Film show

Zahir Raihan Film Society in collaboration with the Alliance Francaise, will screen 'Van Gogh' (1991), a film on the famous Dutch Impressionist Painter, made by Maurice Pialat. Venue: Alliance Française auditorium. Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

Movie show Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Great Escape'. Venue: 21/C,

Jigatola, Time: 6.30pm.

Classical music Alliance Francaise organises an evening of Indian classical music to be performed by Gautam Bhattacharya. Venue: La galerie of Alliance Francaise,

Dhanmondi. Time: 7.00pm.

Photography exhibition The inaugural ceremony of the photography exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Pinhole Photographers Alliance on the occasion of the Worldwide Pinhole Photography Dav. will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Photo Journalist Association gallery. Time: 4.00pm. The exhibition will remain open from 10.00am to 7.00pm daily till

April 29. Workhop

ARISE organises a workshop on 'Networking of organisations working for the street children' with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed as chief guest. Venue: Auditorium of the Department of Social Service Agargaon Time: 10.00am

Bangladesh Science Writers and Journalists Forum will accord a reception to its founder-member Nazim Uddin Mostan. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm. **Get-together**

Reception

Ceramics will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 6.30pm Meeting

The annual dealer get-together of RAK

Bangladesh Institute of International

and Strategic Studies (BIISS)

organises a seminar on 'Law and

National Security of Bangladesh' with

Law. Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest.

Venue: BIISS auditorium, Elephant

Distribution ceremony

The distribution ceremony of May Day

Medal, organised by Bangladesh

Institute of Labour Studies, will be held

with Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman

as chief guest. Venue: BCIC

auditorium, Motijheel. Time: 4.00pm.

Road, Time: 10.00am.

An urgent meeting of Dhaka City Awami League will be held. Venue: 23.

Rangamati

Thursday

a room and raped her.

has failed to arrest him.

unit, has taken the case.

cooperate with the law".

call off strike

erday, sources said.

stay in the halls, he added.

College (RMC).

BSS, Rangpu

RMCH internes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

 $are a \, on \, Thursday, police \, sources \, said.$

stationary at around 12:00pm on

Aziz, an orderly of Aleef Boarding,

Some tribal youths rescued her at

A case accusing Aziz was filed with the

Meanwhile, committee to resist

"Probe has already begun", said

Owner of Aleef Boarding, who is also

Awami League Rangamati town unit

president, Solaiman told The Daily Star,

"If the incident proves to be true, I will

All 170 interne doctors of Rangpur Medical

College Hospital (RMCH) withdrew their five-

day strike and resumed duties from 2:00pm

of Rangpur Dr. Murad Hossain told BSS that

the withdrawal followed assurances from

authorities of fulfilling their five-point

Pinnu and Mukta hostels are now allowed to

authorities held a joint meeting Saturday night

the internes in RMCH since April 22.

Days of state

party workers

are over to entertain party activists

He was speaking at a discussion

He said politicians must be capable

of leading the nation and have a good

understanding of its problems and

prospects. "The politicians must also

realise that it is not possible to achieve

anything in politics without the broad

He further said people might raise

questions regarding the use of national

assets for fulfilling a party's election

cians like Sher-e-Bangla always

placed the needs of people above

pledges. He pointed out that politi-

participation of people.'

meeting on the occasion of the 41st

death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK

Fazlul Haque at the Jatiya Press Club.

over: Manju

funding of

The internes who were driven out from

The leaders of BMA, DAB and RMCH

The internes went on the strike following

The RMC is expected to reopen on May 10

armed clash between rival groups of student

organisations, outsiders and police which led

to the indefinite closure of Rangpur Medical

for holding examinations and only examinees

will be allowed to stay in the halls, Principal in-

Secretary of Interne Doctors' Association

around 1:00p.m. The girl was admitted to

Rangamati General Hospital and was

Kotwali Police Station. But so far police

violence against women, Rangamati

Monjulika Chakma, convenor of the

discharged vesterday morning.

called her in saying that her father was

waiting for her there. Aziz then took her to

Rotary meeting Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held. Venue: Royal Orchid Restaurant, Gulshan. Time:

Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 4.00pm.

Entrepreneurs | Tribal girl raped at

would not invest here," he added.

