

South Asian women form human chain for peace

Local women hand in hand with women from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India initiated a 2-km long human chain as a campaign for peace in South Asia for the new millennium at the Proshika Human Resource Development Centre yesterday, says a press release.

The women from five South Asian countries, at present participating to a month-long workshop on gender equality and sustainable development, initiated the human chain as part of their workshop programmes. The workshop was organised by Proshika and NGO-FAO Programme, India in cooperation with UNIFEM.

"Peace for Empowerment and Empowerment for Peace" was the slogan that marked the event. Slogans like "The 21st century has to be violence free," "Food security is national security" and "Peace is our religion" were also chanted in Sinhala, Hindi, Bangla, Urdu, Nepali and English.

"Violence is neither sustainable nor worth sustaining," said Kamla Bhasin, a renowned feminist of South Asia in her speech on the occasion. "Economic injustice is the root of most conflicts and wars. Economic development and peace have to go together."

Fawzia Khondkar, a feminist from Bangladesh said that for peace in the world there should be peace in the home. "If we don't have peace in the family and in the workplace there will be no peace in society," she said.

Proshika President Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed, senior vice president Mahbubul Karim and others were among the participants of the human chain.

Two killed, 10 hurt in Jessore road accident

JESSORE, Dec 19: A bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Mohak Alipur in Abhoynagar thana here Saturday night leaving two people dead and 10 injured, reports UNB.

Police said the Kushtia-bound bus skidded off the Jessore-Kulna highway while giving side to another bus, killing a cyclist and a bus passenger in the morning.

The dead cyclist was identified as Motiar Rahman, 27, son of Nawab Ali Sheikh of village Baikali in Abhoynagar.

Of the wounded, eight were rushed to Thana Health Complex and two to Kulna Hospital in critical condition.

Police seized the bus, but its driver and helper fled the scene immediately after the mishap.

Another report said: A man allegedly killed his one-year-old daughter at village Zaljara in Monirampur thana on Saturday night following family feud, police said.

DCCI signs MOU with two Chinese chambers

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and two Chinese chambers aiming at exploring and stimulating the potentialities of bilateral trade and economic growth, reports UNB.

DCCI signed the MOU with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Hangzhou, Sub Council (CCPIT) and the China Chamber of International Commerce, Hangzhou Chamber (CCOIC) at its board room yesterday.

The signatories to the MOU appreciated the scope for further expansion of trade relations and the prospects of setting up industries in Bangladesh under joint venture.

The chambers also felt the need to foster a spirit of better cooperation and coordination between business communities in general and their respective members in particular.

The MOU is to exchange regularly market information, assist visits of commercial and economic delegations, help in participating and organising exhibitions, including training, seminars, symposia and conferences taking place in their respective countries aimed at the ongoing projects under the expansion of trade and investment between the members.

Rotary News

Weekly meeting

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held today at Hotel Sonargaon at 4:30 pm, says a press release.

Members have been requested to attend the meeting in time.

2 train services under private management

RAJSHAHI, Dec 19: Two express train services of the Western Zone of Bangladesh Railways will be handed over to private management on Tuesday, reports UNB.

All commercial functions, including ticket booking of the trains operating on the Khulna-Parbatipur and Parbatipur-Chilahati lines will now be handled under the management of Islam Ship Builders and Heavy Engineering Company.

An agreement to this effect was signed between Bangladesh Railway authorities and Islam Ship Builders and Heavy Engineering last Wednesday.

The services were handed over to private management with a view to reduce huge losses incurred every year by the Railways, said a Railway official.

He said more trains of western zone would gradually be handed over to private management (WDB).



BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia flanked by Shafiq Rehman, Editor, Jay Jay Din (R) and Motiur Rahman, Editor, Prothom Alo (L) at an iftar party for journalists at her 29, Minto Road residence yesterday.

— Star photo

JS body meets

Implement WDB projects timely

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources in a meeting yesterday discussed construction of four groynes at Dhunat in Bogra with World Bank funds to check river erosion, reports UNB.

Construction of the groynes will help preserve and develop rivers and protect erosion-hit town. The meeting laid stress on timely implementation of the ongoing projects under the Water Development Board (WDB).

The parliamentary body also discussed the issues of promotion and absorption of sub-assistant engineers of the Water Development Board and suggested the authorities to solve the prevailing problems as per rule.

Chaired by committee chairman Abdul Momin the meeting was attended by committee members Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, M Anwarul Islam, Kazi Sekendor Ali, M A Bari, Sharuddin Ahmed, Oli Ahmad, Harun-al-Rashid, Dr Habibur Rahman and Golam Mohammad Siraj. More establishments found to be

Y2K compliant

The Y2K Emergency Centre has found some more important establishments ready to face the millennium bug after extensive visit by its audit and review teams, reports UNB.

The establishments included Zia Fertiliser Factory, Ghorasal Power Station, Ashuganj Power Station, Palash Urea Fertiliser Factory and the entire natural gas network.

A high-level team of the centre, led by Bangladesh Computer Council executive director Dr Abdus Sobhan, visited the establishments on December 17 and 18.

Another audit and review team yesterday visited Jahata Bank, Dhaka Stock Exchange and Investment Corporation of Bangladesh here and found that to be Y2K compliant.

Dr Sobhan said the situation regarding the Y2K problem in the health sector is not so bad as earlier.

A high-level expert team of the centre will also visit some important installations in the port city of Chittagong on Tuesday.

The audit and review team will check the computer system and microchips used in Chittagong Port, ships of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Eastern Refinery, Chittagong WASA, Raazan Thermal Power Station and Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory.

Aricha ferry services disrupted

MANIKGANJ, Dec 19: Operation of ferry services and plying of boats remained suspended for four hours this morning on Aricha-Daulatdia and Aricha-Nagarbari routes due to thick fog, reports UNB.

A large number of vehicles remained stranded at three ferry ghats and long queues of vehicles could not be cleared till 8 pm today.

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