

DHAKA TODAY

Satyajit retrospective

Dhaka University Film Society screens 20 films of famous Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray on the occasion of his birth and death anniversary. On the third day, four films titled 'Aparajita', 'Janaaranya', 'Ashani Sanket' and 'Mahanagar' will be screened. Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 10.00am, 12.30pm, 3.30pm and 6.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'All Quiet on the Western Front'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Matir Moina

A special programme in commemoration of the first anniversary of Matir Moina at the Cannes Film Festival will be held with French Ambassador Michel Lummaux as chief guest. Venue: Alliance Francaise, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.45pm.

Photography exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a solo photography exhibition of SM Gorky, a photojournalist, will be held with Golam Sarwar, editor of the Jugantor as chief guest. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. The exhibition will remain open till May 30 from 3.00pm to 7.00pm daily.

Nazrul song

Bengal Foundation organises an evening of Nazrul song to be presented by Sadia Afrin Hamid Nijhum, Jalal Hasan and Mimi Farhana Haq. Venue: Bengal Shipalay, Dhanmondi. Time: 7.00pm.

Reunion

A reunion of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) will be held on the occasion of its 8th founding anniversary. Venue: DRU auditorium, Tophkhana Road. Time: 3.00pm.

Seminar

Islamic Foundation Bangladesh organises a seminar on 'Disaster of Muslim Ummah: Causes and remedies'. Venue: Foundation auditorium, Baitul Mokarram. Time: 5.30pm.

Bangla Academy

In observance of the birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Bangla Academy organises a programme comprising discussion, recitation and cultural function. Venue: Seminar room of the academy. Time: 4.00pm.

National conference

The 9th national conference of Bangladesh Teachers Association will be held with Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, as chief guest. Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. Time: 10.00am.

Workshop

A workshop on 'Development and uploading of content of the sustainable development information databank' will be held. Venue: BIDS conference room, Agargaon. Time: 10.00am.

Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Chattagram Samity-Dhaka will be held. Venue: Chattagram Bhaban, Topkhana Road. Time: 6.30pm.

REOSA meeting

A meeting of Rajshahi Engineering Old Students Association (REOSA) will be held. Venue: IEB auditorium, Ramna. Time: 4.30pm.

Blood donation

Orca Blood for Life organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Darul Ihsan University campus. Time: 9.00am.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visits a stall at a book fair organised as part of a three-day programme at Darirampur in Trishal, Mymensingh, on the 104th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam yesterday.

All is not over for Mamata

FROM PAGE 12

The BJP, Mamata has remained out of Vajpayee cabinet for several months. But her party and the BJP had jointly fought the recent Panchayat assembly elections in West Bengal and both parties did disastrously at the hustings.

While Vajpayee is keen to see Mamata back in his cabinet, a powerful section of the BJP is opposed to her return primarily because of her "fickle" ways.

This section feels the clout of Trinamool Congress has considerably eroded as evident by its poor showing in last assembly polls and recent Panchayat elections. But pro-Mamata group in the BJP reckons that Trinamool Congress is still the best bet against ruling Left Front in West Bengal.

In fact, a section of the BJP is backing the induction of Sudip into the cabinet. Sudip had had meetings with Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani and BJP President M Venkaiah Naidu in the three days before the cabinet reshuffle on Saturday.

This clearly irked Mamata who felt she was being given a short shrift by the BJP leadership. Trinamool sources said Mamata favoured inclusion of Akbar Ali Khondakar into the cabinet instead of Sudip as a minister of state along with her return to the hustings.

Mamata's calculation behind proposing Akbar Ali's name for a cabinet berth was apparently keeping an eye on minority votes in West Bengal in next year's parliamentary polls whose outcome is crucial for her political future.

Saturday's developments also led to further souring of ties between Mamata and her one-time close aide Sudip.

While Mamata in Kolkata spoke of the possibility of disciplinary action against Sudip, the latter, in Delhi for the last five days, last night claimed he was not even invited to the party's working committee meeting held in the West Bengal capital on Saturday.

