

News & Views



Bangladesh strangled by Indians

Grief for the Rohingyas



Bangladesh National Museum

6000 Rare, Large River Dolphins Discover in Bangladesh



Indian Classical Dance



Bangladesh stringed by Indians

India, being the biggest country in South Asia, has a great responsibility towards its small neighbors like Bangladesh, and should be reasonably considerate in dealing with them. If there is a sense of purpose, issues like border disputes, migration, trade imbalances, and so on, could easily be solved through normal dialogues. The cultures of the two countries are similar; in particular Bangladesh and India's states West Bengal and Tripura are all Bengali-speaking. Emergence of Bangladesh is stringed by both the Bengali speaking peoples. In short, India has to take the small neighbors into confidence and ensure their security and territorial integrity without interfering in their internal affairs. The smaller countries of the region like Bangladesh have, of course, to take on reciprocal responsibilities and must not allow any subversive insurgent activities against the Indian Bengali inhabitants. **See page No. 16**



Grief for the Rohingyas

The Rohingya is a Muslim ethnic group of the Northern Arakan State of Western Myanmar. Rohingya scholars have successfully written the Rohingya language in different scripts such as Arabic, Hanafi, Urdu, Roman and Burmese where Hanifi is newly developed alphabets derived from Arabic with the addition of four characters from Latin and Burmese. And Rohingyalish is not with Bengali accents or similarities, so it is not Bengali language. They already facing severe problems, with overpopulation and growing tensions between the Rohingya and the local population, the likelihood of the government taking on more refugees is slim. The main concern is that this would create another influx into an already resource-stretched Bangladesh. With no food assistance or legal recognition, the unregistered refugees in Bangladesh could face a serious threat to their existence in the coming months. **See page No. 4**



Italy must curb Xenophobic Attitudes

It is rather the widespread criminal economy that exploits immigrants and xenophobic legislation that forces them in a state of permanent precariousness and absence of rights. The Italian government to ensure that racist and xenophobic acts are not tolerated and that the fundamental rights of migrants are respected. It has a responsibility to ensure that every person enjoys the basic human rights to health and housing, while respecting equal rights granted by Italian laws to all workers, regardless of their nationality or ethnic origin. **See page No. 5**



PROTECT THE ECOTOURISM PROJECT OF BENGAL

WCS researchers have discovered a stronghold for one of the world's rarest freshwater dolphins. The scientists counted nearly 6,000 of the dolphins in the South Asian country's Sundarbans mangrove forest and the adjacent waters of the Bay of Bengal. The scientists also found that the dolphins must cope with declining freshwater supplies, caused by upstream water diversion in India coupled with sea-level rise. The latter issue has been brought on by climate change. WCS researchers are currently studying the long-term effects of this phenomenon. Currently, conservationists are working closely with the Ministry of Environment and Forests in Bangladesh on plans for establishing a protected area network for the dolphins in the Sundarbans. We appreciate the government action of Preservation process. **See page No. 6**



16 poor countries shows climate change could deepen poverty

Climate change in Bangladesh as the cost of food drives them into poverty, Bangladesh the greatest percentage of the population entering poverty in the wake of extreme drought, with an additional 1.4 percent of their populations being impoverished by future climate extremes and this translates to an additional 1.8 million people impoverished per country (Agricultural production, prices and wages) the projected poverty impacts a conservative estimate. **See page No. 11**



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Bangladesh National Museum

Present Bangladesh National Museum (1983) is the successor to the Dhaka Museum. Lord Carmichael, the Governor of Bengal inaugurated the Dhaka Museum on 7th August 1913. Mr. M. Bonhamcarter and Nicholas D. Beatson Bell played a



very significant role in establishing this museum. Dr. Nalini Kanta Bhattasali, a



young historian of immense potentiality, was made the first curator of the museum in 1914 and he served the museum in that capacity till his death in 1947. An acclaimed scholar, dedicated organizer and a professional of untiring missionary zeal Dr. Bhattasali made this Museum a very solid one in this part of the world. Since inception, its collection has grown enormously covering a wide range of objects. On 20th September, 1983 Bangladesh Jatiya Jadughar (National Museum) ordinance came into operation and the



Dhaka Museum Board of Trustees ordinance 22nd April, 1970 was repealed. Bangladesh National Museum was shifted to its present premises at Shahbag near Dhaka University in 1983.

A four-storied building with a total exhibition area of more than 20,000 sqm. and 44 galleries. The Bangladesh National Museum is one of the largest museum in South Asia. The Museum building comprises three auditoriums for holding seminars and cultural functions and a temporary exhibition hall for arranging special exhibitions. The Museum has a rich Library, an Audio-visual section, a Conservation Laboratory and a Photographic section.

Buddhist and Brahminical stone sculptures, architectural pieces, Arabic and Persian inscriptions and pieces of calligraph are the most significant objects of this museum from the point of view of artistic value and iconographic importance. The coin cabinet of the National Museum is especially rich for the study of history and numismatics of medieval Eastern India.

The Museum has a good collection of Sanskrit and Bengali manuscripts, written on hand-made paper, palm leaf. Among the terracotta objects in the museum plaques, figures, stamped and inscribed slabs, votive seals, moulded and decorated brick representing the different phases of this art of Bengal. The Persian documents. Paintings in the museum collection range in date from 17th century. They include lacquer painted wooden manuscript covers, late Mughal miniature, water color drawings of Eid and Muharram processions of Dhaka. With a gallery of Shil-



pachariya Zainul Abedin's painting, the contemporary art gallery is rich with paintings, sculptures and tapestries of famous artists of Bangladesh.

Besides these, medieval arms and weapons, porcelain, metal work, specimens of famous filigree work of Dhaka, exquisite embroidered quilts, outlandish pieces of ivory works, superb wooden furniture, a rare piece of world famous Dhaka Muslin, dioramas of folk and tribal life, model of boats of Bangladesh, tribal and folk arts and crafts are displayed in the galleries.



Collection of natural history specimens includes flora and fauna, fossils, rocks and minerals of Bangladesh and some impres-



sive dioramas depicting the forest life and sundarbans milieu. The galleries of liberation war (1971), mementos of martyred intellectuals (1971) and Language Movement (1952) have added a proper dimension to Bangladesh National Museum. At present, Bangladesh National Museum has, in its possession, more than 85 thousand objects representing Hindu-Buddhist civilization of olden times, Islamic heritage of Bengal, and life, culture and society of contemporary Bangladesh.

Branches Bangladesh National Museum

- Bangladesh National Museum**, Dhaka
- Ahsan Manzil Museum**, Dhaka
- Zia Memorial Museum**, Chittagong
- Osmany Museum**, Sylhet
- Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahasala**, Mymensingh

Other Museums of Bangladesh

- Ahsan Manzil**, Ahsanullah Road, Dhaka-1100
- Army Museum**, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka
- Bangabandhu Memorial Museum**, H-10, R-32, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
- Liberation War Museum**, 5 Segunbagicha Dhaka
- Shishu Academy Museum**, Old High court Road, Dhaka-1000
- Sonargaon Museum**, Sonargagn, Dhaka
- Science Museum**, Sonargagn, Dhaka

Grief for the Rohingyas

The Rohingya is a Muslim ethnic group of the Northern Arakan State of Western Myanmar. The Rohingya population is mostly concentrated in two bordering townships of Arakan to Bangladesh, namely Maungdaw and Buthidaung, and is spread in three townships of Akyab, Rathedung and Kyauktaw.

It is thought, according to Rohingya history, that in the beginning of the 7th century AD, merchants from the Arab World, Mughal Empire and neighbouring Bengal began to settle in Arakan territory. In the 19th century, the British captured control of Arakan after the first Anglo-Burmese War and many more Bengalis from British East Bengal came to settle in Arakan. It is thought, according to various indigenous ethnic groups of Myanmar, the local Arakanese people and the Burmese military government, that waves of later Bangali migrations to Arakan started in the 19th century after the British occupation.

Rohingya language: A coin from Arakan used in Great Bengal minted 1554/5. The Rohingya language, known as Rohingyalish, is the modern written language of the Rohingya People of Arakan (Rakhine) State of Burma (Myanmar). It is linguistically similar to the Chittagonian language spoken in the southern most area of Bangladesh bordering Burma. Rohingya scholars have successfully written the Rohingya language in different scripts such as Arabic, Hanafi, Urdu, Roman and Burmese where Hanifi is newly developed alphabets derived from Arabic with the addition of four characters from Latin and Burmese.

Myanmar prepares for elections next year, tensions along the 320km (200-mile) border with Bangladesh have risen. As usual, that involves more persecution for the Rohingyas, a Muslim minority whom Myanmar refuses to recognise as Burmese. Because of them, though no one says it openly, Bangladesh is probably quite happy with the fast-emerging fence. They are the remnants of some 250,000 Rohingyas who fled to Bangladesh in 1992. Rohingyas have been leaving Myanmar and heading mainly into impoverished Bangladesh since the late 1970s. The rest were repatriated through UNHCR. Rohingyas, not recognised as an ethnic minority by Myanmar, allege human rights abuse by its authorities, saying they deprive Rohingya of free movement, education and rightful employment. Rohingya refugees have created problems for several other countries in the region in recent months, with reports of Thailand putting those who come by boat back to sea, and others reaching Malaysia and Indonesia

and trying to work illegally. More than 21,000 living in two camps the U.N. runs near the southeastern resort of Cox's Bazar are not willing to go back, alleging persecution by the military junta ruling Myanmar. "It is (against) U.N. principle to force any refugee to go back home from exile if he does not want" to do so, a UNHCR official said, requesting not to be identified. Cox's Bazar officials say more than 200,000 Rohingyas live outside the camps, mixing with local Muslims who have an almost common language. Muslims are a minority in Myanmar, where most of the population is Buddhists. Bangladesh is overwhelmingly Muslim.

