleep as speakers asked the virtually absent press to help educate the people about the dangers of HIV.

In his inaugural speech, Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said HIV/AIDS threatened the country's medical system and asked all concerned to stop recycling syringes. He also advocated purity for the nation's youth and strengthening religious practice.

"I believe prevention of AIDS would be easy if we didn't do things strictly prohibited by Islam," he said.

Chowdhury also raised religion during his keynote speech, referring to the doomed cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Chowdhury later dismissed a suggestion his focus on 'lewdness' neglected other methods of transmission, like tainted blood transfusions or shared needles.

"Abstinence is not psychological," he said. "But any sort of uncontrolled activities with regard to sex will lead to this type of infection. We must have control."

Chowdhury also used slides to introduce the audience to the 'beautiful' but deadly HIV virus and showed statistics charting the epidemic's course across the world. He said Bangladesh should take advantage of the 'window of opportunity' to counter poverty, illiteracy, ignorance and superstition which helped the HIV virus take hold.

"It's like a time bomb," he said. "Bangladesh is a low HIV prevalence area now, but when it comes it will be devastating."

## ICDDR,B did commendable jobs in 19 years

The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) did a commendable job during the last 19 years by imparting training to both national and international experts in various disciplines of public health.

As many as 16,852 experts working in various national and international fields were provided training by the ICDDR,B in Dhaka during the period with special emphasis on research and prevention of fatal diseases like diarrhoea, a senior official of the centre told BSS yesterday.

He said the centre organised 84 international training workshops participated by 928 experts from different countries including Bangladesh and 177 national training courses with a total of 2,909 participants exclusively for Bangladesh during the period from 1978 to 1996.

Besides, he said, a total of 855 fellowship programmes were sponsored by the centre for short training of 12,162 students of Bangladesh on individual basis during the period.

"The students of Dhaka University and the Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR) were awarded the three months long fellowships," the official said.



## University of Chittagong Enlistment Notice

Dated: 24-6-1997

Applications are invited from the local agents of foreign manufacturers/publishers/suppliers for enlistment to work as local agents for the import of different articles viz. scientific equipments, chemicals, glasswares, sports goods, books & journals, printing materials, spare parts of vehicles, photographic materials, tools and workshop equipments etc for the Departments and offices of Chittagong University.

Interested parties/indentors, so required may contact the Director (Incharge), Planning & Development, Chittagong University and they are requested to submit their applications on their letter head by enclosing copies of experience certificate, Trade Licence, IRC, GIR, VAT Registration, Bank Solvency Certificate and other particulars of the firms to the undersigned on or before 24-7-97.

Incomplete application will not be considered for enlistment.

Registrar (I/C)  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong.

GD-32

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD) Ferry Division, Topkhana, Sylhet Tender Notice (2nd Call)

- Tender Notice No: 82 (96-97). Dt: 3-6-97.
- Name of work: Supplying of brand new spare parts for 75 HP Ford Engine under Ferry Division, Sylhet during the year 1996-97.
- Estimated cost: Tk 1,22,500/- (Tk. one lac twenty-two thousand five hundred) only.
- Earnest money: Tk 2,450/- (Tk. two thousand four hundred fifty) only.
- Time allowed for work: 10 (Ten) days from the date of work order.
- Tender Form: Bangladesh Form No-2908.
- Nature of contractor: 1. A to C general category of RHD. 2. D general of Dhaka Ferry Circle. 3. E general of Ferry Division, Sylhet.
- Name of office where tender documents will be available: 1. Executive Engineer (RHD), Ferry Division, Sylhet. 2. Executive Engineer (RHD), Ferry Construction Division, Dhaka. 3. Executive Engineer (RHD), Ferry Maintenance Division, Dhaka. 4. Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Ferry Sub-Division, Sylhet.
- Name of offices to receive tender: 1. Superintending Engineer (RHD), Ferry Circle, Dhaka. 2. Executive Engineer (RHD), Ferry Division, Sylhet. 3. Executive Engineer (RHD), Ferry Construction Division, Dhaka. 4. Executive Engineer (RHD), Ferry Maintenance Division, Dhaka.
- Last date of selling the tender documents: 23-7-97 up to office hours.
- Last date and time of receiving tender: 24-7-97 at 12:00 Noon.
- Last date and time of opening tender: 27-7-97 at 12:30 PM.
- If lowest tender is more than one then date and time of lottery: 28-7-97 at 12:30 PM.

