

'Construction of NAM garden will beautify the city'

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said the scenic beauty of the city's Mirpur area will be enhanced after the construction of NAM Garden, reports BSS.

The 10 nine storied buildings which are being built for the NAM members will pave the way to solve accommodation problems of a number of government officials after the NAM summit," the foreign minister said while speaking at the earth breaking ceremony of NAM Garden at Mirpur-13 in the city.

Civil Aviation, Tourism, Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharrar Hossain and local parliament member Kamal Ahmed Moudumdar also spoke on the occasion while Housing and Public Works Secretary Shohel Ahmed was in the chair. The Foreign Minister said the present government has taken various pragmatic steps for the welfare of the people.

Highlighting different steps taken by the government, he

said, we have signed the water-sharing treaty with India and signed peace treaty with the former tribal insurgents, which are giving positive results towards establishing peace in the region. "Our Prime Minister has won UNESCO award as part of recognition for contribution to world peace," he added.

The foreign minister called upon all concerned to work with utmost sincerity to complete the work within the stipulated time of 15 months.

Engineer Mosharrar Hossain said the housing problems of the participating members of the NAM summit would be solved after the construction of the garden.

Mosharrar called upon all concerned officials, local elite and politicians to extend all out cooperation to complete the construction work on time.

Public Works Department is constructing the NAM garden at a cost of Taka 70 crore.

Later, *munajat* was offered on the occasion.



Members of Udichi brought out a rally in the city yesterday in commemoration of Sangskriti Rakkha Dibash. — Star photo

Dhaka to play positive role for peace at UNSC: FM

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday expressed his firm optimism that Bangladesh would be able to project itself to the international community in a much better way after assuming the presidency of the United Nations Security Council, reports BSS.

He said the presidency of the world body's most important organ is a "matter of great national honour" which will be providing "us with an opportunity to play a leading and positive role in the maintenance and preservation of international peace and security."

Bangladesh, which became a non-permanent member of UN Security Council for the second time in October last year for a two year term (2000-2001), assumed its presidency on March 1. The country became a non-permanent member of UNSC for the first time in 1978 for 1979-1980.

The Foreign Minister is going to New York to preside over some of the sessions of the Security Council during the tenure of presidency of Bangladesh which will last till end of this month. "My participation as Foreign Minister would be a reiteration of the importance and seriousness attached by our government to the Council presidency," he added.

Talking to newsmen at his office some hours before his flight to New York, Azad said "It

is customary for Foreign Ministers to preside over some of the sessions of the Security Council" and added that "my visit to New York is basically to fulfill this important responsibility."

Foreign Minister described this as a "major foreign policy achievement of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina." He recalled the visionary guidelines of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman that has helped Bangladesh in bringing this honour to the nation.

The Foreign Minister said as part of its presidential responsibilities Bangladesh and its delegation would be coordinating and facilitating the positions and views of all permanent and non-permanent members on key issues to be considered by the Council during the current month.

Besides, the Minister said, Bangladesh would be playing the key role in the consideration of the UN Secretary General's Reports on various conflict areas of the world.

Azad said he will introduce a topic titled 'Maintaining Peace and Security: Humanitarian Action and the Security Council' on March 9 while performing as President of the Security Council to initiate thematic debate which is customary for the President of the Security Council.

UK consultants call on Health Minister

The three-member British consultants team led by the head of commercial section of the British High Commission called on Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim at his office in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

They showed keen interest to know about the on-going programmes taken up under the Health and Population Science programme.

Apprising the British team, the minister said the government is highly committed to reach improved health care services to the doorsteps of mass people.

The minister said to achieve the objective, the government has been implementing infrastructure development at union level. Arsenic contamination and HIV/AIDS problems also came up for discussion.

Responding to the queries of treatment for burn patients in Bangladesh, the minister said the government has planned to establish a 50-bed burn unit at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and in phases the activities will be expanded to other medical college hospitals and district level hospitals.

The other members are: Project Manager of International Hospital Group Alaxair Muir and Deputy Director of British Consultant Bureau Stephan Wrigley. Additional Secretary of Health Ministry Diraj Kumar Nath was also present.

Bar Council team calls on PM

A 13-member delegation of Bangladesh Bar Council led by its vice-president Barrister Amirul Islam called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed various professional matters and invited the prime minister to inaugurate the national conference of the lawyers to be held in April

next. The delegation members congratulated the prime minister on her receiving various prestigious international awards including UNESCO peace prize.

The delegation included S S Haldar, Abdul Baset Majumder, Syed Razaur Rahman, Golam Arif Tipu, Mohammad Nazrul

Islam, Syed Ahmed, Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, Mohammad Ojayer Faruque, Abul Kalam Azad, Abdus Salam Talukder, Tobaraq Hossain and Taslim Uddin Khan.

