

A garment worker performs a dance number at the 2nd Workers' Festival at Osmani Pouro Stadium in Narayanganj yesterday. Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association organised the daylong event. (Story on Page 2)

Asia Pacific leaders agree on integrated transport policies

BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of Asia-Pacific countries yesterday agreed on formulating integrated policies and decision-making frameworks on transport through strategic assessments of economic, environmental, social and poverty-related aspects.

governments would develop and implement transport policies at the national, sub-regional and regional levels in line with developing an international integrated inter-modal transport and logistics system.

Bangkok Declaration on Transport Development in Asia on the concluding session of the two-day long ministerial part of the five-day conference of Forum of Asian Minister of Transport.

for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) organised the meeting in the Thai capital. Communications Minister Syed Abul

Hossain, who earlier was elected chairperson of the session unanimously on the opening of minister's part, chaired the meeting yesterday.

The meeting observed that professionalism in the industry. Bangladesh was committed to playing its role in promoting the development of an integrated multi-modal transport system

SEL Gi

(2220-5009)

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across the Asia-Pacific region.

the Forum of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Partnerships for Infrastructure Development, to be held in Jakarta, from April 14 to 17, 2010.

Recognising the massive investments In order to support increased regional needs for the region's future transport economic integration effectively, the infrastructure development, the Forum needs and to promote financing for the noted various institutional arrangements and financing mechanisms, including special infrastructure funds that many countries had put in place.

It noted that many countries had initiated various actions to improve road The agreement was reached at the safety through establishing national road safety committees or councils, safety boards, and road safety funds, defining goals and targets, developing and implementing road safety action plans, enacting legislation and imple-UN Economic and Social Commission menting educational and awareness are attending the meeting. programmes.

> The Forum considered that the development of minimum standards and codes of conduct for freight forwarders, multi-modal transport operators and logistics service providers would be a critical factor in upgrading skills and

non-physical barriers to cross-border Uzbekistan and Vietnam attended the and transit transport in the region.

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In this context, it also stressed the need The delegation of Indonesia informed for simplification of cross-border and transit formalities and procedures, the Conference on Public Private harmonisation of transport legislation and the application of new technologies to speed up clearances at border crossing.

The Forum requested the secretariat to continue to assist and coordinate in the identification of priority investment development of road and railway infrastructure and rolling stock as well as supporting the installation of route signage along the Asian Highway network.

Before opening the session, UN ESCAP Executive Secretary Noeleen Heyzer, read out the message of the UN Secretary General.

Ministers from 14 countries and dele gates from 40 member countries and different financing institutions and regional and sub-regional organisations

Representatives from Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian It stressed the importance of removing Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, conference.

Police rescue girl 2 months after her abduction

NEWS

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

The police rescued a schoolgirl from Nil Dumur in Shymnagar, Satkhira, yesterday about two months after she was abducted from

The class-eight student of a school in Sharsha was kidnapped by some youths when she was going to her school on October 14.

Her father, a resident of Shyamlagazi village in Sharsha, filed a case with the local police station on November 22 accusing Shahidul and his accomplices.

Family sources alleged that Shahidul always teased the girl on her way to school. He also wanted to marry the girl, but her father rejected his proposal. Shahidul then threatened to abduct the girl.

UN South-South Day today

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations South-South Day will be observed today in the country as elsewhere across the globe.

Partners in Population and Development (PPD) has chalked out elaborate programmes, including a press meet to mark the day with other international organisations.

PPD Executive Director Harry Jooseery will exchange views with media corps on South-South Cooperation mechanism that is helping the developing countries to work together and uplift the lives of millions of impoverished men and women in the South.

Ten developing countries unanimously established the intergovernmental organisation PPD during an international conference on Population and Development in 1994 in Cairo. Currently the organisation, whose headquarters is in Dhaka, commands the membership of 25 developing countries.



Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury inaugurates the Reunion-2009 of Management Net by releasing balloons at TSC on the Dhaka

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Admissions to the MBBS program at Manipal - Nepal, now open.

Applications invited for Feb 2010 Batch.

Kathmandu, 19th December 2009: Manipal College of Medical The Phulbari Campus, spread over entrance exam. Sciences (MCOMS), based in 30 acres has the 865bed Manipal Pokhara, Nepal is recognized Teaching Hospital (MTH), clinical across the world for its high teaching departments and hostels. academic standards in medical

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Students seeking admissions to minimum of 50% marks in the basic sciences departments, addition to being 17 years of age

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For queries, you may write to: The Director - Admissions, Manipal College of Medical Sciences, PO Box 155, Pokhara, Nepal.

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Conference of grassroots organisations

University campus yesterday.

METRO DESK

The two-day second grand conference of organisations working for disadvantaged people in the country will begin tomorrow on the Ganosastho Kendra premises in Savar, says a press release.



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