

Metropolitan

Smuggled goods worth Tk 18 lakh recovered in Comilla

BDR jawans recovered a huge quantity of smuggled goods worth about Tk 18 lakh in a week-long drive at different parts of Comilla district from December 23, reports UNB.

The BDR men seized Indian saree worth about Tk 16 lakh from Dighir Bazar in Debiddar thana.

They also recovered sugar, salt, sweater, muffler, timber, liquor and ganja from the areas, including Borodoshia Bazar, Bibir Bazar, Borobazar, Kasba, Nayanpur, Saldanadi and Gangasagar.

Obituary

Dr Saleha Khatun, wife of late Shahabuddin Ahmed died in the city yesterday morning at the residence of her elder daughter Shireen Ahmed. She was 71. She was the eldest daughter-in-law of late principal Jalaluddin Ahmed, reports BSS.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held on December 6 at Uttara Mosque at Sector 7, Road No 1. She will be buried at the Azimur graveyard.

AMADEUS
House # 75, Road # 7/A
Dhanmondi R/A (Near Eidgah Mosque)
PHONE : 823061

CRASH COURSES BEGIN

TOEFL	08.01.98 Tk. 8,000/-
GMAT	15.01.98 Tk. 12,000/-
SAT	12.01.98 Tk. 12,000/-
GRE	25.01.98 Tk. 12,000/-
MBA/BA	28.01.98 Tk. 10,000/-

LIMITED SEATS

Japanese envoy calls on PM

The Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Yoshikazu Kaneko, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence at Ganobhaban yesterday morning, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest.

Foreign Secretary Mostafizur Rahman was present on the occasion.

UNIC organises cartoon competition

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the UN Information Service (UNIC) in Bangkok will organise a cartoon competition, reports BSS.

The aim of the competition is to hold an exhibition and a book. The main exhibition will be located at ESCAP's headquarters in Bangkok, while all entries will be copied and circulated around the region, a UN Information Centre press release said yesterday.

The competition will feature Asia-Pacific region's most eminent professional cartoonist. The cartoons (A3 size) should be based on social and economic issues of ESCAP.

Such themes may include the environment, poverty alleviation, trade, transport and development. The number of entries per cartoonist is unlimited. Three winners will be selected for prizes by a panel of judges.

The deadline for receiving cartoons at the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Dhaka is January 15. Participants are requested to contact UNIC, House 60, Road 11A, Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka for details of the competition rules and entry forms.

BNP workers urged to step up organisational activities

City BNP convenor Sadeq Hossain Khoka, MP, has urged the party workers to step up organisational activities in the month of Ramadan to mobilise public opinion against the agreement on the CHT, reports UNB.

Addressing a joint meeting of city BNP at the party central office yesterday, Khoka said hundreds of BNP leaders and workers, including four commissioners, are now being tortured in prisons.

He called upon all to respond to the call of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia to join the movement to oust the present "fascist government" and establish a people's government.

The meeting expressed concern at the price hike of essential commodities in the holy month of Ramadan.

It has addressed, among others, Begum Selima Rahman, Mirza Abbas, Maj (ret'd) Abdul Mannan, Salahuddin Ahmed, Kazi Abdul Bashir and Ekhlash Uddin Mollah.

Little Theatre School invites applications

Little Theatre School, a theatre training programme for the juvenile, has invited applications for a number of seats in its first year of training, reports UNB.

The school, an initiative of Dhaka Little Theatre, will receive applications from children of 6 to 15 years of age.

Interested applicants are advised to be present for a test at Mahila Samity, Baily Road at 10 am on January 9, said a press release.



Serious traffic jam, especially during office hours, on the Khilgaon Railway Crossing Road is a common sight. Traffic jam has taken a serious turn due to closure of vehicular movement through Kamalapur-Mugda link road. The photograph was taken yesterday. — Star photo

Economic crisis in SE Asia forcing Bangladeshis out of jobs

A serious economic crisis in the Southeast Asian region appears to be a setback for Bangladesh's manpower export, but Dhaka is still unaware that how many Bangladeshis are going to lose their jobs.

Officials at the Labour and Manpower Ministry are sure that some Bangladeshis, now working in the region, mainly in Malaysia, will be axed from their jobs, but they are yet unable to say what will be the number.