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and Awami League Law Affairs Secretary Advocate Sahera Khatun were present.

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Notice of the 14th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 14th Annual General Meeting of Samorita Hospital Limited will be held on Thursday, 30 March, 2000 at 10:30 a.m. at Sagar Community Centre, House No-77, Road No-8/A (New) Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209 to transact the following business:

1. To confirm the Proceedings of the 13th Annual General Meeting held on 19 July, 1999.
2. To receive, consider and adopt the audited Accounts of the company for the year ended 30 June, 1999 together with Reports of the Auditors and the Directors.
3. To elect Directors of the company.
4. To appoint Auditors for the year 1999-2000 and to fix their remuneration.
5. To transact any other business with the Permission of the chair.

By order of the Board

Dhaka
07 March, 2000

(Md. Shariful Islam)
Company Secretary

NOTES

1. The Register of Members and share Transfer Book of the company will remain closed from Monday, 20 March, 2000 to Thursday, 30 March, 2000 (both days inclusive). During such Period no transfer of shares will be effected.
2. A member entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf. The proxy form, duly completed, must be deposited at the Registered office of the company at 89/1, Panthapath, Dhaka not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.
3. Admission to the meeting venue will be on production of the Attendance slip sent with the notice.
4. Members are requested to notify change of address, if any.

Art exhibition on Int'l Women's Day

An art exhibit on international women's day opens at Zainul Art Gallery at the Institute of Fine Arts tomorrow, says a press release.

The exhibition, sponsored by United Nations, features art pieces by women artists of the country.

It will remain open to the public from 2.00 pm to 8.00 pm everyday from March 9 to March 15, the release added.

VOA programme on FM band soon

Bangladesh with approximately 10 million listeners stands second among the top listening countries which receives Voice of America (VOA) programme, reports BSS.

Sanford Ungar, Director of VOA while disclosing this at a press conference in the city yesterday said the matter is both a pleasure and challenge for the organisation. He said ever since Bangladesh attained this honour, VOA began to improve its programme so as to attract more listeners.

Five top VOA programme listening countries are China, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Afghanistan. VOA broadcasts programme in 53 languages. Sanford Ungar is the first Director of VOA to visit not only Bangladesh but South Asia, Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, Chief of VOA Bangla Service told the press conference held at the National Press Club.

The VOA Director plans to broadcast its programme in Bangla on FM band along with the current short wave and medium wave bands. Initially, the FM band will be heard in the capital only, he added.

Zillur visits injured police constable

Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday visited Central Police Hospital in the city to see for himself the condition of constable Md Habiluddin who was seriously wounded while on duty on Friday, reports BSS.

Habiluddin was injured when miscreants attacked him while on duty at Kuliarchar thana under Kishoreganj district.

The minister talked to the victim and the attending doctors about the treatment of the injured police.

He said that the miscreants would be arrested soon.

JCD welcomes release of jailed activists

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the main opposition BNP yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus to welcome its leaders who were released on Sunday.

Some nine leaders were released including Monwar Hossain Rana, Salam, Murad, Khalq, Siaduzzaman Bablu, Nirab, Kabir, Aziz and Sohel. They had been arrested recently on various charges.

Following the procession, JCD held a rally in front of Madhus canteen on the campus at noon.

Addressing the rally its leaders blamed the ruling Awami League for its conspiracy to foil the opposition's democratic movement by arresting its leaders and activists.

They also demanded immediate release of arrested JCD activists including its president Habib-un-Nabi Sohel and general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu.

Presided over by Mojaffar Hossain Zakir, the rally was addressed, among others, by Munshi Bazul Basir Anju, Monwar Hossain Rana, Manir Hossain, Sultan Salaudinn Tuku and Khalq Hawlader.

Illegally cut timber seized in Kaptai

KAPTAL, Rangamati, Mar 6: Jawans of 23rd Battalion of Bangladesh Rifles, stationed at Kaptai, recovered 2,000 cubic feet of costly teak worth about Taka 10 lakh on Friday from Karnaphuli river, near Wag-gachhora in Kaptai thana of the district, reports BSS.

The recovery was made when the smugglers were trying to smuggle out timbers in a raft under the cover of banana and firewood, according to official sources.

Two mechanised boats being used for towing the raft of the teak, were also seized. The wood was extracted illegally from government reserved forests at Kaptai Ram Pahar and Sita Pahar, officials alleged.

BDR seized the raft immediately after passing through Fringmukh Forest Check and Tolls Station illegally. The Check Post is officially authorised to combat illegal passing of forest produce, officials further alleged.

The recovered timbers were handed over to Forest Department for taking further legal measure.

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