

## What's on today....

**Workshop:** Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) will hold a day long national workshop on "Field Human Rights Activities". Venue: Caritas auditorium, 2 Outer Circular Rd., Malibagh. Time: 9:30 am.

**Seminar:** Sunder Jiban will hold a seminar on "Lead and Cadmium Level in Children's Blood (in Dhaka city): An Alarming Situation". Venue: NIPSOM auditorium, Mohakhali Railgate. Time: 10:00 am.

**Seminar:** Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) and American Express Bank Ltd jointly organises a day long seminar on "Money Laundering in Bangladesh". Venue: BIBM Bhaban, Plot No 4, Rd No J, Mirpur-2. Time: 10:30 am.

**DRU meeting:** Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) will hold a meeting of its working committee. Venue: DRU office at 8/4-A Topkhana Rd. Segun Bagicha. Time: 2:00 pm.

**Roundtable discussion:** Centre for Strategic and Peace Studies will hold a roundtable discussion on "Development of Security, Neutrality and Reliability in Elections". Venue: IDB Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9:30 am-4:00 pm.

**Seminar:** Centre for Advanced Research in the Humanities of Dhaka University will hold a seminar on "The Role of Language in Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations". Venue: Room No 434, Lecture Theatre, DU campus. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Classical music:** Alliance Francaise de Dhaka holds an evening of classical music by Trio comprising of Niti Ranjan Biswas on the tabla, Md Murtaza Kabir Murad on the flute and Salahuddin Mahmud Shatanu on the santoor. Venue: Conference room of Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur Rd. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Reunion:** Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association will hold a reunion. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 6:00 pm.

**Music:** High Commission of India presents a tabla and vocal music recital by Niti Ranjan Biswas (Bangladeshi) and Pranab Kumar Biswas (Indian) respectively. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House No 754, Satmasjid Rd., Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:30 pm.

**Theatre:** Somoy Sangskritik Gosthi presents its 26th production *Bhager Manush*. Venue: Mahila Samity, Bailey Road. Time: 7:00 pm.

**Concluding ceremony:** The Cultural Week 2000 of Oxford International School will conclude. Venue: School premises, House No 30, Rd No 27, Dhanmondi R/A.

**Film show:** Cultural Centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran holds a three day film show. Two films will be screened each day. Venue: Centre premises at House No 54, Rd No 8/4, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4:30 pm-8:00 pm.

**Scholarship awarding ceremony:** Brahmanbaria Zilla Samity, Dhaka will hold a function to award scholarships to students. The 2nd annual general meeting of the samity will also be held. Venue: BIAM auditorium, 63 New Eskaton. Time: 4:00 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Workshop:** A workshop on "Parent Stock and Hatchery Management" which is sponsored by Agrobased Industries and Technology Development Project (ATDP) will be held. Organisers: Ministry of Agriculture with support from USAID, IFDC. Venue: IDB Bhaban, E/8 Rokeya Sharan, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9:00 am-1:40 pm.

## Weather

### Temperature may rise

Light rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi division and the region of Cox's Bazar and weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature 32.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and the lowest 12.4 degree Celsius at Ishurdi.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:06 pm and rises on Sunday at 6:10 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	30.2	18.4
Chittagong	30.0	20.5
Rajshahi	29.3	14.7
Khulna	31.0	16.5
Barisal	31.2	19.3
Sylhet	28.6	17.8
Cox's Bazar	30.0	20.5

## HERE and THERE

### Bandhan

Bandhan, a voluntary blood donation organisation, on Thursday launched a nationwide mass literacy campaign, alongside its regular programme with the publication of a book, "Pora Shikhi", for the beginners, a press release of the organisation said, reports BSS.

The organisation also formed the Bandhan Ganoshikkha Karjagram Sangstha with Bangla Academy chief Prof. Syed Anwar Hossain as its chief adviser.

