# Dhaka

### Best films of 2002

As part of its 18th anniversary celebration, Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 15 films in five days. On the second day today, three films will be screened: 'The Eye' by Brothers Pang (Thailand), 'Rain' by Christine Jeff (New Zealand) and 'The Quiet American' by Philip Noyce (Australia). Venue: Goethe Institut. Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm. 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

### Film show

Academy Film Society will screen ar American film titled 'Sign'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm

### Lecture

On the occasion of World Museum Day, Liberation War Museum organises a lecture on the importance of local documents and statistics in writing the history of the War of Liberation by Prof Syed Anwar Hossain. Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segun Bagicha. Time:

#### Discussion

The Iranian Cultural Centre organises a discussion on the occasion of holy Eide-Miladunnabi and the Islamic Unity Week. Venue: Cultural centre auditorium, Dhanmondi, Time: 4.30pm

### Inauguration

The launching ceremony of the Department of Environmental Studies at Daffodil International University will

be held with Forest and Environment Minister Shajahan Siraj as chief guest. Venue: University campus, Shukrabad. corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Secchashebok Party (JSP)

He also protested the corruption and politicisation of the administration.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam, secretary general of JP, urged the gov-

ernment to go for people oriented

JSP Convenor Amanat Hossain

Amanat, Additional Secretary General of JP Sadeq Siddiqi, Joint Secretary General of JP Ejaj Ahmed

Mukta and other party members also spoke at the meeting.

Photo exhibition

Speakers in the city yesterday

called upon all concerned not to be

cruel with the HIV carriers since they

"We should be sympathetic and try to assist them for a better life,"

addressed the inaugural session.

deadly disease, Levi-Strauss Foundation, Network Photogra-

phers, the Tarrence Higgin Trust and the Action-aid Bangladesh have

A total of 70 selected photos were

jointly organised the exhibition.

Two held for

raping girl

in Mirpur

Saturday night.

during the time.

victim's cry for help

Hospital at 11:00pm.

following court order.

Rickshaw

FROM PAGE 12

around two lakh.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two youths were caught for allegedly raping a teenage girl at her residence at Paikpara of Mirpur on

Three local youths -- Pappu, Alam and Milon allegedly entered the house at Amtala at South Paikpara at around 10:30pm. The

After the three allegedly raped the 15-year-old girl, neighbours rushed to the spot hearing the

They caught Pappu and Alam, but Milon managed to get away. The two were later handed over to

Meanwhile, neighbours took the girl to Dhaka Medical College

The victim filed a case with the

Police produced Pappu and

Alam before the court yesterday.

The two were later sent to jail

number is about five lakh while the

DCC officials put the figure at

association with the DCC will

enforce strict measures against the rickshaws from May 20," said, an

insider. The DC Traffic (North),

Ansaruddin Khan Pathan, said the

rickshaw-pullers who were violat-

ing the traffic rules would be prose-

Thousands of rural people from

across the country come to Dhaka

to make a living by pulling rick-

areas depend on these earnings.

shaw. Thousands more in the rural

"Meanwhile, the traffic police in

was under power outage

on HIV/AIDS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

are a part of our society.

in city

democratic practices

in govt

#### Science lecture

National Museum of Science and Technology organises a lecture on 'National bio-diversity strategy and action plan for Bangladesh' with Prof Dr Ainun Nishat as guest speaker. Venue: Museum auditorium, Agargaon. Time:

### **IEB** seminar

Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), organises a seminar on 'Cost effective improvement of Bangladesh Roads' with Communication Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: IEB headquarters, Ramna. Time:

#### Workshop

The opening ceremony of a three-day workshop on 'Computer aided analysis and design of tall building system', organised by Asian Institute of Technology and Engineering Staff College, Bangladesh, will be held. Venue: IEB headquarters, Ramna. Time: 9.00am

### Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Shaheed Zia Adarsha Bastobayan Parishad will be held. Venue: 2/2, Block-A. Lalmatia, Time: 5.00pm

# Separation of judiciary

A demand was also raised to initiate a fresh trial of those responsible for such deaths without trial.

