

What's on today

Bangladesh Astronomical Assoc: The concluding ceremony of a comet observation workshop, organised by the Association, will be held. Chief guest: Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharfuddin. Venue: FREPD auditorium, Palashi crossing, Sonargaon Road, Dhaka University Campus. Time: 10 am.

Bangla Academy discussion: Prof Ahmed Kabir and Prof Nazma Begum will be the guest speakers. Venue: Academy premises. Time: 11 am.

Seminar: A seminar on 'Impact of land acquisition for Jamuna Bridge Project on women,' organised by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, will be held. Venue: Seminar room of the Department of International Relations, Room 2092, Arts Building, DU. Time: 10 am. Main speaker: Jutta Weimar, Free-University, Berlin.

Hasina to exchange Eid greetings

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will exchange Eid greetings at Ganobhaban, her official residence, on the Eid day from 4:30 pm to 6 pm, reports UNB.

On the day, Hasina will exchange greetings with politicians, intellectuals, diplomats, civil and military officials, and people from all walks of life, said a press release.

JS body okays three bills

The special parliamentary committee Tuesday okayed three bills after necessary vetting, reports UNB.

The bills are Bank Company (Amendment) Bill, 1997, Bangladesh Commerce and Investment Limited (Reorganisation) Bill, 1997 and Inland Water Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

An official release said the committee in a meeting held at the Sangsad Bhaban with its chairman Advocate Rahmat Ali in the chair examined and endorsed the bills.

Of the bills, the first one provides for measures against loan defaulting directors of banks as well as other loan defaulters.

The second bill aims to reorganise the Commerce and Investment Limited into new bank while the third one to help the Inland Water Transport Authority procure and hand over resources.

Committee members Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, Abdul Mannan MP and Shawkat Ali MP attended the meeting.

Banking Division Secretary Shah Abdul Hannan, Law Secretary Aminullah and Additional Secretary to the Parliament Secretariat Khondaker Abdul Haq were present.

Vietnamese PM due in March

Prime Minister Van Kiet of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is expected to visit Bangladesh in the first week of March, diplomatic sources said Tuesday, reports UNB.

HC vacation bench formed

A vacation bench has been constituted to hear and dispose of the urgent matters of the High Court Division during the vacation of the Bangladesh Supreme Court from February 12, reports UNB.

The Chief Justice formed the one-member bench with Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmad, said an official handout Tuesday.

During the holidays, the vacation bench will take up the urgent judicial matters for hearing and disposal at Room No. 10 of the High Court from 11 am to 1:15 pm.

Forged revenue stamps recovered in city: 4 held

By Staff Correspondent

Detective Branch (DB) of police recovered a large number of forged revenue stamps and arrested four persons in this connection in the city Monday night.

Of them one Abdus Salam was identified as the noble post master of the GPO. Three others are: Noor Mohammad Khan alias Shiplu, Golam Mostafa and Qudrat Ullah Mirza, police said.

Raiding a restaurant in Motijheel area at about 10 pm, police arrested Shiplu and recovered 1,160 forged revenue stamps from him. Later, following his confession, the DB team arrested three others and seized 1,21,750 stamps from them.

Police said, Abdus Salam was the ring leader of the racket.



A Creative Promotion panjabee exhibition at the Indian Cultural Centre in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Sound pollution causing health hazard in city

Sound pollution has increased in the city, causing serious health hazard to its nearly 8.5 million population. The sound level in different areas, including silence zone and residential areas, has already crossed the normal standard by more than 20-30 decibels, said Saiyid Mosharrar Hossain, the Director General of Department of Environment (DOE), talking to UNB yesterday.

Elaborating on areawise normal standard fixing the parameter of noise pollution, the DOE chief said sound limit for silence zone has been fixed at 45 decibels during daytime and 35 decibels for night.

The limit for residential area is 50 decibels for daytime and 40 decibels for night; commercial/residential area 60 decibels at daytime and 50 decibels at night; commercial area 70 decibels at daytime and 60 decibels at night; and industrial area 75 decibels at daytime and 70 decibels at night.

He said that in view of the deteriorating situation, sound pollution and emission of black smoke would now be monitored non-stop for two weeks every month by a mobile court comprising police, magistrate and BRTA and DOE experts.

