

What's on today.....

Inaugural ceremony: The inaugural ceremony of the 2nd meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Environment and Meteorology will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 10 am.

Memorial lecture: Aji Guha Memorial Lecture will be held. Topic: Philosophy of Communalism. Speaker: Prof Anisuzzaman. Venue: Children's auditorium, National Museum. Time: 4:30 pm.

BCPS lecture: A lecture on 'Management of Burn Injuries' will be delivered by Dr Shafiqat Hussain Khundkar, Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery, RIHD. Organiser: Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS). Venue: BCPS auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 11:00 am-1:30 pm.

Film show: The concluding part of Peter Brook's 'Mahabharata', titled 'The War' will be screened. Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium. Time: 6:00 pm.

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

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

..... and tomorrow

AGM: A two-day annual general meeting (AGM) of the Commonwealth Student and Youth Organisation will be held. Venue: Central office of the organisation at Dhanmondi. Time: 3:00 pm.

Stamford College: HSC freshers' reception will be held. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, house no 510, road no 7, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 10:00 am.



State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed addressing the inaugural of Cultural Week '97 of Sir Salimullah Medical College in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Pirated versions of Hollywood films invading city cinemas

By Staff Correspondent

If you pass by a cinema hall and see billboards carrying apparently meaningless titles for films, like 'Hard to Caught', don't be surprised. Movie pirates are marketing the latest Hollywood blockbusters under such headlines.

'Hard to Caught' is actually a Harrison Ford blockbuster, 'The Fugitive', released last year. According to film distributors in Dhaka, the pirated version of 'Fugitive' will be released in city cinemas within a month.

Thanks to such pirated versions, real Hollywood movie buffs never noticed that Arnold Schwarzenegger's science-fiction action film 'Total Recall' invaded the cinemas as 'War in Space'. Mel Gibson's 'Bird on a Wire' with a meaningless title 'Bird and Away', Brooke Shields' 'Endless Love' as 'Love, Love, Love!' and Van Damme's 'Universal Soldier' as 'Phantom Soldier'.

Imagine, you missed one of the most entertaining movies, 'Speed', because it was released as 'Targetway', 'Star Wars' or 'Star Trek' had also been released in the past. But these films failed to draw the attention of Hollywood movie lovers — the real target audience — film distributors said.

Besides, pornographic English films have largely kept away the real audiences from the cinema as well.

Screening of pirated films in the local cinemas, besides poor condition of the halls and low profit margin for the owners, has been viewed as a major threat by Universal Pictures, USA — which is currently trying to promote latest Hollywood films in Bangladesh.

SAARC ministers meet in Male Nov 29-30

The SAARC Council of Ministers will meet November 29-30 in Male, the capital of the Maldives. Foreign Office sources said in Dhaka on Thursday, reports UNB.