However, a military build-up on the Burmese side last month prompted Bangladesh to put its border force on alert, and to deploy 3,000 more troops. But Bangladesh's defence preparedness is woeful. So the government has sought to make light of rising tensions over Myanmar's provocative exploration in disputed waters of the gas-rich Bay of Bengal. Since tensions broke out in August between Bangladesh and Burma's ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) over the latter's construction of a border fence, arrests and forced repatriation of Rohingya refugees has dramatically increased. In Cox's Bazar, a district in southern Bangladesh where many Rohingyas live in both unofficial camps and in



camp supported by the UN's refugee agency, UNHCR, different opinions are circulating as to why arrests have increased, but one NGO worker stated the most prominent one.

The situation for the Rohingya refugees is rapidly deteriorating and many NGO workers around Cox's Bazar voiced concerns at the fast approaching food crisis. The UNHCR has begun talks with the Bangladeshi government to try to improve the conditions of the unregistered refugees, but people remain pessimistic that it will bring about any change. Already facing severe problems, with overpopulation and growing tensions between the Rohingya and the local population, the likelihood of the government taking on more refugees is slim. The main concern is that this would create another influx into an already resource-stretched Bangladesh. With no food assistance or legal recognition, the unregistered refugees in Bangladesh could face a serious threat to their existence in the coming months.

Source: The Irrawaddy



Italy must curb Xenophobic Attitudes towards migrant workers

Violence cannot and must never be a means to respond to difficulties under any circumstances



In the wake of unrest in southern Italy, two United Nations independent human rights experts today called on the European nation's Government to rein in the rising xenophobic attitudes towards migrant workers. Dozens of people were injured in the three days of clashes that rocked the city of Rosarno. Some 1,000 migrants, most of whom are reportedly from Africa, were moved to migration centres, with authorities moving to deport many of them. "Violence, be it perpetrated by Italians or migrant workers, must be addressed in the most vigorous manner through the rule of law and human rights should al-

commitment to create a safe and peaceful environment for all. "This includes finding ways to improve the very poor living and working conditions of these migrant workers – [some] of whom are often trafficked into the country for exploitation purposes – and to implement an immigration policy in full conformity with international human rights standards." Although Italy's initial steps towards an inquiry into the unrest are a welcome move, the experts underscored that "it is more than ever urgent" for authorities to bolster their anti-racism efforts, provide human rights education, denounce hate speech and prosecute racist and violent actions.



"Violence cannot and must never be a means to respond to difficulties under any circumstances," the Special Rapporteurs underscored. The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) is seriously concerned about the violent riots which took place over the last days in the city of Rosarno in Italy (Calabria region), following injuries inflicted onto two immigrants by an unknown party using air rifles. Whilst firmly condemning this violence, ENAR is worried that these events reveal the consequences of long-lasting xenophobic and anti-immigrant discourse and policies by the Italian government as well as by mainstream political parties. The

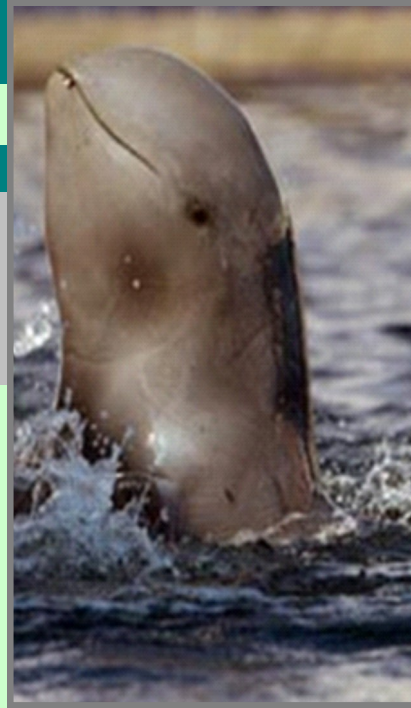
emergence of an anti-immigrant climate in Italy has fuelled prejudice and tensions between migrants and the local population, thereby hindering integration and social cohesion.

ways be protected, regardless of immigration laws," Jorge Bustamante and Githu Muigai, the UN Special Rapporteurs on the human rights of migrants and on contemporary forms of racism, respectively, **said** in a joint statement. They called on the Italian Government to demonstrate their continued and firm

In addition, most of the migrants in this region of Italy live and work in subhuman conditions. Research by NGO Médecins sans Frontières on the work and living conditions of seasonal workers in Southern Italy, highlighted in ENAR Italy's 2008 Shadow report on racism¹, shows that 90% of interviewees had no work contract although they were legally staying in Italy and that seasonal workers are often exploited, receiving a low pay and working under the pressure of "mediators" or employers.



The real "emergency" is not, as the Minister of the Interior and leader of Lega Nord Mr. Maroni believes, the presence of undocumented migrants. It is rather the widespread criminal economy that exploits immigrants and xenophobic legislation that forces them in a state of permanent precariousness and absence of rights. ENAR calls on the Italian government to ensure that racist and xenophobic acts are not tolerated and that the fundamental rights of migrants are respected. It has a responsibility to ensure that every person enjoys the basic human rights to health and housing, while respecting equal rights granted by Italian laws to all workers, regardless of their nationality or ethnic origin.



6000 Rare, Large River Dolphins

Discover in Bangladesh



WCS researchers have discovered a stronghold for one of the world's rarest freshwater dolphins, the Irrawaddy, deep in the waterlogged jungles of Bangladesh. The scientists counted nearly 6,000 of the dolphins in the South Asian country's Sundarbans mangrove forest and the adjacent waters of the Bay of Bengal. Prior to this study, little marine mammal research had taken place in the Sundarbans—which translates to “beautiful jungle” in Bengali. Researchers had pegged the largest Irrawaddy dolphin populations in the low hundreds or fewer. In 2008, the species was listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

In 2008, the species was listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.



“This discovery gives us great hope that there is a future for Irrawaddy dolphins,” said WCS researcher Brian D. Smith, who led the study.

“Bangladesh clearly serves as an important sanctuary for Irrawaddy dolphins, and conservation in this region should be a top priority.”

Despite his optimism, however, Smith and other researchers warn that the dolphins are facing increasing threats to their survival. During the study, they encountered two that had drowned after becoming entangled in fishing nets. Local fishermen say this is a common occurrence. The scientists also found that the dolphins must cope with declining freshwater supplies, caused by upstream water diversion in India coupled with sea-level rise. The latter issue has been brought on by climate change. WCS researchers are currently studying the long-term effects of this phenomenon.

These circumstances also threaten the endangered Ganges River dolphin, which shares part of its range in the Sundarbans with the Irrawaddy dolphin. The recent likely extinction of the Yangtze River dolphin, or baiji, is a potent reminder of how vulnerable freshwater dolphins are to human impacts on the environment.

Irrawaddy dolphins are related to orcas, also known as killer whales. The dolphins grow up to 8 feet long and frequent large rivers, estuaries, and freshwater lagoons in South and Southeast Asia. In Myanmar's Ayeyarwady River, these dolphins are known to cooperatively fish with humans, helping to herd schools of fish toward boats and awaiting nets. The practice benefits the fishermen—increasing the size of their catches up to threefold—as well as the dolphins, which fill their own bellies with some of the cornered fish and those that fall out of the fishing nets.

In 2006, WCS helped establish a protected area along the Ayeyarwady River to conserve this critically endangered marine mammal population. Currently, conservationists are working closely with the Ministry of Environment and Forests in Bangladesh on plans for establishing a protected area network for the dolphins in the Sundarbans. WCS is also supporting sustainable fishing practices and helping to develop local ecotourism projects that benefit the region's people and wildlife.

Support for this study has been provided in part by the Kerzner Marine Foundation and Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong; the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission; and the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which operates a regional program for cetacean conservation in the Bay of Bengal.





Lalbagh Fort

Lalbagh Fort

The fort of Aurangabad, popularly known as the Lalbagh Fort, was built in 1678 AD by the then Viceroy of Bengal Prince Mohammad Azam, son of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. The fort has a three storied structure with slender minarets at the South Gate. It has many hidden passages and a mosque of massive structure. Outstanding among the monuments of the Lalbagh Fort are the Tomb of Pari Bibi (Fairy lady) and Audience room and Hummam Khana (bathing place) of Nawab Shaista Khan, now housing a museum. The fort was the scene of bloody battle during the first war of independence (1857) when 260 spays stationed here backed by the people revolted against British forces. It is one of the great historical places of Mughal era. A small museum is there in this fort where you will find the clothes and weapons of the Mughols. Lalbagh fort is in the old town of Dhaka at Lalbagh. It is open 10 am-5 pm Sunday to Friday & Saturday is closed.

The capital city Dhaka predominantly was a city of the Mughals. In hundred years of their vigorous rule successive Governors and princely Vice-

Rectangular in plan, it encloses an area of 1082' by 800' and in addition to its graceful lofty gateways on southeast and northeast corners and a subsidiary small unpretentious gateway on north, it also contains within its fortified perimeter a number of splendid monuments, surrounded by attractive garden. These are a small 3-domed mosque, the mausoleum of Bibi Pari the reputed daughter of Nawab Shaista Khan and the Hammam and Audience Hall of the Governor. The main purpose of



this fort was to provide a defensive enclosure of the palatial edifices of the interior and as such was a type of palace-fortress rather than a siege fort.