Earlier, such monitoring was done every month only for three days. Indiscriminate use of horn by various types of vehicles has also aggravated the existing sound pollution in the city, the DOE director general said and suggested that steps should be

taken to control the unabated use of horn to check noise pollution.

He said the DOE has a plan to conduct raids in future to make the hospital and school areas free from sound pollution.

Referring to curbing emission of black smoke, he said, "We should first see whether the vehicles of various departments and ministries are fault-free or not, if the police vehicles are emitting black smoke."

Termining the roadside welding shops as one of the major pollutants in the metropolis, the DOS official said that during a meeting with Dhaka City Corporation it was decided that no new trade licence would be issued for setting up such welding shops.

Lt Gen Steele Calls on Shahabuddin

The visiting commanding general, US Army, Pacific Command (USARPAC) Lt General William Michael Steele, made a courtesy call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday morning, reports BSS.

Welcoming Steele, President Shahabuddin said the defence cooperation between Bangladesh and USA have grown steadily since independence.

Lt General Steele thanked the President for receiving him. He said that Bangladesh army in UN peace-keeping mission in Haiti played a praiseworthy role. He stressed close cooperation between the two armed forces.

Gen Steele leaves

Another BSS report adds, the commanding general, US Army, Pacific Command (USARPAC) Lieutenant General William M Steele left yesterday after a three-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh.

General Steele, Pam Steele and members of his entourage were seen-off at the airport by Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman, Begum Nagina Mahbub and senior army officers.

Prior to his departure, General Steele called on Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed, at the Air headquarters in the morning. He stayed there for some time and discussed matters of common interest.

He also planted a sapling at the air headquarters premises. General Steele earlier visited the Defence Services Command and Staff College.

He was received at the college by the DSCSC Commandant Major General A M Mansur Ahmed.

Navy ship rescues 5 crew members

CHITTAGONG, Feb 5: Bangladesh Navy Ship Khadem rescued all the five crew members of a mechanised fishing boat about 15 miles south of Kutubdia Light House yesterday, says a press release.

The fishermen were floating in the high sea without food and water following disruption in the engine of the fishing boat.

The navy ship provided them with food, water and necessary first-aid and towed their boat to the outer anchorage. It was later towed to harbor by another Naval Ship BNS Towfiq.

Meanwhile, a patrol Squad of the Bangladesh Navy from the Mongla Naval unit rescued about 1,300 kilograms of smuggled fertilizer which was later deposited with the customs authorities.

Aman condemns 'police harassment'

Opposition Whip and Student Affairs Secretary of BNP Amanullah Aman has condemned the 'police harassment and filing of false cases' against the leaders and workers of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student front of BNP, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, Aman, who is also the Vice-President of DUCSU, demanded the government to release the student leaders unconditionally before Eid-ul-Fitr. Otherwise, he said, a tough student movement would be launched after Eid.

Weather

Night temp may fall

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry across the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius during the period throughout the country.

Country's lowest temperature 10.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangpur and the highest 27.3 degrees at Dhaka.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	min	max	morning	evening
Dhaka	18.2	27.3	83	47
Chittagong	15.2	25.8	79	74
Rajshahi	13.0	25.2	97	61

Remember your first day after school?

He was there, waiting for you.

Remember your first trip to the zoo?

He was there, with you.

Remember Graduation Day?

He was there, cheering for you.

Your idol, your friend, your biggest fan.

He was always there for you.

When you had to laugh.

When you needed that shoulder to cry on.

Now he is old, you are young.

You live with a family, of your own.

You asked him to move in with you.

He refused, he is as always, stubborn, headstrong.

Remember his words? "Be your own man."

You know he needs you, though he'll never admit it.

He is your father, you owe it to him.

Make a promise, you'll be there.



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The British Council presents

John Mayer's Indo Jazz Fusions

Date : February 16, 1997
Time : 7:00 pm
Venue : Winter Garden
Dhaka Sheraton Hotel
Price : Tk. 200/=

Tickets are available at The British Council Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Ideas (Gulshan) Hot Hut (Dhanmondi) Video Connection (Gulshan)

For further information contact Shampa Kaiser, Arts Manager, at 5, Fuller Road, e-mail: skaiser@bdhaka.pradeshta.net

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