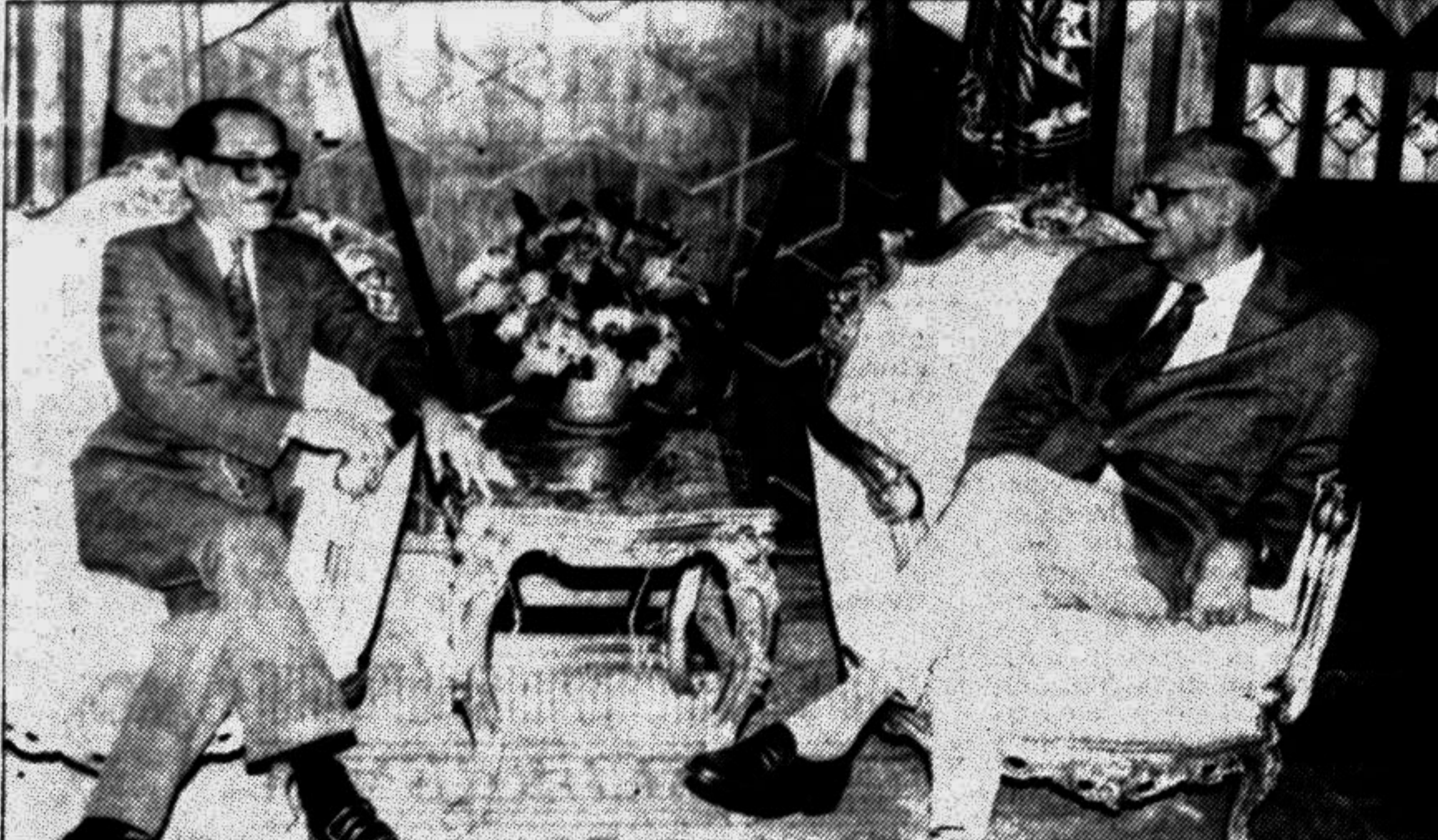
It will be the 19th session of the Council, to be inaugurated by President Mameen Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives, who is the current Chairman of the 13-year-old association.

The Foreign Ministers of the seven member countries will have the follow up of the 9th SAARC summit held in the capital of the coral islands state last May. It will also fix the date of the next SAARC summit to be held in Colombo next year.

PM greets new Thai PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has congratulated Chuan Leekpai on his assumption of office of the Prime Minister of Thailand, reports BSS.

In a message to Leekpai the Bangladesh Prime Minister expressed her sincere hope that existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries will be further developed and strengthened in the years ahead.



Renowned Indian journalist and member of Rajya Sabha Kuldip Nayar called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

Agriculture mainstay of country: PM

A five-member delegation of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) led by its Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mohammad Hossain called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

They apprised the Prime Minister of various development activities of the university.

The Prime Minister, talking to the delegation, said agriculture is the mainstay of the country and the government is giving due importance for the development of the sector.

The development of agriculture will help alleviate poverty from the country and stop the influx of the rural poor to urban areas, she said.