Quazi Moniruzzaman, president o Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said apart from high cost of fund, strikes, problems in ports and interruption in power supply were also pushing up the cost of business.

Professor Muzaffer Ahmed said real estate companies were increasing vertical slums in Dhaka and polluting the city's environment. Tax holiday should not be continued because it did not help industrialisation.

Hafiz Uddin Khan, chairman of Public Expenditure Review Commission, said the size of government was going up by nine to 10 per cent every year though it should be

Raising questions about sincerity in formulating budget, he said the main problem was poor expenditure quality. "There are many examples that projects had been completed in an unapproved state and approvals were taken later."

Moazzem Hossain, Editor of The Financial Express, said providing cash incentives to inefficient exporters ultimately discouraged efficient people. Cost of business should be addressed properly.

Amjad Khan Chowdhury, managing director of PRAN, said agro-based industries could create maximum number of jobs in Bangladesh and income generation in rural areas could help reduce urbanisation.

Two killed in M'sing road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least two people, including a woman, were killed and 10 others injured in a road mishap at Habir-bari on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway yesterday morn-

Police said the accident occurred when a Mynmensingh bound loaded truck skidded off and fell into a roadside ditch. The unidentified woman, aged about 65 died on way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH). The other victim, aged about 40, died at the

Five injured people were admitted to the MMCH

Prof QAIM Nuruddin Gold Medal introduced at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT A new Gold Medal/Scholarship Fund

has been set up at the Mass

Communication and Journalism (MCJ) STAFF CORRESPONDENT department of Dhaka University (DU). The fund was set up after late Pro-Chairman of Jatiya Party (JP) Anwar QAIM Nuruddin who was a renowned Hossain Manju yesterday said the days

teacher of the department and a communication specialist of the country. To set up the fund, Enayetullah Khan, chief editor of the United News of Bangladesh (UNB), handed over a

cheque for TK 1.25 lakh to DU Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz at his office Out of the income of the fund, each year a student, who will secure first position in the BSS (Honours) examina-

tion from the MCJ department, will be awarded the 'Prof QAIM Nuruddin Gold

Prof Sakhawat Ali Khan, chairman, MCJ department, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Golam Rahman, acting Registrar Anwar Hossain and UNB Chairman Amanullah Khan were

Minorities rights

region. So, the governments and people should unite to fight aggression, the SAHR leaders said

Former Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral urged all governments not to blame their neighbours for spread of terrorism. Terrorism is a common problem and all should unite to root it

from Indian

pirates

4 rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Coast guards yesterday rescued three businessmen and a fisherman from the clutches of Indian pirates who demanded Tk 10 lakh as ransom for their

They also seized an engine trawler in which the businessmen and fisherman were held hostage

According to Munshiganj Upazila Parishad chairman Ashim Kumar Mridha, the notorious sea robbers, known as Kalu Bahini, abducted businessmen Shambhu Kanti (68) and his son-in-law Ranoj Biswas (27) from Harinagar village of Koira upazila on the night of April 22 and demanded Tk 5 lakh ransom by April 22. On the same night, the Indian pirates also kidnapped another businessman Hafizur Rahman (30) and fisherman Yusuf Ali (38) from the same village before demanding Tk 5 lakh ransom

Acting on a tip-off, the coast guards rushed to Ihatamukho canal and rescued

The pirates however managed to

Push-in

FROM PAGE 12

night through the border of Dinajpur, A 14 years old tribal girl was raped at a Naogaon, Jessore, Rajshahi, residential hotel in the town's Bonorupa Chapainawabganj, Kurigram and The girl, a student of class nine at the Lalmonirhat. However, BDR foiled Bonorupa Textile Vocational Institute, several attempts. went to the Aleef market to get some Incidents of indiscriminate

firing, kidnapping and trespassing by the BSF are now growing at an alarming rate, Odhikar said. The report also informed that

1,264 Bangladeshis fell victim to human rights violation by the BSF and Indian miscreants over the last 28 months. About 210 Bangladeshis were killed, 337 injured and three raped by them since January 1, 2001, Odhikar said.

In 2002, 105 Bangladeshis were killed, 54 injured, 366 arrested, 118 kidnapped and 30 including eight children went missing.

Eleven Bangladeshis were killed, 39 injured, 10 kidnapped, two women raped and one was arrested since January 1 this year.

