

What's on today....

Workshop: A workshop on 'medical physics in cancer diagnosis and therapy' will begin. Venue: Council room of BUET. Time: 9:30 am. Chief guest: Prof Sayyid Fazlul Huq, President, Bangladesh Cancer Society. Organisers: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Medizinische Physik in collaboration with Department of Physics, BUET and Delta Medical Centre.

Seminar: A seminar on 'What is El Nino and what is its effect on Bangladesh?' will be held. Venue: SPARSO auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 3 pm. Organiser: SPARSO Officers Welfare Association.

AGM, workshop: A 3-day workshop on 'asthma and COPD' and the annual general meeting of Asthma Association will begin. Venue: BCPS auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 9:30 am. Chief guest: Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf.

Film show: 'Rendezvous' (short film) and 'Titas Ekti Nadir Nam' by Ritwik Ghatak will be screened. Organiser: Chalcitram Film Society. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House: 119B, Rd: 2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka South: The regular weekly meeting, followed by a meeting of the board of directors, will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time 5:30 pm.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering her inaugural speech at a three-day post-election seminar for members of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. The seminar has been organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat.

— PID photo

Foundation of Engineering Staff College to be laid today

Staff Correspondent

The foundation stone-laying ceremony of Engineering Staff College of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) will be held today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be present as chief guest and lay the foundation stone at the site of the college on the western side of Meghna-Gumti Bridge (Daudkandi Bridge) at 10 am today. Prof Dr A. Anwarul Azim, president, IEB, will preside.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate an international conference on 'engineering profession in the 21st century' at the same venue. Heads of engineers institutions of the SAARC countries and nearly 3000 engineers from home and abroad are expected to attend.

First phase of 'Dhanmondi Lake dev project' begins

By Staff Correspondent

Work on the first phase of 'Dhanmondi Lake development project' has started at the northern part of the area.

The developers are now building a large work-shed to set up their coordinating office for the Tk 10 crore project on the green space behind Dhanmondi Govt Girls' School.

Earth-filling of some parts of the lake has also started. Officials of Monami, the developer, said they would develop both sides of the stretch in line with the Bangabandhu Memorial Monument to be set up on the northern side.

"We will pump out this lake water phase by phase, re-excavate its bed closely following the development plan," said an engineer.

Full text of statement made by donors

Bilateral donors issued a statement on the current political situation in Bangladesh, at the inaugural session of the 2-day Aid Group meeting which began in the city yesterday.

The signatories to the statement are the heads of delegations of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and the USA.

Following is the full text of the statement:

"Bangladesh's development partners view with increasing concern the growth of political intolerance, violence and intimidation in the country. Such political instability undermines development. The prolonged political confrontation between the previous government and the opposition resulted in economic and developmental stagnation during 1994-1996. The present confrontation between the current government and the opposition appears to be ushering in a new cycle of violence, intimidation and instability. Violence in the universities, which is condoned and even encouraged by political parties, is another manifestation of this climate of intolerance.

Development partners sincerely hope that all members of political parties will respect the call of the Honorable President of Bangladesh for tolerance and accommodation in the interests

of the country as a whole, and settle their differences in Parliament, and not by violence.

Bangladesh faces formidable development challenges, which we are discussing at this meeting. The vision of poverty reduction and economic growth is possible with effort and reforms. Achieving these goals will bring new life and hope to the many millions at present living in deepest poverty. This will need the sustained cooperation and commitment of the Government, all political parties and citizens, in partnership with external donors, bilateral and multilateral. But such co-operation and partnership will not be possible in a climate of instability fueled by intolerance and intimidation. Under such circumstances, it is almost inevitable that external aid flows to Bangladesh will be adversely affected. Potential foreign investors will also be discouraged and look elsewhere for business opportunities.

The future prosperity of Bangladesh depends on the actions and attitudes of leaders of all political parties. If they allow intolerance, violence, and instability, they will all bear the responsibility for the resulting damage to the future prosperity of the nation. Bangladesh's development partners call on all political parties to exercise enlightened leadership to establish stable governance under which the country can grow and prosper.

Weather

Dry weather forecast

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today according to Met Office forecast, reports UNB.

