

International Day for the Disabled observed

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru yesterday called for united efforts of all to ensure well being of the disabled and involve them in the country's development activities, reports BSS.

"Development of the country can not be achieved leaving aside 1.20 crore disabled persons, who are capable to take part in the country's development activities," he said while speaking at a function for the disabled in the city.

Local engineers to run Raozan Power Plant

CHITTAGONG, Dec 3: The two units of Raozan Thermal Power Plant will be run by local engineers and technicians from the end of the current month as Chinese engineers and technicians will leave the plant on expiry of their contract with the government, PDB sources said, reports BSS.

Forty-eight Chinese engineers and operators out of fifty-nine will go back to China and their positions will be replaced by local engineers and technicians, who have been trained for the purpose.

Eleven Chinese experts will stay at the plant for assisting local engineers and technicians. The two units of the plant have been built by China National Machinery and Equipment-Import and Export Corporation (CMEC) under a contract between the governments of China and Bangladesh.

Ctg Club polls held

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 3: The election of Chittagong Club Limited, the main club in the port city, was held amid enthusiasm last night, club sources said.

Tariqul Islam Khan was re-elected chairman of the club for the year 1999-2000 for the third consecutive term.

Khan bagged 414 votes while his rival candidate Kamal Uddin Ahmed got 371 votes.

The other 8 elected members of the club are: Meah Iftekar Anwar, Syed Ali Monsur, Syed Shamsul Alam, SM Abu Tayeb, Selim Ahmed, Shamsul Alam, Shovan Mahub Shahabuddin and Aftab Rahim Chowdhury Ferdous.

Appointment

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 3: Commissioner of Chittagong Customs House Abul Kasem has been transferred to Central Customs Intelligence as its director general, sources said.

Kasem will be replaced by Monjur Mannan, former commissioner of Chittagong Customs House.

Kasem is likely to hand over the charge to Mannan by next week.

National Forum Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) organised the function on the occasion of 5th International Day for the Disabled '99 at the 'Samatter Manch' (Stage of equality) at the Jatiya Sangsad premises.

Presided over by NFOWD president, Khondaker Zahurul Alam, the function was also addressed by State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain, Social Welfare Secretary Dr. Khandu Mohan Das, Director of Impact Foundation Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury and NFOWD General Secretary Jowaherul Islam Mamun.

Khasru said the government has undertaken various measures to ensure a better life for the disabled persons by involving them in different social and cultural activities. "All disabled people can contribute something to development activities if they are provided with training and education," he added.

Referring to a draft law for the disabled, which has already been submitted to the ministry of social welfare, he said the law would be scrutinised by the ministry of law and placed before the parliament. "The law will be enacted with a view to establish the legal rights of the disabled," he added.

State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain said that a total of 64 training centres are being run across the country to train the disabled. "A National Disabled Development Foundation is being set up and process to constitute SAARC Disabled Forum is already underway," he said.

Earlier, the law minister handed over crests of the 31 disabled students who won medals in the International Olympic '99 held at North Carolina, USA, in July this year.

A colourful procession was also brought out on the city streets to mark the day. A large number of disabled people participated in the procession that began from the Russel Square in the city.

Ctg

International Day for the Disabled was also observed in the port city.

At a function Labour and Employment Minister MA Mannan called upon the affluent people to extend their help for rehabilitation of the disabled.

He said, the government efforts should be supplemented by contribution of the affluent people in rehabilitating the blind, mentally retarded, and deaf and dumb persons.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion held at Mirzapur Deaf and Dumb Centre. The minister also said that the government had undertaken welfare oriented programmes for the disabled.

Presided over by ADC (Gen) Muhammad Harisuddin, the function was addressed by social worker Sheikh Mohammad Jahangir, Ward Commissioner Syed Gulam Haider Minto and others.

Earlier, Mannan took part a procession organised on the occasion.



Social Welfare Directorate brought out a procession in the city yesterday on occasion of International Day for the Disabled. —Star photo

The turbulent days of 71

The story of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 3: The 'Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra' played an invaluable role in the Liberation War of the nation and this will remain embedded in golden letters in the annals of the history of independence of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The provisional Mujibnagar government set up the 'Betar Kendra' when the Liberation War was being organised. The Chittagong radio station was earlier turned into the 'Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra' which energised the people of the country at a very crucial stage of the movement for self-rule. But the transmitter of this centre was destroyed by the bombing of Pakistani troops.

