

# Bangladesh targets Caribbean, Latin American markets

## Trade centre opens in Trinidad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to expand markets for Bangladeshi products in Caribbean and Latin American regions, Bangladesh has opened a sales and display centre in Trinidad and Tobago.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan inaugurated the centre styled 'Bangladesh Trade Centre', opened by Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau at Trinity Industrial Estate in Port of Spain on the sidelines of Commonwealth conference on Friday.

"The centre will be a milestone in Bangladesh's foreign trade," Faruk Khan said.

The first of its kind in Bangladesh's strategy of off-shore marketing, the centre will serve as a platform for buyers abroad and Bangladeshi manufacturers in a number of ways, said a statement.

The centre's immediate target will be Trinidad and

Tobago, a republic comprising the two southernmost of the Caribbean Islands, situated off the northeastern coast of Venezuela.

Bangladesh's High Commissioner to England Dr M Saidur Rahman Khan, Honorary Consul General in Trinidad Razai Azard Rahaman and Trinidad's envoy to Venezuela Maria Eugene Marcano were present at the inaugural ceremony.

The ultimate objective of Bangladesh Trade Centre (BTC) will be to organise visit of Caribbean businesspeople to Bangladesh.

It will also directly contact all potential traders and provide them with necessary trade information. The BTC will undertake visits to international business houses of the region who are engaged in import trade. Another goal will be to develop good working relationship with different

trade bodies. Besides, it will organise country fairs in different parts of the Caribbean as well as Trinidad and Tobago. In the same vein, it will participate in all national and international trade fairs there.

It will showcase Bangladeshi products, provide necessary trade information and do the needful for sealing contracts.

The centre will have a sizable ready stock of popular products for catering to the immediate needs of the wholesalers and distributors of the country. However, it envisages the whole of the Caribbean region as a significant trade partner and will expand its activity accordingly.

After consolidating foothold in the region, it will seek to bring the vast African market within its ambit.

BTC's first operational strategy will be to publicise its presence in Port of Spain. It will

run an intensive publicity campaign throughout the year. Both the electronic and print media will be used for the purpose.

Necessary promotional materials will be developed for targeted distribution. Moreover, information seminars will be organised from time to time in vantage commercial locations. The importance of South-South trade will be emphasised.

BTC will gather information about the demand pattern in the region and send those to the Bangladeshi entrepreneurs and exporters.

The centre will operate on the basis of public-private partnership with specified commercial goals and seek to achieve pre-determined time-bound sales targets. In all, BTC will strive to establish itself as a successful trade mission of Bangladesh abroad.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talks with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and others during an executive session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Port of Spain on Friday.

# Excessive red meat intake increases heart attack risks: Experts

BSS, Dhaka

Excessive consumption of red or processed meats significantly raises the risk of heart disease, experts said.

The experts representing public and private heart disease treatment centres said the number of patients with heart complications increases at least by 10 per cent during the particular period of Eid-ul-Azha compared to other times.

The intake of red meat becomes a fashion almost in every house as at least 2.5 million of cows and goats are sacrificed every year across the country on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

This particular period is a major source of red meat and high intake of red meats ultimately invite disease with heart ailments, sources at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) said here today.

The sources said this time is

very crucial for those who are already having high pressure and high cholesterol in blood as intake of red meat increases the risk of heart attack.

The physician advised the people including heart patients not to take excessive red meats in everyday menu.

Heart diseases has emerged as a threat to health in the country as latest survey on cardiovascular diseases revealed that around 35 per cent of the country's adult

population are exposed to heart related diseases.

Labaid Cardiac Hospital sources said around 1,800 heart patients are being treated every week at its outdoor and 120 inwards.

Hospitals, including the NICVD and National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh, have taken special measures to handle the higher number of patients during this particular period of time.

# Patients suffer as doctors, nurses on Eid holidays

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Patients have faced a lot of suffering during Eid holidays as most doctors and nurses at government and private hospitals were on leave.

The emergency departments of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) and National Institute of Traumatology Orthopedics Rehabilitation (NITOR) also saw a huge influx of patients as most city hospitals and clinics failed to provide emergency services due to shortage of doctors.

Although there was shortage of nurses and doctors at DMCH and NITOR, the patients received emergency treatment. But the admission rate was low.

DMCH sources said some 540 patients came to the emergency department on Sunday, but it was difficult to treat all of them properly as many doctors and nurses were on leave.

The patients who were already admitted to DMCH also suffered.

During Eid holidays, only a nurse was assigned to attend to about 150 patients in every four wards of DMCH, said an official.

Meanwhile, patients of several public hospitals, including DMCH, alleged that

the hospital authorities released a huge number of patients before Eid holidays although they are not fully cured, so that the hospital authorities could handle fewer patients while doctors and nurses would be on leave.

