

Khaleda visits World Horticulture Garden

UNB, Kunming, Yunnan
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, before concluding her 5-day official tour of China, yesterday visited the World Horticulture Exposition Garden here to see a grand spectacle of harmonious coexistence between man and nature.

She was given a warm reception by Vice-governor of Yunnan Province Cheng Yingxuan and Mayor of Kunming City Zhang Zhengu at the garden site, which has emerged as a business hub.

She went round the Kunming International Horticulture Exposition, located in the city's southern suburb, having some 60 stalls and gardens from different countries, including Bangladesh.

The expo provides opportunity to know about the advanced technology and experience in aspects of horticulture, gardening and environmental protection from all over the world, and to learn and exchange excellent culture and art achievements of different nationalities and of different parts of China.

Girls of Yunnan, home to people of 26 ethnic origins and known for its diversity, wearing traditional dresses performed dance and rendered songs to greet the Bangladesh leader.

Khaleda planted a sapling of "Chin Gui" tree, the flower of which emits scent round the year. After planting the sapling, she told the accompanying Chinese leaders that the "scent from the flowers of the tree would spread essence of friendship to all Chinese from the people of Bangladesh."

The prime minister also visited Bangladesh stall at the International Hall that followed her visits to many other stalls of different countries.

She expressed her satisfaction over the Bangladesh stall there and asked the concerned persons

to bring more Bangladeshi products, including Jamdani sari, in the showcase for truly representing the country.

Those who accompanied the prime minister included Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haq, State Minister for Communications Salabuddin Ahmed, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Amanullah Aman, State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, BNP Joint Secretary General Tariq Rahman, Political Secretaries to the Prime Minister Harris Chowdhury and Masaddek Ali, Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui and Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury.

The main structures and gardens include five indoor halls, six thematic gardens and three outdoor areas. The six theme gardens are Woods Garden, Medicinal Herbs Garden and Bamboo Garden, Vegetable and Fruit Garden, Bonsai Garden, and Tea Garden.

Setting as a "mini-China" as seen from above, the horticulture garden covers over an area of 218 hectares in the greenery of woods and the whole area is about 2000 metres above sea level.

The international exposition is a worldwide exhibition sponsored by the host country's government or its designated agencies.

Beating the theme "Man and Nature" - marching into the 21st century, the 1999 Kunming International Horticulture Exposition provides an ideal place for participating countries, regions and international organisations, Chinese provinces, regions and municipalities to fully display the quintessence of horticulture and gardening and achievements of related sciences and technologies.



Women activists shout slogans during a protest in the city yesterday. The Karmajibi Nari staged the demonstration demanding better working environment and safety at working places.

1,347 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police in their separate drives arrested 1,347 people, including seven identified criminals, from across the country in last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

They also recovered nine firearms, three other weapons and 16 rounds of bullet.

M Abu Syeed Gazi of Khulna, M Farukuzzaman, Moynal and Shawkat of Kushtia, M Anwar Hossain Kalu and Khokon of Dhaka, and Shamsu alias Pantha of Narayanganj were among the identified criminals.

4,500 under-trial inmates languishing in Ctg jail

BSS, Chittagong

All of them are not convicts but have long been staying behind bars.

Some of the prisoners have been serving different jail terms, but a bulk of the inmates languishing in the prison since their arrests.

More than 5,000 inmates, including 128 women and 29 children, are living in inhuman conditions in the Chittagong Central Jail which has a capacity of only 1,000 inmates.

According to officials, less than 500 prisoners were convicted in different cases and the rest 4,500 inmates are under trial.

Shortage of accommodation, water crisis, sewerage problem, power cuts have together gripped the jail, leading to an unhygienic and inhuman condition.

On the night of the last Shab-e-Barat, the prisoners cried their heart out for water, as they did not get a single drop since 6.00pm on the day.

When asked, Jailor Mohammad Shahidullah gave a disappointing reply: "On that night the lone water pump in the jail was out of order."

"We tried to contact WASA officials to supply emergency water, but in vain," he said.

"Had there been another water pump in the jail compound, the situation would not have become so acute," he added.