The book, developed by Bandhan's founder executive president and former chairman of English in Dhaka University Dr Ahsanul Haq, will not require any professional teacher or classroom to learn, the press release said.

The organisation has asked interested school, college and university students and Bandhan members to contact Dr Ahsanul Haq at fax no - 8828196 to get the book free of cost.



### Bangladesh Citizen Right Council

The election of Bangladesh Citizen Right Council was held on Wednesday, says a press release.

The former chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdul Rouf and M Fazlul Haque were elected president and general secretary of the council.

Other office-bearers elected

are: vice-presidents - Prof Shamim Mishir, M Humayun Khadem, M A Momen and M Shahjada Mia. Joint-secretary M Khalilur Rahman and Shah M Zakaria, treasurer - Mahbubur Rahman, organising secretary - Khurshid Ahmad, publicity secretary - S M Rezwana Mia, office secretary - Musa Akand, law affairs - Advocate Zubair Rahman Chowdhury, information & research - Nasiruddin Chowdhury, social welfare - Poet Lily Hoque, cultural affairs - Kafi Nur-e-Aziz, cooperatives - Abdul Matin, Basic right affairs - M Ayub Ali Khan, utility service affairs - ATM Shaikhul Islam, environment affairs - M Nurul Haque Sharif, women affairs - Nahid Rokhsana while members of the executive are - Prof M Amanullah, Engr Abdul Mukit, Alhaj Dr Rashid Ahmed, M Mahbubuzzaman, Fariduzzaman, Sadhan Kumar Dey, Razik-Al-Jalil. The general meeting held at the office of the council was presided over by vice-president of the council Advocate M Nurul Islam Patwary.

### Obituary

By Staff Correspondent

Freedom fighter and retired police official Mohammad Abdul Hamid died at the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital in the city Tuesday night. He was 67, said a press release.

He was laid to rest at the Azimpur graveyard on Wednesday. Abdul Hamid left behind his wife, son and a daughter.

Abdul Hamid joined the police in 1951 and retired from service in 1991 as an Assistant Commissioner of Police. He was awarded 58 times for his efficiency and honesty during his service in the police department, it said.

## Rotary News

### Weekly meeting

The regular weekly meeting on the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held today at 5:30 pm at Dhaka Club Family Lounge (downstairs), says a press release.

Members have been requested to attend the meeting on time.

### Spl trains for home bound Eid passengers

Bangladesh Railway will run special trains to facilitate journey of the home bound passengers for Eid celebration, says a Railway press release.

One pair of special trains between Dhaka and Noakhali will run on March 14 to 16. This special train will leave Dhaka at 8:35 am and Noakhali at 3 pm respectively.

One special train will run between Dhaka and Jamalpur from March 14 to 16 leaving Dhaka at 9:10 am and Jamalpur 1:30 pm respectively.

From March 13 to 16 and March 18 to 24 another special train will run between Chittagong and Chaudpur. Chaudpur bound train will leave Chittagong at 2 pm while Chittagong bound train from Chaudpur will leave at 10:10 pm from March 13 to 16 and at 3 am from March 19 to 25.

Besides special trains, all inter-city, Mail, Express and Local trains will run with additional coaches to clear rush of home bound passengers. There will be no off-day of inter-city trains from 7 to 16 March and 19 to 27 March. No inter-city train will run on Eid day. The day following Eid day inter-city trains Upabani, Turna, Ekota, Karota and Jamuna will run.