"We'll contact the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur in a day or two to know the exact position of Bangladeshi workers there," Labour and Manpower Minister M A Mannan told UNB yesterday.

Expatriate Bangladeshi workers remitted about 1389.55 million US dollars, equivalent to Tk 6074.34 crore, during the January-November period of

1997 through legal channel. They are also believed to have sent a huge amount through illegal channel.

News reports from the Malaysian capital suggest that about one million migrant labourers, mostly from Indonesia, would lose their jobs in Malaysia due to the economic crisis that gripped the entire region.

Authorities in Kuala Lumpur want to expel the foreigners as they want to make room for local citizens who would be jobless due to the suspension of many development works as a result of the recession.

About 250,000 Bangladeshis are now working legally in Malaysia, one of the lucrative manpower markets for Bangladesh. Thousands of others are also staying in the Southeast Asian country illegally, sources said.

South Korea, where a few thousand Bangladeshis went to earn a relatively higher income, is also facing an economic crisis which is more severe than Malaysia, and is likely to shed most of its foreign workers.

The illegal workers are going to be the first victim of the crises, the officials in Dhaka said.

The Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur wrote a letter to the Manpower Ministry informing that about 10,000 Bangladeshis have become illegal there and they should be taken back to the country.

From South Korea, about 4,000 Bangladeshis, who are over-staying there, would have to be repatriated as the authorities in Seoul would no longer allow them to work in the world's eleventh largest economy.



Post, Telecommunications, Housing and Works Minister Mohammad Nasim visited the under-construction permanent Hajj Camp at Ashkona at Uttara yesterday. — PID photo

Salahuddin Quader Chy & his brother allege 'police harassment' on them

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury MP and his brother Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury MP have urged the Home Minister to stop what they said police harassment on them and their family members, reports UNB.

The two prominent BNP legislators submitted separate applications to Home Minister Rafiqul Islam yesterday regarding "trespass by police into their homes" in Chittagong and Dhaka.

They alleged that police personnel "without any warrant of arrest or search warrant" had stormed their residences in last two weeks.

The BNP MPs said at least a dozen homes of their relatives had also been raided on the pretext of looking for them.

2 girl students killed in road accidents

Two girl students and a child were killed and 30 others injured in a road accident at Simulia under Mirpur thana in Bheramara on Saturday, reports BSS.

Police said the accident occurred at Simulia on Bheramara-Pabna Road when a passenger bus from Kushtia collided head-on with a truck coming from opposite direction. Tuli and Poppy, two students of Kushtia Polytechnic Institute died on the spot, while the unidentified child later succumbed to his injuries at Kushtia Sadar Hospital.

Twenty-two injured persons were admitted to Kushtia Sadar Hospital. The condition of other eight was stated to be critical.

A case was registered with Mirpur Thana in his connection.

Khaleda greets Gen Than Shwe of Myanmar

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday felicitated Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the Peace and Development Council of Myanmar on the eve of that country's national day, reports UNB.

Auctions of treasury bill held

The 77th auction of the 90-day treasury bill, the 68th auction of the 30-day and 180-day treasury bills and the 42nd auction of the one-year treasury bill were held yesterday, reports UNB.



President of the Bangladesh Diabetic Association Dr Wahid Uddin Ahmed addressing a press conference at the BIRDEM Hospital in the city yesterday. — Star photo

HERE and THERE

Biman

The 26th founding anniversary of Biman Bangladesh Airlines was observed yesterday with due fervour in Biman head office, Balaka and at different installations of Biman, reports BSS.

A *milad mahfil* was also arranged seeking divine blessings for progress of the national airline.

In the afternoon, the stipend awarding ceremony of 1996 in SSC and HSC level for meritorious children of Biman officers and employees including retired employees was held in the conference room of Balaka when Biman's managing director Air Commodore M Rafiqul Islam handed over stipends as the chief guest.

Operator

Unity Council

The country's cable operators held an emergency meeting in the city yesterday to discuss their business interest and problems, reports UNB.

They formed a new organisation — Bangladesh Operators Unity Council — to protect and promote their business, said a press release.

The council will specially deal with the operators' problems relating to the pay channels such as ESPN, Zee Cinema and Star Movies.

Convener of the council is Sohail Chowdhury, Joint Convener K M Ahmed Raja and Khan Manzurul Islam Palash.

