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DCCI submits memo to PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the members of the business community to make the best utilisation of the existing liberal industrial policy and contribute to the progress and prosperity of the country, report agencies.

Talking to a DCCI delegation at her office, she said, "The government has given priority on economic diplomacy and the Bangladesh missions abroad have been directed to put emphasis on attracting trade and investment in the country."

The delegation of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) led by its President R Maksud Khan and senior vice president Masudur Rahman called on the Prime Minister to apprise her of various aspects of the business community.

The business leaders submitted a memorandum containing the problems and prospects of the business community.

They appreciated the three-nation business summit held in Dhaka at the personal initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and suggested an action plan for successful implementation of the summit declaration.

They expressed satisfaction over the government's decision to give top priority to power generation and set up a reception cell and one-stop service cell for the foreign investors under the Board of Investment (BOI).

The delegation members included Zafar Osman, Mohammad Habibullah, AFM Obaidur Rahman, Khandaker A Salam, Waliur Rahman, Reazuddin, Aftabul Islam, Ashraf Ibn Nur, Jahurul Islam Chowdhury, Gislam Mustafa and AM Mubash-Sher.

Trophies for best exporters Feb 12

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will distribute National Export Trophies among the best exporters of 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 fiscal years at the Osmani Auditorium at 10.00 am on February 12, reports UNB.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, high government officials, BFCI representatives and chiefs of different missions in Bangladesh, will attend the function.

AL reaction

From page 1
the issue he discussed with the BNP.

Meanwhile, speculations are there that Holzman may mediate between ruling party and BNP. Holzman's meeting with Khaleda Zia was part of his ongoing parleys with BNP leaders at different tiers on the parliamentary stand-off, sources said. BNP has been boycotting parliament since August 30 last year.

50 buildings

From page 1
said Aminur Rahman.

The steering committee which drafted the BNBC, 1993, was formed in June 1991. The 18-member body headed by the chief architect, department of architecture, Ministry of Education, also had representation from the Institute of Engineers, Institute of Architects, Rajuk, Fire Service and Civil Defence, Standards Testing Institution, Geological Survey of Bangladesh, BUET and Military Engineering Services.

Another 16 editorial sub-committees were formed with engineers from various professions for preparing the BNBC.

The BNBC provides a uniform standard covering all aspects of planning, design, and construction of buildings, including electrical, mechanical, sanitary and other services.

To preserve the cultural heritage of the nation, special requirements and waivers for alteration and renovation of buildings of historical and architectural value have been specified in the Code.

It also outlines the administrative requirements for enforcement of the code.

Considering the difficulty in maintaining adequate technical personnel for enforcing and verifying compliance with diverse provisions of the code, a professional practice-based certification, enforcement and administrative structure has been proposed in the code.