Defending deployment of the army against crime, the law minister said such incidents take place more or less everywhere in the world when army is called out to maintain law and order.

He expressed his sorrow for the deaths during the operation, but argued that those who died in custody were wanted criminals.

Army, being a special institution, cannot be brought within the ambit of civil suit, he told the Forum, defending the law that indemnified the army for its

Briefing the BDF on the progress made so far in judicial reforms, Moudud said a cabine committee has finalised the draft of Human Rights Commission Bill, which is awaiting approval of

# Protest against vulgar satellite programmes continue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different associations related with film production and distribution continued their protest in the city vesterday against video and cable operators for illegal screening of just-released local films and vulgar release of Bangladesh Film Producers Distributors Association

The associations included Bangladesh Film Booking Agents Society, Bangladesh Film Distributors Welfare Society, Film Distributors Representative Society and Fourth Class Film Employees Society.

The associations observed a half-day strike at all film distributors offices, brought out a procession from Kakrail to Gulistan and held a rally at Muktangon as part of their ongoing movement against the illegal cable operators.

Speakers at the rally called upon the information minister to help enact strict laws against the illegal cable operators within the deadline fixed in their memorandum to

Department of Film and

Publication (DFP) and some out-

siders were requested to help

create it. It was produced at a cost

much less than the estimated

May 14 termed the report baseless,

motivated and damaging to the

It said, "A few journalists and

reporters were requested by the

DFP to gather documentary evi-

dences and take interviews for the

film. The work had to be finally

Press Wing of the Prime Minister's

Office and experienced in journal-

ism were also requested on behalf

of the DFP to edit and supervise the

content, script and production of

the documentary. They responded

positively to the request without

any remuneration," the report

The information ministry in its

May 14 rejoinder admitted "some

"Two officials working in the

processed at a commercial studio.

The delayed rejoinder issued on

expenditure.

continued.

Our reply:

reputation of the DFP.

the Cabinet before it is taken to

Nothing much has been done far to establish the office of Ombudsman, except issuance of a gazette notification making the 980 Ombudsman law effective from January 2002. A cabinet committee has been constituted to scrutinise and update the law.

"The matter is now under consideration of the cabinet committee," Moudud told the

Responding to another BDF query about separation of judiciary, he said, "the issue is complicated and not very easy to resolve." Replacement of some 600 administrative officers, traditionally absorbed in the judiciary, will need a transitional phase-out method. A cabinet committee is looking into the matter, he added.

Moudud, however, told the meeting that the government is obliged to complete separation of judiciary 'soon,' because of its pre-election pledge, constitutional mandate and a 12-point direction of the Supreme Court.

About the inherent problems delaying establishment of an independent Anti-corruption Commission, the law minister said that on May 12, the Cabinet discussed a draft bill and decided to set up the Commission 'soon' The draft bill has to be scrutinised by a committee before it is sent to the Cabinet and then to Parliament, he added.

Moudud also gave a detail account of reforms initiated in the judiciary, including introduction speedy trial court, jail reforms, introduction of alternative dispute settlement mechanism, strengthening of bank loan recovery and introduction of a bill in Parliament seeking amendments to CrPC to expedite civil justice

## Another cop

Rejoinder and our reply

officials went to the DMCH to see the body.

With the latest incident, three policemen have been gunned down within a span of only four days. On Wednesday, Inspector Nurul Alam Shikder and Subinspector Alamgir Hossain of the Detective Branch of police were Detective Branch of police were gunned down by criminals at a hotel room at Malibagh Chowdhurypara.