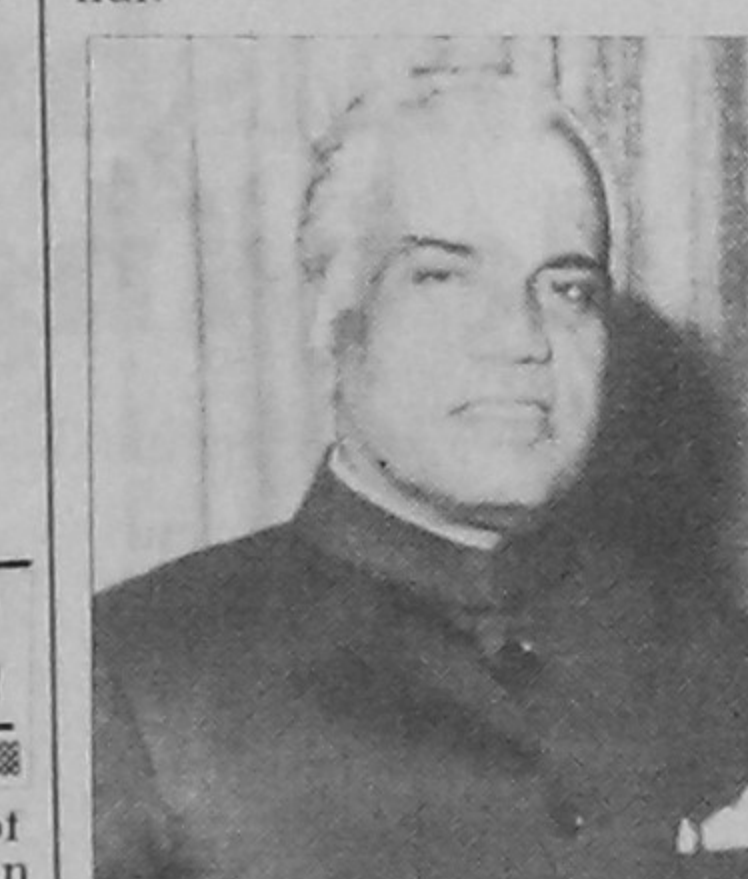
For details, passengers have been requested to contact the local station masters.

### BIWTA special launch service for Eid-ul-Azha

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has arranged launch services during Eid holidays. These launches will be operated before, during and after the Eid holidays from March 12 through March 21 on the following routes, says a BIWTA press release.

Dhaka-Bhola, Narayanganj-Chandpur, Dhaka-Barisal, Narayanganj-Munshigonj, Dhaka-Bargona, Narayanganj-Taltala, Dhaka-Chandpur, Narayanganj-Ramchandrapur, Dhaka-Chulsi, Narayanganj-Machuaikhal, Dhaka-Madaripur, Narayanganj-Sureswer, Dhaka-Sureswer, Narayanganj-Torkey, Dhaka-Kalaya, Narayanganj-Motlab, Dhaka-Torkey, Dhaka-Borhanuddin.

The traveling passengers are requested not to board any launch beyond carrying capacity. Launch owners and masters are also requested to take special care for safety of the passengers and keep vigilant watch to avoid risk of accident and strictly to follow weather signal.



### Death anniversary of Syed Abdus Sultan today

The 8th death anniversary of Syed Abdus Sultan, the first High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Britain, will be observed today, says a press release.

He was also a litterateur, lawyer and politician. To commemorate the death anniversary, Syed Abdus Sultan Smriti Sangsad will hold a *milad mahfil* and offer *fateha* at his mazar at the Banani graveyard today.

Families of Sultan have also taken up separate programmes to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



### Death anniversary

The second death anniversary of former BNP MP and son of former President Abdur Rahman Biswas Dr Ehtesamul Haq Nasim Biswas will be observed on Sunday, reports UNB.

On the occasion, *Quarankhuani* and *milad mahfil* will be held at the residence of Abdur Rahman Biswas at house No 4, Road No 10, Block H, in Banani after Asr prayers on the day, family sources said.



Artists of Chhayanaut presenting a chorus number at the Nazrul Birth Centenary national convention held at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

## Congratulation



Md Tutul Rahman stood first class first in MA examination of Urdu and Persian Department from Dhaka University, says a press release.

The examination was scheduled for 1997 but held in 1999 due to session jam.

He is the 4th son of Md Ismail Ali of Barlekha under Moulvibazar district.