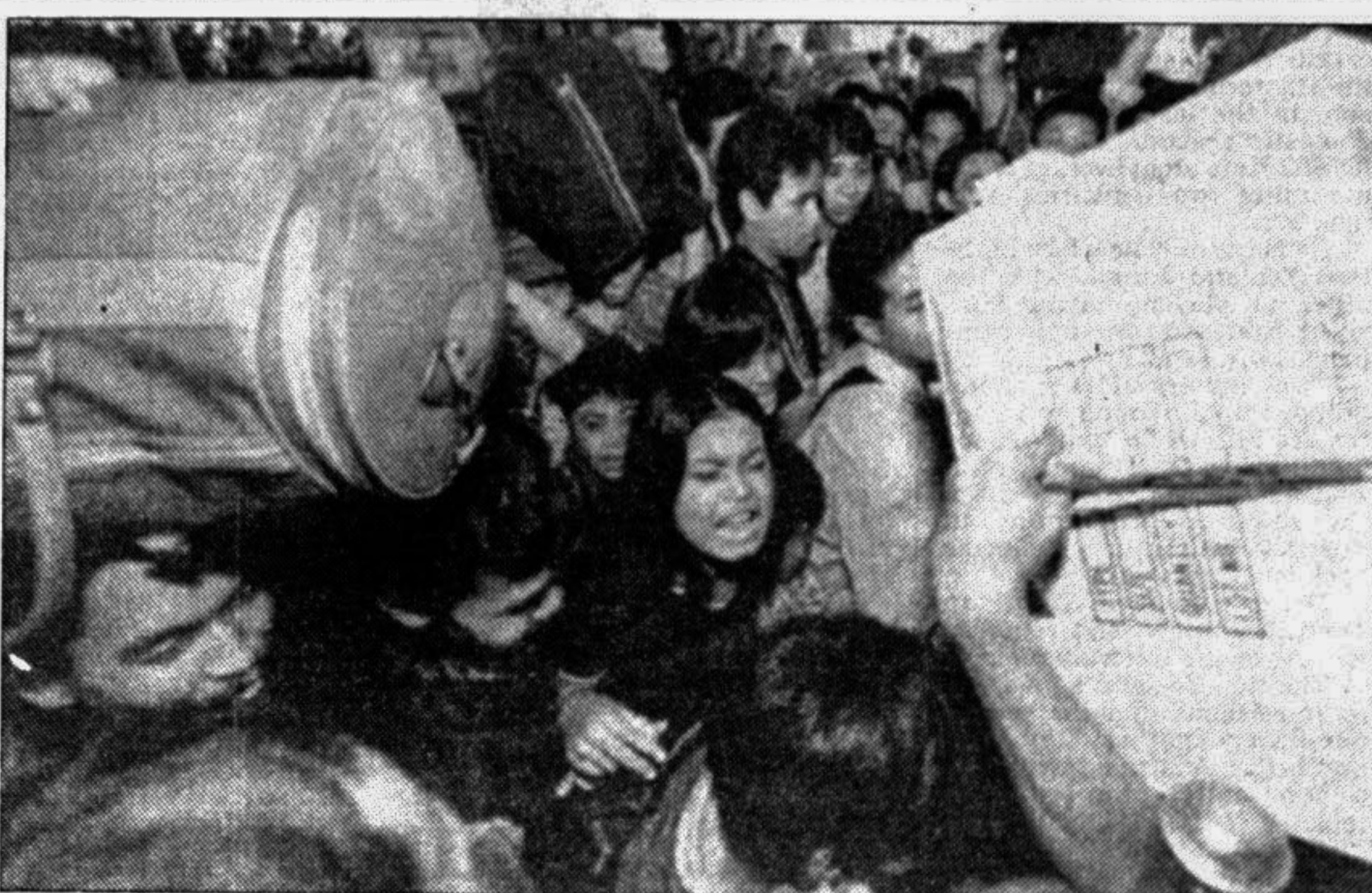
The code specifies the requirements for fire prevention and protection measures in the buildings.

The fire protection requirements of the code are based on the principle of providing reasonable protection within achievable means.

The code also provides for 'safe and scientific demolition' of buildings where necessary.

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motiheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> and Email address: dstar@bangla.net



Thousands of Indonesians holding government discounted train tickets fight to get through the gates at Senen train station in Jakarta yesterday. Millions of Indonesians return home to the provinces this week to celebrate Eid with the country's current economic downturn, the government has subsidized train tickets to offset the price of travelling home. — AP/UNB photo

First two cycles this yr Quantum of water double at Hardinge Bridge point

The quantum of water Bangladesh received at the Hardinge Bridge point in the first two cycles of current lean period is more than double compared to the same period of last year, reports UNB.

Official data shows that on an average, 182,286 cusec water was discharged at the point during January 1-10 period this year as against 70,829 cusec in the corresponding period of 1997.

In the same period, 164,763 cusec water was discharged at the Farakka point as against 62,019 cusec in the corresponding period of the previous year.

During January 11-20 cycle, 154,292 cusec water was discharged at the Hardinge Bridge point as against 55,788 cusec in the corresponding period of 1997.

At the Farakka point, the quantum of discharged water was 135,591 cusec this year as against 49,556 cusec in the corresponding period of last year.

The highest 200,765 cusec water was available on January 1, the first day of the first cycle of this year's lean period, at the Hardinge Bridge point.

The lowest quantum of water

BB showcase

From page 1
Anisur Rahman Khan, Anisur Rahman, Barez, Ahsan Habib, Nani Gopal, Anisur Rahman, Abdul Jalil, and Hanif.

UNB adds: The BB authorities yesterday put all the CBA and non-CBA union offices of Bangladesh Bank and its branch and regional offices under lock and key.

The Bank officials with police escorts locked the union offices in the morning following the decision of Sunday's meeting by the Bangladesh Bank authorities.

The government earlier decided to ban trade union activities in the central bank after a top official of the bank was roughed up by some trade union activists.