Sudip, on the other hand, defended his meetings with Advani and other BJP leaders last week,

saying he had discussed political violence unleashed allegedly by the ruling CPI(M) in West Bengal before and after the Panchayat polls.

He said he would continue to meet the BJP leaders and was ready to face any consequence.

Does it mean Sudip will quit Trinamool Congress? Will Sudip form a splinter group of Trinamool? All these questions are doing the rounds in political circles in the capital after Saturday's developments.

It may not be easy for Mamata to crack the whip against Sudip given the fact that her party put up an unimpressive performance at the 2001 assembly polls in West Bengal as well as recent Panchayat elections.

Any split in Trinamool at this stage will throw her party, already plagued by murmurs of dissidence against her style of functioning and decisions, into a deeper crisis. Senior party leader Ajit Panja is already a known detractor of Mamata.

Job seekers

FROM PAGE 1

The sources said, prospect of employment of Bangladeshi workers in Africa and pacific regions are very bright. In reference to the demand of the workers, a high official of the ministry said, "at this moment around 3,000 Bangladeshis can be employed in Madagascar alone".

"We are giving permission to the recruiting agents very conscientiously, so that they cannot collect money from the people giving false information", the source said.

The over all manpower export from the country however grew by 27.24 per cent in the first four months of this year over the corresponding period.

According to sources, a total of 75269 persons went abroad for job till April this year, while the number was 59157 at the same time last year.

On the other hand, in the cur-

rent month till May 24, a total of 13,716 Bangladeshis left the country for job purposes. The remittance earning also shows a significant growth of 15.86 per cent this year. Within the first four months, Tk 6192.26 crore came to the country comparing to the same period last year when Tk 5344.53 crore was earned.

The state minister for expatriate welfare, Major (ret'd) Mohammad Quamrul Islam is now in a market exploration visit to Saudi Arabia, where there is an opportunity to employ a lot of Bangladeshi nurses. He met a number of ministers and high officials of the Kingdom to increase the manpower export from Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia.

According to a received message, the minister got positive response from Saudi authority in order to increase manpower export to Saudi Arabia, where more than one million Bangladeshis are still working.

Tribute to Nazrul

FROM PAGE 12

In a musical soiree after the discussion.

In Mymensingh, a programme to celebrate Nazrul's birth anniversary was organised at Kazi Shimla Daroga Bari and Bachutia Bepari Bari at Nampara of Trishal, where poet Nazrul passed his childhood days.

Another programme was organised by Chhayananat at Public Library auditorium to mark the birth anniversary of the poet. Jatiyatabadi

Samajik Sanskritik Sangstha, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, Sur Monjuri, Nazrul Academy and Bangladesh Nazrul Sena also observed the day with elaborate programmes.

Leaders of Bangladesh Awami League placed floral wreaths at the mazar of the poet. AL Presidium member Abdur Razzak MP, Obaidul Kader, advocate Abdul Mannan Khan, Prof Nazma Rahman and Alamgir Kulkum were present.

Pentagon for action on Iran

FROM PAGE 1

The Saudi Arabia bombing played a major role in the administration's new stance toward Iran. The intelligence suggested al-Qaeda operations in Iran were involved in the planning of the bombings, which killed 34 people, the Post reported.

On Thursday, the official IRNA news agency of Iran said US allegation that the Islamic nation harbored al-Qaeda members were based on faulty intelligence, but officials vowed to arrest any militants who might have slipped into the country.

On Saturday, Iran's top diplomat told the London-based Arabi daily Al-Hayat that Iran sees no need to immediately revive a dialogue with the United States following talks on who should govern postwar Iraq.

"This dialogue has stopped now and we see no reason to revive it for the time being," Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told Al-Hayat.

"We entered into an honest dialogue with the Americans to create a government in Iraq that has popular support, but they kept on changing their minds and also changing their representatives in Iraq," he said without giving additional details.

The United States is trying to set up an interim Iraqi administration after US-led forces invaded the country two months ago and ousted President Saddam Hussein.

Pentagon officials are advocating trying to foment a popular uprising to topple Iran's government, and the State Department may accept that approach if Iran does not take steps to crack down on al-Qaeda by Tuesday, the Post said.