Executive Engineer (Mech.) (RHD), Ferry Division Sylhet.  
DFF-16216-13/7 G-1827

## Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka WANTED

No D-86(2) Dt: 16-07-97  
Applications are invited from the bonafide citizens of Bangladesh with requisite qualifications and fitness to fill up the following posts of this University.

- Architecture Dept**
  - Two permanent posts of Assistant Professor in the scale of Tk 4800-7250/-.
- Humanities Dept**
  - Two temporary posts of Assistant Professor (One in English and one in Accounting subject) against the permanent posts of Associate Professor in the scale of Tk 4800-7250/-.
- Mathematics Dept**
  - One permanent post of Lecturer in the scale of Tk 2850-5155/-.
- Physics Dept**
  - One temporary post of Lecturer (against the permanent post of Associate Professor) and one temporary (on ad-hoc basis) post of Lecturer in the scale of Tk 2850-5155/- in Nuclear Physics/Medical Physics.
- Mechanical Engg Dept**
  - Three permanent posts of Lecturer and seven temporary posts of Lecturer against the higher post (one post against the permanent post of Professor, three posts against the permanent posts of Associate Professor and three posts against the permanent posts of Assistant Professor) total ten posts of Lecturer in the scale of Tk 2850-5155/-.

Details of prescribed qualifications and terms and conditions for submission of application for the above posts may be obtained from the office of the Registrar of this University personally or by sending duly stamped self-addressed envelope.

Candidates having foreign degree/diplomas will have to submit equivalence certificate to be obtained from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology with their applications.

15 (fifteen) complete sets of application with attested copies of all certificates, testimonials, transcripts and marksheets are to be submitted to the Registrar of this University along with a crossed Postal Order/Pay Order/Bank Draft of Tk 25/- (twenty-five) in favour of the Comptroller of this University.

Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

Last date for submission of application: 14th August, 1997/30 Sraban, 1404.

GD-33 Registrar

## Italian minister lauds reform measures

Visiting Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Senator Patrizia Toia yesterday highly appreciated the reform measures undertaken by the present government in economic and administrative sectors, reports UNB.

She also praised the government's efforts for adopting various social policies in alleviating poverty, enhancing women's participation in economic activities and maintaining political stability in the country.

The Italian DFM was talking to the Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed at his office.

During the meeting, Tofael sought cooperation of Italy in getting GSP for 2-stage local transformation of knit garments.

"We are getting GSP in exporting garments to EU since 1986 under the rules of origin criteria. EU allowed US GSP although we did not have sufficient textile industries to fully comply with the rules of origin for 3-stage local transformation," he said.

The minister said Bangladesh RMG exporters have had an open mind in endorsing documents for getting GSP certificates and EU also reciprocated with sympathy for last 10 years.

He mentioned difficulties of the governments as well as entrepreneurs and the legal implications of EU's condition on the previous GSP certificates in enjoying derogation of rules of origin from 3-stage to 2-stage local transformation.

Tofael said some 14 lakh workers, now employed in garment sector, will be rendered jobless straight as the en-

trepreneurs would have to shut down their factories in order to get back the benefits from GSP for the last 10 years.

The present government is not allowing any GSP certificate without complying rules of origin criteria," he said.

Replying to the Bangladesh minister's arguments, the Italian DFM said Bangladesh has sufficient grounds to relax the EU's condition on GSP certificate, and assured that they would raise the issue with the EU.

## Dept of Youth Dev to give Tk 20 lakh grant

The Department of Youth Development will give Taka twenty lakh as grant to 244 youth organisations across the country, reports BSS.

The grant was approved in the 17th meeting of the governing board of the Youth Welfare Fund in the conference room of the Youth and Sports Ministry yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader presided over the meeting which was attended, among others, by secretary of the ministry ASM Shahjahan, treasurer of Dhaka University Shamsul Haq.

The meeting reviewed the overall youth development activities undertaken by the ministry and decided to formulate a calendar of work with a view to solving unemployment problem to a great extent by the year 2000.