

DHAKA  
T O D A Y

Film show

Under the World Film Manifestation Programme, Dhaka University Film Society will screen two Iranian films titled 'The Cyclist' and 'The Marriage of Blessed'. Venue: Iranian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm and 5.00pm.

Movie show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'The Scarlet Letter'. Venue: 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Magic school

The inaugural ceremony of the Magic School will be held with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: House-9, Road-113, Gulshan-1. Time: 11.00am.

FICCI meeting

Monthly meeting of the Foreign Investor' Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be held with Toru Shibuchi, country director of Asian Development Bank, as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 12.30pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Roadmap for ICT Development in Bangladesh', organised by Bangladesh Computer Council, will be held with Science, Information and Communication Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest. Venue: IDB Bhaban auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 10.00am.

Lottery

The draw of Shishu Swasthya Foundation Haspatal Lottery 2003 will be held with Information Minister Tarikul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Foundation office, Borobagh, Mirpur-2. Time: 5.00pm.

REHAB meeting

An opinion sharing meeting, organised by REHAB, will be held to discuss various problems prevailing in housing industry. Venue: REHAB office, Free School Street. Time: 11.30am.

Publication ceremony

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies organises the publication ceremony of a research report on 'The Impact of Globalisation on trade, industry and the working people of the country'. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, Topkhana Road.

IDEB Discussion

Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) organises a discussion on National Budget 2003-04. Venue: IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail. Time: 4.30pm.

Discussion

Bangla Academy organises a discussion in observance of the death anniversary of Michael Madhusudan Dutta. Venue: Academy seminar room. Time: 11.00am.

Meeting

Dhaka Mahanagar unit of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a discussion on raising awareness about gender equality at grassroots level. Venue: Delbahar Primary School, Mirpur-12. Time: 4.00pm.

Seminar

A seminar on Age Related Macular Degeneration (ARMD) and its modern management, organised by Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh, will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9.00am.

Classical dance

The High Commission of India will present a Manipuri Classical Dance Performance and Maharaas. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 7.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'The Truth About Charlie'. Venue: 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia awards gold medals to graduates at the second convocation of the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Khulna yesterday.

# Manju for BNP-AL consensus to make JS effective

**UNB, Dhaka**

Jatiya Party (Manju) chairman Anwar Hossain Manju yesterday made a strong plea for consensus among the key political parties, BNP and Awami League, on how to sustain the present parliament and halt wastage to fight poverty.

Speaking on national budget in Parliament, he said the budgetary measures spelled out by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman to fight poverty are "nothing but a bluff." It needs seven per cent growth to eradicate poverty, but the proposed budget projects five per cent growth

which is a bluff to World Bank and IMF, he said.

Citing comparative statistics, he said in fiscal 1972-73, revenue earning was Tk 281 crore, development budget Tk 218 crore and GDP was four per cent. After 30 years, the revenue earning is Tk 36,000 crore, development budget Tk 20,000 crore, but GDP is still four per cent.

"Now the question comes: Where the money had gone, how the money was spent and where?"

Reading out excerpts from the budget speeches of former President HM Ershad, former Finance Minister SAMS Kibria and Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Manju said they took satisfaction by blaming each other for the "dilapidated condition of economy caused by loot, default culture and corruption."

In an oblique reference to the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he said those who led the nation to independence could have earned fame and respect like South African independence leader Nelson Mandela had they relinquished power and brought leaders like Tajuddin Ahmed to the forefront.

"But instead of doing so, they competed for the post and raised controversy," he told the House making a flashback on the turbulent post-independence politics.

In an apparently emotion-charged voice, Manju said the nation's independence was not achieved on March 25, nor December 16. Rather, it required supreme sacrifice and bloodstained struggle of long 23 years.

## Death Anniversary

Today is the fifth death anniversary of eminent social worker, organiser and freedom fighter Abdul Latif of Debidar, Comilla, says a press release.

He was vice-president of Bangladesh Human Rights Council, advisor, Adhunik and controller of Pubali Bank. There will be a congregation at the residence (14 East Bashabo) of the deceased today to remember him.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to be present on the occasion.

## 1547 more held

**UNB, Dhaka**

Police arrested 1,547 people including four listed criminals from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

They also recovered five firearms, four other arms and 62,099 rounds of bullet and filed seven cases against 11 people under the Arms Act.

# Four BITs to be upgraded to universities

## Khaleda tells BIT, Khulna convocation

**AGENCIES, Khulna**

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the private entrepreneurs to create employment opportunity for the meritorious students who finished higher studies.

"I would expect the private entrepreneurs to provide employment to the meritorious youths in exchange of our encouragement to and expansion of the private sector," Khaleda said this while she was addressing the 2nd convocation of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Khulna.

She said after taking office her government had decided to upgrade the four BITs to full-fledged universities. Khulna BIT would soon be able to function as full-fledged university, she added.

Presided over by Chairman of the Board of Governors of Khulna BIT Prof Nurul Islam, the function

was also addressed by Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk and Director of Khulna BIT Prof Nowsher Ali Morol.

Vice-chancellor of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology Prof Mosharraf Hossain Khan gave the convocation speech.

Extending her greetings to the students who successfully completed their studies from the BIT, Khaleda Zia advised them not to depend on government jobs, rather take initiative for self-employment to "establish yourselves" as engineers, entrepreneurs and innovators.

She said "Shaheed Ziaur Rahman ICT Scholarship" has been introduced at all levels of higher education from secondary level for poor meritorious students while "Prime Minister's Scholarship" at the university level for poor meritorious female students.

WEATHER  
T O D A Y

Thundershowers likely

**UNB, Dhaka**

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at most places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions till 6pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls is also expected at places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet during the period, Met office said adding that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

Highest temperature 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi, Khulna and Satkhira and the lowest 24.5 degree at Dhaka and Sylhet.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:14am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.7	24.5	91	92
Chittagong	30.2	25.2	87	85
Rajshahi	32.5	25.6	93	98
Khulna	32.5	28.0	81	98
Barisal	30.4	27.5	98	92
Sylhet	26.6	24.5	100	100
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.2	92	95



PHOTO: STAR

Police intercept pickets at Bangabandhu Avenue as they tried to bring out a procession during hartal hours yesterday.