Heavy contingent of police are guarding the Bank offices since January 19 after the untoward incident.

IFIC board claims

From page 1
branch of IFIC Bank had purchased 205 cheques and 56 pay orders according to banking rules and regulations. It was found that cheques were sometimes purchased outside the approval power.

According to IBP policy, the management of the bank has the authority to approve IBPs worth up to Tk 15 lakh. But all the 157 cheques and pay orders were above Tk 15 lakh.

The board further said that these IBPs created through purchase of cheques were later adjusted. After adjusting the IBPs, these were sent to the head office by the branch concerned for 'post facto' approval.

The board further said the advances were adjusted in time and this did not hurt the interest of the public, depositors or shareholders of the bank. Had the head office officials made any adverse comment or sought any direction, the board could take necessary action.

The board has pointed out that the Dhanmondi branch of IFIC had meanwhile been audited both by the bank's inter-

Meeting today to finalise details of Feb 10 arms surrender

By Special Correspondent

A high-level meeting at Chittagong today will finalise the details of the ceremonial surrender of arms by Shantibahini at Khagrachhari Stadium on February 10.

The meeting will be presided by Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, who is going to head the CHT and tribal affairs ministry.

Today's meeting is also expected to prepare the budget and other details of the ceremony which will be attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The first batch of Shantibahini, the armed cadre of PCJSS, will surrender their arms under the leadership of Shantu Larma on February 10.

Meanwhile, it was learnt that the Shantibahini has started preparing their cadres for the surrender ceremony.

Mills, shops gutted in Sitakundu

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 26: A devastating fire damaged property worth about Tk two crore at Boradargharhat under Sitakundu thana this morning.

Fire Brigade however estimated the loss at about Tk one crore.

Fire Brigade said seven rice mills, one rice fattening mill, one ice factory, 30 shops and two dwelling houses were gutted in the fire that originated from an oven.

Fire Brigade personnel put out the fire in about two hours.

Mugger beaten up at Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 26: A mob set fire to an autorickshaw and beat up its driver and an alleged mugger in it this afternoon at Medical College Road under Panchlaish thana, police said.

Two other alleged muggers managed to escape.

The incident occurred at around 4:30 pm when three alleged muggers on board the autorickshaw, attempted to snatch gold ornaments from a woman on a rickshaw.

The mob rushed to the spot as the woman raised a hue and cry, police said.

Abduction

From page 1

far revealed that the incident was sequel to a feud among the neighbouring families. The real cause behind the incident will be revealed only after the girl is rescued, he observed. Senior police officials were monitoring the case he said and hoped that the girl will be rescued soon.

The SP also said the case was being processed to bring charges against the accused under the Women and Children Repression Act of 1995.

Talks fail

From page 1

However, a few days before the US joint venture made a positive gesture, Malaysian company Petronas and US company Mobil made a similar gesture and it was immediately asked to attend a meeting over blocks 9 and 11. After Chevron-Texaco expressed their keenness to be Tullow's partner in Block 9, the government changed its mind and offered Petronas-Mobil to be Tullow's partner in Block 11 only.

Afterwards, talks between Petronas-Mobil and Tullow did not take place and Petronas-Mobil informed the government that they were aggrieved by the government's shifting decisions.

"It's not clear whether the Petronas-Mobil joint venture will be invited for negotiations with Tullow now," said a source.

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Clinton denies having affair with Lewinsky

WASHINGTON, Jan 26: President Bill Clinton forcefully reiterated his denial today that he had a sexual relationship with a young aide and attempted to cover it up, reports AFP.

"These allegations are false," the President said at a White House event on education, repeating his public denials of the affair made Wednesday and Thursday.

"I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky. I never told anybody to lie, not a single time," Clinton said.

Clinton is alleged to have had an 18-month affair with Monica Lewinsky, who began as a White House intern in 1995 at age 21.

Lewinsky also denied the affair in a sworn deposition filed in a sexual harassment case against Clinton but in secretly recorded tapes she is reportedly heard discussing the affair and her intention to lie about it.

Aides to Clinton have been working feverishly on a response to the crisis, the worst of his presidency, ahead of his all-important State of the Union address Tuesday.

Clinton noted in his brief remarks that he was working hard on the annual speech before Congress and said: "I need to go back to work."