Amena Begum, aged around 50, told this correspondent that she was admitted to DMCH with severe pain in the abdomen two weeks ago, but the doctors are yet to diagnose her disease.

"Last week, the doctors told me to go back home for at least ten days as it would not be possible for them to provide proper services during Eid holidays," said Amena, who came from Shariatpur.

However, she finally left the hospital on Wednesday.

On Friday, the day before Eid day, the number of indoor patients at DMCH was 1188. Usually the number ranges from 2000 to 2300 during normal period, hospital sources said.

There are some 608 nurses in DMCH and only 129 of them were on duty on Friday, they added.

When contacted, DMCH Director Brig Gen Bazle Kader said that there have been shortage of nurses in the hospital for the last few years.

"But there was no shortage of doctors during this Eid vacation," he added.

He also refuted the allegation that the patients were released before they are cured.

At NITOR, over one hundred emergency patients came a day during the Eid holidays. But most patients were given first aid and asked to come back after Eid holidays, as many doctors and nurses were on leave.

Only the critically ill patients were admitted in the last few days, NITOR sources said.

When contacted, Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Shah Monir Hossain said the government has cancelled the leave of the staffs who belong to faiths other than Islam to ensure proper service to the patients. Besides, other doctors were also assigned to work in place of those who went on leave, he added.

"However, we will have to admit that there are shortage of doctors and nurses in health facilities and that the authorities are yet to approve recruitment of more doctors and nurses. If more doctors and nurses could be recruited soon, services in the hospitals would certainly be improved even during long vacations," he added.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia exchanges Eid greetings with children at the Ladies Club in the city on Eid day. She also exchanged Eid greetings with foreign diplomats, former bureaucrats and party leaders and activists.

# Import-export thru' Benapole suspended

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Import and export activities through Benapole land port came to a halt as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) enforced 'Bandh' (strike) in West Bengal yesterday. Hundreds of trucks loaded with goods, including perishable items, got stranded on both the sides of the border. Hundreds of Bangladeshis faced trouble in Indian check post following the strike.

Benapole Customs Cargo Officer Abdul Mannan said BJP activists stopped import and export activities on the Indian side.

Indian Customs Assistant Commissioner Bereshar Pal over telephone said the port activities will remain suspended until this evening due to 'Bandh'.

# Observe Dec 1 as Freedom Fighters' Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Mukti Juddhader Dabi Bastabayan O Mukti Juddha Dibas Ujapan Bastabayan Jatiya Committee in a statement yesterday urged all the pro-liberation political, social and cultural organisations to observe December 1 as 'Mukti Juddha Dibas' (Freedom Fighters' Day).

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu, on behalf of the organisation, made the call, said a press release.

The organisation has chalked out a number of programmes to observe the day, including placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi, Shikha Chirantan and Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard at Mirpur in the city.

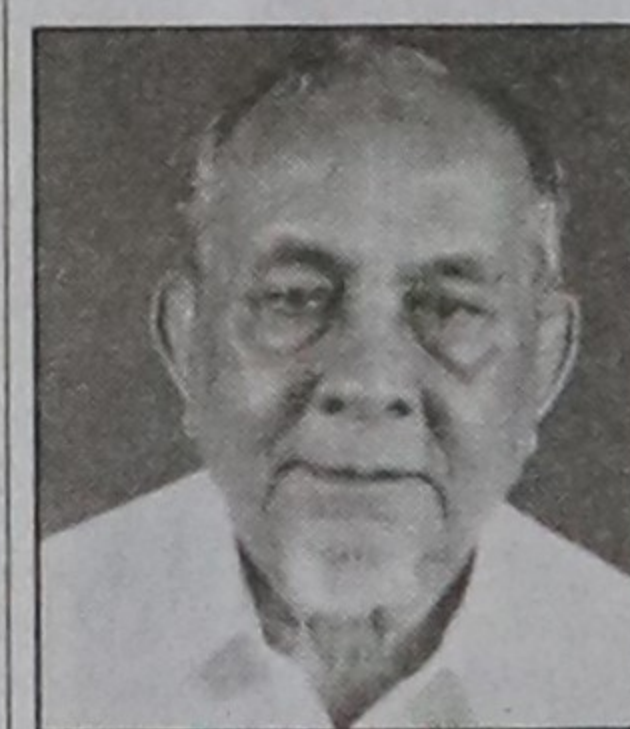
# Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 38th death anniversary of Mizanur Rahman Miza, a freedom fighter and cultural worker and younger brother of M Zillur Rahman, a former officer of Bangla Academy, says a press release.

Mizu and 95 other Bangladeshis, including some of his relatives, were killed by the Pakistani occupation forces at the Ghorashal Jute Mill on December 1, 1971, which is known as 'Ghorashal Massacre'.

