

Deutsche Welle TV programmes in Bangladesh soon

Viewers in Bangladesh will be able to enjoy programmes of the German television network Deutsche Welle (DW) soon, reports APB.

Briefing newsmen at a press conference at a hotel in the city yesterday evening, an official of DW said, "Anyone can tune DW television by an electronic satellite receiver via ASIAT-2".

"Our news in both radio and television has earned a worldwide reputation for its objectivity," Angelika Nevel said.

DW has a very good image because it presents serious programmes and has a very independent voice," she added.

The DW promotes cultural pluralism and broadcasts programmes of a sober nature without any bias for religion or sex.

She said that DW has training facilities in Cologne for the electronic-media journalists of the developing countries, besides a department for radio co-production.

She will meet high officials of Bangladesh Television to explore the possibilities of transmitting DW programmes through BTV like BBC and CNN.

Sudeep Malhotra of Satellite Management Group of India and Deputy Head of the German Embassy Jan-Axel Voss also spoke. Attache of German Embassy Comella Aust was also present at the briefing.

Woman robbed of Tk 1.5 lakh

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers snatched Tk 1.5 lakh from a woman in front of her residence at Mirpur Section-2 in the city yesterday evening.

According to an FIR lodged with Mirpur thana, Parveen Ahsan was returning home at about 2:30 pm from the local bank at Mirpur Section-1. Five men who had apparently followed her by an autorickshaw to her house snatched the bag in which she was carrying the money and escaped with it.

As Parveen raised alarm, her husband came out of the house and chased the gang. Subsequently, the muggers left the autorickshaw at Shah Alibagh and disappeared.

Mirpur police later seized the vehicle from the area, but failed to recover the money or arrest any of the muggers.

BNP, JP

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go for any negotiation with the government unless the results of the just-held municipal polls were scrapped.

"Scrapping of the municipal polls could only pave the way for the Opposition to sit with the government. Otherwise, the Opposition will be left with the sole option - launching an out-governance agitation," said an influential BNP leader.

The opposition leaders said they would in no way accept schedules of the planned Upazila polls before accepting their demands for CEC's resignation and cancellation of the municipal results.

In that case, they viewed, the new round of agitation should be launched soon after the schedules for Upazila polls are announced, even if it coincides with the SSC examinations, due to commence on March 4.

In her series of meetings, lasting for more than three hours yesterday evening, Khaleda Zia had talked separately with two key figures in her party - Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the party secretary general, and M. Shamsul Islam, her key representative on the four-party liaison committee.

She had another round of talks with JP president member Kazi Firoz Rashid in presence of Shamsul Islam.

Besides, about a dozen others including BNP joint secretary and former mayor of Dhaka Mirza Abbas and several present and former party MPs also met Khaleda Zia.

Earlier on the day, a meeting of the liaison committee decided that the issue of a fresh round of agitation would be discussed first in the parties separately before considering a common stance on the matter.

Obituary

Amena Begum, mother of ATM Ishaq, a staff reporter of Danik Ajker Kago, died of cancer at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. She was 51, reports UNB.

She left behind three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She will be buried at family graveyard at village Aiyennagar of Ramganj thana in Laxmipur district today.



Opposition Leader in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia distributing clothes among the fire victims at Agargaon Slum in the city yesterday.

New gene can prove breakthrough in cancer research

A cancer gene has been discovered that could help scientists find cures for some of the biggest killer disease, reports UNB.

The rogue gene, labelled Bcl10, was originally thought to be implicated only in a rare cancer called B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

But researchers have now established that it is also linked to many other cancers, including some of the most common and dangerous, such as lung, breast and colon, according to a London Press Service report made available to UNB.

Dr Martin Dyer, from Britain's Institute of Cancer Research, said, "This is only the second gene to be discovered which is implicated in such a large number of cancers. The first was P53, which is abnormal in about 50 per cent of cancers. Our preliminary results indicate that Bcl10 is contributing to the development of at least as many."

Dr Dyer added: "It looks as if the discovery of Bcl10 will be equally important to our understanding of this complex disease and ultimately finding a cure for the big cancers which threaten the lives of so many people."