The killing of the constable has created panic among the police, who have been put on alert.

outsiders were requested" in the

rejoinder on another report on the

same issue, the ministry claimed,

'Since the DFP is the sole authority

to make documentary films on

behalf of the government, there is

no scope at all for outsiders to get

involved in the film making pro-

The contradictions of the two

separate rejoinders sent by the

Ministry of Information are self-

note that in the long winded rejoin-

der of about 1,000 words, the min-

istry did not once mention any-

thing about the "cost of the docu-

mentary" or the "estimated expen-

on April 15 and May 6 was the sheer

wastage of public money and the

involvement of outsiders in mak-

ing the documentary.

judge the report.

The main thrust of our reports

We leave it to our readers to

Moreover, it is interesting to

Earlier on April 16, in another

making of the documentary.

## SARS outbreak

FROM PAGE 12

province of Hebei because of the spread of the SARS virus there.

In mainland China, a health official warned more farmers were catching the disease in northern Shanxi province, where nearly 500 people have been infected, media reported.

China is struggling to protect its vast rural hinterland from SARS. Officials say they fear a rural outbreak could be a major disaster because the countryside has too few hospitals and doctors

## Adios Akram

regrets. There have been ups and downs but I would not have changed it for anything else. He said, "I have enjoyed every

bit of it.

Wasim, who will play for Hampshire until the end of the season, said it was time for younger layers to come through for Pakistan.

He is one-day cricket's most uccessful bowler with 502 wickets to his name.

And he has also claimed 414 victims in 104 Tests. (More on Page 13)



Relief workers travel by boat through the main street of the Ratnapura town in south-central Sri Lanka yesterday after torrential rains set off flash floods and mudslides. At least 141 people were killed in the worst flooding in 56 years prompting Sri Lanka to appeal for international support to handle a proper search and rescue operation.

# Sri Lanka seeks foreign aid as flood toll nears 100

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka yesterday called for international support for a major relief operation as the death toll in the worst flash floods and mudslides in 56 years neared 100, government officials and police said

ry to assist them for a better life, said Nasrin Huq, country director of the Actionaid Bangladesh while opening a 12-day photo exhibition on HIV/AIDS at German Cultural Most of the victims were buried alive when mountain slopes came crashing down on their homes in the district of Ratnapura in south-Dr Shahidul Alam, Dr Halida Hanum and TIM Zahid Hossain central Sri Lanka, said the regional top civil servant, Malini Premaratne. To make the people aware of the

"We have found 34 bodies so far and have confirmed the deaths of another 47," Premaratne told the people had been left homeless in the district famous for its gem mining and blue sapphires.

Police said 200,000 people had been made homeless in three neighbouring districts and at least another 10 people drowned in the district of Matara, but officials feared that the death toll could easily exceed 100

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe went to the floodaffected areas by helicopter soon after his return from a two-day

Donors emphasised the need to

improve the investment climate

through better governance and rule of law for the private sector to

play its role as the main engine of

that without better governance,

Bangladesh can't reap the benefits of the reforms already adopted or

reduction. The effectiveness of

development assistance will be

blunted and development partners

won't be able to argue for more

raised concern over government-NGO relations, link between

madrassah and fundamentalism,

needs of the religious minorities

land dispute in the Chittagong Hill

Tracts and politicisation of police.

that the NGOs continue to be given

reasonable freedom to operate

without political influence and undue bureaucratic control. They

said delay in resolving the govern

ment's differences with some

NGOs makes poor beneficiaries

In response, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said the matter is

under review and there will be a

countries said a huge amount is

being wasted behind madrassah

education, which are breeding

A number of Scandinavian

On NGOs, they said it is crucial

The development partners also

aid," Temple said.

"There was a general agreement

nal activities.

private visit to neighbouring India,

approached by Sri Lanka for urgent relief assistance such as inflatable rubber dinghies and medical supplies, officials here said.