Iran broke off relations with the United States after its 1979 Islamic Revolution, and Bush last year famously labelled it part of an "axis of evil" along with Iraq and North Korea. US officials have also been worried about Iran's nuclear pro-

JCD clash

FROM PAGE 1

The counter-attack at the DMCH at about 11:30am by the JCD group supportive of Liton left Jibon and Pilot injured. Security was tightened around the hospital after the clashes.

In another incident, JCD activist Mustak along with four others of Shahidullah Hall beat up Jahurul Islam Jahir, a third year student of physics, at a tea-shop near the hall.

The JCD DU unit President Amirul Islam Khan Alim and General Secretary Hasan Mamun expelled Pilot, Jibon and Shanto of Mohsin Hall, Liton of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, and Sagar of the Ziaur Rahman Hall for the clashes, says a press release.

Jet fuel

FROM PAGE 12

The four-member committee, comprising Moniruzzaman and Nurul Abedin of Biman, Sirajul Islam Chowdhury of BPC and Mohammad Rahman of Padma Oil, is going to calculate the actual rebate amount following which the BPC will make the payment.

Sources said the BPC is badly in need of money as it incurred a loss of Tk 645.75 crore in 2001-02 and its cumulative loss stood at Tk 2,520 crore. That's why it's pressing for Biman's dues.

The BPC borrowed Tk 2,700 crore from commercial banks with high interest rates, which is another key reason why BPC is anxious to receive the payment of its dues from Biman, officials said.

They said Biman's total unpaid dues to BPC stood at Tk 421.31 crore, mainly for the period between 1996-97 and 2001-2002. However, Biman claims the amount is Tk 390.94 crore.

New SAFMA executive committee

UNB, Dhaka

A 17-member executive committee of SAFMA Bangladesh Chapter has been formed with Reazuddin Ahmed, editor of The News Today, as its president and Zahiduzzaman Faruque, editor of The Daily Arthaniti, its general secretary.

The committee was formed on the first day of the two-day Third South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) Conference that began here yesterday.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of The Bangladesh Observer, was made vice president. Rulul Amin Gazi of The Daily Sangram joint secretary and AM Mofazzal of The Independent treasurer of the committee.

The members are Enayetullah Khan, editor of the Weekly Holiday; Amanullah Kabir, chief editor of the BSS; Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul, chief news editor of the Ekushey TV; Reita Rahman of The Independent; Zaglul A Chowdhury, senior special correspondent of BSS; Altaf Mahmood, news editor, The Daily Khabor; Shawkat Mahmood, general secretary of National Press Club; Nurul Huda, senior vice president of the National Press Club; Shamim Ahmad, chief of correspondents of UNB; Syed Zafar, Shafiqur Rahman and Kamaluddin Sabui.

BPSC's clarification on BCS exams

BSS, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC) yesterday said it only discussed that candidates obtaining 45 per cent marks in both Bangla and English in SSC and HSC or equivalent examinations will be allowed to sit for the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations.

The matter was also mentioned in the annual report.

The commission submitted no formal proposal to the government on it and no decision was taken, the BPSC said.

The commission said it is also actively considering selection of candidates on merit by re-fixing the quota system in the BCS exams and it has already taken some steps.

Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 1

The ruling alliance, would take six to seven years for implementation. It means that the commitment will go undelivered in the present tenure of the government.

On other issues, he said: "These are not so simple that could be actualised overnight."

The Daily Star interpreted his observation as 'not in sight' as the phrase 'in sight or within sight' means 'likely to happen within a short time or will happen soon'.

Kaptai

FROM PAGE 1

a fisherman of Kaptai.

Using 'current net' is another major threat to fish in the lake. Last year, the BFDC seized 580 pounds of current net.

The traditional 'Jhum' cultivation practised by the indigenous people and recently by the Bangalis is the main reason for soil erosion which runs into the lake and fills it up, say experts.

The lone hydroelectric project located on the lake is also under threat due to the siltation.

Siltation makes navigation from Rangamati to Longodu, Barkal, Gurachhari and Baghaichhari difficult during December to May. About 100 launches and 2,000 motorboats sail on these routes round the year.