Jail Super Mir Mokssud Hossain said shortage of accommodation is the main problem in the jail.

Even the prisoners hardly get any space to sleep at night, he said, adding that this problem would be reduced when the three

newly constructed buildings would be made useful.

The jail was established in 1885 with two three-storey and two two-storey buildings with a capacity of 1,010 male and 37 female prisoners.

Later, the government had taken initiative to construct three more buildings. Although construction of the buildings had already been completed, other related work, including fittings and furnishings, remains unfinished.

There is a 40-bed hospital in the jail where on an average 100 patients get treatment regularly. Only one male doctor has been appointed for treatment of a large number of patients while one female doctor visits hospital once a week to provide healthcare to the female patients.

"It becomes very difficult, officials said, to manage everything properly due to shortage of manpower. The jail has a staff of 322 officers and employees while 30 to 32 posts remain vacant.

The hospital authority has to provide at least six policemen for a patient when they were taken to a hospital outside the jail for treatment.

On an average, about 60 policemen have to be engaged in this work which hinders regular activities of the jail, sources said.

'No plot against govt will be successful'

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said there were conspiracies to destroy democracy in the country, but no scheme against the government elected by people would be successful.

He was addressing as chief guest a discussion marking the 24th Founding Anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Samajik O Sangskritik Sangstha (JSSS) at Ramna Batamul in the city.

Referring to a call for dislodging the present government at the opposition Awami League's council, Bhuiyan said: "Don't lose patience, who will be in power will be decided in polls. If you lose

patience, you will invite disaster."

"BNP has assumed office on people's mandate; it will also go to power in the next elections," said Bhuiyan, who is also the minister for local government, rural development and cooperatives.

Presided over by JSSS president Wasimul Bari Rajib, the function was also addressed by Information Minister Tariqul Islam as special guest.

Explaining the background of the establishment of JSSS, Bhuiyan said it was established to promote indigenous culture and resist the alien culture.

The BNP secretary general said a democratic atmosphere was essential for artists and litterateurs. Bombings in Sathira and Mymensingh were carried out just to destroy that environment, he added.

Information Minister Tariqul Islam said the JSSS stepped into youth with the celebrations of 24 years of its founding. It has a lot more to deliver, he said.

He said the country had a literary and cultural heritage of thousands of years and JSSS should uphold it.

Congratulations

Mohammad Khurshed Alam Kaisar secured 1st class 2nd position in Master's in Accounting from Dhaka Commerce College under National University in December 2001, says a press release.

Earlier, he was placed in the 1st class 3rd position in B.Com (Honours) in Accounting.

Golam Shafiuddin

Golam Shafiuddin obtained MPP degree in International Relations and Political Economy from the KDI School of Public Policy and Management, Seoul, South Korea, with an award for his outstanding thesis.

The title of his thesis was 'Bangladesh: From Autocracy to Democracy', says a press release.

During his stay in Korea, he was also awarded for active participation in promoting a sense of community.

Preparations afoot to make Sandwip pouro polls free & fair

BSS, Chittagong

The Election Commission office in Chittagong and Police are taking preparations to hold the Sandwip pouroshava elections in a free and peaceful atmosphere.

According to election schedule, the Sandwip pouroshava polls will be held on January 7.

The Election Commissioner MA Sayeed will hold a meeting today with the deputy commissioner, police superintendent and deputy election commissioner of Chittagong, upazila nirbahi officer of Sandwip at the election commission secretariat to review the preparations, official sources said yesterday.

The Election Commission took a move to hold Sandwip pouroshava election on July 20 last, but the unprecedented zero turnout of voters left the commission in a state of dilemma.

It followed an alleged strong anti-election stand and campaign by the intending candidates and supporters belonging to the four-party alliance who had been demanding a fresh election schedule and cancellation of the previous one announced during the previous Awami League government.

Refuting the allegation of threatening the voters, Sandwip BNP leaders claimed that the people spontaneously boycotted the polls.

They alleged that during the previous schedule announced in 1999, prospective candidates of four-party alliance were prevented by the ruling party hoodlums from

filing their nomination papers. Although the election schedule was announced in 1999, it could not be held due to a writ petition, filed by a candidate.

