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**Record level of food stock in the country**

The food stock in the country has surpassed all previous records, reports BSS. This was revealed at a meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad Standing Committee on Food Ministry held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with committee chairman Muhammad Saedul Haque presiding, a press release said. The meeting discussed in detail different aspects of food situation of the country and expressed satisfaction over the record food stock. It unanimously decided to acquire all unused godowns of the BADC in different thanas on an emergency basis to raise the capacity of food reserve for public interest. Earlier, a report was placed at the meeting in this regard. Committee members Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury Mirza Azam, Srimoti Bharati Nandi Sarker, Muhammad Jainal Abedin Sarker, Prof Muhammad Shahjahan Mian and Alhaj Shamsuddin Ahmed attended the meeting. Deputy Minister for Food Dharendra Debanath Shambhu attended the meeting on special invitation. Food Secretary Mahub Kabir and other concerned high officials were also present.

**Training on 'Reproductive health' begins Contraceptive prevalence rate in Bangladesh 50 pc**

Contraceptive prevalence rate in Bangladesh is currently over 50 per cent because of a strong communication and social marketing programme on reproductive health, reports UNB. Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf said this at an international fellowship training programme on 'Reproductive Health' that began at the Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH) yesterday. Bangladesh is hosting the international programme for the first time under the umbrella of south-south cooperation. Representatives from 16 countries, including China, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mali, Myanmar and host Bangladesh, are attending the training course. The minister said the knowledge and experience through exchange of views and ideas acquired from such fellowship training programme would help develop mother and child health (MCH) in the region. Mentioning steps initiated by the present government for the improvement of the MCH, he said Bangladesh had made a remarkable success in certain fields of health and population sector. The EPI programme is also a very successful one in the country, he told the function. The fellows and other country programmes would be highly benefited from the fellowship programme, he said, adding that Bangladesh programme has extended full support to the South-South initiative to fulfill its commitment to ICPD. ICMH, an exclusive training and research institution to improve the scenario of MCH in Bangladesh, has extended the hand of cooperation to invite the institution in international training programme. It also responded positively to collaborate with partners in population and development in the fellowship programme. Presided over by ICMH Director Prof M Q K Talukdar, the function was also addressed by senior advisor of partner fellowship programme Gule Afroz Mahub and Prof Shahabuddin of the institute.

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**Commemorative stamp issued**

Bangladesh Post Office yesterday issued a commemorative stamp valued at Tk 4 denomination on the occasion of the death anniversary of Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, reports UNB. A first day cover valued at Tk 6 and a special canceller were used on the occasion. Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim formally released the stamp in a simple ceremony. The stamp and the first day cover will be sold simultaneously from all head post offices including GPOs. It will subsequently be sold from all post offices including the extra-departmental ones.

**ORBIS to start local hospitals soon**

By Staff Correspondent ORBIS, the "flying eye hospital and teaching facility," will start local hospitals based on its project to battle blindness in Bangladesh soon, officials said. S.K. Aminul Islam, the ORBIS country director, said the five-year programme, which could be extended if necessary, will cost about Tk 5 million. Officials made the announcement at Zia International Airport yesterday. ORBIS started its most recent six-week-project in Dhaka on November 6. It's the sixth ORBIS visit to Bangladesh since 1984. Islam said the project will improve the quality of eye care, access to services, health education and primary care. However, an official with the Bangladesh National Council for the Blind, said a comprehensive government eye care policy is still years away. "There is only a policy draft," said Dr. Syed Modasser Ali. "We are facing a serious problem due to the lengthy process at the policy level."