The waterbody with a catchment area of 426 square miles was created in 1960 by damming the Kaptai Lake to fuel the hydroelectricity project. It occupies 54,000 hectares of farmland and forced 200,000 indigenous people from their land.

The water development board plans to dredge the lake to maintain its navigability, said Aminul Islam, project manager of the Kaptai Hydroelectric Dam.

Obituary

Md Aminul Karim, former additional director of Bangladesh Small & Cottage Industries Corporation, died of a cardiac arrest at BIRDEM Hospital in the city on Saturday, says a press release.

His qulqhwani will be held at his residence at 80/2 Kakrail VIP Road at 5.30pm today.

Anwara Majid

Anwara Majid, wife of late Syed AM Badruddoja, a retired DC (Food), died of old-age complications in the city on Saturday at the age of 84, says a press release.

She is survived by six sons, four daughters and a host of grandchildren.

Chhabet Ali

Moulana Chhabet Ali, father of Manzurul Bari Nayan, staff reporter of daily Janata, died on Friday at the age of 96, says a press release.

He is survived by three sons and four daughters.

His qulqhwani will be held at his residence in Fulbaria, Mymensingh on May 27.

President of Dhaka Union of Journalists Abdul Jalil Bhuyian and General Secretary Omar Faruque expressed condolence at the death of Chhabet Ali.

Six dollar forgers arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police arrested a racket involved in dollar forgery from Khilkhet on Saturday.

The arrestees are Sahidul Miah, Shawkat Ali, Mohammad Mostafa, Mohammad Mohsin, Bablu Miah and Khijir Mollah. In a confessional statement, they acknowledged to have been forging dollars for long, said a CID press release.

They got caught when a victim Reaz Uddin of Hazaribagh informed the Gulshan Police Station as well as the CID after he was given fake 8,000 US dollars.

Needing to go abroad for treatment, Reaz was going to a money-changer at Gulshan and on his way he came across the gang on May 17. They assured Reaz of providing him dollars at a lucrative conversion rate.

Reaz handed them over Tk 4.5 lakh for a bundle of fake US dollars and soon the gang went into hiding. Reaz soon came to realise those dollars were fake and he rushed to police station.

Marjina

FROM PAGE 1

girls to her residence but said she had no ill motives.

"I took them home as I do not have any children," she told the court.

The investigating officer of the case said Marjina illegally kept the children in her house and she might be involved in international child trafficking.

Soma's father Abdul Hye filed a petition on behalf of the parents to get back their children.

The court immediately granted the petition and the children were handed to their parents.

Teresa could not tell the court her parents' names and addresses. A lawyer of Mahila Ainjibi Samity submitted a petition to take custody of her and the court granted it.

Marjina did her masters in sociology from Dhaka University in 1981 and joined Motijheel Model High School.

She got divorced in 1991 and has been living at 107, Shantinagar since then. She owns a saree shop, Hiramon Saree Bitan, at Mouchak Market.

Marjina picked three children from the Motijheel AGB Colony recently but one of them, Nasima, managed to escape on Wednesday.

Three days later, Nasima identified Marjina as the 'kidnapper' and police rescued the children from her residence the same day.

AL: Budget session

FROM PAGE 12

cannot emerge as a functional institution, he said.

"But unfortunately this parliament lacks these practices and the sign is ominous."

He branded the 18-month-old current parliament the worst one in terms of democratic practices since the revival of parliamentary system in 1991. The opposition was always ignored, both in the House and outside it, he alleged.

The veteran parliamentarian, elected seven times, observed that the speaker's 'biased role, unjust rulings, breach of the Rules of Procedure and intolerance of treasury benches made the Jatiya Sangsad ineffective.

"We need an impartial speaker to run the House efficiently. But what we see is the chair's callousness, setting of wrong precedents, passage of misleading rulings and unfriendly attitude towards the opposition that make the House dull," Hamid said.

"The chair is not independent enough. He goes by the ruling parties' whims," Hamid said, citing the instance of a question-answer session that lurched into two hours while the rule permitted an hour.