When the repressive occupation forces launched a genocide on March 26, 1971, a radio station was set up at Brahmanbaria at the instruction of major Khaled Mosharraf. Few people knew about the small radio station which rendered significant contribution at the initial phase of resistance against the brutal Pak army.

Major Khaled Mosharraf, Captain Mahub and Captain Ayenuddin and other Bangalee soldiers came to Brahmanbaria. The Bangalee soldiers staying at the WAPDA house revolted and joined them. Major Khaled was the commander of this area for some time and Kazi Rakiuddin Ahmed was the sub-divisional officer. He and other Bangalee government officials and employees joined

the freedom fighters in their fight for independence.

There was already a radio transmitter at the Titas gas field in the north of the Brahmanbaria and local leaders sent it to Colonel Salahuddin Reza in Telapara for the purpose of using it to contact freedom fighters. Major Khaled held talks with SDO Rakiuddin Ahmed about whether a radio station could be set up in this area and later requested the superintendent of the Brahmanbaria Industrial School Shamsuddin Ahmed to try to establish such a radio station.

Shamsuddin Ahmed used a limited power capacity radio transmitter manufactured at the electronics department of the industrial school and set up at the free area of Titas gas field by adding additional equipment to increase its capacity. As a result, this radio transmitter was capable in covering Brahmanbaria and its adjoining areas.

That was the small 'Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra' came into being in Brahmanbaria. Those who contributed to this difficult task included member of the then National Assembly Ali Azam, member of the Provincial Assembly Lutful Hye Chhachhu and professor of physics of the Brahmanbaria Government College Iqbal Hossain. SDO Rakiuddin Ahmed appointed Professor AKM Harun-Rashid of the government college as its director. Local student leaders Jehangir

Osman and Md. Shahidullah were appointed associates. Shamsuddin Ahmed remained in overall charge of the station.

The radio station was inaugurated on March 26 and its programmes were broadcast between 10 am and 2 pm everyday. On the opening day student leader Yusuf went round the town with a mike and urged all to listen to its transmission. The programmes were transmitted on the shortwave band. Professor Harun and Jahangir used to read the news bulletin.

The news bulletins were punctuated by revolutionary, patriotic songs and two particular songs 'Amar Sonar Bangla' and 'Joy Bangla Banglar Joy' were played over and over again.

Prof Harun later recalled that their main assets were a record player and a few records. The microphone was placed before the record player during the transmission as they had no other equipment.

The Pakistani forces were met with stiff resistance when they tried to enter the town on March 28 as freedom fighters and people mounted obstruction. After exchange of firing near the Kudulia canal, the Pak troops were forced to retreat towards Comilla. Then came April 1. The day was largely incident-free but bombing was carried out by a combat aircraft in the late afternoon. Two Pakistani aircrafts flew over the town. They targeted the Titas gas field knowing about the existence of the radio station there. The bombings caused huge inferno in the oil deposits and at the same time the assiduously built five-day-old radio station was destroyed. Osman and his associates had just gone out for tea when the bombing took place and were thus saved by a miracle.

The Pakistani troops did not stop there. With the help of local collaborators, they burned down the industrial school. Those associated with the radio station were put up on the 'killing list' of the Pakistani army and their lackeys. Their lives were in real stake.

The radio station represents a glorious chapter in the Liberation War which is not known to many people. The audio station played a critical role as it helped to keep up the spirits of the freedom fighters. He also provided the little stretches of real information about the war to the local people who were starved for news about the actual situation in the country.

The 'Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra' was on the lips of everybody during those turbulent days of the Liberation War. It not only encouraged the freedom fighters but injected an indomitable spirit in their valour and commitment. The short-lived radio station in Brahmanbaria is an integral part of our history.

Engineers are pioneers in dev activities

CHITTAGONG, Dec 3: Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism, Public Works and Housing Engineer Mosharraf Hossain said here today that the engineers are pioneers in development activities and as such they should be given necessary opportunities to make use of their creative talents, reports BSS.

Addressing as the chief guest a re-union function of ex-students of BIT-Khulna and BIT-Chittagong at the Railway Training Academy here, the minister said the government had undertaken massive development programmes for benefit of the people and the engineers could play their vital role for

successful implementation of those programmes. The function presided over by BIT-Khulna-Chittagong centre president engineer Khondaker Azizul Rahman was addressed by engineers M A Samad, Mahubur Rahman, Liakat Ali Sharif and Abul Kashem.