Professor Peter Garland, chief executive of the institute, said it was a "remarkable discovery which will have a major impact on the direction of cancer research". It was hoped the mutated Bcl10 gene might provide a suitable target for new cancer drugs.

Dr Dyer found the gene when

analysing a sample tumour from a man admitted to hospital with a chest complaint and who turned out to have B-cell lymphoma of the stomach. He discovered that the defective gene was interfering with the process of programmed cell suicide that normally disposes of cancerous cells.

His team then searched for the gene in other types of tumour. It was first spotted in mesothelioma (cancer of the lining of the chest cavity) and then discovered in many other cancers including those of the lung, breast and colon.

The findings have been published in the journal Cell. The research was carried out jointly by scientists from the Institute of Cancer Research and the Royal Free and University College Medical School, London, said the LPS report.

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Barbara Mayer-Marroth (L), Director of Goethe-Institut, Abdus Samad (M), Principal, Centre for Film Training and Professor Abdus Salim (R), Vice-President of Bangladesh Film Societies speaking at the inauguration of an exhibition on Oskar Messter at Goethe-Institut.

Exhibit on German film pioneer begins

By Staff Correspondent

An exhibition of the works of German filmmaker Oskar Messter (1866-1943) began at the Goethe-Institut yesterday. The exhibit depicts the life and works of German film pioneer.

Inaugurating the exhibition and the film shows, Abdus Samad, Principal, Centre for Film Training, said that Messter had invented the "Maltese Cross" which involved synchronisation of the perception of vision. He stressed on the fact that the pioneer had introduced numerous talented artists to the German cinema and had brought the theatre audience to the cinema halls. He stressed on the fact that it was important for our local film-makers to know about the origin of filmmaking.

Professor Abdus Salim, senior vice-president of the Bangladesh Film Societies, said that Messter had explored the possibilities of the use of sound and hence, his contribution as an engineer was a profound one.

The director of the Goethe-Institut, Barbara Mayer-Marroth, who was also present at the ceremony, said that it was an unique opportunity for viewers in the city to watch silent films that are over 100 years old. The films will be shown today.

The exhibition will remain open till March 4 from 3 pm to 8 pm daily.

Rubel murder: 9 to be produced in court today

By Staff Correspondent

Nine of the 14 chargesheeted accused in the Rubel murder case, including Mukuli Begum and AC Akram Hossain are likely to be produced before the court of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge today, court sources said.

According to a CID investigation, Shamim Reza Rubel, 24, a BBA student at Independent University, was picked up by a team of Detective Branch of Police from near his residence on July 23 last year and was subsequently tortured to death in custody the same day.

Of the accused, five policemen have been absconding since the incident. The rest nine have been detained at the Dhaka Central Jail.

BNP observes Protest Day

The BNP-led opposition, demanding cancellation of the municipal election results, yesterday observed the Protest Day across the country, reports UNB.

As part of the programme, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote (IJO) held protest rallies and brought out separate processions in the capital yesterday afternoon.

Jalil, a free-lance artist began his career in Los Angeles after a traumatic accident resulting in a spinal injury. He is inspired by Pablo Picasso, whom he regards as the seeker of the "absolute truth".

According to Jalil, his paintings delineate both pain and joy and depict a positive vision.

Jalil says that through his work, he attempts to create a pathway through the emotional and physical vicissitudes of his life. With his display, he desires to present his play of lines to connoisseurs, art-lovers and average gallery viewers' to share his feelings and emotions.

Jalil, born in '69 at Dhaka, has also held exhibitions at the Church of St. Francis, Los Angeles, USA in '93; the Los Angeles Photographic Centre, USA, in '94; the Glendale College Gallery, Los Angeles, USA, in '95.

The exhibition will remain open from 5 pm to 8.30 pm daily till March 10.

3 burnt alive in Satkania

CHITTAGONG, Feb 28: Three people were burnt alive in a fire at West Ghatia Denga under Satkania thana some 50 miles from here last night, police said today, reports BSS.