He also blamed both sides -- the treasury and opposition benches -- for being irrational and intolerant to each other on the parliament floor.

All should be rational, tolerable and open-minded to deal with parliamentary affairs and it is incumbent on the ruling parties to

Judicial probe into Khosru's abduction demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The family members of Sitakunda Press Club President Atahar Siddiqul Khosru and local journalists have demanded a judicial probe into his abduction.

They have alleged that police, miscreants and a section of politicians are conspiring to divert the case from its usual course.

Meanwhile, a criminal case accusing nine persons including Khosru was filed with the Sitakunda Police Station yesterday. One Mahub, allegedly backed by local BNP leader Nurul Islam, filed the case in connection with an incident of mugging.

Policy soon to rehabilitate juvenile delinquents

Khurshid Jahan Haque, minister in charge of the Ministry for Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) yesterday said the government is formulating a policy for social rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents in prison and young victims of violence, a UNICEF press release said yesterday.

A National Plan of Action, National Commission for Children and a Commissioner will soon be in place to exclusively deal with issues affecting children, the minister told the National Consultative Workshop on 'Formulation of a Social Policy on Models of Care and Protection of Children in Contact with the Law' in the city.

Addressing the two-day National Consultative Workshop, Khurshid Jahan Haque said the government was committed to protecting the best interest of children as a priority and made a plea for a grand alliance with all the stakeholders.

Organised by MOWCA in association with UNICEF and Juvenile Justice Network, the inaugural session was also addressed by Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Social Welfare Minister; Dr. Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's Office; Morten Giering, UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh; John Parry Williams of Save the Children, UK and AMM Reza-e-Rabbi, MOWCA Secretary.

Ferdous Ara Begum, Joint Secretary, MOWCA, made a brief presentation on the outline of the social policy that is being developed through a consultative process.

One gets 20-yr RI for keeping illegal arms

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A speedy tribunal in Dhaka handed 20-year rigorous imprisonment to a person in an arms case and another court in Lalmonirhat awarded life term to a prisoner for murder.

Mohammad Abu Hanif, judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Dhaka, found Akash alias Biddyt of Munshiganj guilty of possessing illegal arms.

In the case filed with the Kotwali Police Station, it was alleged that Akash was arrested in front of Shabistan Cinema in the old part of the city on December 9 last year while he was roaming suspiciously in the area. Police recovered a pistol and six bullets from him.

Two to die

FROM PAGE 1

Forkan along with his family members attacked the house of his in-laws on the night of March 5, 2001, as his wife Taslima failed to pay dowry.

Abul Kalam, father of Taslima, his wife Amena Khatun, son Abul Kashem and daughter Rehana Begum died in attacks with lethal weapons in Pachakoralia village, Pataukhali.

Abdul Gani Peada, maternal uncle of Abul Kalam, filed a case on March 6, 2001 against five persons. The case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Barisal on January 13 this year. Statements of 26 witnesses were examined at the trial.

The complainant expressed satisfaction with the judgement, while the convicts will appeal against the judgement to the higher court.

Tax holiday

FROM PAGE 1

tries were submitted to the NBR between July and April of the current fiscal, sources said.

On the other hand, the number of applications seeking tax holiday during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal was 350.

"The restriction on tax holiday adversely affected Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and joint ventures," a leader of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) said.

Major chamber organisations including the FICCI and the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) have long been demanding withdrawal of the restriction.

In the budget for 2002-2003, the government imposed a restriction on tax holiday for the companies resorting to transactions among associate enterprises.

An entrepreneur, who sets up a new textile mill or any other industrial unit, is barred from enjoying the tax holiday facility if they make any transaction between the associate enterprises, according to the regulation.

Under the system, a textile mill owner who is also the owner of garment industries is not eligible for tax holiday once he sells textile

products to his own garment industries.

In the face of widespread cheating by a group of entrepreneurs, who used to show a price lower than the actual market price at the time of transactions between their associate enterprises, the restriction was imposed in the last budget.

The government has decided to withdraw the restriction on condition that commercial transactions between associate companies will be made according to market prices.

As a consequence of the restriction, the pace of industrialisation has slowed down considerably, investors said.