SC surprised

realise that it needed modification of rules and regulations already finalised by the court. The Court also pointed out that the government could submit suggestions to the Court and not ask for modification of the order of the Supreme Court.

The court said order upon the petition would be given after four weeks after scrutiny.

The Supreme Court issued the 12point directive in December 1999. Successive governments have delayed implementation of the directives on various pleas.

Gujral: Gas

FROM PAGE 1

He said he discussed bilateral issues with the prime minister and the leader of the opposition, which, he hoped, would help improve the relations between India and Bangladesh. "The relations between the two neighbouring countries are much better now," he

Gujral said there was no real conflict between India and Bangladesh. "There are some tricky border issues that could be resolved through negotiations and understand-

UNB adds: Khaleda and Gujral during a meeting yesterday agreed that some common issues between the two neighbouring countries, particularly social and economic, could be resolved under the SAARC framework.

They also observed that the South Asian forum could play a vital role in the welfare and development of this region, home to over a billion people.

Khaleda Zia emphasised that poverty alleviation as well as domestic and regional peace could be effectively dealt with through the SAARC process.

"Under the purview of SAARC, meaningful progress can be achieved in attaining these two goals bilaterally and regionally," she told the Indian

PM's principal secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Siddigui and Foreign Secretary Shamser Mobin Chowdhury were

The SAARC would survive and advance, he hoped. Gujral strongly requested the Indian prime minister to shore up relations with neighbours for the interest of SAARC.

The Iraq war is a threat to smaller countries and South Asian countries must jointly protect their sovereignty he said

Veteran journalist Kuldip Nayar noted journalist ABM Musa, Editor of The Daily Independent Mahbub Alam, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Managing Director of UNB Enayetullah Khan, among others, attended the press conference.

Nirmala Despande from Delhi, Sathivale Balakrishnam and Sithie Tirucheluam from Colombo, Dr Devendra Rai Panday and Keshab B Mathema from Nepal, IA Rahman from Pakistan, and Subrata Chowdhury and Hamida Hossain from Bangladesh were also present.

Indian FS

further strengthen Bangladesh-India relations through constructive and sustained engagements and interactions at all levels, the release said.

The forthcoming visit of the Indian foreign secretary, Bangladesh hopes, would enable both the countries to consolidate and further enrich their $bilateral\,relations, the\,release\,said.$

During his stay in the capital, the Indian foreign secretary will call on Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman.

South Africa FROM PAGE 12

Smith at extra cover

It was a rash shot from the righthander just after he had taken ten runs from the previous three deliveries off Willoughby

Veteran Akram Khan was next to go mistiming an attempted pull off 'chinaman' Paul Adams to Boeta Dippenaar at fine leg. The crowd favourite completed a disappointing Test performance scoring 13 and 16. Returning to international duty after

thirteen months, Adams picked up his second ten-wicket Test haul. He took five wickets for 37 in the first innings and five wickets for 69 runs in the second His effort was not enough however to convince the adjudicators who

Jacques Rudolph as the man-of-thematch. The 22-year-old left-hander scored an undefeated 222. The two teams return to Dhaka for the second and final Test starting at the

named debutant double centurion

Bangabandhu National Stadium on May 1.

(SCOREBOARD ON PAGE 13)

Education

FROM PAGE 1

based on its performance in public examinations, teachers-students ratio, physical infrastructure and library and laboratory facilities. The percentage of pass of last year's

Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) hit a six-year low of 27.09 per cent, indicating a free fall of standards, some experts The percentage was 28.41 in 2001

37.05 in 2000, 53.39 in 1999, 44.89 in 1998 and 48.48 in 1997. The government is spending Tk 663

crore or about 10 per cent of the education budget as stipend for primary school students to increase enrolment.

But experts believe much of the amount will be spent on purposes other than learning

Under this programme, a poor family having one school-going child will get Tk100 per month and a family having more than one school-going children will get Tk125.

Adamjee land

FROM PAGE 1

rehabilitate some 6,000 non-Bengali settlers in AJM area to a suitable location within four months so that investors could develop the site It underscored the possibility of

attracting foreign investment in joint venture and asked the associations concerned to explore the avenues. The meeting recommended a separate body comprising public and

private-sector representatives for

proper planning and implementation

Opening discussion on the agenda, Industries Minister MK Anwar said: "The government is eager to utilise the land properly so that it can contribute more to the economy as well as create more employment."

