

**What's on today . . .**

**CDRB seminar:** A seminar on 'changing gender roles among Bangladeshi migrants in New York city' will be held. Keynote speaker: Kaari Lynn Flagstad, Department of Anthropology and Demography, Pennsylvania State University, USA. Organiser: Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh. Venue: WVA auditorium, Rd: 16, House: 20, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm.

**Seminar:** A national seminar on 'construction industry in Bangladesh' will be held. Organiser: Concord Group of Companies. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9:30 am.

**Japanese Film Festival:** 'Faraway Sunset', directed by Royama Seijiro, will be screened. Organiser: Embassy of Japan. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 6:30 pm.

**Club meeting:** The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Shahbagh will be held. Guest speaker Selina Hossain, Director, Bangla Academy, will speak on 'trend in post-Language Movement literature'. Venue: Officers Club, Baily Road. Time: 6 pm.

**Club meeting:** The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Guest speaker: Yusuf Abdullah Harun, President, FBCCI, will speak on 'trend of regional trade'. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Club meeting:** The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka New City will be held. Venue: FICCI, 35/1 Purana Paltan Line. Time: 6 pm.



Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader A S M Abdur Rab addressing a discussion meeting commemorating 'flag-raising day of free Bangladesh' at Ramna Botomul yesterday. —Star photo

**Iranian minister calls on Hasina**

Visiting Iranian Minister for Construction Mohammad Saidi Kia called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Kia conveyed the greetings of the Iranian President, Ali Khatami, to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The Iranian minister, who is leading his country's delegation to the third meeting of the Bangladesh-Iran Joint Economic Commission, stressed the need for strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that both Bangladesh and Iran share cultural heritage and emphasised the need for exchange of cultural teams.

**Call to make comprehensive labour code a law**

The Chairman of the National Labour Law Commission, Justice Abdul Quddus Choudhury, yesterday urged the government to take steps to make the comprehensive labour code a law in the greater national interest, reports BSS.

Presiding over a workshop at the CIRDP auditorium in the city yesterday, Justice Choudhury said the commission, formed in 1992, had examined and codified 44 acts and ordinances relating to labour and industrial laws into a comprehensive form and placed it before the then government in 1994.

"The BNP government in a cabinet meeting discussed it but did not place it in parliament," he said. He urged the present government to make it a law by placing it in parliament.

Among others, Labour and Manpower Secretary Ahasan Ali Sarkar, advocate Khalilur Rahman, advocate Sigma Huda, advocate Shudangshu Shekhar Halder and labour leader Abdul Kader Hawlader took part in the discussion.

The Legislative Advocacy and Participation of the Civil Society Project organised the workshop on "problems and prospects of implementation of the proposed Labour Code, 1994." Dr Borhanuddin Khan, coordinator of the project, conducted the workshop.

Advocate Shudangshu Shekhar Halder pleaded for upholding the dignity of human labour through this code. He called for sending it to the concerned parliamentary standing committee to fulfil its purpose.

"If there is any problem, that can be solved but we want to see that this code is made a law through parliament," he said.

**Meets Kibria**

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria urged the Iranian entrepreneurs to come forward to invest in Bangladesh and to take part in International bidings, reports UNB.

**Seminar on Typhoid vaccine**

A seminar on vaccine against Typhoid and Haemophilus influenzae type B was held Sunday at Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) in the city. The scientific seminar was organised by Bangladesh Paediatric Association, says a press release.

Prof. Nurul Islam of PG Hospital and Dr Shamir K Saha of Dhaka Shishu Hospital presented the keynote papers. Vaccine expert Dr Heikki Olavi Pelto from Helsinki and Dr Didier Lebouilleux Medical Director, Pasteur Merieux Connaught, France highlighted the need of vaccination as a prophylactic measure against the diseases.

Prof Keizo Matsumoto, Chairman, US-Japan Collaboration Committee on Respiratory Tract Infections also attended the seminar.

**UNDP, UNFPA team meets health minister**

Members of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board from UN Headquarters called on UN Headquarter's called on Salahuddin Yusuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, at his office on Sunday. They were accompanied by Alain P Mouchiroud, UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh, says a press release.

The Board members informed the minister that they were very much impressed by the success of Bangladesh Population Programmes. They praised the government for initiating measures for the improvement of health and family planning sector. They particularly referred to UNFPA's assistance to Bangladesh and made special reference to UNFPA-funded Maternal Child Welfare Centre (MCWC) Project.

Lauding UNFPA's role in the population sector, the minister requested the Board to consider higher allocation of funds for Bangladesh.

The Board members assured the minister of more funds.

**'Democracy Festival' opens Mar 4**

Democracywatch, a research and training organisation, has organised a 'Democracy Festival' which will begin in the city from tomorrow.

The three-day festival will be inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner Abu Hena at the organisation's head office at Kakrail.

The festival, with the theme "Harmony and Tolerance", is expected to be participated by a large number of politicians, policy-makers and scholars, and a number of diplomatic missions in Dhaka, including 11 EU countries, USA, Norway, Sri Lanka and India, with stalls and display materials explaining their efforts and contributions towards development of democracy in their respective countries. Several leading NGOs of the country, including BRAC, Grameen Bank and GSS, will also take part.

At a press conference yesterday, Executive Director of Democracywatch, Taleya Rehman, said the festival would focus on the need for harmony and tolerance in the development of democracy in Bangladesh, create awareness among young people about the concept of liberal democracy and evaluate the role of NGOs in the development of democracy and protection of human rights in Bangladesh.

Funded by Norway, Democracywatch has been working since its inception on Feb 15, 1995 to create, develop and sustain a democratic culture in Bangladesh as well as to see a truly democratic, responsive and transparent government in power, she said.



UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board members called on Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf at his office on Sunday.

**Hanif seeks help to stop movement of illegal rickshaws**

Máyor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mohammad Hanif yesterday sought cooperation of all concerned to help stop movement of illegal rickshaws in the streets of the capital city, reports BSS.

During his separate meetings with the leaders of Dhaka City Rickshaw Owners' Oikya Jote and Dhaka Metropolitan Rickshaw Drivers' Welfare Association at Nagar Bhaban, the mayor asked them to extend help in stopping the plying of illegal rickshaws in the city.

**CUTA elections March 19**

From CU Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY, Mar 2: Elections of the Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA) will be held on March 19.

Schedule of the elections was announced by the election commissioner Dr Azizur Rahman today. As per the schedule, nomination papers can be collected from March 8 and last date of submission is March 10.

A fresh voters list was announced today. A total of five hundred and seventeen teachers will exercise their rights of franchise in the elections.

**Justice Kemal Uddin joins as LC Chairman**

Former Chief Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain yesterday joined as the Chairman of Law Commission, reports UNB.

He was appointed the chairman of the commission through a notification on Sunday.

The post fell vacant following resignation of previous chairman of the commission former Chief Justice Dr F K M A Munim on January 1 on personal ground.

After assuming his work, the new Chairman talked to the members and officials of the commission and was informed about various issues.

**9th nat'l Tagore song festival begins Mar 11**

By Staff Correspondent  
The ninth national Rabindra Sangeet Utsab (Tagore song festival) will be held from March 11 to 14 at the Engineers Institution auditorium in the city.

Nearly 150 artistes will participate in the festival, organised by Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha. This year's festival is dedicated to the memory of renowned artistes Bedaruddin Ahmed and Khan Ataur Rahman, says a press release.

The 4-day festival will include discussions, poetry recitals, song and dance sessions, reception to noted personalities and a rally.

Meanwhile, rehearsals will begin from 5:30 pm today at House: 50, Rd: 2/A, Dhanmondi. All Sangstha members have been requested to attend, the release added.

**DU officers observe work abstention**

By Staff Correspondent  
Officers of the Dhaka University (DU) observed a full day work abstention yesterday as part of a seven-day strike called by the Inter-University Officers' Federation (IUOF) to press home their four-point charter of demands, says a press release.

Speakers at a meeting of the DU officers, presided over by the president of DU Officers' Association A K M Ruhul Amin Akond, expressed resentment against the authorities for not accepting their "justified four point charter of demands", the press release said.

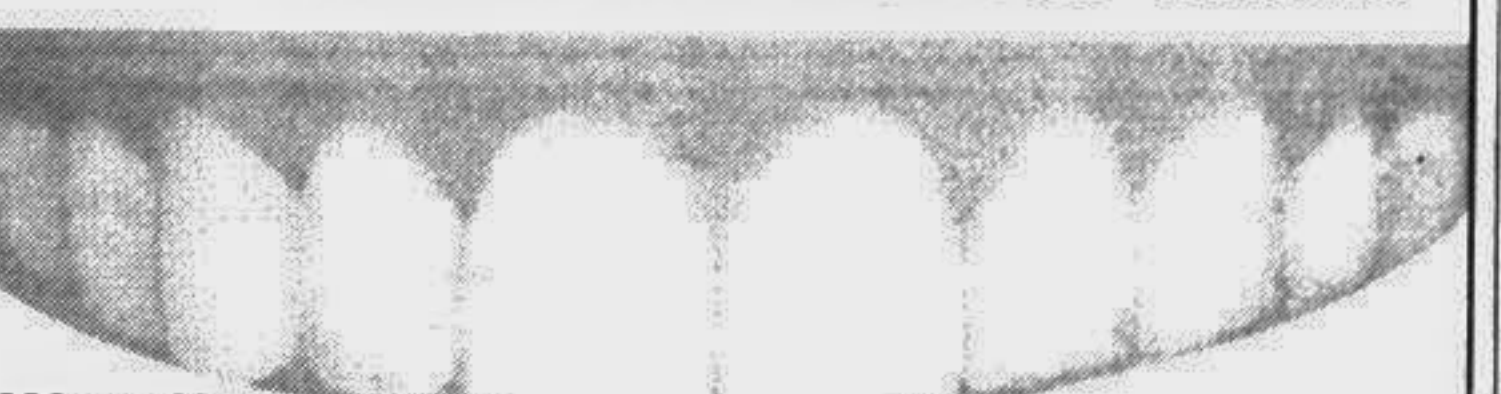
The officers' demands include ensuring representation of officers to the Senate, Syndicate and other bodies of the university, revision of pay-scale, to raise retirement age from 60 to 65 years and to stop 20 per cent cut from the pension money of the officers, the press release added.

**WANTED LADY GOVERNESS**

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**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
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Tender Invitation Notice  
No-4/1997-98**

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2911 are invited from Public Works Directorate's special 1st class building contractors/firms, Public Works Directorate's 1st class building contractors/firms, Public Works Directorate Zone, Khulna's 2nd class building contractors/firms and Public Works Directorate Circle, Khulna's 3rd class building contractors/firms for completion of the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received by the undersigned and all the Executive Engineers under Public Works Circle, Khulna up to 12:00 Noon of 12-3-98 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM before the tenderers (if any) present. Tender form will be sold up to office hours of 11-3-98.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit for completion of work
1.	Special repairing and re-construction of the boundary wall of Govt residential area at Katia, Sathkira	Tk 4,26,823/=	Tk 8,540/=	45 (forty-five) days.

Other details can be collected from the office of the undersigned and the abovementioned offices during office hours.  
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Executive Engineer  
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