AP adds: Whitewater investigators are preparing to question aides and friends of President Bill Clinton before a federal grand jury.

The question of when Clinton would deal with the swirl of allegations in detail hung over Washington Monday. "We're working this out almost hour by hour," White House communications director Ann Lewis said on NBC's "Today" show.

Bangabandhu murder

From page 1

cross-examined by the lawyers for the accused when the court will resume on February 2 after the Eid vacation.

General Khalil said Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed, Taheruddin Thakur, KM Obaidur Rahman and Shah Mazzen Hossain seemed to be very closely related by their actions after the August 15 incident.

He said, "Those four along with Nurul Islam Manju were sort of detained after Col Shafaat Jamil compelled Mushtaque to resign and didn't allow them to leave Bangabandhu on November 5 morning."

Shafaat Jamil had also forced Mushtaque to form an enquiry commission on the killing of four leaders in Dhaka Central Jail, said General Khalil, who was made Chief of Defence Staff on August 24, 1975.

49 undertrial prisoners freed

From page 1

The government on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr has released 49 undertrial prisoners from various jails of the country on special consideration, reports UNB.

The prisoners had been detained on charge of minor offences, said an official handout yesterday.

The government hoped that the released people will lead a normal life as good citizens and play due role in socio-economic development of the country.

Arrested smuggler escapes from Port thana

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 26: An alleged smuggler arrested by police last night, fled from the Port thana custody this morning, police said.

The accused, identified as Shamsul Huq, was arrested last night with some contraband cigarettes, police said.

Sonia

From page 1

Earlier, a close aide of the 51-year-old said she would contest the February-March polls from her husband's constituency of Amethi in northern India.

While acknowledging her desire to deepen her relation with the constituency of her late husband she has decided that for now she will not contest the elections.

The source in the Congress party said the decision was taken "mainly to avert a power struggle" in the once-dominant party.

"There is bound to be a tussle for the top party post now. At the time of elections this is uncalculated for. Sonia's decision not to contest should be taken in this context," the source said.

Dhaka welcomes

From page 1

But we would like them to go a little further to express their regret for the crimes committed against the people of Bangladesh.

He said Sharif "would also punish those responsible for the genocide committed in Bangladesh during the War of Liberation."

Pakistan should now recognise that Bangladesh is a reality and that both the countries should live as sovereign and independent states, the official said, adding that "there should be friendly and cordial relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan similar to the one that exists between two sovereign states."

As for repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis, the official said, "we hope Pakistan will make every effort to raise the necessary fund." He said on the part of Bangladesh "we will cooperate with Pakistan in the process of repatriation."

Replying to a question, he said "we are yet to receive any formal communication from Pakistan on the matter."

Consultation meet on Japanese grant ends

The two-day annual consultation on Japanese grant and technical assistance for Bangladesh concluded in the city on Sunday, reports UNB.

Detailed discussions on the orientation of future Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) was held during the consultation between the Japanese and Bangladesh delegations. Takeshi Yagi, Director, Grant Aid Division of the Economic Cooperation Bureau, led the six-member Japanese team.

Both sides agreed on the need to set clear priorities on the ODA programme and on health and medical services, human resources development, environment as well as poverty reduction and water resources management, said a Japanese Embassy press release yesterday.

The Japanese team explained the latest policy stance on ODA and stressed the importance of ownership or self-help efforts of the recipient countries, especially in view of the reduction of the ODA budget for 1998 fiscal year by 10 per cent.

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Ex-minister Sohrab Hossain dead

Former minister and a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sohrab Hossain, died in the city yesterday. He was 77, reports UNB.

Hossain had been suffering from complex diseases. He left behind his seven sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers.

The body of Sohrab Hossain will be kept at the BIRDEM hospital till Wednesday morning. His namaj-e-janaza will be held the same day after Jor prayers at the Baitul Mokarram National Mosque.

Another namaj-e-janaza will be held at Magura, the birth place of late Hossain, on Thursday.

Lailatul Qadr observed

Holy Shab-e-Qadr, the most beneficent night of all nights was observed last night throughout the country with due religious solemnity, reports BSS.

The Holy Quran was revealed on this night to show the mankind, the path of truth and peace.

Muslims across the country like elsewhere in the world offered night-long prayer seeking divine blessing of the Almighty Allah.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion of the holy Shab-e-Qadr. Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television have put up special programmes highlighting the significance of the night.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs earlier urged mosques authorities to arrange special prayer for the country's peace, progress and prosperity.