He asked the investors' associations and the apex trade body to come up with a complete proposal for investment so that concrete decisions on the utilisation of AJM land could be

The minister requested all to work within a specific timeframe to meet aspirations of the government and the people in time.



The 10 newly appointed judges of the High Court division pose for photograph with Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge yesterday during their oath taking ceremony.

French minister

Muselier said he held talks on social and human development issues and hoped that more French companies would invest in Bangladesh.

He referred some of the major French investment in Bangladesh including Lafarge, TotalElfFina, Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant and archeological excavation at Mahasthangarh. He also pointed out that French-Bangladesh trade balance was heavily in favour of Bangladesh

Renaud Muselier replied a flurry of questions on France's strong opposition to 'US-led aggression' in Iraq and the future of Europe.

He said plans were underway to work out a common European defence policy and have a president and foreign minister for Europe. On war on Iraq, the French minis-

ter said his country's stand on Iraq remained unchanged. "We've to say what we think. We're for a multi-polar world. We want the UN to take lead in the reconstruction of Iraq." About the Anglo-French ties, the French minister dubbed US as one of

the 'oldest friends' saying its Statue of

Liberty had been a present from

"The regime of Saddam Hussein was dictatorial. The people of Iraq suffered a lot. We wanted to disarm a country posing threat to other countries of the world: we wanted to disarm them without fighting a war," Muselier French ambassador to Bangladesh

Michel Lummaux was present at the press conference. Emerging from the hour-long official talks earlier on the day, both

Renaud Muselier and Reaz Rahman described the discussion as satisfactory. They said bilateral, regional as well as international issues figured in their talks. Michel Lummaux and Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin

Chowdhury assisted the respective ministers at the talks. "We've requested for access of Bangladeshi goods to European Union markets by relaxing the rules of origin," Reaz said. He highlighted

lishment of good governance. The French state minister assured that his government would continue to support such efforts of Bangladesh

the government efforts in socio-

economic development and estab-

Dhaka of resumption of French development assistance to Bangladesh, suspended till 1998. Both sides stressed the need for UN playing the central role in the

humanitarian and reconstruction

efforts in war-scarred Iraq

Renaud Muselier also assured

Controversy

and Industry (CCCI), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (MTMA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers Association

The statement said the business community expects the law to take its own course after proper investi-

It further said the businessmen have been playing a role in our economic and social development. 'And it is, therefore, not desirable that the image of the entire business community is tarnished owing to a particular businessman.'

Babul

FROM PAGE 1

Babul said he told the BoI chairman that he had got the no objection certificate (NOC) from the government and asked him if there was any legal barrier on the way to obtaining registration for his organisation.

The BoI chairman asked him to meet 15 days later, and Babul told him that seven months had already been lost. That made Mahmudur Rahman angry and he told Babul that he could do whatever he liked, the press release said.

activist and persons with corrupt profile as additional judges. "Our decision stands not to felicitate

adding the movement to realise genuine demands of the Association would After the protest, a group of lawyers met him and pressed for fresh

ignored. Under pressure from the irked lawyers, the SCBA president convened an impromptu meeting of the executive committee of the Association, which

Chief Justice's court. Pro-government lawyers along with Attorney General AF Hassaan Ariff felicitated the newly appointed addi-

rejected the proposal of boycotting the

College teachers

Abdur Rob khan and Fahima Khatun. Kofil Uddin said the teachers will not discard their demands and leave the

with BCS education cadre officials and workers if our demands were not immediately met," he said.

shouted to demand removal of Education Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Alam. Meanwhile, Education Minister Dr.

"If teachers were posted at different administrative posts then who is going

Education Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Alam attended the function as

Dr Kamal: Judges

yesterday.

should be kept beyond all controversy. We all should try to rise above party differences and a partisan approach when it comes to such issues," he said.

The role of the chief justice in

appointment and confirmation is all

the more important because of his objective assessment of additional judges' performance, he said. He refuted the government's point that the chief justice's recommendations are not mandatory according to

the fourth amendment of the constitu-

tion, which deleted the provision for

consultations of the chief justice. He cited an example of 1994, when the then prime minister Khaleda Zia had appointed six judges without the chief justice's consultations.