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RHD Notice Inviting Tender

- Tender Notice No : 18/1999-2000.
- Name of works : **Group No 1:** Supply of spare parts and electrical items for 110 HP DAF Engine (Model-615) of different ferry ghats under Ferry Sub-Division, Faridpur during the year 1999-2000.
Ch to: 168 RBF-2 repair.
- Group No 2:** Supply of spare parts for Mitsubishi Pajero Jeep (3 doors) No Metro-Umbro-9025 under Ferry Sub-Division, Faridpur during the year 1999-2000.
Ch to: 168 RBF-4 T&P.
- Group No 3:** Supply of spare parts for repair of Shaft, Sukan and Grand Bush of Steel Ferry Balaka-1-S.F.-015 at Jawkura Ferry Ghat under Ferry Sub-Division, Faridpur during the year 1999-2000.
Ch. to: Feeder, Road & Bridge project (thana connecting road) head-266 As per schedule.
- Estimated cost : 2% of the estimated cost.
- Earnest money : As per mentioned in the schedule.
- Time allowed : A to C general category contractors under RHD, 'D' general category contractors under Mech. Ferry Circle, Dhaka and 'E' general category contractors under Ferry Construction Divn, Dhaka.
- Name of offices for selling tender documents : Executive Engineer, RHD, Ferry Construction Divn, Dhaka/Ferry Maintenance Divn, Dhaka/Ferry Divn, Sylhet/SDE, RHD, Ferry Construction Sub-Divn, Dhaka & SDE RHD, Ferry Sub-Divn, Faridpur.
- Name of offices for receiving tender documents : Superintendent Engineer, RHD, Ferry Circle, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD, Ferry Construction Divn, Dhaka/Ferry Maintenance Divn, Dhaka/Ferry Divn, Sylhet.
- Last date of selling tender documents during office hours : 13-12-99 Eng/29-8-1406 Bang. up to 12:00 Noon.
- Last date & time of receiving tenders : 15-12-99 Eng/1-9-1406 Bang. at 12.45 PM.
- Date & time of opening all the tenders by the undersigned : 19-12-99 Eng/5-9-1406 at 11.30 AM.
- Date & time of lottery (if applicable) : 19-12-99 Eng/5-9-1406 at 11.30 AM.

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from entitled contractors mentioned above in prescribed schedule along with the BD Form No. 2908/2911. Tender if received after the fixed time will be treated as rejected. Tender will be opened and lottery (if applicable) will be drawn in the fixed date & time in presence of the interested contractors (if any). The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer, RHD
Ferry Construction Divn.
House No. 536, Rd. No. 11
DOHS, Baridhara, Dhaka.



A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed yesterday between the Department of International Development Bangladesh and UNICEF for providing £ 26.9 m for rural hygiene, sanitation and water supply in 38 under-served low water-table districts, including those affected by arsenic contamination of groundwater.



Death anniversary of Shafiul Azam today

The 8th death anniversary of SM Shafiul Azam, and former chief secretary of the then East Pakistan, Secretary to the central government of Pakistan, Cabinet Secretary and Minister of Jute, Commerce and Industry, Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh will be observed today, says a press release.

SM Shafiul Azam Memorial Committee has chalked out elaborate programmes to recall the contributions he made to the country in administration, economic planning and development, trade and commerce and privatisation during the Pakistan and Bangladesh period.

Special programmes will also be held at Dr Muhammadul Haque Government Primary School and Latifa Khatun Furkania Madharsa at his village home in Chittagong.

'Empowerment of people needed for sustainable development'

Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Sabar Hossain Chowdhury yesterday said rural development is national development and it recognises food, clothing, shelter, education, healthcare and employment as fundamental entitlements of the people, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development in Yangon, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

The government has achieved through coordinated efforts over the past three and a half years, commendable progress in the field of primary education and increased literacy rates, health and family planning and development of infrastructure facilities, he said.

Chowdhury said sustainable and meaningful development can only become a reality if good governance is given importance. A democratic culture is allowed to take root and a national consensus on basic issues across all shades of political spectrum can be articulated and achieved, he added.

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

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শেখার অধিকার আছে

সুযোগ চাই
শিশু হতে

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