The Election Commission is determined to hold the polls on schedule this time as there is no scope to change it, commission sources said.

"Preparations have almost been completed and some are underway," said Biswas Lufur Rahman, Deputy Election Commissioner, Chittagong.

He said "this time we have convinced the voters to cooperate in holding the election peacefully."

An ASP (District Special Branch) of Chittagong told BSS that necessary security arrangements were finalised to ensure a free and fair election.

Under this arrangement one inspector and 24 policemen will be deployed at each polling centre and for every three centres, one ASP will be posted under direct supervision of Additional SP and SP, Chittagong, he said. There are nine centres in Sandwip, an island in the Bay of Bengal.

Local Election Commission sources said that 10 candidate are vying for the post of chairman while 43 candidates are on the race for the post of ward commissioners including reserved seats for the women. A female ward commissioner candidate was elected unopposed.

Sandwip, 20 km off Sitakunda coast, has a total of 26,759 voters.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Naogaon
Notice Inviting RHD Tender

- Tender Notice No : 02 NRD/2002-2003.
- Name of work : Construction of different works at different km of different roads under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 2002-2003 in 07 (seven) groups.
- Chargeable head : As per group list.
- Estimated cost : As per group list.
- Earnest money : As per group list.
- Time allowed for completion of work : As per group list.
- Eligibility of bidders : As per group list.
- Last date for selling tender : 05-01-2003/22-09-1409 Bang up to 4:00 PM.
- Date and time of receiving tenders : Up to 12:30 PM on 06-01-2003/23-09-1409 Bang.
- Date and time of opening of tender box by other receiving officers : At 12:45 PM on 06-01-2003/23-09-1409 Bang.
- Date and time of opening of all the tender by the undersigned : At 11:00 AM on 11-01-2003/28-09-1409 Bang.
- Date, time & place of lottery : At 11:00 AM on 20-01-2003/06-10-1409 Bang at the office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Naogaon.
- Name of offices where tenders will be received : i) Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Rajshahi Zone, Rajshahi.
ii) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division (only Gr. No. 01, Gr. No. 03 & Gr. No. 05).
iii) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Rajshahi/Procurement Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
iv) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Naogaon/Rajshahi/Nawabganj.
- Name of offices where tender documents will be sold : i) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi, (only Gr. Nos. 01, 03 & 05).
ii) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Naogaon/Rajshahi/Nawabganj.
iii) Executive Engineer, RHD, Planning Division (P&D), Dhaka Zone, Dhaka.
iv) Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Naogaon/Patnitala/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Naogaon.

N.B. 1. The following papers (attested copy or original) should be enclosed along with the tender documents falling which his/their tender will be summarily rejected (the genuinity of attested certificate will verify from the issuing authority).
a) Money receipt of purchasing tender document (attested copy).
b) Contractor's identification & registration book's related pages and also related pages in connection with up to date renewal/attested copy of treasury challan (attested copy).
c) TIN & VAT (with ten digit number) registration paper and up-to-date fixed deposit paper (attested copy).