The Bar members then met Khaleda with an argument that although consulting with the chief iustice is not constitutionally mandaconfirmation was that the additional tory, it is a constitutional convention. Khaleda was convinced and

cancelled the six appointments. She also gave fresh appointments to four posts instead of six in consultation with the chief justice. Former president Ziaur Rahman respected the chief justice's opinions and justice Sattar, who was his

law minister, believed it was a con-

stitutional norm to consult the chief

justice, Dr Kamal pointed out.

convention of consultation was complied with," Dr Kamal said.

He expressed concern that although Khaleda accepted the concept of consultation before, she is now making the issue controversial. He urged all to hold on to good

constitutional practices and respect

constitutional conventions developed The appointment of additional judges and non-confirmation of their services ignoring the chief justice came under fire in the middle of last

declined to confirm services of 11 additional judges despite the chief justice's recommendations. The Bar members termed the trend a politicisation of the judiciary and said the only reason for non-

The government in different times

judges were appointed during the Awami League rule. The government appointed 11 additional judges last July, defying the opposition of Bar members.

Last week, the government again appointed ten judges amid strong resentment of the Bar association that boycotted their swearing-in ceremony

Saddam's birthday

Mohammed, one of a group Iraqis in a Tikrit street who all believed Saddam was alive. Rumours are rife that Saddam will even stage a "surprise" for Iraqis on

No one can say quite what that might be. But one man said many Iragis feared Saddam might return to haunt them, possibly on his birthday. "We are scared about that (his return)," said Hassan Hussein, who runs a computer shop, Others dismissed such concerns out of

Saddam had not attended his birthday celebrations in Tikrit for years, apparently for fear of being assassinated. "Some people say he might come back, but it is impossible under these conditions," said Adnan Jaber Zaidan, an engineer.

Any celebrations will certainly not match the extravaganzas of previous years when lavish festivities across the Baghdad to Tikrit

lier lies smashed on the floor and sacks of tomatoes and other vegetables are rotting in huge refrigerators.

lamppost in Tikrit. Now only the occa-

sympathisers in a region that long benefited from the largesse of its most famous son and which provided many top officials during his rule. The appearance of graffiti support-

ing Saddam is a message to US forces

that his shadow will stretch over Iraq as long as he is not found dead or arrested "He is in our hearts. No American or anyone else will arrest him. God will

protect him. He will be back," said 32vear-old Mohammed Hassan.

Damaged Boeing

Local engineers are repairing the F28 since its manufacturing company no longer exists. It might take one month to finish the job, they said.

Indistrie company are repairing the two damaged Airbuses. After dropping the Tokyo and Hong Kong flights, Biman is now

operating its international and

Engineers of the French Airbus

omestic flights without disruption. Although the grounding of the F28

would have hit domestic operations, the reintroduction of the two ATPs have saved the disruption.

10 HC judges FROM PAGE 1 The slogans included condemnation of

appointment of some controversial

demanding confirmation of eleven former additional judges. Speaking at the demonstration, SCBA president Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said the executive, one of the main organs of the State, has tarnished the image of the independence of iudiciary by appointing ruling party

persons as additional judge and

the newly appointed additional judges after they are sworn in," Rokan said

 $programme\ of\ boy cotting\ the\ court\ of\ the$ Chief Justice as their demands were

FROM PAGE 12 S.M. Shafiqul Islam, Ansar Uddin Anis

street if their demands were not met. "We will launch a greater movement

Later, a procession was brought out vnich was intercepted by police near the National Press Club. Some teachers

Osman Farruk at a meeting yesterday said teachers should concentrate more on teaching than on administrative

teach students?" the minister asked while addressing a conference of Bangladesh College Teachers' Association and Bangladesh Principals' Council at the Bangladesh Institute of Administrative Management (BIAM) as

PHOTO: STAR Teachers protest inclusion of administration cadre officials from the teaching cadre at the Shikkha Bhaban the special guest.

homes," said 40-year-old Saadi onal portrait remains But Saddam still has some

his birthday

country lasted several days and featured dancing and singing and marquees that lined the route from The shower cabinet in his bathroom has melted in the heat, a huge chande-

Saddam's face once adorned every