

Int'l confce of historians from Dec 18

UNB, Dhaka
The 17th conference of the International Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA) will begin here on December 18.
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the event at the Osmani Auditorium.
Some 200 historians from home and abroad will take part in the five-day conference, to be held at the BRAC Academy, said a press release.
The main theme of this year's conference is -- Asia: History and

Civilisation. Bangladesh is hosting such an event for the first time.
Education Ministry, Japan Foundation, Asia Centre, Dhaka University, National University, Bangladesh Itihas Samity, Bangladesh Asiatic Society are cooperating with the IAHA in holding the conference.
The association was formed in 1960 with the objective of exchanging views on new information and data of Asian history.
Keynote papers on 22 topics will be presented for discussion,

including Asia's anthropology and prehistory, ancient Asian society, Asian diaspora, diplomatic history, regional and local historiography of Asia, verbal history and history of Asia's medical science.
The historians who will participate in the conference include Ali Dani of Pakistan, Romila Thapar of India, Sho Kuwajima of Japan, Lesli Gunawardana of Sri Lanka, Ahmad Adam of Malaysia, Taufik Abdullah of Indonesia, Dietmar Rothermund of Germany and historians of host Bangladesh.

RHD Tender Invitation Notice

Sealed tenders are invited through Bangladesh Form No. 2911/2908.

- Tender Notice No. 10/EE/R&H/Netrakona/2002-2003.
- Name of work : Widening of flexible pavement including necessary repairing with carpeting & seal coat from 7th km (part) Purbadhala thana towards Trimohani for reconstruction of road from Trimohani of Netrakona-Hugla Road to Purbadhala Bazar under Netrakona Road Division during 2002-2003 financial year. In 2 (two) groups.
- Head of expenditure : 266 Development.
- Estimated cost : As per group list.
- Earnest money : -Do-
- Prescribed time limit : -Do-
- Eligibility of contractor : -Do-
- Offices where tender can be collected from : Can be seen and purchased from the office of Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Netrakona/Mymensingh/Tangail/Jamalpur/Sherpur/Kishoreganj/Dhaka/Bridge Design Division-1 (East-Zone), Bridge Zone, Dhaka/Planning & Design Division, Dhaka and Road Sub-Division, Netrakona/Kendua/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division under Netrakona Road Division on all-working days.
- Name of offices to receive tender : To be received at the office of Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka/Superintending Engineer (R&H), Mymensingh Road Circle, Mymensingh/Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka/Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Dhaka & Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Mymensingh/Tangail/Jamalpur/Sherpur/Kishoreganj & the undersigned on prescribed date & time.
- Last date & time of selling tender : 18-12-2002 (upto office hours)
- Last date & time of receiving tender : 19-12-2002 upto 12-30 pm.
- Date & time of opening tender : 22-12-2002 at 12-45 pm.
- Date & time of lottery : 24-12-2002 at 11-00 am.

Group List

Gr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Schedule cost	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractor
1 (one)	Widening of flexible pavement in/c necessary repairing carpeting with seal coat Purbadhala thana to Trimohani at 7 (P) km of Netrakona-Hugla Road under Netrakona Road Divn during the year 2002-2003. Total length=550.00m.	Tk. 16,66,298/=	33,326/=	520/=	30 (thirty) days	G-1 to G-4 and "A" general to "L" general category cont.
2 (two)	-Do- -do- -do- -do- Total length =450.00m.	Tk. 13,90,683/=	27,814/=	520/=	-do-	-do-

Executive Engineer (RHD)
Road Division, Netrakona



The four-party alliance took out a procession in the city yesterday condemning the bomb blasts at four cinema halls in Mymensingh.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Mozammel Haque, former chairman of Petrobangla and Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, died of a heart attack at Suhrawardy Hospital yesterday afternoon at the age of 75.
Haque, husband of Women and Children Affairs Minister Begum Khurshid Zahan Haque, was rushed to the hospital at about 11 am when he fell sick. Haque underwent a lung operation some days ago.
He is survived by wife Begum Khurshid Zahan Haque, sister of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, four sons and a host of relatives, friends and admirers.

On hearing the news of his death, Khaleda Zia rushed to the Banani residence of the deceased.
A visibly shocked prime minister stood beside the mortal remains of Haque for some time.
Khaleda Zia and her family members also spent some time with the members of the bereaved family.