The dead were identified as Khaleda Begum, 21, her minor sons Salim, 4, and Nazim Uddin, 10.



Jalil's solo exhibition begins

By Staff Correspondent

The solo painting exhibition of Javed Jalil opened at the Alliance Francaise yesterday. It was inaugurated by the artist's mother Nazmun Nahar. Professor Abdur Razzaq was the guest of honour.

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Pakistan Can't Wait Forever for Peace

by Syed Talat Hussain

ISLAMABAD, Feb 28: Pakistan's prime minister Nawaz Sharif has reiterated Pakistan's position on the long-festering issue of Kashmir saying that "if the on-going parleys with the Indians were fruitless then Pakistan will have to start another set of policies to seek a resolution of the problem. Addressing a seminar in Lahore, provincial capital of Punjab, Prime Minister Sharif expressed the hope that the agenda agreed between the two prime ministers last week would be implemented in letter and spirit. "But if that did not happen," said the prime minister, "then there might come a time when the talks have to be abandoned."

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's statement sums up the spirit of the new approach Islamabad is using to find a workable solution of the Kashmir problem and also crack other issues bedeviling its relations with New Delhi. The basic premise of this approach is that Pakistan should show reasonable flexibility on Kashmir and pursue different paths of the resolution of this core problem with India.

This is why Pakistan has put the Simla Agreement between

India and Pakistan at part with the United Council Security Resolutions on Kashmir. The Simla Agreement talks of resolution of the Kashmir problem through all means including bilateral diplomacy, whereas the UN Security Council Resolutions of August 13, 1948, and January 5, 1949, lay down an internationally-supervised mechanism of holding plebiscite to allow Kashmiris to decide whether they want to join India or Pakistan.

be negotiated on Kashmir is how to get back from Pakistan the rest of the Kashmiri territory, then Islamabad too might have to reconsider its reconciliatory approach.

In other words, the message which Pakistan's prime minister has sent to the Indians is that this widow of opportunity to make peace and talk on Kashmir is not for ever, and it might close down for another few years if they do not make use of it now. This throws the

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This means that Pakistan has taken a forward stand on the Kashmir issue and has gone a mile forward on the road to constructive diplomacy with the Indians. However, as Mr Sharif has pointed out, there is an expectation in Islamabad that Delhi will respond to this positive approach and will not spurn this opportunity to make lasting peace with Pakistan. In case this expectation is dashed to the ground and India went back to its original position that the only thing there is to

ball in India's court because they now have to respond to Pakistan's overtures and to further widen this window of opportunity for the settlement of the Kashmir issue.

From Pakistan's point of view, so far the Indians have not responded in a way to entertain the hope that they are serious about exploiting this chance of making real peace. The statement attributed to the Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his return from Lahore visit, in which he

associated Pakistan with violence in occupied Kashmir, has not played well in Islamabad. This is why Pakistan's foreign secretary Shamsad Ahmad made a special effort to clarify Pakistan's position on the issue, denying that Pakistan has any link with violence in occupied Kashmir, and terming it to be a natural result of Indian repression there. Similarly the denial of visa to the head of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, a 30 Kashmir party combined resistance movement, Mir Waiz and his mother, to perform Umra has also sent a peel of anxiety in Islamabad. The Pakistan Foreign Office has predictably expressed its disappointment over the denial of the visa to Mir Waiz and his mother.

All of this means that Pakistan's relations with India in spite of the recent important developments are still precariously balanced. Their future will depend on how flexible New Delhi is in bringing its point of view on Kashmir closer to the urgent need of a settlement and how eager it is on building on the spirit of the Lahore Declaration issued at the end of the Nawaz-Vajpayee meeting in Lahore.

Army man murder: One held in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 28: One person was arrested today in connection with killing of an army man in the city's Ham-jarbagh area, just one hour before the beginning of the 66-hour hartal on Tuesday.

Police said Idris Meah was arrested from Amin Jute Mill area after receipt of secret information about his alleged involvement in the killing of Naik Badrul Islam.