Indian HC hosts reception

The High Commissioner of India and Mrs Deb Mukharji hosted a reception yesterday evening at their residence on the occasion of Republic Day of India, reports BSS.

Fallow land

From page 1

der the Works Ministry, said an official handout.

The meeting was informed that the government will take up the project to construct cultural, recreational and international trade centres, park and lake there through RAJUK.

The meeting also decided to rehabilitate the illegal occupants of the land.

Communication Minister Anwar Hossain, State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharrar and senior officials attended the meeting.

জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর

আগারগাঁও, শেরেবালা নগর, ঢাকা

মুদ্রণালয় তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘরের বই, পত্র-পত্রিকা, স্বরবিকা, এলবাম, পোস্টার, প্যাকট, বাম, ফাইলকভার, মনিহারী দ্রব্যাদি ইত্যাদি বাংলা ও ইংরেজীতে মুদ্রণ ও বাণিজ্যিকের জন্য প্রকৃত মুদ্রণ ও বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট থেকে ১৯৯৭-৯৮ এবং ১৯৯৮-৯৯ সালের তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। তালিকাভুক্তির ফি বাদে ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা (অফিসের ব্যয়) তালিকাভুক্তির এককালীন জামানত হিসেবে ৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য) কোন সিডিউল ব্যাঙ্কের পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাঙ্ক ড্রাক্টের মাধ্যমে আগামী ৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি '৯৮ তারিখের মধ্যে পরিশোধ, জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘরের অনুকূলে পৌঁছাতে হবে। সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের ১ (এক) মাস পর অমনোনীত দরখাস্তকারীর জামানতের টাকা ফেরত দেয়া হবে। যে সকল প্রেস গত অর্ধ বৎসরে জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘরের তালিকাভুক্ত ছিল, তাদেরও নতুন করে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য উপরোক্ত শর্তাদি পালন সাপেক্ষে শুধু ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা ফি প্রদান করতে হবে। দরখাস্তের সাথে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানকেই নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজ-পত্রাদি অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় কোন আবেদনগ্রহীত গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

তালিকাভুক্তির শর্তাবলী :

- ১) ঢাকার অবস্থানবর্তী প্রেস মালিকরাই কেবল আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
- ২) প্রেস ডিক্লারেশন এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।
- ৩) ভ্যাট, রেজিস্ট্রেশনের সার্টিফিকেট এর কপিসহ ভ্যাট প্রদানের হালনাগাদ সার্টিফিকেট।
- ৪) টি.আই. নম্বরসহ হালনাগাদ আয়কর প্রদানের সার্টিফিকেট।
- ৫) ১৯৯৭-৯৮ সালের জন্য বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।
- ৬) যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাঙ্কের কাছ থেকে আর্থিক স্বত্বের সর্বশেষ সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।
- ৭) কলোজ, মুদ্রণ ও বাণিজ্য ব্যবস্থার এবং যন্ত্রপাতির সফিক্ত বিবরণ দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ৮) সরকারী/আধা সরকারী/ব্যক্তিগতভাবে যে কোন দুটি প্রতিষ্ঠানের সম্মিলিতভাবে মুদ্রণ কাজের সার্টিফিকেট এর প্রতিলিপিসহ সম্পত্তি প্রকাশিত গ্রন্থের ছাপার নমুনা দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ৯) দরখাস্তকারী যে কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মক্ষেত্রে একটি করে নিজস্ব ডিমা/ডবল ডিমা/অফসেট মেশিনে ইমেজ ও লেজার প্রিন্টারসহ কম্পিউটার প্রসেস ক্যামেরা, পোস্টার (প্রেস মেশিন) ডবল ডিমা ইমেজ প্রসেসিং মেশিন ইত্যাদি ও বাইন্ডিং সেকশন থাকতে হবে। তাদের এসব যন্ত্রপাতি ও ব্যবস্থাদি সেই, তাদের তালিকাভুক্তির বিষয় বিবেচিত হবে না।
- ১০) আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রকৃত মালিক/প্রতিনিধির সাম্প্রতিককালের তোলা ৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি (ফটো) সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- ১১) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন বা সকল দরখাস্ত গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

আ.ম. আজিজুর রহমান খান
পরিচালক

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