Ahsan Manjil

Built in 1872 and standing on the river Buriganga, this stately building offers the visitors a feeling of the lifestyle of the Nawabs of Dhaka. Sometimes known as the Pink Palace, this building now houses a splendid museum. Basically, it was the residence of the Nawabs. Nawab Abdul Gani renovated this building in the year 1872 and named it after his son Khaza Ahasanullah. On the bank of river Buriganga in Dhaka the Pink majestic, Ahsan Manjil has been renovated and turned into a museum recently. It is an epitome of the nation's rich cultural heritage. The renovated Ahsan Manjil a monument of immense historical beauty. It has 31 rooms with a huge dome atop which can be seen from miles around. It now has 23 galleries in 31 rooms displaying of traits, furniture

and household articles and utensils used by the Nawab. Open 9 am- 5 pm from Saturday to Saturday, Sunday day to Wednesday and 3-5 pm on Friday. Thursday is close.

fighters during the period. It's open 9am to 6pm from Monday to Saturday, Sunday day to Wednesday and 3-5 pm on Friday. Thursday is close.

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Botanical Garden

Botanical Garden is also situated in Mirpur just besides the National Zoo, built on an area of 205 acres of land. Approximately 50,000 plants and trees are there of 1200 species. Main attraction of this garden is rose garden. Approximately 300 species of roses are there in this garden. It is open 7 days a week. If you go to this garden, it is advisable you visit National Zoo at a same time.

Baldha Garden

Baldha Garden is established in old Dhaka named Wari, the unique creation of the late Narendra Narayan Roy, the property owner of Baldha; the year of establishment of this garden was on 1904. This garden has a rich collection of indigenous and exotic plants, which is one of the most exciting attractions for naturalists and tourists. A number of varieties tree are

Mukti juddha museum

This is the museum on our liberation war which is well



known as mukti juddha. Mukti juddha museum situated at Segun Bagicha of the city the museum contains rare photographs of liberation war and items used by the freedom

there in this garden. Near about 18,000 plants of 800 species are there in the garden. It is open from 8:00 am-5:00 pm, 7 days a week.



roy's who ruled the province, adorned it with many noble monuments in the shape of magnificent places, mosques, tombs, fortifications and 'Katra's' often surrounded with beautifully laid out gardens and pavilions. But the finest specimen of this period is the Aurangabad Fort [commonly known as Lalbagh Fort], which indeed represents the unfulfilled dream of a Mughal Prince. It occupies the southwestern part of the old city, overlooking the Buriganga on whose northern bank it stands as a silent sentinel of the old city.

World's tallest building

Burj Khalifa's Grand Vision (برج خليفة)

A living wonder. Stunning work of art. Incomparable feat of engineering. Burj Khalifa is all that. In concept and execution, Burj Khalifa has no peer. More than just the world's tallest building, Burj



Khalifa is an unprecedented example of international cooperation, symbolic beacon of progress, and an emblem of the new, dynamic and prosperous Middle East.

It is also tangible proof of Dubai's growing role in a changing world. In fewer than 30 years, this city has transformed itself from a regional centre to a global one. This success was not based on oil reserves, but on reserves of human talent, ingenuity and initiative. Burj Khalifa

embodies that vision.

Height of Antenna or spire 828 m (2,717 ft), Floor count 160 habitable floors, plus 46 maintenance levels in the spire and 2 parking levels in the basement Floor area 464,511 m² (5,000,000 sq ft) Cost \$1.5 billion.

Mr Mohamed Alabbar, Chairman, Emaar Properties, said: "Burj Khalifa goes beyond its imposing physical specifications. In Burj Khalifa, we see the triumph of Dubai's vision of attaining the seemingly impossible and setting new benchmarks. It is a source of inspiration for every one of us in Emaar. The project is a declaration of the emirate's capabilities and of the resolve of its leaders and people to work hand in hand on truly awe-inspiring projects.

The Burj Khalifa Opus will showcase the various facets of developing Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building and will feature exclusive content and never-before-seen photography. The publication contract, in addition to one luxurious signature book, will include a limited collection of different formats including specialized versions and collector's editions. A select set of publications will be auctioned for charity. The flagship book will be housed within Burj Khalifa for public display following the opening of the tower in 2009.

More than 70 per cent of the Burj Khalifa Opus is exclusive content, including photographs, At over **800 metres (2625 feet)** and **more than 160 stories**, Burj Khalifa holds the following records:

- **Tallest building in the world**
- **Tallest free-standing structure in the world**
- **Highest number of stories in the world**
- **Highest occupied floor in the world**
- **Highest outdoor observation deck in the world**
- **Elevator with the longest travel distance in the world**
- **Tallest service elevator in the world**



Tallest of the Supertall

Not only is Burj Khalifa the world's tallest building, it has also broken two other impressive records: tallest structure, previously held by the KVLV-TV mast in Blanchard, North Dakota, and tallest free-standing structure, previously held by Toronto's CN Tower. The Chicago-based Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) has established 3 criteria to determine what makes a tall building tall. Burj Khalifa wins by far in all three categories.





Burj Khalifa's Grand Vision
World's tallest building

Height to architectural top

Height is measured from the level of the lowest, significant, open-air, pedestrian entrance to the architectural top of the building. This includes spires, but does not include antennae, signage, flagpoles or other functional-technical equipment. This measurement is the most widely used and is used to define the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat rankings of the Tallest Buildings in the World.

Highest occupied floor

Height is measured from the level of the lowest, significant, open-air, pedestrian entrance to the highest continually occupied floor within the building. Maintenance areas are not included.

Height to tip

Height is measured from the level of the lowest, significant, open-air, pedestrian entrance to the highest point of the building, irrespective of material or function of the highest element. This includes antennae, flagpoles, signage and other functional-technical equipment.

AT THE TOP, BURJ Khalifa EXPERIENCE

No building in modern history has aroused so much curiosity and intrigue as has Burj Khalifa. Your At The Top, Burj Khalifa visit will answer all your questions. From your vantage point on level 124 of the world's tallest building, you will experience first-hand this modern architectural and engineering marvel and know at last what it is like to see the world from such a lofty height. At The Top, Burj Khalifa visit begins in

the reception area on the lower ground level of The Dubai Mall. Here and throughout your journey, you will be entertained and informed by a multi-media presentation that chronicles Dubai's exotic history and the fascinating story of

Special telescopes provide virtual time-travel visions of the scenes beyond and below. You'll see close-up real-time views as well as the past and the future, by day and by night. You can also walk the entire perimeter for the most comprehensive



Burj Khalifa.

Leave the reception area aboard the 65-metre-long travelator on a trip that transports you through time, from the earliest days of Dubai to the present. Pause briefly at a unique viewing point for your first close-up view of the soaring Burj Khalifa, seen through a skylight framing its awe-inspiring height.

Begin your vertical ascent to the observation deck in a high-speed elevator, traveling at 10 metres per second. As the doors open, floor-to-ceiling glass walls provide a breath-taking unobstructed 360-degree view of the city, desert and ocean. By night, sparkling lights and stars compete for your attention.

views. If you wish, adventure outside onto the open-air terrace to enjoy another perspective of the sweeping views below.

You can even shop At The Top, Burj Khalifa and take home a truly unique souvenir of your visit.

The At The Top, Burj Khalifa tour typically last 1 hour. However, you can linger as long as you like before making the return journey to the base of Burj Khalifa. You'll be taking with you a fuller appreciation of this architectural wonder and a deeper understanding of Dubai's remarkable vision.



Kurmitola Golf Club Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka. Bangladesh

The history of Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) dates back to the mid-fifties. Shifting from its original location (presently Zia International Airport), it finally settled at the present site in the mid-sixties. Initially the layout of the course was done by a keen golfer and architect Mr. Pennink but newly laid course was redesigned and developed to its present challenging form by Dr. Sukitti Klangyhisai, Ph.D. Now Kurmitola Golf Club is an international golf club having linked with all renowned club of the world. An area of 126 acres well laid out for professional golf.

Club Facilities

TOURNAMENTS HELD IN KGC

Though golf is played throughout the year at the KGC, but the tournaments start from mid- November and continue up to June. Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship (BAGC) is the premier tournament of the club, participated by international golfers of the region. Most of the tournaments are sponsored by the business community and foreign embassies located in Dhaka. However few tournaments are sponsored and organized by KGC.

AIR-CONDITIONED SUITES

Four air-conditioned suites (having 2 rooms in each suite) are available for golfers willing to stay overnight.

BILLIARD ROOM

A wonderful billiard cottage having two billiard tables for all members to diversify their time. The billiard room is adjacent to club convenient for all. There are staff available to assist and help for any playing member.

CHANGING ROOM

A changing room with lockers is also available.

PRO SHOP

A pro shop of international standard owned and run by a Korean company is located adjacent to practice range. All items including all types of clubs are available in pro shop. Besides, they provide practice ball on payment for the golfers.

PARTY CENTER AND RESTAURANTS

The KGC club house has all types of catering facilities. There are restaurants and bar for all visitors. All types of drinks available in the restaurant. There are 3 party centers, one open yard in and around swimming pool, having capacity of 500 people, one on the 1st floor of the club having capacity of 300 people and one on the 1st floor of practice range having ca-

capacity of 150-200 people. If available any one can book for arranging wedding, birthday and other parties. Golf tournament dinner are regularly being held at party center. There are formalities and special instructions for arranging parties in golf club. The management helps all interested group to arrange parties in party center.

SWIMMING POOL

An international standard swimming pool having warm and cold water facilities are free for all members. Steam bath, sauna bath facilities are also available in the same complex. After golf any one will enjoy having such facilities and relax. The swimming complex also has shower room, locker facilities and change room completely separate for gents and ladies. Only monday of every week, swimming pool remains closed for maintenance. There are separate timing for ladies and gents. Any way gents timing also considered as



mix group time. Guests are allowed on payment.

HEALTH CLUB

One of the most modern health club always ready for all members. The health club has various types of automated and manual equipments. Guests are allowed on payment. Health club has opening time

at everyday 0900 hrs and closing time after dusk. It differs in summer / winter.