The army jawan Badrul Islam was killed by a group of miscreants while he was returning to cantonment after enjoying 15-day leave at his village home at Trishal in My-mensingh.

C'wealth Science Council meeting concludes

The two-day Commonwealth Science Council (CSC) meeting concluded in the city yesterday, emphasising on the enhancement of mutual cooperation in science among the Commonwealth countries, reports APB.

Held at CIRDP conference hall, the consultation meeting discussed CSC activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

HR Report

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report." He said, "It seems to be the best report among the countries of the South Asia."

He said the report, released in the city on Saturday by the USIS, mentions discovery of potentially foreign investment, attracting foreign investment, and reduction in the relative importance on foreign aid in recent years as a result of increased earnings from exports and remittances. However, it has "some serious omissions and some inaccuracies and distortions."

The major omission, Ahmed pointed out, is that though it mentions the tragic murder of Rubel, the report does not speak about the visit by the Prime Minister, Home Minister and other senior leaders to the relatives of the deceased and their condemnation of the heinous crime. The visit by the leaders and the condemnation underline the seriousness with which the government took up the matter (Rubel murder), the acting Foreign Secretary said.

He said while the report refers to last year's devastating floods, it fails to mention the massive relief and rehabilitation work undertaken to mitigate the sufferings of the huge number of affected people.

The report quoting government statistics mentions a sharp decline in the number of people detained under the Special Powers Act in 1998. The number was 885 last year, as compared to 2000 in 1997. Ahmed said the report also mentions that the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) was "peaceful" at the end of the year following the CHT accord signed in 1997, which ended 25 years of insurgency.

Ahmed said though the report speaks about the parliamentary standing committees headed by members of parliament other than ministers, it "does not say that this was introduced during 1998 to make the government more accountable and transparent."

The report is also "silent" on the Prime Minister's question hour every week when the parliament is in session, he said adding "This remarkable step for better accountability and more transparency at the highest level of the government should have been highlighted in the report."

On the condition of minorities, "the report is silent about the appointments of two ambassadors, one in Kenya and the other in Bhutan, two secretaries to the government, and a number of additional secretaries, joint secretaries, deputy commissioners and superintendents in the districts from the minority communities during the year under review."

The acting foreign secretary said whereas the government "welcomes, supports and provides encouragement in the advancement of political, economic and social rights of our citizens under many adverse and difficult circumstances, we would not, however, like to be sermonised."



Jatiya Rickshaw Samik League organised a discussion meeting in observance of its founding anniversary yesterday.

Arrest of Nurul Huq's killers demanded

Speakers at a workers' rally at Paltan Maidan yesterday afternoon called upon the concerned authorities to immediately arrest the persons named in the FIR lodged with the Motiheel Thana in connection with the killing of Jatiya Rickshaw Samik League leader Nurul Huq, reports BSS.

They also demanded exemplary punishment to the killers of Nurul Huq, who died in a bomb attack during hartal hours on February 23.

The rally, organised by Jatiya Rickshaw Samik League, was addressed by Awami League president member Amir Hossain Amu. City Awami League President and Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif, city Awami League General Secretary and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, and Jatiya Samik League General Secretary Ahsanullah Master, MP. It was presided over by Jatiya Rickshaw Samik League president Shukkur Ahmed.

Amir Hossain Amu said the Opposition wants to grab state power through killing, anarchy and violence.

People had already rejected their hartal call during the just concluded pourasabha polls across the country. He said, adding that the massive turnout in the voting centres had proved that people ignored the opposition call.

Mohammad Hanif thanked the people who exercised their franchise in the pourasabha elections ignoring the opposition's hartal programme.

Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury called upon the people to build resistance unitedly against the politics of violence and terrorism launched by the opposition parties.

Conference on Arsenic concludes

By Staff Correspondent

More than 150 participants from home and abroad called for stronger need for sharing more experiences on the arsenic crisis at the end of two-day national conference yesterday.

The LGRD & Cooperatives Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye in his concluding speech suggested holding more such conferences.

"We would like to expand the programme for the sake of gathering more experiences," he said.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh David E Lockwood is his speech said, "Our concern is the community that lives with the problem. It is not a health issue alone. It also involves water and that is where most of the UN resources are being invested to address the problem now."