Prime Minister's Political Secretaries Harris Chowdhury and Mosaddak Ali and Ulema Dal President Nazibul Basher Majibhandari were present.
Meanwhile, Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of Mozammel Haque.
In a condolence message, she prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Dr KM Aziz, an eminent social scientist and anthropologist of the country died at 9:20 am yesterday at the age of 65.
Dr Aziz was working as a senior social scientist at ICDDR, B. He left behind his wife, one son, one daughter, relatives, colleagues, and hundreds of admirers at home and abroad to mourn his death.

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Sonaban Bibi

Sonaban Bibi, mother of Engr Mosharrar Hussain, Chairman of Jamuna Bank Limited, died in a city hospital on December 9 at the age of 93, says a press release.
She left behind her four sons and one daughter and host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death. Her Namaz-e-zanaza was held on Iqbal Road Mosque premises, Mohammadpur after Maghrib prayers and buried at Banani graveyard.

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Death anniversary



The first death anniversary of Alhaj Azizur Rahman Chowdhury, founder editor of 'Weekly Prekshit', will be observed to day, says a press release.
On this occasion, a special prayer was offered in Dhaka for the salvation of the departed soul.
Late Azizur Rahman Chowdhury hailed from Katihara village of Lakhai upazila under Habiganj district.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Maj (Retd) Md Aolad Hossain, former chief officer of TCB will be held at his residence at 13/10 Babor Road, Mohammadpur after Maghrib prayers today.
Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the chehlum.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Wajifa Kibria, wife of late Capt SG Kibria, will be held at her youngest daughter's residence at Gulshan after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.
She died due to massive cardiac arrest and brain haemorrhage.
Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani to pray for the salvation of the departed soul. She left behind two sons and three daughters.

Hamas, Fatah resume talks within days

AFP, Jerusalem

Talks aimed at stopping "all operations against Israeli civilians" will resume within days between the hardline Islamic group Hamas and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, a Palestinian official said Sunday.
"We are planning to have a meeting with Hamas in Gaza as soon as possible and talks in Cairo will take place next week at most," minister of planning and international cooperation Nabil Shaath told AFP.
Senior Hamas official Ismail Abu Shanab confirmed meetings "will be held very soon at two levels."

"A high committee will meet in Cairo to continue talks held there last month and a second committee will deal with local issues here in Gaza," he told AFP, declining to comment on the agenda of the discussions.
Shaath shed some light on the upcoming talks however saying Fatah would "maintain our demands, namely a halt to all operations against civilians as a first step towards a ceasefire to allow Israel to pull back its forces from the territories to the September 28, 2000 lines," before the Palestinian uprising erupted.

He said "civilians" meant all unarmed and innocent Israelis, "including unarmed settlers" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
Arafat has traditionally stopped short of issuing clearcut condemnations of attacks on Jewish settlers, which radical Palestinian groups do not regard as civilians but as legitimate a target as soldiers.
However, an armed offshoot of Fatah, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, rejected any ceasefire talks.

Tara Shankar Gobinda Dham festival begins

BSS, Dhaka

The traditional three-day annual festival of "Sree Tara Shankar Gobinda Dham" began yesterday at the place of worship of "Sadguru Buddhadev" at Chittrakut in Munshiganj district.
The programmes of the festival include Adhibasi, Kiran, Puja, offering of devotional songs, distribution of prasad and mela on the premises of the Dham.
The festival was initiated by religious leader Sadguru Buddhadev at the Gobinda Dham long ago.



The Communist Party of Bangladesh brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding immediate trial of the culprits responsible for bomb blasts in Mymensingh.



Former Chairman of Mathematics Department of Jagannath University College Prof Selim Bahar Zaman speaks at a discussion held on the occasion of Begum Rokeya Day at Bangla Academy in the city yesterday.



Prof Dr Iqbal Hasan Mahmood, an eminent chest specialist, receives Zia Smriti Padak from Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed in the city yesterday.

