



A drawing competition for children was held at the National Museum premises yesterday on the occasion of the 77th birth anniversary of Artist Qamrul Hasan.

—Star photo

## What's on today....

**Founding anniversary:** Bangla Academy has organised a day-long programme to celebrate its 43rd founding anniversary. A video documentary on the academy and folklore will be shown and Gazul Haq will deliver a lecture. Venue: Academy premises. Time: 10 am.

**Film show:** Zahir Raihan Film Society has organised a 5-day retrospective on 'French Cinema in the Nineties' that begins today. 'Judgement in Stone' directed by Claude Chabrol will be shown on the opening day. Venue: Alliance Francaise. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Brecht on Stage:** As part of a three-day programme on 'Brecht on Stage', Nagorik Natyangan will stage 'The Three Penny Opera' on the concluding day. Venue: Central Public Library. Time: 7 pm.

**BAPS seminar:** Bangladesh AIDS Prevention Society (BAPS) has arranged a seminar on 'Awareness among people on HIV/AIDS prevention'. Chief guest: Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid. Venue: Hotel Sundarban. Time: 4 pm.

**Manipuri dance:** Muktiuddha Jadughar Cafe Theatre has organised a winter evening programme. As part of this programme Tamanna Rahman and co-artists will perform Manipuri dance titled 'Moloi Jagor'. Venue: Jadughar premises. Time: 6:30.

**Training programme:** Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) has organised a two-week training programme on 'Essential Contract Law for Entrepreneurs and Executive'. Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru will inaugurate the programme today. Venue: Institute premises, House: 22, Rd: 7, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:15 pm.

**Ananda Mela:** A 4-day Ananda Mela, organised by Officers' Club Women Committee, begins today. Communication Minister Anwar Hossain will inaugurate the Mela. Venue: Club premises. Time: 10 am.

**Handicrafts fair:** A 3-day fair on handicrafts to promote small and cottage industries begins. Organisers: Desh Sangskritik Kendra and Anirban Samaj Unnayan Sangstha. Venue: Desh Gallery, 27, Monipuri Para, Sangsad Avenue. Time: 10:30 am.

**Function:** International Turkish Hope School has organised a function to celebrate the Victory Day. Venue: School premises, House 27/B, Rd 103, Gulshan-2. Time: 10:30 am.

**Condolence meet:** National Non-smokers Forum has organised a condolence meeting in memory of its life member late Zahanara Islam. Venue: 132 Shantibagh. Time: After Asr prayers.

**Rotary club meet:** The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhanmondi will be held. Dr Sean A Tate, International consultant, UNDP, will speak on 'The Frog and the Fan' and other lessons for modern managers as guest speaker. Venue: Dhaka Club Family Lounge. Time: 5:30 pm.

## Docs, nurses end strike at N'ganj Hospital

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, Dec 2: Doctors, nurses and employees of Narayanganj Hospital returned to their work this morning after the intervention of local MP.

Shamim Osman MP, and former MP Nasim Osman held talks with the doctors, nurses and employees last night and assured them of bringing the attackers to book as demanded by them.

They went on strike protesting an incident in which an employee was attacked and seriously injured by some local goons three days ago.

## Int'l IT confce Dec 18

The International Conference on Computer and Information Technology '98 will be held at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) this month, reports UNB.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed is expected to inaugurate the three-day conference on December 18.

## IIT certificate award ceremony

A certificate awarding ceremony was held at Islamic Institute of Technology yesterday after the conclusion of a 2-week long short course on 'Computer Programming in C/C++ and its Applications' organised by the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology.

Prof Dr A M Patwari, Director General of IIT gave away the certificates among 15 participants.

## Chehlum

By Staff Correspondent  
The chehlum of Principal Dr Ali Azhar Muneer, Regional Commissioner (Education and Publication) of Bangladesh Scouts Rover Region and former Principal of Bahadurpur Rover Pali Degree College in Gazipur, will be held at his residence at 38 Bhajajhari Saha street in the city after Jumma prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the programme.

## Pry scholarship exam now Dec 12-13

The dates of Primary Scholarship Examination, scheduled to be held on December 8 and 9, have been shifted due to unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.

The examinations will now be held on December 12 and 13, said an official handout.

According to the fresh schedule, Bengali and Mathematics examinations will be held on December 12 from 10 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 3 pm respectively. English and Paribesh Parichiti examinations will be held on December 13 from 10 am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to 3 pm respectively.

## Suraiya Rahman becomes first woman brigadier

Colonel Suraiya Rahman has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier with effect from December 1, reports BSS.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafa Rahman, and Director of Medical Services Brigadier Muklesur Rahman Khan presented her with the badge of Brigadier at a simple ceremony at the Army Headquarters on Tuesday.

This is the first time that a woman has been elevated to the rank of a Brigadier in Bangladesh, ISPR said.

Brigadier Suraiya was born on July 1, 1944. After her graduation in medical science from the Chittagong Medical College, she got commission in the then Pakistan Army in 1970.

