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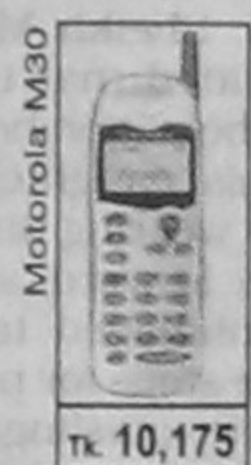
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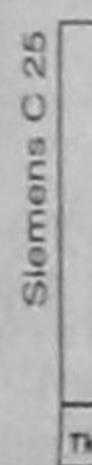
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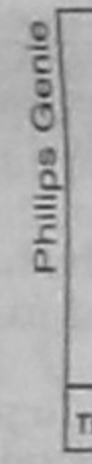
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Democracy is a must for development: Speaker

Confce of Asian political parties begins

The first-ever International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) began in Manila yesterday with delegates of different political parties of 21 Asian Countries taking part in it, reports UNB.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury presided over the first session of the conference and handed over the chairmanship to Jose del Venecia, former Filipino Speaker and the main organiser of the conference, as he was elected chairman unanimously.

Speaker of the National Assembly of Cambodia Prince Norodom Ranariddh proposed the candidature of Jose del Venecia for the chairmanship that was seconded by former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto, according to a message received in the city.

Addressing the first session, Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury stressed strengthening of cooperation among countries of the region for alleviating poverty and eradicating illiteracy from Asia, and hoped that pragmatic steps would be recommended in this regard.

A message should unequivocally go out of this conference that the political parties of

Asia are determined to proceed towards the path of strengthening democracy and will not give any quarter recognition to any regime which has been set up in violation of the constitution of the respective country," he said.

To attain socio-economic development, democracy is a must and if democratic process faces obstacles social, political and fundamental rights will suffer, the Speaker told the session.

Speaker of Cambodia Prince Norodom Ranariddh, former President of South Korea Kim Young Sam, former Prime Minister of Pakistan and President of Pakistan People's Party Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea Bill Skate and former Prime Minister of Thailand Bhinham Shilpacharya also addressed the session.

A large number of observers from Europe, America and Africa and representatives of international organisations and NGOs are attending the three-day conference.

Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman and Murshed Khan MP are also attending the conference.



The untreated waste from the incomplete box culvert at Kamalapur, near the Sena Kalyan Bhaban, flows into the nearby canal polluting the water and posing a big threat to public health. Picture shows a section of the canal overflowing with the waste materials. — Star photo

Int'l film festival in Dhaka from January 25

More initiatives needed to hold similar events, organisers say

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh International Film Festival Committee in co-operation with the Information Ministry will hold the first international film festival of the millennium in the country from January 25 to February 1 next year.

"Although an international film festival is an annual event in many countries of the world, unfortunately we have not yet developed such a trend. Since independence only two film festivals have been held with government initiative," chairperson of the festival committee and former film actress Kabari Sarwar said at a press conference in the city yesterday.

A number of cinema artists, technicians, business persons and others have formed the film festival committee with Obaidul Quader as its convener.

"Some organisations including the Short Film Forum had occasionally arranged film festivals in limited scales in the past. But these festivals have never represented the mainstream cinema," Kabari said.

In such a context the BIFFC is arranging the international film festival presenting the mainstream cinema of different countries, she added.

"We hope that each year or every alternate year such international film festivals can be

Saudi envoy presents credentials

The newly appointed Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al-Obeid Al-Namla presented his credentials to President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Welcoming the Ambassador, President Shahabuddin said that Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia are bound by shared experiences and mutual understanding based on common religious and cultural affinities.

Both the countries, he said, cooperate each other very closely on the matters of mutual interest in different regional and international organisations.

The President recalled the bilateral relations existing between the two countries and expressed the hope that such relations especially in trade and economic sectors will be strengthened and consolidated in future.

He mentioned the employment opportunities provided by the government of Saudi Arabia for Bangladeshi nationals.

The ambassador said that the relations between Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh are cordial and based on common religion. He said that there is ample opportunity to widen and diversify the existing trade and economic relations.

Earlier, the President's Guard Regiment gave a guard of honour to the ambassador at Bangabhaban. He took salute and reviewed the guard.

Foreign Secretary CM Shah Sami, secretary to the President Mohammad Ismail Hossain and MSP Major General Jalaaluddin Ahmed were present in the credential ceremony.

Seminar on Bangla proverbs at DU September 27

By DU Correspondent

Nazmul Karim Study Centre of Dhaka University will hold a seminar on "Rural Intellectuals in Bangla Proverbs," at the seminar room of Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) of the university on September 27 at 3:30 pm.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury will preside over the programme while Prof. Waki Ahmed of Bangla department will present the keynote paper on the topic.

Among others, Prof. Bulbon Osman, Prof. Nazrul Islam, Shamsuzzaman Khan and Prof. Anisuzzaman will take part in the discussion.

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TENDER FOR SOIL TESTING

RAOWA invites local sealed tender for undertaking soil testing of RAOWA land, measuring 1.29 acres. Tender schedule along with terms and conditions will be available from the RAOWA office on cash payment of Tk.500.00 (Five hundred) only during office hours on all working days up to 24 Sept 00. Offers will be received up to 1630 hrs on 25 Sept 00 and will be opened at 1700 hrs on the same date in front of the bidders. All offers should be valid for 30 days from the date of opening. RAOWA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason.

Secretary General

RAOWA, Airport Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. Tel: 605173



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Temporary disruption of GrameenPhone service in Sylhet zone

GrameenPhone service in Sylhet zone will be disrupted temporarily for the purpose of technical maintenance on 20th and 22nd of September, 2000 from 12 am to 8 am.

We sincerely apologize for this temporary inconvenience of our valued subscribers, especially those in Sylhet.

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ADMISSION

A few seats are available in bachelor degree programmes for fall—2000; only in the following disciplines:

**Architecture
Civil & Environmental Engineering (CEE)
Pharmacy**

Eligibility: High 2nd division in SSC & HSC/ 'A' Level. Diploma Engineers may also apply for CEE.

Orientation Programme:

September 23, 2000 at 10.00 am.

Venue: Administrative Building premises of the University, Road # 5/A, House # 73, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka - 1209.

Class begins: September 24, 2000

Application forms are available on payment of Tk.250/- from the Office of Admission.

For further details contact Admission Office.

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Extension of time for submission of
Tender for Printing of Wall Calendar-2001

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the last date of dropping the tenders for printing of 15000 Nos. Wall Calendar-2001 appeared in the daily Janakantha and the daily Star on September 10, 2000 has been extended upto 25.09.2000. The tenders will be opened the same day at 12-30 P.M. in presence of the representatives, if any.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-

(Mohd. Rashid Ali),
Company Secretary.