On the occasion, a special doa and milad mahfil will be held at his elder brother's residence at 10/11 Shaheed Salimullah Road at Mohanmadpur in the city.



# Khaney Alam Khan passes away

METRO DESK

Khaney Alam Khan, retired secretary and former divisional commissioner of Dhaka, passed away yesterday, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Masjeed-e-Takwa at Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers today.

He will be buried at Banani graveyard.

Meherunnesa Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Meherunnesa Chowdhury, mother of former commerce minister and BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, passed away at her Mehediabag residence in the city yesterday at the age of 89.

Meherunnesa, wife of former minister late Mahmudunnabi Chowdhury, left behind five sons, five daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Former Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) president Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury is her another son.

Her first namaz-e-janaza will be held on the Jamiatul Falah Masjid premises at 10:00am tomorrow and she will be buried at her family graveyard at South Kattali.

# Seven killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

At least seven people were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in Bogra and Rajbari yesterday.

Staff correspondent from Bogra reports: Five people were killed and five others injured in a road accident in Mirzapur area on Dhaka-Bogra highway under Sherpur upazila yesterday afternoon.

Sherpur Thana police said the accident occurred at about 5:00pm when a Dhaka-bound bus hit a Bogra-bound human hauler from Chandaikona of Sherpur upazila.

Five passengers of the human hauler died on the spot while five others received injuries.

The deceased were identified as Sadhan, 30, Majid, 30, Manik, 20, Golam Sarker, 70, and Bhola Sarker, 60. They hailed from Chhatian and

Sutrapur villages of Sherpur upazila.

Of the injured, Parveen and Romechha were admitted to a local hospital in a critical condition. A case was filed with Sherpur police.

UNB from Rajbari adds: Two motorcyclists were crushed under the wheels of a truck near Kamaldia bridge on Rajbari-Faridpur road yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Majnu, 22 and Nazrul, 32.

Police said a speeding truck knocked down Majnu and Nazrul when they were going to the town in a motorbike at about 1:00pm, leaving Majnu dead on the spot and injuring Nazrul.

Nazrul succumbed to his injuries on the way to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Police seized the truck but its driver managed to escape.

# World AIDS Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The World Aids Day will be observed today in the country as elsewhere in the world.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Different socio-cultural organisations have also taken separate programmes along side the government.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque will address a press conference at 11:30am today at his Secretariat office.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the eve of the day.

In his message, President Zillur Rahman termed AIDS as a serious threat to the whole mankind and said this prob-

lem has been hindering the country's socio-economic development.

"I do believe that Bangladesh needs increased mass awareness to check its spread" said the president and asked the countrymen to build a strong social resistance against the disease.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in her message, said a national action plan has already been formulated to check the deadly disease. She said strengthening the regional and international cooperation is a must in this regard.

Sheikh Hasina asked leaders of all sections of the people to create mass awareness against the disease and help implement the national action plan in the light of this year's theme 'Empowerment and Service'.

# Observe Dec as month of victory: CPB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) called upon the people to observe the month of December as 'Bijoyer Mas' (month of victory), says a press release.

In a statement, Manjurul Ahsan Khan, president, and Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary, of the party made the call.

The party has chalked out elaborate programmes to observe 'Bijoyer Mas'. The programmes include discussion, rally, photo exhibition, essay and painting competition, documentary screening and cultural function.

The month-long programmes will be formally launched at Muktangan in the city today.



# Christian Housing Society executives

METRO DESK

Aloysius Milon Khan and Lemen D' Costa have been elected chairman and secretary respectively of the Managing Committee of Metropolitan Christian Cooperative Housing Society Ltd for a term of three years at its election held on November 27.

Election of the internal Supervision and Audit Committee and Loan Committee were also held on the same day, says a press release.

The Metropolitan Christian Cooperative Housing Society Ltd is a financial society of the Christian community having about 10000 members.

# CMCCI operation stayed again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The appellate division of the Supreme Court issued an order yesterday staying operation of Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CMCCI).

It issued the order responding to a petition of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) made yesterday against the commerce ministry and others concerned, sources said.

The order posted the CCCI petition for hearing before the court on December 7 and stayed the order of the High Court Division passed on November 24 that gave CMCCI go-ahead nod.

Mentionable, with the High Court nod CMCCI resumed activities on Wednesday last after an eight-month legal battle with the CCCI.



# Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 7:25am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 31.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 11.3 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	28.8	15.6	72	64
Chittagong	29.4	16.9	80	75
Rajshahi	27.8	16.0	79	76
Khulna	28.5	16.0	87	86
Barisal	29.0	13.8	76	90
Sylhet	29.9	16.4	62	87
Cox's Bazar	30.5	18.5	58	75