LAY OUT OF GOLF COURSE

The 18 holes golf course having par 72 is well laid out having 9 holes in front and 9 holes in back line. One of the most stunning landscapes with water bodies making



the environment soothing for golf lovers. There are refresher facilities available in between the holes where ever necessary.

DRIVING RANGE

One of the best driving range available for practice of golf. The driving range facilitate change room, locker facilities and support staff for smooth practicing. A team of professional golf instructor attend driving range and ready to coach for new golfers. Practice ball are available on payment for all type of member from pro shop. The practice range remains open except for 1st week monday and 3rd week monday of the month, when it remains closed for maintenance. Special training courses are also arranged for new golfers time to time.

Kurmitola Golf Club

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http://www.kgc-bd.com

16 poor countries shows climate change could deepen poverty

Urban workers could suffer most from climate change as the cost of food drives them into poverty, according to a study that quantifies the effects of climate on the world's poor populations. A team led by Purdue University researchers examined the potential economic influence of adverse climate events, such as heat waves, drought and heavy rains, on those in 16 developing countries. Urban workers in Bangladesh, Mexico and Zambia were found to be the most at risk.

"Extreme weather affects agricultural productivity and can raise the price of staple foods, such as grains, that are important to poor households in developing countries," said Noah Diffenbaugh, the associate professor of earth and atmospheric sciences and interim director of Purdue's Climate Change Research Center who co-lead the study. "Studies have shown global warming will likely increase the frequency and intensity of heat waves, drought and floods in many areas. It is important to understand which socioeconomic groups and countries could see changes in poverty rates in order to make informed policy decisions."

Thomas Hertel, a distinguished professor of agricultural economics and co-leader of the study, said that although urban workers only contribute modestly to total poverty rates in the sample countries, they are the most vulnerable group to changes in grains production.

"Food is a major expenditure for the poor and, while those who work in agriculture would have some benefit from higher grains prices, the urban poor would only get the negative effects," said Hertel, who also is executive director of Purdue's Cen-

ter for Global Trade Analysis. "This is an important finding given that the United Nations projects a continuing shift in population concentrations from rural to urban areas in virtually all of these developing countries."

With nearly 1 billion of the world's poor living on less than \$1 a day, extreme events can have a devastating impact, he said.

"Bangladesh, Mexico and Zambia showed the greatest percentage of the population entering poverty in the wake of extreme drought, with an additional 1.4 percent, 1.8 percent and 4.6 percent of their populations being impoverished by future climate extremes, respectively," Hertel said. "This translates to an additional 1.8 million people impoverished per country for Bangladesh and Mexico and an additional half million people in Zambia."

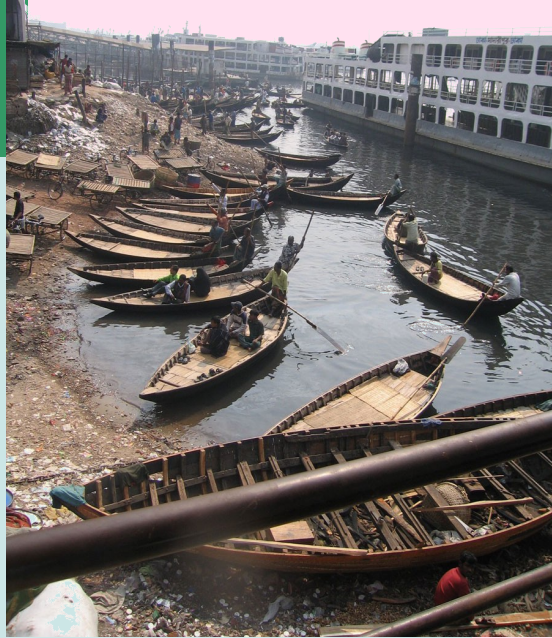
In addition to Diffenbaugh and Hertel, Syud Amer Ahmed, a recent Purdue graduate and a member of the development research group for The World Bank, co-authored the paper. The World Bank's Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development funded the research.

The team identified the maximum rainfall, drought and heat wave for the 30-year periods of 1971-2000 and 2071-2100 and then compared the maximums for the two time periods.

The global climate model experiments developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, were used for the future projections of extreme events. The team used an IPCC scenario that has greenhouse gas emissions continuing to follow the current trend, Diffenbaugh said.

"The occurrence and magnitude of what are currently the 30-year-maximum values for wet, dry and hot extremes are projected to substantially increase for much of the world," he said. "Heat waves and drought in the Mediterranean showed a potential 2700 percent and 800 percent increase in occurrence, respectively, and extreme rainfall in Southeast Asia was projected to potentially increase by 900 percent."

In addition, Southeast Asia showed a projected 40 percent increase in the magnitude of the worst rainfall; central Africa showed a projected 1000 percent increase in the magnitude of the worst heat wave; and the Mediterranean showed a



projected 60 percent increase in the worst drought.

A statistical analysis was used to determine grain productivity shocks that would correspond in magnitude to the climate extremes, and then the economic impact of the supply shock was determined. Future predicted extreme climate events were compared to historical agricultural productivity extremes in order to assess the likely impact on agricultural production, prices and wages. Because the projected changes in extreme rainfall and heat wave events were too large for the current model to accept, only the extreme drought events were incorporated into the economic projections, making the projected poverty impacts a conservative estimate, he said.

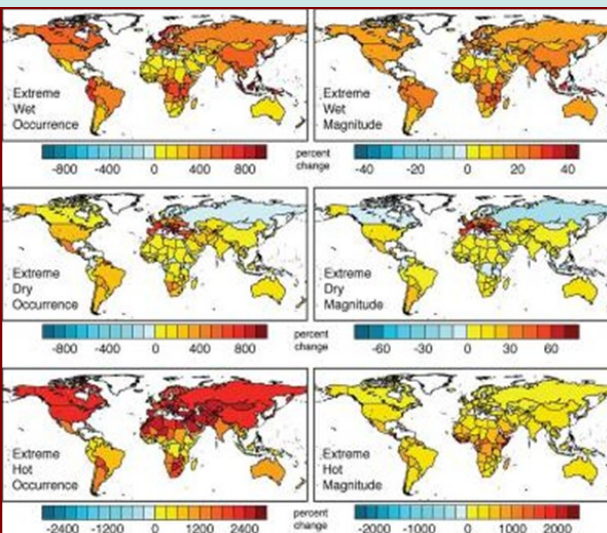
To assess the potential economic impact of a given change in wages and grains prices, the team used data from each country's household survey. The estimates of likely wage and price changes following an extreme climate event were obtained from a global trade model, called the Global Trade Analysis Project, or GTAP, which is maintained by Purdue's agricultural economics department.

Purdue's GTAP framework is supported by an international consortium of 27 national and international agencies and is used by a network of 6,500 researchers in 140 countries.

Large reductions in grains productivity due to extreme climate events are supported by historical data. In 1991 grains productivity in Malawi and Zambia declined by about 50 percent when southern Africa experienced a severe drought.

Diffenbaugh said this is an initial quantification of how poverty is tied to climate fluctuations, and the team is working to improve the modeling and analysis system in order to enable more comprehensive assessments of the link between climate volatility and poverty vulnerability.

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Sources: Noah Diffenbaugh, diffenbaugh@purdue.edu
Thomas Hertel, hertel@purdue.edu



These maps show projected changes in frequency and magnitude of climate extremes. A Purdue team found that the occurrence and magnitude of what are currently the 30-year-maximum values for wet, dry and hot extremes are projected to substantially increase for much of the world.

Credit: Diffenbaugh lab image

L'EQUO COMPENSO PENALIZZA L'INDUSTRIA ITALIANA DELL'IT

BUSINESS AND THE SYSTEM AS A WHOLE
 Milan, 15 January 2010 - "The ministerial decree published on 14 January by Mibac, bears a heavy damage to both industry innovation - especially information technology - both the business system as a whole. The data presented by the Association in 2009 showed a strong decrease of the Italian IT market, with decreases seen in this sector, especially in the sub-sector of hardware products. In early 2010, all we expected, unless a further penalty for the domestic industry of IT and its main clients, namely the Italian companies. The new taxes, in fact, goes even to the detriment of businesses and consumers as well, because relative to their personal computers for professional use and affects the growth of memory devices, going against the development of technology. Even 's eventual reimbursement by the SIAE of this Balzello on the material used by companies introduce a new bureaucracy which frankly do not feel the need. We did not expect this tax on 'innovation right now when you see the first tentative signs of recovery after the long crisis, on the contrary we should act with force on the lever of innovation for the development of the country "This is the tough stance of President of Assinform (the association Confindustria business computing), Paolo Angelucci, after the release of the measure revises the fees for private copying in Italy.

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E IL SISTEMA IMPRENDITORIALE NEL SUO COMPLESSO

"Il decreto ministeriale reso pubblico in data 14 gennaio dal Mibac, reca un danno gravissimo sia all'industria dell'innovazione - in particolare quella informatica - sia al sistema imprenditoriale nel suo complesso. I dati presentati dall'Associazione nel corso del 2009 hanno evidenziato una diminuzione forte del mercato IT italiano, con cali mai visti in questo comparto, specialmente nel sottosectore dei prodotti hardware. All'inizio del 2010 tutto ci attendevamo, meno che un'ulteriore penalizzazione per l'industria nazionale dell'IT e dei suoi clienti principali, cioè le aziende italiane. Il nuovo balzello, infatti, va a danno anche delle imprese oltre che dei consumatori, perché penalizza i personal computer anche per uso professionale e colpisce la crescita della capacità di memoria dei dispositivi, andando contro lo sviluppo della tecnologia. Anche l'eventuale rimborso da parte della SIAE di tale balzello sul materiale utilizzato dalle imprese introdurrebbe una nuova burocrazia di cui francamente non sentiamo il bisogno. Non ci aspettavamo questa **tassa sull'innovazione proprio ora** che si vedono i primi timidi segnali di ripresa dopo la lunga crisi; al contrario bisognerebbe agire con forza sulla leva dell'innovazione per lo sviluppo del paese" questa la dura presa di posizione del Presidente di Assinform (l'associazione di Confindustria delle imprese di informatica), Paolo Angelucci, dopo l'uscita del provvedimento che rivede i compensi per la copia privata in Italia.