Diplomatic sources said there was a positive response from New Delhi, which was planning to airlift relief supplies and also contemplating sending doctors to deal with the possible spread of disease. Local officials in Ratnapura, 100

kilometres (60 miles) southeast of here, said they faced a shortage of doctors to carry out autopsies on flood victims and reinforcements were called for from neighbouring Premaratne said a major search

and rescue operation was being carried out jointly by the army, navy, airforce, police and nongovernment ager "The rains have ceased, but the

flood level shows no sign of going down soon," she said. Local authorities called in navy

boats and air force helicopters for rescue operations to pluck survivors from roofs and tree tops, local police

grounds for fundamentalists.

Education Minister Dr Osman

Faruk disagreed and said the

madrassah are governed under a

board and the education there is

being imparted under an approved

curriculum, leaving no scope for

A European delegation said the

Saifur said there is nothing

The donors found the macro-

economic situation satisfactory

owned enterprise losses lowered,

foreign exchange reserves up substantially and inflation kept

They also discussed the National Strategy for Growth, Poverty Reduction and Social

Development and said it provides a

good road map for reforms. A few

gaps were identified and discussed

But doubts were raised about

with fiscal deficit down, state

called minority since all people are

Bangladeshis and get equal status.

government's poverty reduction strategy has not adequately

addressed the needs of the minori-

anything else.

chief Prassana Nanayakkara said. He said he himself had a narrow shave when his boat capsized during a rescue mission yesterday

He said there were reports of a dozen mudslides burying several homes in villages. He said it was possible that many people were still in their sleep when their homes

were buried in mud. Local politicians said villagers had lost their crops as well as their harvests of rice. Most farmers had just collected their crops and were waiting to sell them to warehouses when the floods destroyed the rice.

Further south, the towns of Deniyaya and Akuressa were also under water with thousands of people left homeless. About 150 families were homeless in the central district of Nuwara Eliya too,

However, the floods had not affected tourist resorts along the island's southern coast nor those in the central and north-central regions. There were heavy rains in the capital Colombo last week, but there were no reports of major

FROM PAGE 12

moving along the peace process

"The problem is not the roadmap, supporthim," Gissin said.

## Robbers kill bus BCL factions clash, JCD activist shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants slaughtered an elderly man during a bus robbery at Abdullahpur in Keraniganj

passenger in

Keraniganj

The victim was identified as Ali, 50, of Kamaldi village in Sirajdikhan, Munshiganj.

The robbers, 12 in number, had allegedly boarded the bus in the guise of passengers from Tikatuli. When the Bikrampur-bound bus reached Abdullahpur at 10:00pm, they robbers brought out carving knives from their bags.

The passengers were ordered to hand over money and other valuables. When Ali protested and cried for help, the robbers chopped him until he became unconscious.

Ali was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the on duty doctors declared

The victim's nephew filed a murder case with the Keraniganj Police Station yesterday. So far, police have failed to arrest anyone in this connection till the writing of this report at 8:30pm.

## Scepticism

Alongside Babul, DB-men also quizzed hoteliers Habibur Rahman and Mohammad Belal and a local young man, Shaheen, yesterday. They have been remanded in police custody.

The Rapid Action Team also arrested an alleged criminal, Pavel, from the city on Saturday. Police claimed that immediately after the killing key suspect Jishan made a beeline to his residence before melting away.

## Sharon mulls

rested not on the internationallybacked Middle East roadmap, which calls for the creation of a Palestinian state by 2005, but in ousting Arafat as president of the Palestinian

the problem is the trail of blood ... which has been charted very clearly by Yasser Arafat and those who

"There is a clear understanding after September 11, after the US victory in Iraq after the appointment of a new government in the Palestinian Authority that the first step that must be taken is a real effort, a 100 percent effort on the part all concerned to stop terrorist activity," Gissin added.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist was shot and two Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists were assaulted in clashes between two BCL factions at the Jagannath University College yes-

The JCD activist Palash was admitted to the National Hospital with bullet injuries and BCL activists Helal and Rubayet were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital DMCH).