The two-day brainstorming sessions were extremely meaningful. The idea of having a forum is very positive but we need more than that - a leadership," he added.

The UNICEF Deputy Executive

Director Stephen Lewis commented, "Unicef partly feels responsible for the crisis in Bangladesh. For that we are ready to intensify our involvement by increasing resources."

Referring to the limited availability of information and survey conducted on the issue, Lewis said, "By participating in the on going arsenic mitigation project we are ready to address the problem in the areas, where the problem still remains unresolved in the country, in cooperation with other agencies."

Finally, a number of recommendations on the technologies of mitigation, health and epidemiology, communication and social mobilisation and measurement of arsenic contamination were made.

The conference on coordinated action for arsenic mitigation was organised by ministries of LGRD & Cooperatives and health and family welfare in association with UNDP, WHO, Unicef and the World Bank.



A 21-member Boy Scouts team from Japan arrived in Bangladesh on Feb 26 on a nine-day visit under the Bangladesh-Japan joint ORT project.

Backgrounder to the Second D-8 Summit

Continued from page 10

1997 and 1998 and recommendations on further cooperation were made. Among the follow-up actions is the offer of Malaysia to hold training courses on specific subjects.

Several new proposals are under consideration. Some of these deal with mechanisms for increasing cooperation among the public and private sectors. For instance, there is a proposal for the establishment of business forum, a federation of the Chambers of Commerce, easing of visa restrictions, particularly among businessmen, establishment of legal framework such as the avoidance of double taxation, promotion and protection of investments, cooperation in the banking sectors, etc. These, and other, proposals will be considered for implementation.

As may be expected in any Summit gathering, discussions among the leaders will cover a wide range of issues of interest to them. Issues relating to globalization will feature prominently. For instance, issues such as the susceptibility of the developing countries to external shocks, to violent fluctuations in trade, income, employment, finance, and crises due to increased globalization of the

economy, may to feature in the discussions. The outcome of their deliberations would be reflected in the Dhaka Declaration that is expected to emerge at the end of the Summit.

It is recognized that the roles of the private and public sectors are complementary and mutually reinforcing. Increasingly, we will find the private sectors intimately involved in the co-operation programmes, particularly when specific projects are to be implemented. At the same time, the involvement of the other stakeholders, such as the NGOs, will be brought into the fold as and when issues involving them are being contemplated.

The objective of the D-8 grouping is to enhance cooperation among the D-8 countries for their common benefit. From a preliminary assessment of the progress achieved so far, there appears to be a bright future for the nascent body. Already, within the year and a half since the first Summit, considerable progress has been made in many areas of activity. Compared to other such bodies, this is no mean achievement. The future will depend on the will of the countries, and the paths they choose to enhance cooperation among themselves.

Japanese Scouts team visits Bangladesh

A 21-member Boy Scouts of Nippon (Japan) Rover Contingent arrived in the city on February 26 on a nine-day visit under Bangladesh-Japan joint ORT Project 1998-2002, says a press release.

The Rovers are actively taking part in a work camp with the local 144 Scouts and Rovers including 48 Girl-in-Scout members in six villages under Kazi Pur Thana and Sirajganj Sadar Thana of Sirajganj district to promote Oral Rehydration Therapy for the prevention of diarrhoea and primary health care. At least 1200 families will be benefited from this project directly.

The inaugural ceremony of the project was held at Kuripara Govt. Primary School premises on February 27. Mohammad Nasim, Minister for Post and Telecommunication, attended the ceremony as Chief Guest while Md Fazlur Rahman, National Commissioner (Community Development & Health) and Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology, presided.

Mr Manzoor Ul Karim, Chief National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts, Md Abdul Gafur Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Sirajganj, Dr Abdur Rashid, Civil Surgeon, Sirajganj, and Dr Tomonichi Goke, leader of the Japanese team, also spoke.



BNP brought out a mourning procession in the city yesterday in remembrance of those killed during the 66-hr hartal last week.