Group List

Gr No	Name of work with location	Head of accounts	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed for completion of work	Eligibility of contractor	Remarks
01 (One)	Construction of flexible pavement at 3 rd (p) & 4 th (p) km of Baradoudpur-Mohadunga-Kusumkunda road under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 2002-2003.	266 C/A	Tk. 15,11,568/-	Tk. 30,232/-	30 (thirty) days from the date of issue of work order.	"G-1" to "G-4" general category of RHD	Separate tender with separate earnest money is to be submitted for each group.
02 (Two)	Construction of flexible pavement at 1 st (p) and 2 nd (p) km of Naogaon Zilla Manda Thana Zothbar River to Fatapurhat via Rajshahi Zilla Bagmara Thana River Port Bhabaniganj road under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 2002-2003.	-Ditto-	Tk. 6,96,087/-	Tk. 13,922/-	15 (fifteen) days -Ditto-	"G-1" to "G-5" -Ditto-	-Ditto-
03 (Three)	Construction, repair, carpeting and seal coat work at 3 rd (p) & 4 th km of Niamatpur-Shibpur Bazar Moor road under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 2002-2003.	-Ditto-	Tk. 11,78,588/-	Tk. 23,572/-	20 (twenty) days -Ditto-	"G-1" to "G-4" -Ditto-	-Ditto-
04 (Four)	Construction of widening of bridge approaches by flexible pavement and repair-seal coat at 1 st (p) & 2 nd (p) km of Mohadepur-Saraigachi-Porsha road under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 2002-2003.	-Ditto-	Tk. 6,94,655/-	Tk. 13,893/-	10 (ten) days from -Ditto-	"G-1" to "G-5" -Ditto-	-Ditto-
05 (Five)	Construction, repair, seal coat at 1 st & 2 nd km & widening at thana town area of Manda-Proshadpur (Manda Thana Link Road) under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 2002-2003.	-Ditto-	Tk. 11,49,880/-	Tk. 22,998/-	20 (twenty) days -Ditto-	"G-1" to "G-4" -Ditto-	-Ditto-
06 (Six)	Construction of earth work in road shoulder at 1 st (p), 2 nd (p), 3 rd (p), 4 th (p), 5 th (p), 6 th (p), 7 th (p), 8 th (p), 9 th (p), 10 th (p), 12 th (p), 45 th (p), 46 th (p), 47 th (p) & 48 th (p) km of Naogaon-Badalgachi-Patnitala-Dhamorhat-Joypurhat road under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 2002-2003.	-Ditto-	Tk. 2,98,080/-	Tk. 5,962/-	10 (ten) days -Ditto-	"G-1" to "G-5" -Ditto-	-Ditto-
07 (Seven)	Earth work in road shoulder at 60 th (p), 61 st (p), 62 nd (p), 63 rd (p), 64 th (p), 65 th (p), 66 th (p), 67 th (p), 78 th (p) & 69 th (p) km of Kanshat-Gomostapur-Porsha-Shaphar road under Road Division, Naogaon during the year 2002-2003.	-Ditto-	Tk. 97,969/-	Tk. 1,960/-	-Ditto-	-Ditto-	-Ditto-

Md. Nurul Huda Mollah
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Naogaon.

DHAKA TODAY

Painting exhibition
The inaugural ceremony of the 15th National Painting Exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Shipakala Academy, will be held with President Iqbal Ahmed as chief guest. He will also distribute awards among the winning artists. Venue: Academy premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 3:00pm. The exhibition will remain open till January 27 from 11:00am to 7:00pm daily except on Friday from 3:00pm to 7:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central
Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Roche, Bangladesh. Ltd., Dhanmondi. Time: 1:30pm.

Rotary North West
Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Gourmet Garden Restaurant, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30pm.

Council session
The adjourned council session of National Bar Association of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Supreme Court Bar auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

UIS meeting
A meeting of the relief committee of Uttarbanga Janakalyan Samity (UIS) will be held. Venue: 54, Dilkusha. Time: 4:00pm.

JSD rally
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal organises a rally demanding a national dialogue to reach a consensus to combat violence in the society. Venue: Muktaghach, Ramna. Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable
The Credit and Development Forum (CDF) organises a roundtable on "Appropriate approach for reaching the hardcore poor". Venue: LGED Bhaban Conference Room, Agargaon. Time: 10:00am.

Dialogue
The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organises a dialogue with the visiting Chinese Delegation from Asia-Africa Development Research Institute, Beijing on "South Asian Security and Sino-Bangladesh Relations". The dialogue will be inaugurated by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: BISS auditorium, Old Elephant Road. Time: 10:00am.

BIMAS meeting
A 'Child Rights Focused Coordination

DHAKA TOMORROW

Workshop
The inaugural ceremony of a two-day workshop on 'Bangladesh in the New Millennium', organised by Dhaka University, will be held with Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan as chief guest. Venue: TSC auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.



LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Information Minister Tariqul Islam at a discussion marking the 24th founding anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Samajik O Sangskritik Sangstha at Ramna Batamul in the city yesterday.