She is working as advisor specialist in gynaecology and obstetrics at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) at present.

## 2-day exhibition of Panasonic products at Sheraton

A two-day exhibition of top-quality Panasonic products begins at Hotel Sheraton tomorrow, says a press release.

The show, the first of its kind, is being organised by Nicole International Ltd, the local agent for the wide range of products manufactured by Matsushita Electric (Japan).

The show will highlight the latest digital products developed by Matsushita electronics and exhibit the various spectrums of Panasonic televisions, VCRs, RCRs and Video cameras. Special deals on purchases will also be on offer.

## One fisherman killed in NASAKA firing

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 2: A Bangladeshi fisherman was killed and four others were injured when Myanmar border security force, Nasaka, opened fire on them in the Bay near Saint Martin's Islands early today, reports APB.

The Nasaka force also took away six boats with huge fish and fishing nets after leaving 49 fishermen in a single boat. Teknaf police said quoting the victims.

The dead was identified as Hakim Ali, 28, of Maheshkhali thana of the districts. The body was sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

The injured were admitted to Teknaf Thana Health Centre.

## Kidnapped teenager rescued

JAHALAKATHI, Dec 2: Police rescued a 14-year-old girl kidnapped five months ago and arrested one kidnapper from Binoykathi under the Sadar thana on Monday, reports APB.

The police said Abul Kalam, 32, of Bajupur, father of three children, had kidnapped the girl on July 8 from neighbouring Rahimpur village and took her to Dhaka.

A case has been filed with Jhalakathi police.

## Binod Dasgupta seriously ill

By Staff Correspondent

Elderly journalist, author and columnist Binod Dasgupta has been suffering from various diseases and is undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit at Bangabandhu Medical University. His condition is stated to be critical.

President of Swadesh Chinta Sangha Prof Ahmad Sharif in a statement yesterday urged all kind hearted people and former colleagues of Dasgupta to come forward with support for treatment of the ailing journalist.

## Zikir Mahfil

The monthly Zikir Mahfil and discussion on the significance of holy Shah-e-Barat will be held today after Magrib prayers at Khankaya Toazia, 27, Siddheshwari Road in the city, says a press release.

The Gaddisn Peer of Darapur Sharif, Hazrat Moulana Shah Suhi Alhaj Abul Hasan Muhammad Abdul Quaiyum, will conduct the mahfil.

## Clarification

The Japanese embassy in a clarification to a news item created by UNB and published in The Daily Star on page 11 on Nov 26 says that the answer given by Shigeharu Maruyama, Minister, Japan embassy, during a discussion has been misinterpreted.

He had, in fact, told the audience that the Japanese Language Proficiency Test is now being held in Calcutta, if conditions permit, it will be held in Dhaka.

# Global slowdown to hit 36 countries hard: WB

At least 36 developing countries will be hard hit by the economic and social costs of global slowdown in 1998-2000 with per capita growth coming down to 0.4 per cent this year, predicted the World Bank yesterday, reports UNB.

The latest World Bank report, however, did not name the countries except Brazil, Indonesia and Russia which are facing the grim prospect.

These three countries and 33 other developing and transition countries having more than a quarter of population in the developing world are likely to see negative per capita growth this year, the report said.

It attributed the reason for the economic slowdown to the unprecedented depth and severity of the recession in the crisis countries of East Asia and its contagion effect on the rest of the world.

The developing countries have been hurt by Japan's deepening home-grown recession, as well as by a series of shocks related to the Asian crisis. These include collapse of Russian ruble, falling commodity prices, marked slowdown in world import demand, and general risk aversion in financial markets.

On top of this, El Nino-related phenomena brought both severe floods and drought to many parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America, devastating crops, water supplies and rural infrastructure.

The World Bank prescribed certain measures for preventing future crises. These include:

1) A more comprehensive approach is needed when trying to deal with excessive private borrowing and risk-taking in

the presence of large capital inflows and weak financial systems. This often means applying more flexible exchange rates, tighter fiscal policy, improved and tighter financial regulation. Such measures will tend to reduce overly large capital inflows, and the domestic lending booms that usually precede financial crises.

2) Domestic financial sector liberalisation which can greatly increase the risks of crisis should proceed carefully and in step with tighter financial regulation and supervision.

3) Capital account liberalisation should also proceed cautiously. It is unrealistic to expect the best policies and strongest institutions to prevail in developing countries and therefore eliminate the risks of crisis.

The ADB is also providing a technical assistance grant of USD 570,000 to determine future options, including the financial viability and environmental sustainability of KNM's continued operations.

wood processors, rural communities bordering the forest and subsistence fisherfolk from the Bay of Bengal.

The state-run Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNM) complex contributes to the problem through the non-sustainable use of a key mangrove species as pulp in newsprint manufacture and by disposing untreated effluent upstream of the forest.

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## ADB approves \$37m for conservation of Sundarbans

A sustainable management and biodiversity conservation system will be developed for Bangladesh's Sundarbans Reserve Forest, part of the world's largest remaining contiguous mangrove area, reports UNB.