He desires to continue higher studies to attain PhD.

### Ransacking of Dinkal office: BFUJ protest rally tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (Kabit) is going to hold a rally and bring out a procession from the Jatiya Press Club in the capital on Sunday to protest the raid and ransacking of the Daily Dinkal office in the city last Wednesday.

The programme was announced from a meeting of the Dinkal unit of the Dhaka Union of Journalists held at the Dinkal Office at Tejgaon.

The meeting presided over by Abul Hussain Khan Mohan, DUJ (Aziz) unit of Dinkal was attended by Amanullah Kabir, president BFUJ, Reazuddin Ahmed, chief editor Financial Express and former BFUJ president and Khandaker Montul Alam, president Jatiya Press Club.

The offices of the Daily Dinkal, mouth piece of the main opposition BNP was raided Wednesday afternoon on the basis of a warrant of arrest issued on a case filed by Shamim Osman, a ruling party MP against a series of stories printed in the newspaper under the title "Terror Stricken Narayanganj", police said.

In another development, a division bench of High Court comprising justice M Nurul Islam and Justice M Montaz-uddin Ahmed granted ad-interim bail for the Dinkal Editor Akhter-ul Alam. Managing Director AKM Mosharraf Hossain, publisher Majidul Islam, Staff Reporter Shamsul Alam Liton and Narayanganj district correspondent MR Ramal.

A first class magistrate of Narayanganj district court recently issued warrants of arrest against concerned members of the Daily Dinkal on the basis of a case filed by Shamim Osman MP.

### Citizen Watch co launches operation

By Staff Correspondent

The formal launching ceremony of Citizen Watch company was held at a hotel in the city yesterday evening.

Minister for Industries Tofail Ahmed was the chief guest while Minister for Fisheries and Livestock A S M Abdur Rob was the special guest at the programme.

Tofail said that arrival of companies like Citizen in the country proved that Bangladesh was marching towards development. Other international companies will also explore the market in Bangladesh, he hoped.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister A S M Abdur Rob said Bangladesh offers opportunity for marketing quality products in local market.

Abdul Awa Mintoo, President FBCCI, Sadaaki Takeuchi, President CITIZEN and Ghulam Mostafa, Managing Director, Kallol Group of Companies also spoke on the occasion.

Five dealers of Citizen Company were given certificate in recognition of their performance last year.

### Eminent citizens call for movement to end CU impasse

CHITTAGONG, Mar 10: Eminent citizens have called for launching an effective civic movement to help end the prevailing impasse at the University of Chittagong, reports BSS.

"Self-centered and immoral politics of the vested quarters have kept hostage the life of 14,000 students at the university for quite a long time which should not be allowed to continue," they told a meeting held at the Holy Family Tutorial here last night, a press release said today.

Presided over by former principal of Chittagong Cadet College Nazrul Islam, the meeting was addressed by the eminent citizens, including Prof Abul Monsur, Faruk-E-Azam, Bir Pratik, Begum Mustari Shafi, Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, Adv Rana Das Gupta, Prof Muhi-ud-Din, Prof Mahbubul Haq, Journalist Mohammad Idris, Pro Ranjit Kumar Dey and Samsul Hossain.

They criticised all concerned, including the university authority, saying that the stalemate at the university in fact pushed thousands of students, teachers and employees into a complete uncertainty. The meeting also unanimously decided to hold a dawn-to-dusk hunger strike at the local Shaheed Minar on March 26 to express solidarity with eminent writer Humayun Ahmed's call for hunger strike at Sylhet in protest against evil activities of the terrorists and communal forces at Shahjalal Science and Technology University.

### Tk 12.49cr to be spent to protect rivers in Sylhet

SYLHET, Mar 10: Four projects, involving Tk 12.49 crore, will be implemented to protect the banks of Surma and Kushiyara rivers in Golapganj and Baniabazar thanas, reports UNB.