No appreciable change in night temperature is expected. Country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 33.0 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 17.2 pm and rises on Thursday at 6:08 am.

TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND TESTING OF PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER AT BSL OFFICE COMPLEX (2nd Call)

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Secretary

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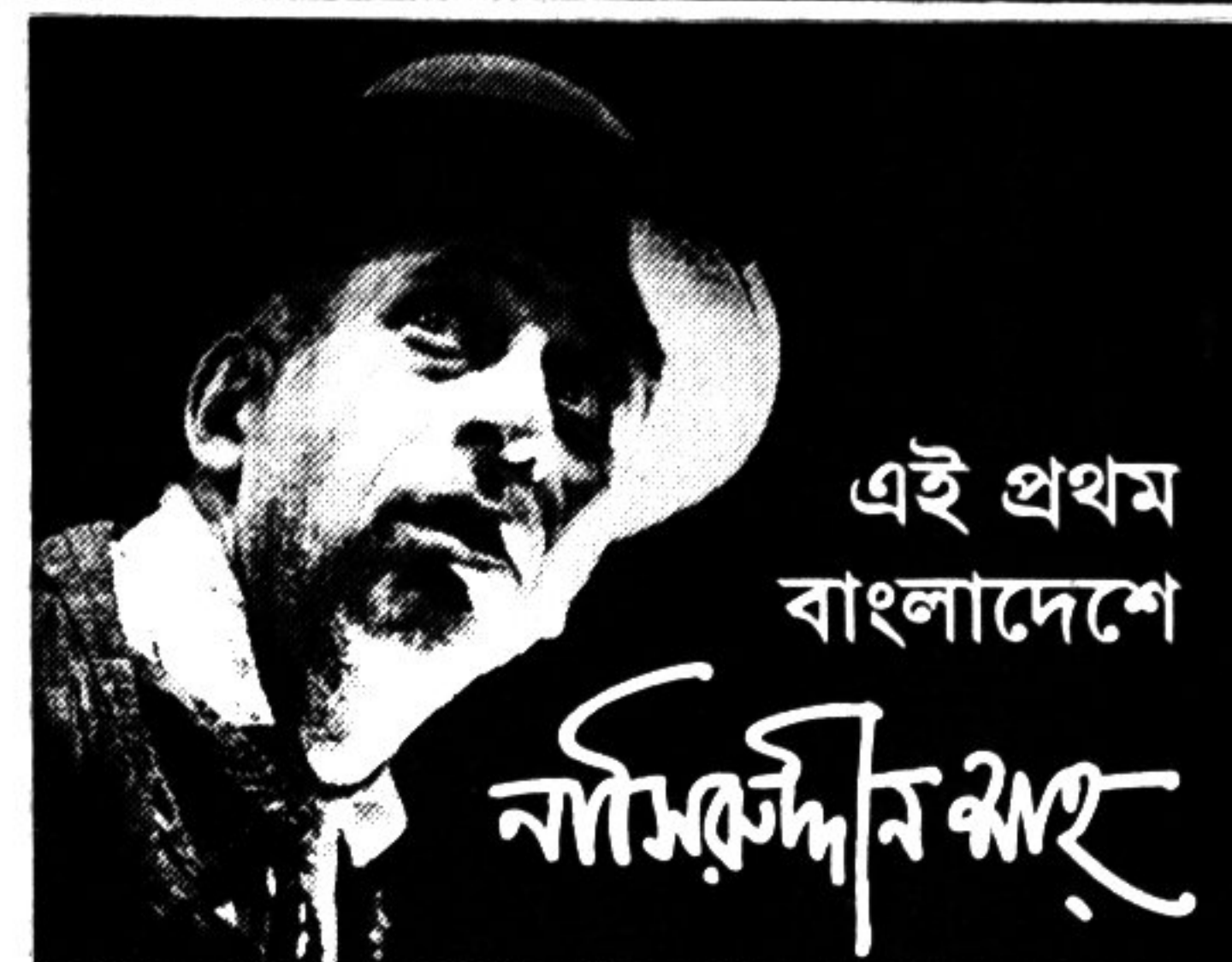
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'Khas land to be distributed among the landless'

State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharrarf yesterday said the government is making arrangements to rehabilitate the landless people and all khas land occupied illegally would be restored and distributed among them, reports BSS.