The factions led by Ripon and Sayed of opposition Awami League's student chapter BCL sat together on the campus to settle disputes at about 2:30pm. The meeting turned explosive with gunshots fired by the Sayed group following heated arguments, said

The intra-party conflict ended up in a gunfight that also wounded the activist of the JCD, student wing of ruling Bangladesh Nationalist

The JCD activists assaulted several BCL supporters before driving other BCL members out of

the campus, said the sources. The JCD brought out a proces-

sion to protest gunfire on the cam-pus. Security was tightened around the area with deployment of addi-tional police forces.

FROM PAGE 12

Referring to the cancellation of a meeting of French State Minister

for Foreign Affairs Renaud Muselier with Prime Minister

The French state minister came to Dhaka on April 26 on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh.

Accusing the BNP-Jamaat government of unleashing auto-cratic rule in the country, she said: "Rampant corruption and wide-spread nepotism and politicisation by the alliance government have destroyed all institutions of the

that after assuming power, the alliance government have released more than 50,000 charge-sheeted criminals from jail that led to com-

leader Dr Hasan Mahmud, All-European Awami League president Anil Das Gupta and general secretary MA Gani

Hasina left Paris for London at 7:30am on Sunday by a British Airways flight.

# **High Court notice**

for the last two days and issued the notice vesterday.

such arrangement, he said.

independently as a result of this nove, the barrister said.

ystem totally contradicts the structure of Bangladesh constitution. This provision gives one the impression that each of the districts has a designated 'chief minister' now although the state governing system is constitutionally centralised, not a federal one.

The counsel further said that the petitioner should be accountdevelopment of his constituency. but he hardly could play any role because of the interference by minister-in-charge.

On behalf of the government, Additional Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali requested the High Court not to issue any stay order asking 'ministers-in-charge' to refrain from carrying out their present responsibilities.

The ministers have been discharging their duties for a long time and a stay order would hinder development activities in the districts, he said in his argument.

Khalilur Rahman lodged an FIR with Batiaghata Police Station accusing two young boys of the crime. The body was handed over to the victim's father after autopsy at Khulna Medical College Hospital

# **Donors to bankroll**

overnight.

Sources in the ERD said the government needed about \$2.1 billion to implement the IPRSP in

government is expecting \$800 million in the next fiscal. On a question of downsizing the umbo cabinet as suggested by the

development partners, he said the prime minister alone could answer "I can neither downsize nor

Commenting on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmad's statement that separation of the judiciary may take six years, Saifur said that the accomplish the task.

objection to the creation of the office of the ombudsman as suggested by the development community.

"I am going to Copenhagen shortly to study the work of an ombudsman," Saifur said.

BDF meet, a joint communique by the participants was taken that lauded the recent progress in macro-economic stability, vital reforms and preparation of the The joint communiqué, how-

ever, came down hard on deteriorating law and order, widespread corruption and governance prob-

## Tongi-Ashulia FROM PAGE 1

the highway. Although the constructors were to bear the maintenance cost of such a project for at least one year after construction, it paid the additional maintenance

competitive tender. The tender was published in a local newspaper with limited

circulation, say auditors According to rules, tenders should

Syed Rezaul Hayat could not be reached for comments after several

# Suicide bombings kill 9 calls for an end to the violence and

for correction.

resolution soon.

Israel since three people were torn to shreds in a Tel Aviv pub three weeks ago.

The double assault came hours

after another suicide bomber, also

disguised a Jew, killed two Jewish settlers in the southern West Bank city of Hebron Saturday night. The worst spate of anti-Israeli attacks this year prompted Sharon to postpone a trip to Washington, where he was due to meet with US

President George W. Bush and hold

crucial talks on the roadmap,

which Israel has refused to accept

without changes. According to Israeli public radio, Sharon decided not to leave the country yesterday in order "to personally supervise the fight against terrorism"

hardline groups such as Hamas

and Islamic Jihad had made it plain

they opposed the roadmap, which

Abbas, during his first meeting with the Israeli premier since being sworn in on April 30, had given him assurances that the Palestinian side would make a "real and sincere effort" to curb militant groups, Sharon's office said. There was no immediate claim for the Jerusalem attacks, but

the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel by 2005. Hamas official Abdel Aziz Rantissi told AFP yesterday that the

latest attacks were not linked to the

Sharon-Abbas talks but were a response to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. According to a statement from Sharon's office, Abbas deplored the Hebron attack and the two leaders had "agreed to pursue their talks in the near future following