BANGLADESH Nel 'Paese delle maree'. E del sorriso

Dagli antichi templi al Golfo del Bengala, fino alle popolazioni tribali



GIORGIA CHIATTORI
E' IL PAESE del sorriso. Basta fare finta in un villaggio e subito ci abbiamo intorno una folla curiosa, che ci guarda stupita. Si ferma un commovente, il guidatore estrae il cellulare, sorridendo ci fotografa. Fu un effetto curioso, essere dall'altra parte dell'obiettivo: qui gli 'strani' siamo noi. Certo non è un posto da turismo di massa, il Bangladesh, soprattutto nelle campagne, lascia la capitale Dhaka, ci accompagnano in treno merid-ovest, per Bogra,

Dhaka
NELLA CAPITALE, Dhaka, i 12 milioni di abitanti sembrano divisi da uno strato di sciancate verticali: quelli che stanno sopra, nel 'old-dhaka' (ovvero i difensori eleganti donne in saris con collana) e quelli che li trasportano e pedano, pedano, pedano. E' difficile e impressionante, gli ingegneri di 'old-dhaka' hanno dell'irresistibile, d'istinto è il mezzo di locomozione più diffuso, ce ne sono oltre 300mila. Tappe per il turista: il Palazzo Reale (Sheikh Mujibur Rahman), il Palazzo Bazar, la Casa Amara, il Maschio Stern, il Forte Labragh, il Tempio Dinkowar, il Palazzo dell'Assemblea Nazionale dalla sua moderna bellezza, che fu commissionato nel 1963 dal governo del Pakistan all'architetto americano Louis Kahn. È impressionante, la città vecchia e 'old-dhaka', il tempio del Buddha di Bargaon, a 100 km. Il tempio che tutti sanno qui, in modo per attirare il fiume su quei giacchi di roccia. È stato il leone nelle acque non proprio cristalline, mangiano, meditano, dormono. Poi, ancora una volta, ecco il contrasto fra chi trasportano in barca, con fiammiferi per ripulirsi dal sale, e i bagnanti che, appollaiati a piedi, in un certo modo, assistono con un po' di rimprovero, remano, remano...

passando il ponte sul fiume Jamuna, il nome locale del Brahmaputra. Il paesaggio è arcaico e dolcissimo. Basta sponchi d'acqua dove si pesca con la rete, campi dove si usa il trapianto di riso in mano perché il terreno è alluvionale e non esistono pietre. Se occorre ghiana, si frantumano i mattoni. Il primo impatto con il passato è a Pabna, importante sito archeologico con le rovine del Somapura Vihara, tempio buddista dell'VIII secolo d.C., in un'atmosfera di tranquilla solennità. Il viaggio prosegue per la città di Patha, dove gli antichi edifici hindu e quelli religiosi abitano dei ricchi proprietari terrieri) lottano con l'inguria del tempo e l'incursione degli uomini. Qui le raffinate forme di terracotta che li decorano e rievocano le gesta eroiche tra Radha e Krishna, forse tra qualche anno non ci saranno più. Tra i palazzi bruciano le ceneri, dalle scarpole spuntano donne sorridenti che ci vengono a guardare. Ci si ferma nei piccoli villaggi e subito si è al centro dell'attrazione. Due pesci e un po' di verdura fanno un mercato. La povertà è dignitosa, i tati colturali dalle donne la fanno dimenticare, si vive con pochi euro. Le banane vendono 'mimo' (polpetta) vegetariale che costano 5 centesimi e sono anche buone. Ormai abbiamo raggiunto una delle zone. Manda, nel

Il tempo si è fermato vicino alla Birmania

COME UNA VOLTA
 Da essere un paese un arco di terra di Patha, nei campi con fructo di legno, borchie sul fiume Buriganga e Dhaka; l'ombra di una foresta. Al centro, una donna di Patha in un villaggio di pescatori nel Delta del Bengala. Sono le mangrove di Sundarbans. Il tempo si è fermato vicino alla Birmania. Ci si arriva da Dhaka, proseguendo per Chittagong, città costiera dove si trova il maggior cantiere del mondo per il mantenimento manuale delle reti in stuoia. Uno degli indigeni dice che ci lavora dall'alba al tramonto porta a casa, quando va bene, due euro al giorno. Poi si prosegue per Sundarbans, la più importante zona tribale del Paese. Per raggiungere i villaggi ci si imbarca nelle giunche di bambù, bambù e tè, attorno al lago Kopai. Qui, in padella, vivono ancora Tigre, Morsa, e ibride, discendenti di minoranze etniche indiosciati qui prima dell'invasione araba. Con facilità si può andare nei villaggi. Sono 450 i villaggi, alcuni di fatto di avere uno scuola. Modesta, in un capanno, ma per sempre scuola. E' per il resto la vita è davvero primitiva, bambini servituti giocano tra rioscelli e folti. La casa è un tempio, stanza sopraelevata con un grando per le provviste e qualche stuoia. La popolazione ha tratti asiatici e hanno buona una bellezza da bambine. Un minimo arginato a forte di essere su questi isole dove nessuno scappa e scilla di loro e cotone (nella foto). I loro calzi rovinarono le nostre calze, promise nessuno.

Tra le mangrovie: quando e con chi
I VIAGGI DI MAURIZIO LEVI è il primo tour operator italiano ad avere un'attività esclusiva al turismo in Bangladesh. Il tour operator Maurizio Levi, direttore dell'ambasciata italiana a Dhaka e del presidente della Camera di Commercio Italia-Bangladesh a Chittagong, ha il recente concluso un contratto di esclusiva per l'Italia e di rappresentanza per l'Europa con il maggior tour operator locale. The Bengal Tours Ltd (suo sono i botoli per navigare nel Sundarbans). On 17 maggio di Maurizio Levi (tel. 02-49495250, www.oriental-italia.com) propone 15 giorni in Bangladesh, (Dhaka, Paharpur, Bogra, Patha, Mongla, due giorni nel parco di Sundarbans, Rajshahi, Jessore, Chittagong, Bandarban, Comilla, Dhaka e ritorno via Abu Dhabi). Partenze mensili di gruppo fino a marzo 2009 con guida italiana, a individuale settimanale (guida inglese), quote da 2.500 euro in poi, pensione completa (a volte con fruttiferi) e volo con Air India. Le guide, comprese di bandolieri degli Emirati Arabi che offre un'eccezionale servizio su nella splendida business che nella confortevole "scooter". Dal 2 febbraio al 2 marzo c'è anche la possibilità di effettuare il viaggio con carta di fotografia tenuto da Angelo Tardito (www.angeltardito.com).

CRUISERS IN BANGLADESH

The Sundarbans Forest (world's largest mangrove forest) being a unique spot for retreat not only in Bangladesh, but also in the world. It can be reached by waterways only. To conduct a comfortable, safe and enjoyable trip to the Sundarbans forest, **THE BENGAL TOURS LTD.** have our own Cruising Vessel, **M. V. DINGHY & M. V. BHELA**. Each has 46 & 26-sleeping accommodation respectively. During the tourist season from October to March, we have a trip every week for the Sundarbans forest. Visit > <http://www.bengaltours.com/flash/ourcruiser.html>



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Indian Classical Dance



Dance and music are an integral part of Indian life. The body is used most beautifully as a medium of communication to express the various moods and emotions most effectively. The Natya Shastra, written by Bharatha between second century BC and second century AD, is the source of all forms of Indian classical dance. It is regarded as the fifth Veda.

Brahma, the supreme Creator, is believed to have created Natya by taking literature from the Rig Veda, songs from Sam Veda, abhinaya or expression from Yajur Veda and rasa or aesthetic experience from Atharva Veda. It speaks in great detail of the different kinds of postures, facial expressions, mudra or hand expressions, and the attire and ornaments to be used. All dance forms are structured around the nine rasa or emotions. They are hasya (happiness), shoka (sorrow), krodha (anger), bhikaruna (compassion), bhi-



basta (disgust), adhbhuta (wonder) bhaya (fear), viram (courage) and shanta (serenity). All dance forms follow the same hand movements, with variation creeping in due to local demands. The uniqueness of Indian classical dances is that they are all devotional in content. In fact Bharata Natyam was till the early 20th century, only performed by 'devadasis' or maids of God, in temples.

Folk dances have gained more popularity, as they are easier to understand and perform. They do not require the skill and expertise of a classical dance performer. They are performed by the rural folk and are extremely enjoyable. Almost every village has its folk dances. These are performed on festivals, ceremonies etc. All night dance dramas are popular throughout India and mark all major festivals.

Bharatha Natyam

This dance is the oldest of the classical dance forms, and its origins can be traced to Bharatha's Natya Shastra. It is a highly traditional and stylized dance form. Strict about the techniques used in performing it disallows any kind of innovations except in the repertoire and forms of presentation. It developed in South India, in its present form, two hundred years ago. The musicians of the Tanjore court of the 18th to 19th centuries lent the thematic and musical content to the dance. It is essentially a solo dance and has close affinities with the traditional dance-drama form called Bhagvat Mela performed only by men, and folk operettas called Kuruvanji performed only by women. Its sophistication and stylization make it a unique form of art-dance.