Local MP Nurul Islam Nahid has inaugurated one of the projects in Baniabazar.

Speaking on the occasion, he said Tk 2.57 crore will be spent for the four projects this fiscal.

A total of 664.88 mts wheat has been allocated for construction of dykes on the two rivers under the supervision of Water Development Board.

Some 435 mts of wheat has been allocated for construction of the dykes on the rivers in Golapganj thana while 229.88 mts in Baniabazar thana.

### Free heart clinic concludes at Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Mar 10: A three-day Free Heart Clinic, set up for the treatment of poor cardiac patients, concluded here at Reshpi Development Project Auditorium in Binerpota, Satkhira on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The clinic was arranged by Rotary and Rotaract Club of Satkhira.

Dr Shuva Dutta, Senior Consultant Cardiologist of B M Birla Heart Research Centre, Calcutta conducted the heart treatment.

About 300 poor cardiac patients from different parts of the district were given treatment free of cost in this three-day free heart clinic.

### N'ganj: 5 hurt

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that left five people, including two traffic police injured, police and witnesses said.

None was arrested from the incident.

The dead was identified as Anik, 8, student of class III of DN Road Primary School, said police and witnesses.

The incident occurred when the truck hit a rickshaw in which Anik was travelling along with his parents Anwar Hossain and Ruma Akhter.

Anik fell on one side and his parents on the other. The truck ran over the young boy, killing him on the spot, witnesses said.

People of the area chased the vehicle and stopped it near the Narayanganj Press Club, few hundred yards off the place of occurrence. They damaged the vehicle and then set it ablaze.

The traffic constable and sergeant who were on duty on the spot were also beaten up by the mob.

The truck driver and his helper, however, managed to escape.

Ataur Rahman, uncle of the deceased filed a case against the driver of the vehicle. Police, however, could arrest him till writing of this report last night.

### Publication ceremony

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed said yesterday that the War of Liberation was a political fight participated by millions of people under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS.

He said Awami League had earned the credit to lead the Liberation War as it had won absolute majority of 167 seats out of 169 in the then National Assembly.

Prof Sayeed was speaking as the chief guest at a publication ceremony of three books written on the War of Independence of the country. The books are: Muktiyuddher Itiha Charcha: Tatta and Poddhoti by Dr Syed Anwar Hossain, Ekattorer Bad-dhya Bhumii and Ganokabar by Dr Sukumar Biswas and Khujie Firi by Rashid Haider.

The state minister said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had prepared the people to face the Pakistani occupation forces through a 23-year movement which ultimately brought the long cherished dream - the independence.

He said the spirit of the War of Independence was to build a society free from hunger, poverty, communalism and exploitation. To materialise these, he said the patriots of the country have to come forward and work together with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

### Obaidul lays foundation stone of craft village

SONARGAON, Mar 10: The foundation stone of a Taka 7.5 crore craft village was laid here as part of the Taka 65 crore "Ruposhi Bangladesh" project in this suburban historical town, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Qader laid the stone at a ceremony:

## Image of explosions on sun's surface

WASHINGTON, Mar 10: Two US scientists have developed a technique to take images of explosions taking place on the far side of the sun. Science magazine reports, says AFP.

Such space weather events are of interest to scientists as they are capable of disrupting telecommunications and power grids on Earth.

Astrophysicists at the Solar Physics Research Corp in Tucson, Arizona, have developed a technique to image explosive regions on the far side of the sun by using ripples on the sun's surface to probe its interior. Science magazine reports in its edition to be published Friday.

The technique will give scientists a week's warning of bad weather in space, the report said.

The astrophysicists developed the technique with help from observations taken from the Michelson Doppler Imager on the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO).

SOHO is a joint project between the European Space Agency and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"This is a major breakthrough in our ability to forecast solar storms that can affect us on earth," said Morris Aizenman, of the US National Science Foundation, which funded the research.