Sharon's return from the United

The Palestinian side said that the meeting between the two men had elicited "no concrete result". "Mr Abbas urged the Israeli

Prime Minister to apply the road map and he responded with generalities," said Nabil Abu Rudeina, principal adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Abbas was hoping to secure a clear commitment from Sharon on

the roadmap, but the latest flareup could put peace efforts on the back burner once again. Hours after two settlers were killed in the Hebron suicide attack, Israeli troops shot dead two

Palestinian militants who infil-

northern West Bank The two men opened fire inside the Shaarei Tikva settlement near the Green Line between Israel and

the West Bank, injuring two resi-

army was still reoccupying some areas of the northern Gaza Strip, in nearby Israeli towns

can hit anywhere, even if I am not vet able to tell you whether there is a link with what happened this Aharonishki told reporters.

metropolis on Friday night and hit several Jewish targets.

Violence also continued in the Gaza Strip, with an 18-year-old Palestinian shot dead by Israeli troops early Sunday in the southern city of Khan Yunis, Palestinian security sources said.

The killing came as the Israeli

wave which knows no borders and

Politician, police, criminal

"Another institutional change that the development partners would encourage would be the reduction of the cabinet to a more reasonable size.' The critical importance of a well functioning legal and judicial system was repeatedly emphasised. The underlying message was that it was the poor

who were most vulnerable to a

malfunctioning judicial or police system. "Some development partners deplored the fact that deaths in custody had taken place during the army operation; yet, in the end, the army was protected by virtue of the Indemnity Act," said Temple.

Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed said the army was indemnified only from prosecution in a civil court, but his observation were not enough to allay the fears of many development partners on the

Moudud also responded to donors' allegation about harassment of journalists and said foreign serious problems of quality of public expenditure, particularly in regard to the projects taken up in journalists had entered the country under false identity and the law

was applied equally against them. "We hope that in upscaling public expenditure, the govern-In reply to donors' allegations of rampant and political use of the procedure of arrest under suspiment will pay sufficient attention to including programmes and projects that are reviewed and cion, Moudud said similar laws exist in many countries and measelected for their impact on growth and poverty alleviation," said sures are being taken to stop abuse

# trated a Jewish settlement in the

dents before being shot down, Israeli military sources said.

a bid to further dismantle local radical groups and stem rocket attacks on settlements and army positions inside the strip as well as "We are facing a global terrorist

weekend in Casablanca,' The police chief was referring to the multiple suicide attacks which killed 41 people in the Moroccan

# Hasina

try had faced in the past.

Khaleda Zia in Dhaka, she said the government's wrong decision gave rise to "adverse feelings" in the French government towards Bangladesh.

The Awami League chief said

plete breakdown of law and order. France unit of Awami League president Nazim Uddin presided over the reception, which was also addressed by AL organising secre-tary Saber Hossain Chowdhury, AL

and law and order. Abdur Rashid and Siddiqur Rahman Miah heard the petition

On behalf of the petitioner, Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud pointed out that there was no such provision in the constitution. The law of the land does not permit a minister to be in charge of any district and even the government's rules of business do not bear any

He argued such designation night have been created out of political motives. The local adminstrations were unable to function

The concept of the federal

the next three years. Of the estimated amount, the

increase the size of the cabinet," he

minister indicated less time than what was actually required to He said the government had no

"But we do not properly know the task of an ombudsman," he

On the concluding day of the

The audit department also detected that the earth-filling work was also allocated without any

be published in two national dailies -- Bangla and English. Communications Secretary

Class II girl

# morgue on Saturday night.