Bharatanatyam, according to Balasaraswati, is a variety of natya yoga that reveals the spiritual through the physical and emotional body. The term "Bharatanatyam" was used by Purandara Dasa (1484-1564). Later, Ghanam Krishnayyar's songs describe a devadasi as an expert at Bharata natyam. Subramania Bharathi also



Kathak

Kathak originated from northern India. This dance form traces its origins to the nomadic bards of ancient northern India, known as Kathaks, or story tellers. These bards, performing in village squares and temple courtyards, mostly specialized in recounting mythological and moral tales from the scriptures, and embellished their recitals with hand gestures and facial expressions. It was quintessential theatre, using instrumental and vocal music along with stylized gestures, to enliven the stories. A band of storytellers, attached to temples in Northern India, narrated stories from epics. The popularity of the Radha-Krishna legend, led to further innovations in the dance form. With the advent of the Muslim rule, it was brought out of the temples and into the courts of the rulers. Since then it has been commonly identified with the court traditions of the later Nawabs of northern India. It is really an amalgam of several folk traditions, the traditional dance drama forms prevalent in the temples of Mathura and Vrindavan known as Krishna and Radha lila. Jaipur, Benaras and Lucknow became the main centers of the dance. While Banaras maintained the purity of the dance, Jaipur gave emphasis to rhythm, and Lucknow introduced erotic steps. The Kathak dance goes through a regular format mostly concentrating on rhythm; its variation being-Tatkar, Paltas, Thoras, Amad and Parans.

Kathakali

It is one of the most refined and most scientific dance forms of Kerala. It is not more than 300 years old in its present form. This art demands complete control over practically every fibre of the body. Kathakali draws heavily from drama and is danced with elaborate masks and costumes. The stories for attakathas, the verse text for Kathakali piece are selected from epics and mythologies and are written in a highly Sanskritised verse form in



Malayalam. The actor expresses himself through highly complicated mudras, closely following the text being sung. The splendour of the costumes, ornament and especially the facial make-up are absolutely striking. Kathakali has its origins in the courts of the kings of Kerala. It is a highly classical dance form. **Kathakali** is a highly stylised classical Indian dance-drama noted for its attractive make-up of characters, their elaborate costumes, detailed gestures and well-defined body movements presented in tune with the anchor playback music and complementary percussion. It originated in the country's southern state of Kerala during the 16th century AD, approximately between 1555 and 1605, and has been updated over the years with improved looks, refined gestures and added themes besides more ornate singing and precise drumming.

Kuchipudi

This dance drama of Andhra Pradesh is the corresponding style of the Bhagvata Mela Nataka of Tamil Nadu. Kuchelapuram in Andhra Pradesh is the birthplace of this dance. Except that the emphasis is on the animation, the grammar is derived from the Natya Shastra. Each principal character in Kuchipudi dance introduces himself or herself on the stage with a brief composition of dance and song, specially designed for the character to help reveal

Indian Classical Dance

his or her identity and show the performers skill in the art. These compositions are called dharu, and there are nearly 80 dharus or dance sequences in the dance drama. The most popular dance is the pot dance, where the dancer keeps a pot on her head and her feet on the rims of a steel plate. She moves on the stage manipulating the brass plate without spilling a drop of water on the ground. The music in Kuchipudi is classical Karnatic. The mridanga, violin and a clarinet are the common instruments employed as accompaniment. Manipuri, is the dance form of Manipur and is inextricably woven into the life of the people of the state. The dance form is mostly ritualistic, and has still preserved the dance drama technique, which draws heavily from the rich lore of the legend and mythology. Although many forms of ritual, magical, community and religious dances were known to Manipur before the advent of Vaishnava faith in the 18th century, the dances known as the rasa dances evolved only as a result of the interaction of the Vaishnava cult and several highly developed forms of ritual and religious dances which were prevalent in the area. The costumes used in this dance are colorful and bright, and the music is slow and rhythmic. The numbers presented are Lai Haraoba and Rasa Leela. The former deals with the creation of the world and the latter deals with the intimacy between Krishna and his consort-Radha. A large variety of intricate rhythmic patterns are played on the drums and cymbals.

Mohiniyattam

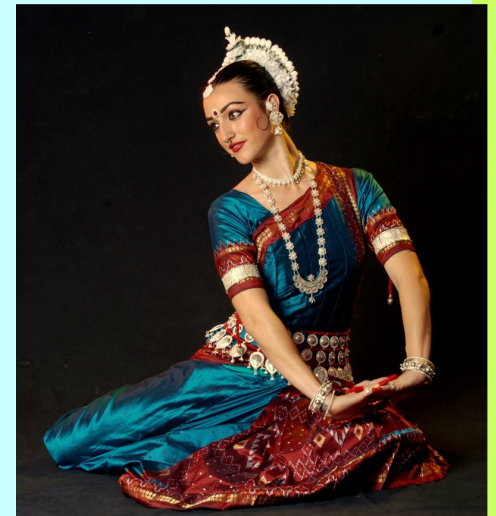
Mohiniyattam is a traditional South Indian dance form Kerala, India. It is a very graceful dance meant to be performed as a solo recital by women. The term Mohiniyattam comes from the words "Mohini" meaning a woman who enchants onlookers and "aattam" meaning graceful and sensuous body movements. The word "Mohiniyattam" literally means "dance of the enchantress". This dance form too belongs to the Devadasi dance heritage, like Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Odissi. Thus, it thought that Vaishnava devotees gave the name 'Mohiniyattam' to this dance form. It is similar to Bharatanatyam, and its movements are graceful like Odissi and the costumes are attractive and sober. It is essentially a solo dance. The first reference of solo dance is found in the 'Vyavaharamala', composed in the 16th Century. The dance is very popular in Kerala.

Odissi

This is also based on the Natya Sashtra and it can be traced back to 2nd Century BC., when the Jain king Shashtra ruled. Himself an expert dancer and musician, he arranged a performance of Thandava and Abhinaya. In the 17th Century, a class



of boys known as the Gotipuas came into being. They dressed as women and danced in the temples. The present Odissi as a solo form, evolved out of all these. It has been revived during the last two decades. Its technique is built round a basic motif in which the human bodies takes the thrice deflected (tribhanga) position of Indian sculpture. The repertoire comprises numbers, which are built on pure dance design recalling sculptural poses of Temples of Orissa. The dances are performed to poetry ranging from invocations to Ganesha to the verses of the Gita Govinda. Oriya poetry is equally popular. The dancer has scope to improve within the beats and the melodic line framework in the dance patterns and the freedom to interpret the poetic line in a variety of



ways to evoke a single mood. **Odissi** is one of the classical dance forms of India. originates from the state of Orissa, in eastern India. The classic treatise of Indian

dance, Natya Shastra, refers to it as Odra-Magadhi. It is particularly distinguished from other classical Indian dance forms by the importance it places upon the tribhanga (literally: three parts break), the independent movement of head, chest and pelvis, and upon the basic square stance known as chauka.

Yaksha Gana

This belongs to Karnataka and has a rural origin. It is a blend of dance and drama. Its heart lies in 'Gana' meaning music. It is about 400 years old. The language is Kannada and the themes are based on Hindu epics. The costumes are almost akin to the Kathakali dance costumes and the style too seems to have drawn inspiration from it. As prescribed in the Natya Shastra, it has the Sutra Dhara (conductor) and the Vidhushaka (the jester).

Manipuri

Manipuri dance is one of the major Indian classical dance forms. It originates from Manipur, a state in north-eastern India on the border with Myanmar (also known as Burma). The traditional Manipuri dance style embodies delicate, lyrical and grace-



ful movements. The feet move is viewed as part of a composite movement of the whole body. The dancer's feet are neither put down nor lifted up at the precise rhythmic points of the music but rather slightly earlier or later to express the same rhythmic points most effectively.

Sattriya

Sattriya the core of Sattriya Nritya has usually been mythological stories. This was an artistic way of presenting mythological teachings to the people in an accessible, immediate, and enjoyable manner. Traditionally, Sattriya was performed only by bhokots (male monks) in monasteries as a part of their daily rituals or to mark special festivals. Today, in addition to this practice, Sattriya is also performed on stage by men and women who are not members of the sattras, on themes not





Bangladesh strangled by Indians



form the government, the Pakistan president under Yahya Khan refused to recognize the election results and arrested Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This led to widespread protests in East Pakistan and in 1971, the Liberation War, followed by the declaration (by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 7 March 1971) of the independent state of Bangladesh. India under Indira Gandhi fully supported the cause of the Bangladeshis language movement targeting the separation of Pakistan's eastern and western zone, and its troops and equipment were used to fight the Pakistani forces. The Indian Army also gave full support to the main Bangladeshi guerrilla force, the Mukti Bahini. Finally, on 26 March 1971, Bangladesh emerged as an independent state. Since then, there have been several issues of agreement as well as of dispute.

Both Bangladesh and India are part of what is known as the Indian subcontinent and have had a long common cultural, economic and political history. The cultures of the two countries are similar; in particular Bangladesh and India's states West Bengal and Tripura are all Bengali-speaking. Emergence of Bangladesh is strangled by both the Bangali speaking peoples of India and Bangladesh. However, since the partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947, India emerged as an independent state and Bangladesh (as East Bengal, later renamed to East Pakistan in 1956) was allocated as a part of Pakistan. Following the bloody Liberation War of 1971, Bangladesh gained its independence and established relations with India. The political relationship between India and Bangladesh has passed through cycles of hiccups. The relationship typically becomes favorable for Bangladesh during periods of Awami League government. When the main separatist party the Awami

It surrounded on three sides by a rising economic power, Bangladesh has long hoped for closer economic integration



League, headed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won 167 of 169 seats up for grabs in the 1970 elections and got the right to

with its neighbour. A major area of contention has been the construction and operation of the Farakka Barrage by India to increase water supply in the river Hoogly. Bangladesh insists that it does not receive a fair share of the Ganga waters during the drier seasons, and gets flooded during the monsoons when India releases excess waters.