Italian PM due Jan 8 Talks to focus on improving cooperation

Italian Prime Minister Prof Romano Prodi, who arrives here on January 8, will hold official talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest, reports UNB.

The formal talks between the two Prime Ministers on January 9 are expected to focus on improving political, economic, trade and cultural co-operations between the two countries.

Officials said the two sides would explore newer avenues of cooperation in various fields, including small and medium scale industries, leather and power sectors.

Bilateral trade is currently in favour of Bangladesh which exported garments and leather worth about 207 million US dollars to Italy in fiscal 1996-97.

The Italian Prime Minister, who will be accompanied by his wife Flavia Prodi, will lead a 12-member official delegation. His entourage will include Trade Minister Augusto Fantozzi.

Besides, representatives of about 20 top Italian companies and media people are expected to accompany Prof Prodi.

"His visit to Bangladesh is considered very significant as Italy is pursuing a new strategy towards Asia because of its economic potential," a senior official in the Foreign Office said.

The official said the Italian Prime Minister's visit, the first ever by an Italian head of government to Bangladesh, will give a new impetus to Dhaka-Rome relations.

'DOE should take steps to contain air, sound pollution'

Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday expressed her dissatisfaction at the slow pace of work at Department of Environment (DOE), reports BSS.

She also expressed her displeasure seeing the dirty state of the surroundings of the DOE. She directed the authorities to take quick measures to improve environmental condition of the adjoining areas including the slums.

The environment minister said the DOE should adopt efficient strategies to contain the air and sound pollution in the cities. They should also take steps for saving Buriganga river.

She enquired about the progress of the work relating to establishment of a water treatment plant for cleaning wastes from the tanneries at Hazaribagh area.

The minister was informed that illegal constructions on the bank of Buriganga river have been served notices for eviction.

The minister directed the DOE officials to evict the illegal occupants as soon as possible. She also advised them to speed up nationwide endeavours for protecting environmental fidelity.

Leaders of Islamic countries greet PM

Leaders of different Islamic countries have felicitated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, reports BSS.

Iranian President Sayeed Mohammad Khatami in a message of greeting sent to the Prime Minister invoked the blessings of the Almighty Allah for her success and progress and prosperity of Bangladesh.

Emir of Qatar Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, heir apparent of the country Jashem Bin Hamad Al Thani and Qatari Prime Minister Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Thani in separate messages greeted Sheikh Hasina on the same occasion.

They wished good health and happiness of the prime minister and wellbeing of the people of Bangladesh.

Habiganj incident

Seven families get Tk 50,000 each from PM's Fund

Families of the seven victims, who were killed in a police firing during a clash in Habiganj Sadar thana in December last, were given Tk 50,000 each from the Prime Minister's Fund, reports UNB.

Enamul Haq Mostafa Shaheed, MP, handed over the money to the relatives of the deceased on behalf of the Prime Minister at a simple ceremony held at the Habiganj thana parishad yesterday morning.

Presided over by TNO Enamul Haq, the function was attended, among others, by Abu Leis M Mubin Chowdhury MP, UP chairman Syed Ahmedul Haq and Yunus Chowdhury.

Jalal Mia, Tota Mia, Rakshesh Chandra Sutradhar, Siddique Ali, Abdul Latif, Abdul Aziz and Abdus Salam were killed in a police firing on two feuding groups at village Moshajin in the thana on December 4.

Saidee accused of hurting religious faith of people

Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Committee and Muktiyudh Smriti Sangrakshak Kendra have accused Jamaat leader Maulana Delwar Hossain Saidee, MP, of hurting religious faiths of the people and the spirit of the Liberation War, reports UNB.

In a joint statement yesterday, central leaders of both the organisations thanked its Tangail district unit for foiling the meeting of "war criminal" Delwar Hossain Saidee at the district on Saturday.

The statement said that indecent remarks by Saidee against the pro-independence political parties, intellectuals and women at different parts of the country in the name of *wajmahil* not only hurt the people's faiths, but also attacked the spirit of the Liberation War.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Public Health Engineering

Gopalganj Division, Gopalganj

Short Tender Notice

No 14(97-98)

গৃহস্থালী সকল কাজে
নলকূপের পানি ব্যবহার করুন

স্বাস্থ্যসমত পান্যবানী
ব্যবহার করুন

Separate tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 under sealed cover are invited from DPHE enlisted and 1997-98 financial year renewed 'C' 1st and 2nd class contractors for construction of boundary wall at the water treatment plant premises at Tungipara Municipal Area and construction of boundary wall at the office premises of the Project Director at Gopalganj town under the Project Water Supply & Sanitation in Gopalganj Municipality and thanas during 1997-98 financial year.