**Fresh polls demanded in Tangail**

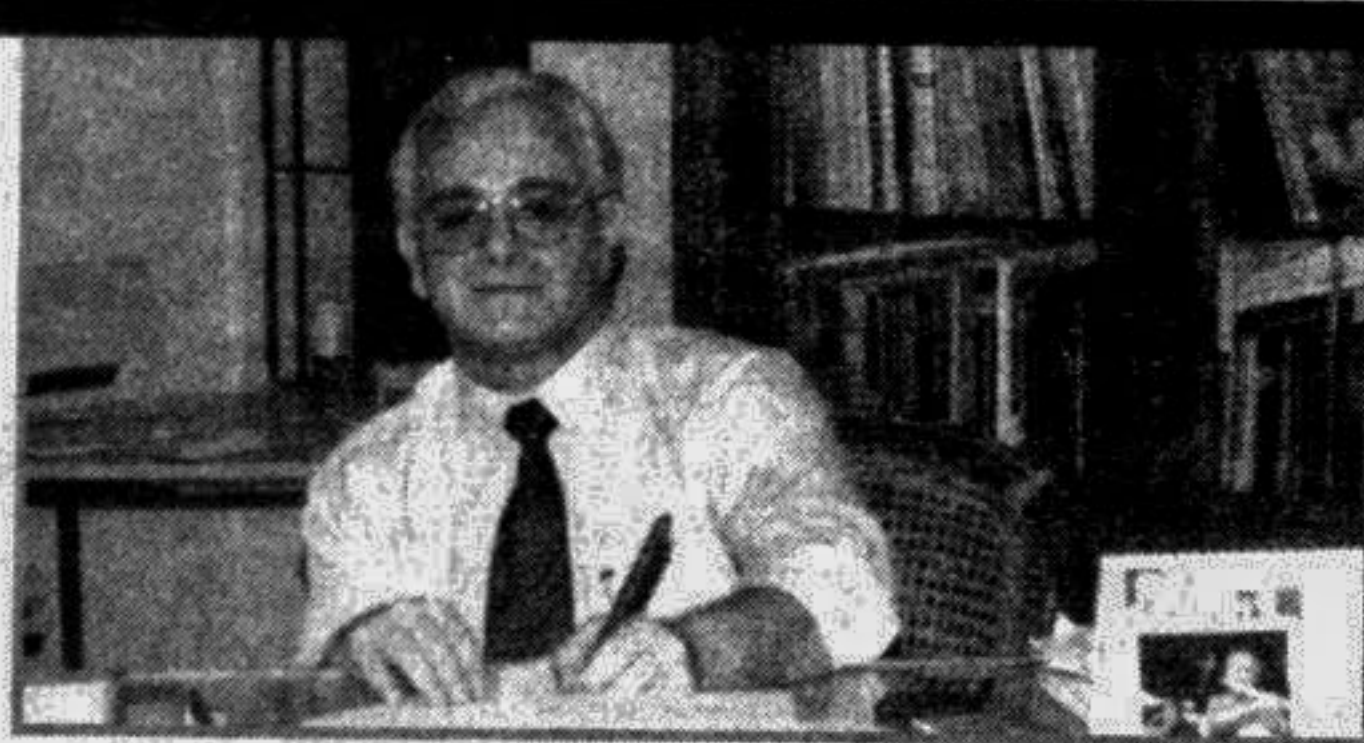
By Staff Correspondent One hundred and fifteen intellectuals and professionals in a joint statement yesterday called for immediate cancellation of the Tangail-8 by-polls result and demanded fresh elections there. The signatories belonging to "Shata Nagorik Committee" said that the country's election system was becoming farcical as the Awami League government has resorted to violence and vote dacoity. They also said that the democratic system in the country was being destroyed by the ruling party's misdeeds and the voters' voices were also being suppressed. The statement said that the nature of all by-polls held in the last three and a half years under this government was similar. The Tangail by-polls once again proved that no election under this government could be held in a free and fair atmosphere. It also proved the Election Commission's failure in maintaining neutrality, it added. "The Tangail by-polls will remain a black spot in our nation's history," the statement observed. The signatories to the statement include Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Prof MA Majed, National Professor Syed Ali Ahsan, Prof RI Chowdhury, Prof M Moniruzzaman Miah, Prof M Shahjahan, Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, Prof Mahubullah, Sadek Khan, Prof SMA Fayed, Amanullah Kabir, Reazuddin Ahmed, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Prof Yusuf Haider, LK Siddique, Justice Habibur Islam Bhuiyan, Prof Jashinuddin OAHmed and Prof MA Hadi.

**A very Happy Birthday To Sana (24.11.99)**

May Allah bless you always Dadu. C-973

**Happy Birthday To Sana on 24 November, '99**

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**BRTD service on Gulistan-Balughat reintroduced**

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTD) reintroduced its bus services in the Gulistan-Balughat (Cantonment) route yesterday, says an ISPR press release. Initially five newly acquired BRTD buses will ply in the route starting from Balughat at the Dhaka Cantonment to Gulistan in the city. The buses will have few stoppages inside the Cantonment and will reach Gulistan via Farmgate. Number of buses however may be increased to 10 in future depending on the response the service finds. The fare of the bus ranges from Tk 5 to Tk 15. Quarter Master General of the Bangladesh Army Major General Jalaluddin Ahmad formally inaugurated the service at the Signal Gate at Dhaka Cantonment. BRTD Chairman Janab Muhammad Ajmal Chowdhury, senior military officers and BRTD officials were also present.

**BPDA calls for security steps in petrol pumps**

Bangladesh Petroleum Dealers Association (BPDA) yesterday urged the government to take measures against extortion and looting of money from petrol pumps, reports BSS. In a statement, president of the association Nazmul Huq called for ensuring security in the petrol pumps to keep communication network operative, and in the interest of smooth running of business. In another statement, president of Dhaka Division of Bangladesh Petroleum Dealers' Association Abdur Rahman expressed indignation over the incidents like extortion and terrorism in petrol pumps. He urged the authorities to take necessary measures to check these incidents.

**IBA admission test Nov 26**

The admission test of the BBA programme of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka will be held at 10 am on November 26, says a press release. The seat plan for the test is: Roll Nos 1001-1120 at Physics Auditorium (Curzon Hall Campus); 1121-1620 at Curzon Hall; 1621-2156 at IER building; 2157-3676 at Faculty of Business Studies building; 3677-4566 at Arts building; 4567-4987 at IBA building and 4988-5196 at Mathematics Dept (Science Annex building).