Eruptions of hot, electrically charged gas known as plasma cause explosions on the sun's surface.

Modern telecommunications systems on Earth are increasingly sensitive to radiation and plasma from these events, but the explosions have until now been hidden from observers on Earth until they rotate to the side of the sun visible from earth.

To locate these explosive regions in advance, the scientists developed a technique of using ripples, caused by sound waves reverberating through the sun and out onto its surface, to image the interior.

"We've known for ten years that in theory we could make the sun transparent all the way to the far side. But we needed observations of exceptional quality," said Charles Lindsey, who developed the technique along with Douglas Braun at Solar Physics Research.



State Minister for Environment and Forest HN Ashequr Rahman yesterday addressing the inaugural session of a two-day workshop titled 'Environment, Environmental Law & Justice', organised by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) at a city hotel. (From left) Chairman of BELA Prof K A A Quamruddin, Minister for Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru, MP and Assistant Resident Representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Shireen Kamal Sayeed also seen on the dais.

## News analysis

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Another girl of the same college was sexually harassed by a group of political activists on August 9, 1996. The group reportedly comprised supporters belonging to the BCL and the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Harassment of a young woman in the early hours of January 1, 2000 on the Dhaka University campus is still fresh in the memory of the city-dwellers. The girl, a BA student, chose Dhaka University as a safe place to have the first few hours of the new year and the new century, perhaps believing that the university students would be tolerant, if not appreciative, of a young woman participating in midnight celebrations.

But as soon as she had reached the venue, a gang of crude revellers took her trail. They started making obscene remarks and gestures at her before swooping on her. She was eventually 'molested', trampled by the pack of hyenas who pounced on her, some flashing their teeth in sadistic joy while they held part of her dress.

Again, it was a BCL activist, Russel, who allegedly led the gang that assaulted the girl. After his arrest, Russel's friends in the party brought out processions in his defence.

Manik's misdeeds on the Jahangirnagar University campus are also well known. Manik, general secretary of the JU unit of BCL, even celebrated his 100th rape on the campus.

A fact-finding committee, constituted in the face of student agitation, found him guilty

of violating some female students between 1997 and 1998.

The committee, it is reported, also found 13 other BCL leaders involved in the rape incidents. But the JU authorities punished only six of them, acquitting others for lack of sufficient evidence.

In early 1989, a victory procession of the female supporters of the Chhatra Sangram Parishad came under attack from JCD activists following their defeat in the Dhaka University Central Student Union elections.

Further research would reveal more such cases. But the examples cited here should be enough to raise concern in the mainstream political leadership. The politicians must address the issue instead of blindly using them as ladders to power. Addressing or redressing the issue must go beyond such knee-jerk reactions as suspension or expulsion of the aberrant activists.

In a country like ours, where actual literacy rate is still less than fifty per cent, the student community is supposed to be the most enlightened section of the society. Moreover, students involved in political activities are expected to be the vanguards of the enlightened section. The social, political and economic aspirations of the masses always found expression in the slogans of the politicised section of student community, while they were the first to stand in the ways of any kind of oppression or exploitation imposed on the people by the ruling classes. It was true, in general, until the ouster of General Ershad from power in 1990.

But from then on, student community has not addressed any serious national problem, not even the ones affecting the country's education system.

Divided sharply on political lines, one section of the students has blindly supported whatever programmes the government of the day takes, while the other would oppose those, toeing the line of their mentors at the national level.

In a political culture with no noble motivation, a good number of student activists find it convenient to engage in criminal activities like toll collection. A number of violent clashes have so far taken place over distribution of money collected forcibly from various quarters.

However, the political culture that hardly respects women as persons, could only inspire student political activists to sexual harassment of their female fellows, so on and so forth.

The situation has to change, and change fast.



Minister for Industries Tofail Ahmed and Minister for Fisheries and Livestock ASM Abdur Rob introducing Citizen brand watches for local market at a programme in the city yesterday.