Asian Development Bank approved 37 million US dollar equivalent loan for the project that will introduce modern management systems involving all stakeholders in 17 sub-districts around the forest.

The participatory systems will conserve and manage the forest and its biodiversity as a multi-dimensional resource, said a press release of the ADB yesterday.

The 6,000 sq km mangrove area provides a subsistence living to 3.5 million people, offers protection from cyclones in south-west Bangladesh and is rich in biodiversity and natural resources.

A globally significant ecosystem, the Sundarbans Reserve Forest contains habitats for fish, shrimp, birds and other wildlife, including the largest remaining population of the highly endangered Royal Bengal Tiger.

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## CIRDAP meet in city opens

## 'People's participation a must for eradicating poverty'

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Zillur Rahman yesterday said that planned rural development programmes and people's participation are of utmost importance for the eradication of poverty in countries like Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the 19th regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city, he said majority of the people in most of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region live in the rural areas where poverty manifests in all its forms — unemployment, malnutrition, low literacy, homelessness and inadequate service facilities. So it is necessary to make every effort towards poverty alleviation and improve the quality of life of the

people, the minister said. The opening session was also addressed by Keshav Raj Rajbhandary and Carillo T Anounuevo, chairperson and vice-chairperson respectively of the 18th meeting of the CIRDAP Executive Committee and Director General of CIRDAP Dr A V S Reddy.

Zillur Rahman said the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given serious importance of poverty alleviation since it came to power and has taken up the challenge to lead Bangladesh into the next century as a dignified and prosperous country.

Dr Reddy gave a resume of the activities of the CIRDAP and said this inter-governmental organisation is sparing no efforts to help the member nations achieve the goal of rural development and, in the process, minimise poverty.



Regional Director for Asia of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Judy Cheng-Hopkins called on Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury at the latter's office yesterday.

—PID photo

## Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation Dhaka

## International Tender Notice

Tender Notice No BSFIC/PO-1/TSM/1673/98-99 Dated: 17.11.98

Scaled tenders are invited from bonafide suppliers/manufacturers by Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation, Adamjee Court, 115-120, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka for import of Vacuum Pump on C&F (C) Chittagong/Benapole basis. Earnest money 1% of the total quoted value in the form of Pay Order/Bank Guarantee in favour of BSFIC should accompany the tender. Offers against the above tender to be submitted in two-envelope system, the detail of which has been mentioned in the tender document. Tender will be received up to 11:00 AM on 22.12.98 in the tender box kept at Purchase Division, 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area (2nd Floor), Dhaka and will be opened in the presence of tenderers (if any) at 11:05 AM on the same day. Tender document with detail specification and other terms and conditions will be available from the (1) Addl Chief Accountant (Cash), Head Office of this Corporation at Adamjee Court (4th floor), and the (2) General Manager (Shipping), BSFIC, Shipping Office, Arag Chamber, 68, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong on cash payment of Tk 750/- (non-refundable) on all working days between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM. No tender document will be sold on the day of opening of the tender.

Corporation reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

SF-251

DFP-24142-29/11

G-2724

Abdullah

Addl Chief (Purchase)

## 3rd Corrigendum Notice for RHD

This notification is to all concerned that the tenders invited under Tender Notice No. 12/JRD of 1998-99 circulated vide this Office Memo No. 4-7/2500 (42) dt. 21-10-98 Eng/06-07-1405 Beng. & Memo No. 4-7/2711(42) dt. 18-11-98 Eng/04-08-1405 Beng. has been changed & corrected as follows:

- Eligibility of contractor.
  - "A" special category of RHD contractor with previous experience of constructing one 300'-00" long R.C.C. bridge and one P.C. Girder bridge under RHD certificate in regard experience to be submitted along with the tender. Otherwise his/her tender will be summarily rejected.
  - Joint venture (not more than two) will be allowed to participate in the tender in such case "A", special category of RHD contractor may form joint venture with other "A" special category contractor with experience as stated in clause "A" Memorandum of association of joint venture will have to be registered by the Notary Public in which the extend of share and responsibility of each partner to be specified as "Lead Firm" in such cases F.D. of individual partner will not be accepted. They shall have to submit earnest money as per rule in the name of joint venture.
- Last date for selling tender documents.
 

On 13-12-98 in place of 06-012-98 (during office hours).
- Last date & time for receiving tenders.
 

On 14-12-98 in place of 07-12-98 up to 12.30 PM.
- Date & time for opening tenders.
 

On 22-12-98 in place of 15-12-98 at 11.00 AM.
- Date & time of lottery (if necessary)
 

On 31-12-98 in place of 24-12-98 at 11.00 AM.

All other specifications, terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged & this corrigendum notice will be the part & parcel of the tender documents.

Gour Chandra Shaha  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
(Current Charge)  
Jalapur Road Division  
Jalapur

DFP-25101-29/11

G-2722