Death of minister
Turmoil in Indian parliament

AFP, New Delhi

India's parliament Monday erupted in turmoil over the death of a former minister who was kidnapped by a notorious bandit in the deep jungles of southern Karnataka state and whose body was discovered on Sunday.
Karnataka is ruled by the Congress party, India's main opposition to a coalition headed by the rightwing Hindu nationalist BJP.
In parliament on Monday, BJP members accused Karnataka Chief Minister S.M. Krishna of being "in cahoots" with Koose Muniswamy Veerappan, the brigand who kidnapped the ex-minister who is wanted for more than 100 murders, as well as for elephant-poaching.
Veerappan, 51, kidnapped former state minister Hannur Nagappa August 25, demanding the release of a Tamil nationalist leader as ransom. His demand was rejected.
On Sunday, more than 100 days after the kidnapping, Nagappa's body was found by police.
"The Karnataka chief minister is wholly responsible for this murder," charged BJP MP V.K. Malhotra in the lower house of parliament.
"For 100 days, he did nothing. He even sent back the special forces we sent from New Delhi to catch the brigand. The people say the government is in cahoots with Veerappan."
The charges evoked angry responses from the Congress benches, as members stood up and demanded the statements be taken back.
"It is very sad the way the ruling party is behaving," said Congress deputy leader Shivraj Patil. "It looks like Nagappa's funeral pyre is burning and someone is roasting bread on it. This is not the time for party politics."
Another round of uproar and "shame" followed, after which a senior government minister responded.
"I want to assure the house that we will act," parliamentary affairs minister Pramod Mahajan said.

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DHAKA TODAY

Anniversary

Institutional Development of Human Rights in Bangladesh (IDHRB) Project organises a function on the occasion of the 54th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: IDB Bhaban auditorium, Argargaon. Time: 9.30am.

Symposium
In observance of Human Rights Day, the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a symposium with Chief Justice Manir Reza Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Razmoni Isha Kha, Kakrail. Time: 4.30pm.

BHRC rally
Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) organises a rally in observance of the World Human Rights Day. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 9.00am.

Discussion
Bangladesh Bar Council organises a discussion on the occasion of World Human Rights Day with Justice Najmuddin Ahmed, member, Law Commission as chief guest. Venue: Conference Room of Bangladesh Bar Council. Time: 4.00pm

BMSF rally
Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonny Panshad (BMSF) organises a rally on the occasion of World Human Rights Day. Venue: In front of National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 9.30am.

Human chain
Bangladesh Mahila Panshad will form a human chain on the occasion of World Human Rights Day. Venue: In front of High Court. Time: 3.00pm.

BISS seminar
Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organises a seminar titled 'Bilateral trade with India and Economic Security of Bangladesh' with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman and Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guests in two separate sessions. Venue: BISS auditorium, Old Elephant Road. Time: 11.00am.

Exhibition
Alliance Francaise organises an exhibition titled 'VISIONS-1, new vision in fashion photography. On this occasion, a Bibi Production's fashion show will be held. Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will continue till December 24 from 9.00am to 12.00am and from 5.00pm to 8.00pm daily except on Saturday from 5.00pm to 8.00pm only.

Publication ceremony
The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Danabadhikar', authored by poet Salem Suleri, will be held. Venue: News Bank Hall, 33 Topkhana Road. Time: 4.00pm.

Rotary meeting
Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5.30pm.

Workshop
The inaugural ceremony of a two-day workshop on newborn care, organised by Save the Children (USA), will be held. Venue: Lagoon Convention Centre, Rifles Square. Time: 9.00am.

Sarod recital
Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the High Commission of India jointly organise a Sarod recital by Vikash Maharaj. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 7.00pm.

Course
The opening ceremony of the International Refresher Course on Accounting for Sustainable Economic and Social Development will be held with Planning and Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: NEC auditorium, Planning Commission, Sher-e-Banglanagar. Time: 10.00am.

Broadcasting seminar
The closing ceremony of a seminar titled 'Public Service Broadcasting' will be held with Information Minister Tariqul Islam as chief guest. National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMC) organises the seminar in cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) and the German Agency Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). Venue: NIMC, Darus Salam Road. Time: 3.30pm.

Democracywatch workshop
The inaugural ceremony of a three-day workshop on 'Reporting about Human Rights', organised by Democracywatch in cooperation with the British High Commission, will be held. Venue: Democracywatch auditorium, Circuit House Road. Time: 10.00am.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely
UNB, Dhaka
Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly bloody sky over the country today.
Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during the early morning, Met offices said.
Country's highest temperature 29.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and lowest 11.2 degree at Rajshahi yesterday.
The sun sets in the capital at 5:12 pm today and rises at 6:31 am tomorrow.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.3	17.5	58	57
Chittagong	29.8	15.5	67	58
Rajshahi	27.4	11.2	65	75
Khulna	27.7	13.9	73	78
Barisal	27.6	14.5	81	85
Sylhet	28.5	14.5	77	70
Cox's Bazar	27.9	17.0	77	69