Tenders can be purchased from the office of the undersigned and Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Madaripur and Shariatpur Divisional Office during office hours up to 18/1/98. No tenders will be sold after 5:00 PM of 18/1/98.

Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned and Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Madaripur and Shariatpur Divisional Office up to 1:00 PM of 19/1/98. All tenders taken together will be opened at the office of the undersigned at 11:00AM of 21/1/98 before the contractors/their representatives (if any) present.

Allotted cost of tender, earnest money, time limit etc with detailed information and other terms & conditions can be seen and purchased from the office of the undersigned and Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Madaripur and Shariatpur Divisional Office during office hours. Contractor will be selected through open lottery if the rate submitted by more than one valid contractor happens to be the same.

The undersigned is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Description of tender

Group No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit for work
1.	Construction of boundary wall at the water treatment plant premises at Tungipara Municipal Area under the Project Water Supply & Sanitation in Gopalganj Municipality and thanas during 1997-98 financial year.	8,57,801/-	17,160/-	60 days
2.	Construction of boundary wall at the office premises of the Project Director under -do- -do-	9,61,385/-	19,230/-	65 days

DFP-29528-30/12

G-23

Executive Engineer, PHE

Gopalganj Division, Gopalganj

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Agriculture

National Miniature Irrigation Development Project

Office of the Project Director

6/9 Block-7, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207

Appointment Notice

No NMIDP-4/92/2025

Dated : 24-12-97

Applications are invited from bonafide nationals of Bangladesh for filling in the undermentioned posts on purely temporary basis (for up to the duration of the project) at the office of the Project Director, National Miniature Irrigation Development Project under the Ministry of Agriculture. Required educational/other qualifications, age limit, pay scale etc are stated against the posts.

Serial No	Name of post & number of post	Pay scale	Required educational & other qualifications	Age limit
1.	Accounts Officer 1 (one)	Tk 2300-4480/- (as per National Pay Scale 1991)	A) Minimum second class post graduate in Accounting/ Management/Statistics/Finance/MCom degree holder, other qualifications B) Minimum 3 (three) years practical experience on project implementation, foreign experienced & de-credit fund income & expenditure at parmental Govt/Semi-govt/Autonomous organisation, candidate.	Age 18-30 years. Age, educational & other qualifications
2.	Personal Assistant 1 (one)	Tk 1725-3725/- (as per National Pay Scale 1991)	-do- Minimum HSC passed. Preference will be given to higher degree holder candidate. Should have minimum 3 (three) years working experience with higher officer should possess knowledge of Computer Word Perfect, Word Processing, MS Word as well as shorthand & typing speed in English & Bangla 80 & 60 and 35 & 25 WPM respectively.	-do-

Terms & Conditions:

- Applications stating candidate's name/father's name/husband's name, permanent address, educational qualification, date of birth, nationality should be submitted to the undersigned.
- The undermentioned papers attested by 1st class gazetted officer must be enclosed with the application.
 - All educational & experience certificates.
 - Character certificate from two 1st class gazetted officers.
 - Bangladesh nationality & permanent domicile certificate from Union Parishad Chairman/Municipality Chairman/Ward Commissioner.
 - Recent 3 (three) copies passport size attested photos.
 - In case of freedom fighter candidates, certificate signed by Central Command Council Chairman of Muktiyoddha Sangsad & countersigned by Chief Adviser of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, with the application.
 - In case of tribal candidate, certificate from Deputy Commissioner of respective district.
- Candidates in service at Govt/Semi-govt organisation must submit application through proper channel within the prescribed date.
- Erroneous & incomplete applications received late will be treated as cancelled.
- Applications with the name of post applied for distinctly superscribed on the envelope must reach the undersigned by post during office hours by 20-01-98.
- No T/A/D/A will be admissible for written test/viva voce.
- The tenure of service of the said posts may end any day between June 1998 and June 1999.
- Candidates in service of the project will be given preference.

DFP-29424-29/12

G-22

Md Golam Sarwar Molla

Project Director

Eating Out

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