

What's on today

Film Show: As part of the retrospective of films by German filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder, two films will be screened: "The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant" at 5:00 pm and "Eli Brest" at 7:00 pm. Organisers: Zahir Raihan Film Society. Short Film Forum and Goethe-Institute. Venue: Goethe-Institute. Road No 9, Dhanmondi.

Memorial meet on Nirod Chy: English Department of Dhaka University will hold a memorial meeting on Nirod Ch Chaudhuri. Keynote speakers: Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, Prof Kaiser Haq and Prof. Fakrul Alam. Venue: Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities, Lecture Theatre Building (3rd floor), DU. Time: 11 AM.

BISS, USIS Talk: USIS and BISS have jointly organised a talk on 'Public-Private Partnerships in Government'. Keynote Speaker: Dr Richard E Zody. Venue: BISS auditorium, 1/46, Elephant Road. Time: 4 pm.

Lecture on Nazrul: Bangladesh National Museum will hold a special lecture on 'Relevance of Poet Nazrul, as part of Nazrul Islam's birth centenary celebration programmes. Keynote Speaker: Dr Golam Murshid. Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium of National Museum. Time: 5 pm.

CDRB Seminar: Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) has organised a seminar on 'Nixon's White House and the Bangladesh Liberation War'. Keynote Speaker: Prof Enayetur Rahim. Venue: WVA auditorium, RD: 27 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 PM.

Seminar: Mukti Laurence Foundation has organised a day-long seminar on 'Chai Neshahin Sonali Dien'. Chief guest: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf. Mujib: Shaheed Dr Milan auditorium, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. Time: 9 am.

..... and tomorrow

Discussion on Kaikobad: Kaikobad Sangskritik Academy has organised a discussion meeting and a special cultural programme to mark the 48th death anniversary of Great Poet Kaikobad. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

BCPS Lecture: Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons has organised two lectures on 'Management of Electrolyte, Imbalance in Clinical Practice' and 'Pregnancy Induced Hypertension' under its CME programme. Keynote speakers: Col Dr Md Robiul Hossain and Dr Gulshan Ara. Venue: BCPS auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 11 am.

Launching ceremony: Nitel Motors Ltd will hold a launching ceremony of TATA Twin Rear Axle Truck. Chief guest: Communication Minister Anwar Hossain. Venue: Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 4:30 pm.

JP Seminar: Jatiya Party has organised a seminar on 'Bangladesh-India Trade: Transit, Transshipment Debate and Reality'. Keynote Speaker: Sheikh Shahidul Islam, JP President member. Venue: Jalshagar, Hotel Purbani International. Time: 3 pm.

Launching ceremony: ADV Limited will launch its new publication, 'New Advertiser'. Venue: Hotel Razmoni Isha Kha Ball Room. Time: 7 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

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

The Met Office also predicted moderately heavy falls at places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period. Country's highest temperature was recorded 33.0 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 23.0 degrees at Sathkira yesterday.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.31 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.35 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.7	25.2	81	80
Chittagong	30.0	24.5	85	88
Rajshahi	30.2	25.6	88	88
Khulna	32.5	24.5	90	77
Barisal	30.5	24.0	82	92
Sylhet	32.8	25.6	80	71
Cox's Bazar	31.5	25.0	95	85

Talukdar's condition

From Page 1

heeded Suhrawardy Heart Diseases Hospital where Talukdar was admitted two hours earlier. But to everyone's surprise, doctors there said that he was alive.

Talukdar was admitted to the hospital after he complained of chest pain, sources at his residence said.

After about an hour of hospitalization, he suffered a massive heart attack and developed respiratory problem. The main muscles of his heart failed to pump and the lung also failed to function properly. He was put on artificial breathing (resuscitation).

Director of the hospital Prof M A Zaman, when contacted, told The Daily Star, "When the condition deteriorated, his blood pressure suddenly dropped, making his condition grave."

"After giving resuscitation we put him on ventilator [artificial breathing mechanism with computer controlled electric pump machine fitted with a monitor].

"This morning, we disconnected the ventilator for about 30 minutes. He finds it difficult to breathe so we have put him on ventilator again", Prof Zaman said.

"His condition is still very grave. Till he regains consciousness, we can not say he is out of danger," Prof Zaman said.

"But after all these, he is showing signs of recovery. He is responding to pain stimuli. He opens eyes and moves limbs, which is a good sign. We disconnected the ventilator at 8:30 pm and he was breathing on his own," Prof Zaman said last night.

Asked about the rumour, Prof Zaman said, "None of the hospital doctors said that he died. It may have spread from an unreliable source."

Talukdar is now in bed no. 12 in the coronary care unit (CCU) at the newly constructed building of the hospital at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

A pacemaker was implanted in his heart prior to his US tour a few months back. He had also a heart by-pass operation about ten years ago and angioplasty.

A 7-member medical board has been formed for his treatment.

BCU demands resumption of classes at CU

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), a left leaning student organisation, brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding resumption of classes at the Chittagong University (CU).