He said this while exchanging views with party workers and people from all walks of life at the central office of Bangladesh Awami League at Bangabandhu Avenue.

Mosharrarf said, committees have been constituted at all levels to make the rehabilitation programme a success.

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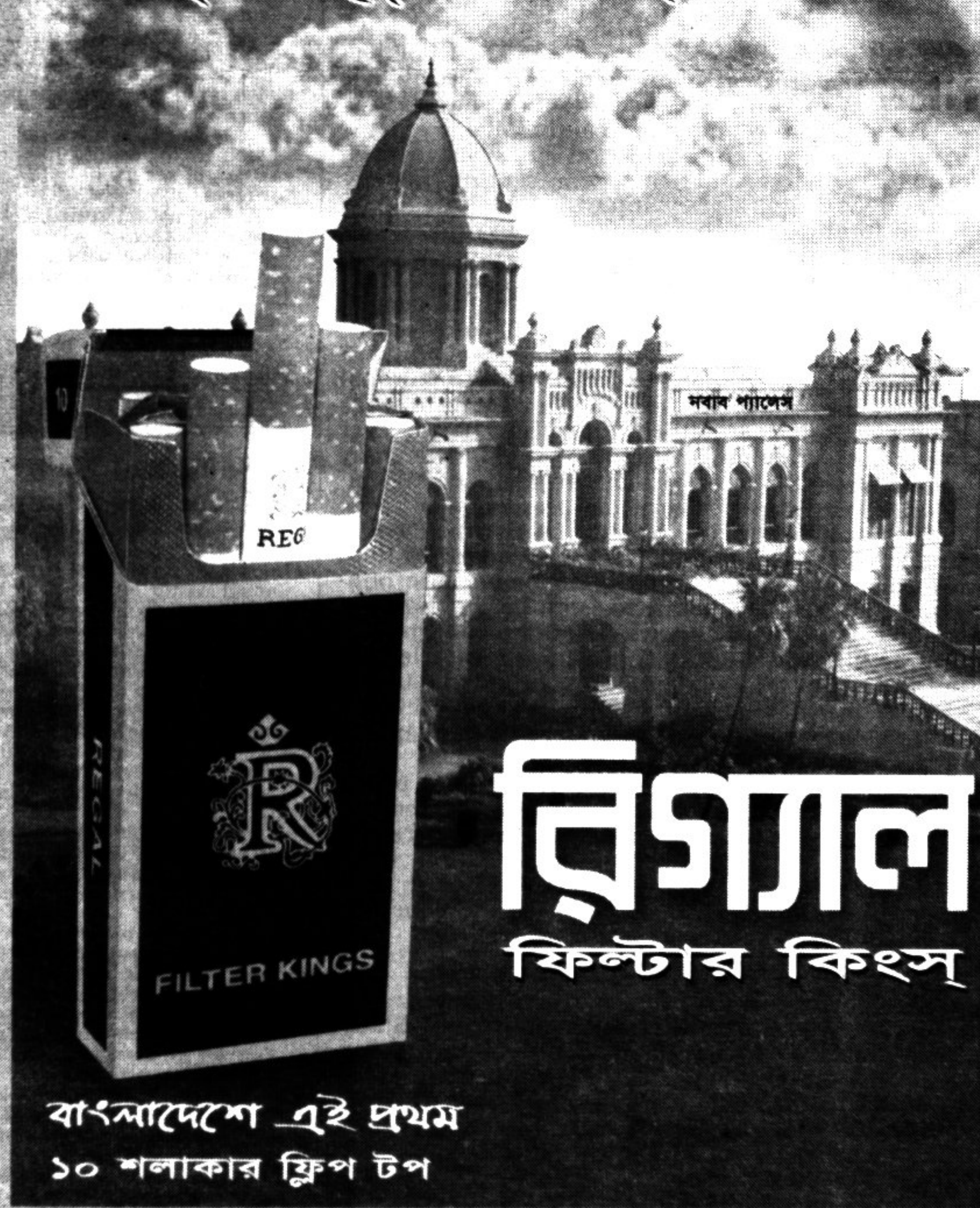
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