Terrorist activities carried out by outfits based in both countries, like Banga Sena and Harakat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami. Recently India and Bangladesh had agreed to jointly fight ter-

rorism. Bangladesh arrested and handed over to India Arabinanda Rajkhowa, the chairman of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), a militant group fighting for an independent homeland for ethnic Assamese in India's north-east state of Assam. In the past two decades at least 10,000 people have died in the insurgency. Bangladesh had already handed over a number of other ULFA leaders in November.

For India the arrests are a big step towards defeating ULFA, which it has long accused of waging a proxy war in its north-eastern states on behalf of Bangladesh's intelligence services and border operators. Officials on both sides are confident that it will yield agreements on security co-operation, on Bangladesh's purchase of electricity from India and on the creation—virtually from scratch—of transport links across a common 4,100km (2,500-mile) border, the world's fifth-longest. Economic statistics

Nationalist Party (BNP), whose "Look East" policy is now being overturned, is in a mess. The other big political force, the army, is back in the barracks after its intervention and abortive interregnum in 2007-08. Indian Bharti group, proposing \$1 billion to build its telecom network and Meru Cabs along with Tatas planning a trans-



port service with 20,000 radio cabs. The business-to-business partnership came against the backdrop of the Indian government announcing a \$1-billion credit to Bangladesh, the highest to any country by it, aimed at developing infrastructure such as railway bridges and supplying locomotives. Visa- and tariff-related issues figured among the biggest impediments.

India, being the biggest country in South Asia, has a great responsibility towards its small neighbours like Bangladesh or Nepal, and should be reasonably considerate in dealing with them. If there is a sense of purpose, issues like border disputes, migration, trade imbalances, and so on, could easily be solved through normal dialogues. In short, India has to take the small neighbours into confidence and ensure their security and territorial integrity without interfering in their internal affairs. The smaller countries of the region like Bangladesh have, of course, to take on reciprocal responsibilities and must not allow any subversive activities against Indian Bangali speakers.

believe the two countries' shared history and geography. Bangladesh's biggest trading partner is China. India is not even in the top ten of foreign investors in Bangladesh.

The biggest difficulty for the Awami League may be to explain its new policy of engaging India to voters, in a country with a strong tradition of anti-Indian sentiment. But like India's ruling Congress party, with which it has long-standing friendly ties, the League has a thumping majority and four years until an election.

The opposition Bangladesh

THE STUDENTS WILL BE TRAINED TO FACE THE WORLD

Architecture of Asian University for Women

Located on a stunning campus of 100-plus acres in Chittagong, Asian University for Women (AUW) will begin offering an international quality education for women from all cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds across South and South East Asia next March.

Moshe Safdie and Associates:

The Asian University for Women (AUW) is being established as a leading institution of higher learning for women from across Asia: designed by renowned architect Moshe Safdie, and is being constructed on land donated by the Government of Bangladesh. The future campus of the Asian University for Women can be likened to a microcosm of a village or a small town. Given its relative isolation from the dense urban fabric of Chittagong, it must possess a certain element of self-sufficiency. It accommodates, in addition to the facilities for academic instruction, residences for both students and faculty, together with a wide range of social and cultural facilities that must serve the community – classrooms, lecture halls and libraries are complemented by performing arts and sports facilities, convenience shops and the range of places for social interaction.

In 2007, AUWSF began developing the slate of the University's founding Board of Trustees, drawing from the region's leaders in business, academic, and non-governmental sectors. A number of prominent personalities have agreed to be nominated, including: Mr. Fazle Abed, Chairman of BRAC; Madame Lone Dybkjaer, Former Minister of Environment of Denmark; Ms. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairman of Biocon, Ltd.; and Mr. Ratan Tata, Chairman of the Tata Group. The Foundation has adopted strict transparency policies as part of its partnership with BRAC, the leading and most highly reputable NGO in the region. It has also engaged Transparency International—the global watchdog on corruption—as an independent monitor. The creation of the Asian University for Women is therefore anticipated to serve as an exemplary regional model for integrity, accountability, and transparency. The residential facilities follow the natural contour lines atop the ridges, reinforcing the natural topography and creating an edge to the campus. Linking the two levels, in addition to pathways and driveways, would be a series of circulation towers that con-



veniently connect the upper and lower campuses, 40 meters apart, at each of the common residential facilities. Water, shade and the integration of plant life in the architecture; common themes in the architecture of the region should form the framework for the syntax of the architecture. Above all, the design must facilitate and encourage interaction between students, faculty and the surrounding community.

The design must emerge out of considerations of the character of the site, its particular climate, the cultural heritage of the region and the available resources and technology for construction. The unique site is shaped by a series of valleys and ridges with a fragile flora susceptible to damage by erosion. The form of the site provides a strong determinant for the design. A sequence of continuous courtyards and water basins in the valley act as the principal organizing device for academic structures. The residential facilities follow the contour lines atop the ridges,

reinforcing the natural topography and creating an edge to the campus.

The design must also respond to the climate – the intense heat of certain seasons and the driving monsoons. Academic buildings should not be concentrated in singular mega-buildings, as one might consider in the west, but rather should be in clusters of limited height (four stories), woven together by a connected network of arcades – protected from the sun and the rain, but open to the elements. Water, shade, and the integration of plant life in the architecture are common themes in the architecture of the region and should form the framework for the architecture. Above all, the design must facilitate and encourage interaction between students, faculty, administration and visitors. The focal points for this interaction are the central “greenway” and the linked courtyards and terraces, urban living rooms where a variety of facilities attract everyone to a place conducive in its character to the making of “community.”

Medicinal Herbs cultivation in Bangladesh

What Is Medicinal Plant?

“A medicinal plant is any plant which, in one or more of its organ, contains substance that can be used for therapeutic purpose or which is a precursor for synthesis of useful drugs.” (Sofowora, 1982, Medicinal Plant and Traditional Medicine in Africa)...This definition of Medicinal Plant has been formulated by WHO (World Health Organization).

The plants that possess therapeutic properties or exert beneficial pharmacological effects on the animal body are generally designated as “Medicinal Plants”...Although there are no apparent morphological characteristics in the medicinal plants growing with them, yet they possess some special qualities or virtues that make them medicinally important...It has now been established that the plants which naturally synthesis and accumulate some secondary metabolites, like alkaloids, glycosides, tannins, volatiles oils and contain minerals and vitamins, possess medicinal properties...

Medicinal plants constitute an important natural wealth of a country...They play a significant role in providing primary health care services to rural people...They serve as therapeutic agents as well as important raw materials for the manufacture of traditional and modern medicine. Substantial amount of foreign exchange can be earned by exporting medicinal plants to other countries. In this way indigenous medicinal plants play significant role of an economy of a country.

It is significant that in Bangladesh of over 150 million people, only about 20 per cent of this number in Bangladesh are in the habit of visiting allopathic doctors for treatment. Major parts of the rest in the population opt for herbal treatment of which the 'unanni' and 'ayurvedic' systems are the favorites. Of course, the homeopathic treatment is also a favorite in Bangladesh and this system also depends a great deal on medicines derived from medicinal plants and herbs. Meanwhile, the Chinese herbal system of treatment is fast gaining ground among some sections of global people. Cost is a factor why so many people in the country are habituated to these alternative low-cost relative safety systems with no side-effects on patients.

Contrary to popular belief that the 'unani' and 'ayurvedic' systems have not been scientifically developed such as testing out the properties of their medicines for side-effects, are producing and marketing products well tested for side-effects or other unwanted consequences.

The herbal systems of medicines should be allowed to do so only in properly organized campuses. The government and banks should extend funds and other forms of support to them for research and for maintaining and developing a streamlined and scientific set-up to study these forms of medicines as is done under the mainstream allopathic one.

The growing of medicinal plants and herbs can be also lucrative business. Bangladesh presently spends about Taka 500 million for the import of herbs or herbal extracts to make medicines from the same. This is regrettable as the entire amount can be saved if planting of medicinal plants and herbs are popularized here. Not only that, there are immense prospects for exporting medicinal plants,

herbs and herbal extracts from Bangladesh, provided the planting of the medicinal plants and herbs, processing them, preserving them and standardizing them for export, can all be developed in a proper manner.

One study found out that there is very good opportunity for planting medicinal plants and herbs in the fallow lands of the tea estates, on hill sides at Chittagong, Nator and Sylhet. Even farmers can profitably do such planting in small strips of lands in their homesteads in the rural areas everywhere in the country. The cultivation of such medicinal herbs and plants can be a source of employment and income at the grass roots level while also earning substantial foreign currencies for the country.

The annual average size of the export market for herbal products as raw materials is now estimated at some \$62 billion and this is likely to expand further in the years ahead. If appropriate incentives are given, businesses in Bangladesh can take up the growing of medicinal plants and herbs enthusiastically. Bangladesh actively engaged into the supply of Medicinal Herbs. The purest quality Medicinal Herbs can export to many esteemed foreign companies.

Bangladesh Medicinal Herb herbaceous plants that possess medicinal and therapeutic properties or exert beneficial pharmacological effects on the animal and human body. However, the scope of this



term is not limited to the herbaceous plants only. Medicinal herbs possess some special qualities or virtues that make them medicinally important due to the presence of some secondary metabolites like alkaloids, glycosides, tannins, volatile oils, minerals and vitamins in their cells and tissues.

In a broader sense, medicinal herbs also include those plants or plant parts that are used for medicinal purposes in galenic preparations (such as infusion, decoctions, tinctures, etc) either by modern or traditional systems of medicine, for extraction of pure substances either for direct medicinal use or for the synthesis of medicinal compounds (such as the plants which yield diosgenin, used for the synthesis of the sex hormones). They also include some food, spice and perfumery



Medicinal Herbs cultivation in Bangladesh cont.

plants that are used medicinally in either modern or traditional systems of medicine.