Detailed seat plan will be hung on the bulletin board of IBA after 1 pm tomorrow. Candidates have been advised to report to their respective examination halls by 9:30 am on Friday, the release added.

**Death of Jewel BRCT to release investigation report today**

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims (BRCT) will release today its investigation report regarding the death of Jewel who drowned at South Kamalapur while police were chasing him on November 17, said a press release. BRCT will organise a press conference in this regard at the VIP Lounge of the National Press Club at 11:30 am today. Family members of Jewel will also attend the press conference.

**Job Opportunity**

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Interested Candidates are requested to submit their applications with complete curriculum Vitae and two copies of Passport size Photographs to the undersigned latest by 9th. December '99 and Postal Order / Pay Order of TK : 100.00 (one hundred ) only in favour of Bangladesh International School should be attached with the application.

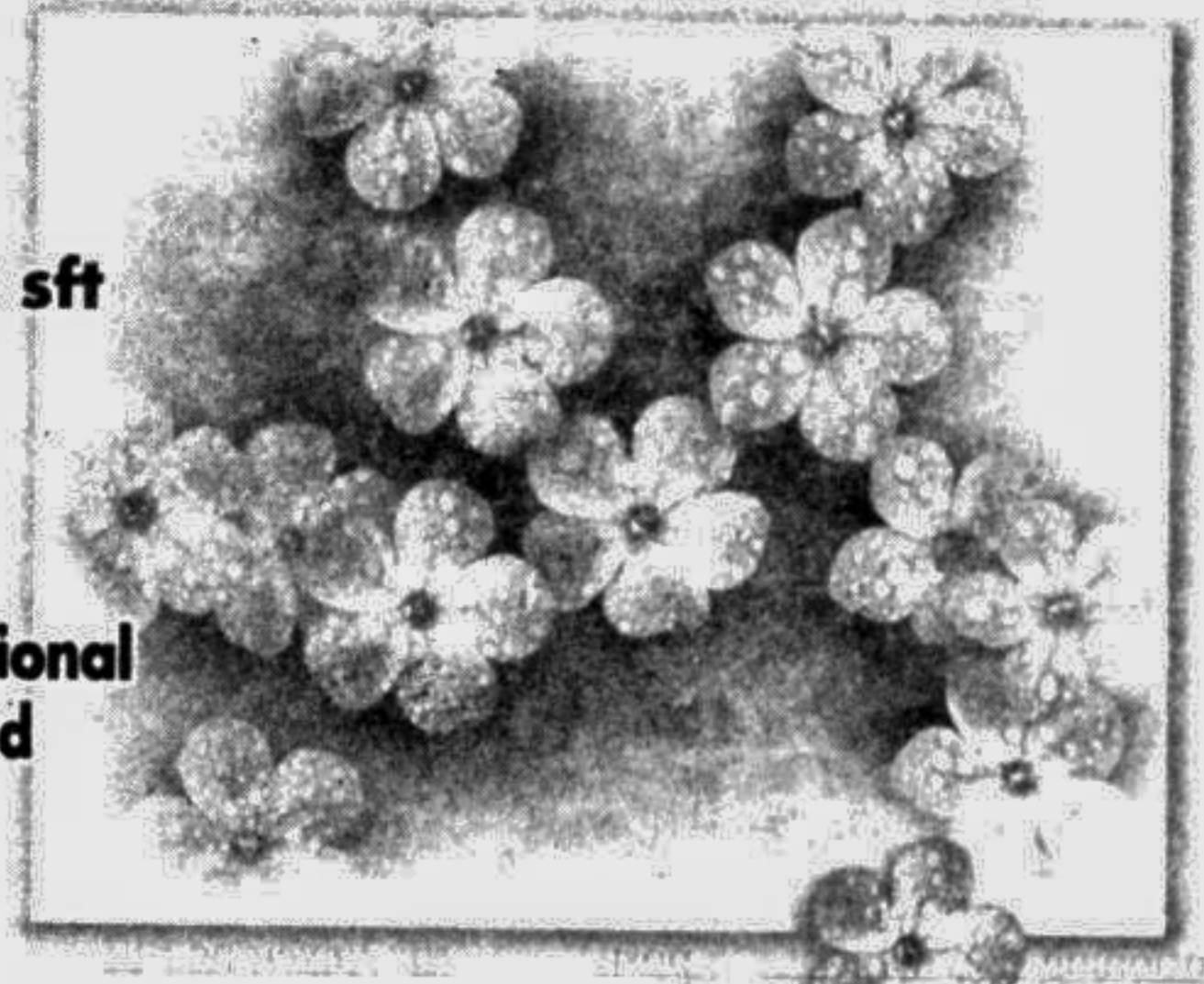
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