The Prime Minister suggested them to propagate among the people to bring changes in their food habit.

Agreeing with the PM on this point, the BAU Vice Chancellor said the people should take all varieties of pulses, produced in the country, for nutrition purpose.

The VC said there is a misconception about Khesari that its consumption causes lathyrism, but it is not true.

He said the possibility of the disease occurs only when people consume Khesari in large quantity continuously for three months and over. But if this (Khesari) is mixed with other varieties of pulses, there is no harm.

The delegation members included Dr M Sadullah, Prof MA Sattar Mondol and Abdul Hanan Khan.

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Director of Human Resources




PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON HOTEL
Dhaka
107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

U S B U S I N E S S i n B A N G L A D E S H


1998

THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN BANGLADESH (AmCham) and the UNITED STATES EMBASSY announce the US Trade Show '98 will be held at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel from February 12 to 14, 1998. Invitation letters to US firms and / or their agents have already been mailed inviting them to participate in the TRADE SHOW.

Interested US firms or their agents, who have not yet received the invitation letters, should contact AmCham for details.



MR. A GAFUR
Executive Director, AmCham &
Director, US TRADE SHOW '98
AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN BANGLADESH
Room No 319, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Dhaka 1000
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Commonwealth Development Corporation

CDC is one of the world's leading development finance institutions. Based in London CDC operates in the emerging economies through 24 offices world-wide. At the end of 1996 CDC had US\$ 2.5 billion in vested in 393 enterprises in 54 countries.

CDC has already invested US\$60m in Bangladesh and has a further US\$ 100m of investments in process. Due to this increasing volume of investment business, CDC is seeking to expand the establishment of its Dhaka office. The following positions are open for the right candidates :

SENIOR INVESTMENT EXECUTIVE

The successful candidate will be :

- capable of sourcing, analysing and processing new investment opportunities for CDC
- responsible for the implementation of new investments and the monitoring of existing investment performance
- able to establish, develop and maintain new and existing client relationships at a senior level
- computer literate with MS Office experience and the ability to build project models in MS Excel

To meet CDC's standard the candidate will be an MBA or be a Chartered Accountant/CPA with 4-5 years experience in the banking or commercial sector. Knowledge and understanding of the local business community and environment is essential. An appreciation of best international practice would be an asset. The candidate must be fluent in English and Bengali.

SENIOR SECRETARY

The successful candidate will be :

- familiar with MS Office 95 and specifically MS Word
- have a typing/word processing speed of at least 70 words per minute
- have PABX experience and pleasant telephone manner

To meet CDC's standard the candidate is likely to be a graduate with a minimum two years of office experience. Fluency in both English and Bengali is essential.

Remuneration for both positions will be competitive and commensurate with the level of skill and experience.

PLEASE SEND A FULL CV (INCLUDING DETAILS OF CURRENT EMPLOYMENT AND A PASSPORT SIZED PHOTOGRAPH) TO :

Country Manager, CDC, 6th Floor, Safura Tower, 20, Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213.

Applications should be submitted by Sunday 16 November 1997.

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BCA workshop postponed

The strategic planning workshop scheduled to be held on Nov 13-14 organised by Bangladesh Christian Association (BCA) has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. The workshop is likely to take place in mid January 1998, says a press release.

Int'l workshop on malnutrition begins Nov 17

A four-day international workshop on "Prevention and Control of Micronutrient Malnutrition through Food-based Actions in SAARC Countries" will begin at BARC here on November 17, reports UNB.

Agriculture and Food Minister Motia Chowdhury will open the workshop jointly organised by BARC and FAO.

The workshop is aimed at promoting and strengthening food-based strategies as a means of controlling micronutrient malnutrition of the people of SAARC countries.

About 50 senior food and nutrition scientists and policy planners from SAARC countries and the Philippines are taking part in the workshop which will also be attended by representatives of FAO, donor agencies and NGOs.