Although the medicinal herbs possess some special virtues, they are not of any different appearance or grow in any particular area or habitat. In fact, they look like all other normal plants and grow in the same ENVIRONMENT and remain naturally distributed in all vegetation and in all areas. For instance, out of a large number of plants growing side by side in a common habitat only one or two may possess medicinal properties. But possession of such properties does not bring about any change in their general morphology.

Still they are special and different from their neighbours as they possess one or more medicinal properties.

The number of medicinal herbs included in the Materia Medica of traditional medicine in this subcontinent at present stands at about 2000. About 450 to 500 of such medicinal herbs have so far been enlisted as growing or available in Bangladesh. Herbal medicine is widely used in Bangladesh in traditional healthcare system such as Ayurvedic, Unani, Hekimi and other form of folk treatments.

[Source: Abdul Ghani]



Healing Plant from Nature

Here in Kholabaria Union, a man by the name of Afaz Uddin has changed the lives of people in the neighboring villages of the region. He is busy planting maybe a Shotomuli or a Ghratokanchon. He loves being a good samaritan, and distributes Lau-chondal or Tejbol seeds to village dwellers.

His ancestral land of 17 acres has become his kingdom of medicinal plants and herbs. Around six to seven thousand people have found employment because of the work done. Through collective effort, Laxmipur-Kholabaria medicine market has been established, where people sell Shotomuli, Tejbol, Daudmuni, Krishnotulshi, Ghratokanchon and many other types of plant leaves, vines and roots. People are not only selling it raw, but have also learnt to make a powdered form by drying the raw material.

People living in Dorbarpur, Khamarpara, Ibrahimpur, Dottopara, Toltoliapara, Borobaria, Shibtoala, Nishinogor, Atghoria, Hatagobinpur and other areas all have a great. He has built a field of Ghratokanchons on 25 acres of land. He has planted Falgunis. He supplies his self-grown herbs and vines to Shahi Unani Pharmaceuticals in Rajshahi; and also supplies raw materials to "Aronnya Herbal Products." Not all people in the region have started to trade commercially, but once a factory is established in the area, no one's effort will go to waste. Eventually the whole country can be benefited.

"Kholabaria Bshoj Udpadon Shomobay Shomiti" was established on a 20-bigha piece of land; 22 different types of medicinal plants are being grown here, amongst which are Nishchina, Boshak, Hostikorno Polash, Michridana, Kalomegh, and Shotomuli. Eighty nature-lovers have invested in this. At the moment, a few of the materials are being powered using tools from granaries and grain mills, but the products cannot be marketed in such a crude and uneven form. Afaz Pagla wishes for electricity and a paved road so that he can get 'Solar Dry' technology and market the products in a presentable form. In his enormous portfolio of medicinal plant and herb plantation, he has almost a hundred species which includes the ones already mentioned and Anontomul, Doshmul, Gaitamul, Lauchonjal, Gach Chonchol, Shorpo Gondha, Dhutra, Shimulmul, Thankuni,

and many other types of medicinal plants and herbs. Around six to seven thousand people have found employment because of the work done. Through collective effort, Laxmipur-Kholabaria medicine market has been established, where people sell Shotomuli, Tejbol, Daudmuni, Krishnotulshi, Ghratokanchon and many other types of plant leaves, vines and roots. People are not only selling it raw, but have also learnt to make a powdered form by drying the raw material.

Kalokeshi, Rajkontok, Talok Mul, Alkuchi etc. Nine kilometers from Kholabaria Union, a Tree Fair is organized yearly and is centered around Afaz Pagla. It is held on the 21st of Falgun.

Ayurvedic medicine originated in the Indian sub continent thousands of years ago. The first documented texts of Ayurveda are approximately 2,000 years old with evidence of a substantial oral tradition, which preceded the written texts. Ayurvedic Medicine continues to be the main system of health care in Bangladesh along with modern Western Medicine. Variations of the Ayurvedic tradition are also practiced in Pakistan, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, and Tibet.

In Ayurvedic Medicine, there are numerous herbs which have been used historically for treating a large variety of ailments. There is not such a sharp distinction between food and medicine in Ayurveda and many herbs are taken daily as part of your meals. Many of the more common Ayurvedic Herbs have received increased popularity here in the West as their successful use for centuries in Asia has given way to scientific testing proving their healing potential for people worldwide. He is offering a variety of Ayurvedic Medicinal Herb Plants this season. Some are truly tropical and require greenhouse conditions while others can handle a slight freeze. As demand for these herbs increases, they are being over harvested in their native habitats on the Indian subcontinent and the quality of the herbs harvested fresh from your own garden will far surpass something imported from across the globe.



Herb Plants in Bangladesh

- Ashwaghandha
- Brahmi
- Chinaberry Tree
- Coleus Forskohli
- Datura (Hindu)
- Ginger
- Gotu Kola
- Henna
- Holy Basil (Tulsi)
- Kankari
- Lemon Grass
- Lemon Verbena
- Turmeric
- Biskatali
- Polygomum
- lanatum
- Basak
- Adhatoda vasica
- Kurchi
- Holarrhena
- antidysenterica
- Neel Nishinda
- Vitex trifolia

E-reader boom - variety of new options



It features the largest and highest-resolution electronic-paper display yet unveiled in a consumer device, at 11.5" in size (measured diagonally) and a resolution of 1200 x 1600 pixels (UXGA). Skiff has signed a multi-year agreement with Sprint (NYSE:S) to provide 3G connectivity for Skiff's dedicated e-reading devices. Innovations include:

- * Largest e-paper display > More viewing area for a richer reading experience.
- * Thinnest e-reading device > Remarkably sleek. Easy to hold, use and carry.

- * Most durable e-reader > First-of-its-kind metal-foil display (eliminating the fragility of glass). Magnesium housing. An incredibly sturdy device.
- * Highest display resolution > Four times as many pixels as most e-book readers, for more immersive reading.
- * Full touch screen > For intuitive content selection and navigation. Instant page

turns with the swipe of a finger.

- * Extraordinary battery life > Read for a week between charges.

Amazon has introduced Kindle DX with Global Wireless – a new version of the 9.7-inch wireless reading device now with the convenience of wireless content delivery in over 100 countries. The new Kindle DX with Global Wireless has a large 9.7-inch electronic paper display, auto-rotate capability and storage for up to 3,500 books. Kindle DX with Global Wireless is available for pre-order starting for \$489 at www.amazon.com/

But that could be about to change. A cascade of e-readers will hit the market this year, taking the devices far beyond gray-scale screens with features like touch navigation and video chatting – and probably lowering prices, too.

It's happening as other gadgets, such as mobile phones and tablet computers, give people even more choices for diving into their favorite books. Perhaps the only downside is worrying you might buy an e-reader from a company that won't stick around.

Nearly two dozen companies that make the devices or deliver reading material to them are showing products at the International Consumer Electronics Show, the first time it has devoted a section to e-books.

E-books make up a tiny portion of book sales, but their popularity is growing rapidly.

E-readers from Sony and other companies were around before Amazon released the Kindle in 2007, but the Kindle was the first to offer wireless downloading of books, making impulse buys easier. Since the Kindle debuted at \$399, Amazon has lowered the price to \$259 and lured buyers with inexpensive material, such as new releases of books for about \$10 each. On Christmas Day, Amazon sold more e-books than physical copies for the first time.

To keep up, Barnes & Noble has come out with its \$259 Nook, and Sony Corp. has stayed in the game with its Readers, with an entry-level model at \$200. Each offers hundreds of thousands of titles, with relatively few exclusives publishers have shown little interest in favoring one device

over another.

Now other companies are getting in the game. Samsung Electronics Co., the leading maker of phones and TVs in the U.S., will launch an e-reader this year, too.

Interead Ltd. already sells a \$249 device called the COOL-ER and has two new models at the trade show: a smaller, lighter version called the Compact and a touch-screen model called the Connect that can download books from Interead's online store if the user is in a Wi-Fi hot spot. Interead plans to launch both in the first quarter. It also plans to roll out a model with access to a "3G" cellular network, for use outside Wi-Fi locations, by summer.

EnTourage Systems Inc. is showing off a \$490 e-reader at the trade show that has two screens – a 10.1-inch color touch-screen on the right and a 9.7-inch black-and-white display on the left. That screen is controlled with a stylus.

Like the Nook, enTourage's device, called the eDGe, will run Google Inc.'s Android operating software, so you can use the color screen to browse the Web and watch videos. There will even be a small camera for video chats.

Customers will be able to buy books from enTourage's e-store over Wi-Fi, and the company expects to release a version with service through a wireless carrier. The eDGe is expected to ship to customers in February. The price is twice what the smaller version of the Kindle costs. But Doug Atkinson,

enTourage's vice president of marketing and business development, believes people will gravitate to his company's device because it combines Web browsing and book reading.

Success in this market might require more than selling a specific gadget, though. Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Sony, for example, also sell electronic books for people to read on other devices, such as the iPhone.

That gives those companies a way to profit if the most popular reading device turns out to be, say, a tablet-style computer like the one Apple is expected to launch this year.

Another company hedging its bets this way is Skiff LLC, an e-reading company developed by media conglomerate Hearst Corp. that hopes to funnel content to devices from various producers.

Skiff is focused on trying to make newspapers and magazines look good on e-readers – which is difficult because they

have more complex layouts than the single column of text we're used to seeing on the pages of a book. Skiff also plans to include ads. The first Skiff product, the Skiff Reader, will have an 11.5-inch, gray-scale touch screen that can download material from Skiff's online store. The company is partnering with Spring Nextel Corp. for wireless delivery. It's expected to be available this year, though Skiff has not announced a price or named the device's manufacturer.