Following the procession, BCU held a rally in front of the Arts Building of the university at noon.

Addressing the rally, BCU leaders also demanded immediate arrest of the 'terrorists' and restoration of a congenial atmosphere on the CU campus.

They also expressed solidarity with the students' movement at the Jahangirnagar University (JU) and urged the JU authorities to fulfill their demands.

The BCU leaders also condemned the government move to evict city slums without taking measures for rehabilitating the slum-dwellers.

Presided over by Monjur-Khoda Torik, the rally was addressed, among others, by Haliz Adnan Riad, Sharifuzzaman Shafiq, Nadira Sultana Nodi and Mahbubur Rahman Shipon.

Bangladesh urged to sign, ratify statue of ICC immediately

Human rights and civil society organisations around the world have appreciated Bangladesh's position in the process of establishing an international criminal court (ICC), reports UNB.

While attending the 2nd session of UN Preparatory Commission on establishment of ICC, the NGOs have urged the Bangladesh government to sign and ratify the Rome Statute immediately.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during Hague Appeal for Peace Conference in May committed that Bangladesh would sign and ratify the statute of the ICC.

They also urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take up a leadership role in the coming Asian Parliamentary Peace Conference in Dhaka in September and invite other leaders to sign and ratify the statute.

They also suggested that the Prime Minister's record in efforts in favour of peace and human rights in the context of SAARC would be critical to incorporate the issue of ICC ratification during the forthcoming SAARC Summit in Nepal in November.

The NGOs in their message to the government said Bangladesh's prestige in international community has been enhanced through its accession to Convention Against Genocide and Convention Against Torture.

They appreciated the Bangladesh's message of peace and justice and position of casting vote in favour of the Court's Statute in the Rome Conference in 1988.

The NGOs recalled that Sheikh Hasina in the Hague Conference supported the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice in which the civil society across the world pledged for early establishment of the ICC.

They stated that Bangladesh's commitment to the court reiterates to the world the heavy burden that impunity left in the case of horrifying war crimes committed against its 1971 Liberation War.

In a separate statement, William R Pace, Convenor of NGO Coalition for the ICC and Secretary General of the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference said in the light of historical experiences, Bangladesh should become the first South Asian party to the historic Rome Statute.

The Rome Statute was adopted in July, 1998 by international community at the UN Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

The UN delegates overwhelmingly approved the statute to establish a permanent International Criminal Court to bring to justice the individuals who commit serious crimes of concern globally, including genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Rome Statute will enter into force and the ICC will formally be launched after its ratification by 60 countries.

Till August 11, 1999 a total of 84 countries signed the statute, intending to ratify and four countries — Senegal, Trinidad Tobago, San Marino and Italy — have already ratified the statute.

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Bangabandhu remembered

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The Bangabandhu Murder Trial was also demanded on the occasion.

The day was a public holiday. The national flag was lowered at half-mast atop all government buildings, many private establishments and in the premises of all Bangladesh chanceries abroad as a mark of respect to the late president. Black flags also flew all over the country.

Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television came up with special programmes and the newspapers published supplements and special articles on the day.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages urged the people to remain alert against evil forces and renew their pledge to build a Sonar Bangla as dreamt by Father of the Nation.

The president and the prime minister led the people paying homage to the nation's founding father by placing wreaths on his portrait at Bangabandhu Museum in Dhaka.

Placing wreaths at 5.30 am, President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stood in solemn silence for some time. A contingent drawn from the three services presented a guard of honour. Ministers, MPs, chiefs of three services, high civil and military officials and Dhaka-based diplomats were present.

Later, Hasina also placed wreaths on behalf of Awami League.

Contempt of court

AL MP directed to appear before court on Aug 24

By SC Correspondent

A High Court Division Bench yesterday directed Shah Azizur Rahman, a ruling party MP, to explain within a week why he should not be prosecuted for allegedly committing contempt of the Supreme Court.

The division bench comprising Justice Kazi Ebudul Hoque and Justice Md Mozammel Hossain also directed Shah Aziz to appear in person on August 24 at 10.30 am before the court.

The order was passed upon a contempt petition filed by Advocate Saidur Rahman, Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

It was alleged in the petition that Shah Aziz, speaking as special guest at a meeting on August 7 at the Sylhet Press Club, made a contemptuous statement regarding the High Court Division which was published in the Daily Dinkal on the following day under the heading, 'The High Court now seems to be the Circuit House.'

Senior Advocate Habibul Islam Bhuiyan moved for the petition, while Advocate Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Barrister Maudud Ahmed, Abdur Razzak and some other 20 advocates were present in the court.

Cabinet

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rently consumers of various public utilities find it difficult to pay their bills in due time because of long cues, and hopping from one place to another sometimes forces them to become defaulters.

There is often a communication gap between the bill receiving banks and the utility companies who simply retaliate by snapping the services, a PARC source explained.

To make consumers life easier, the PARC had proposed that consumers be able to pay their bills for power, water, gas and telephone to the nearest bank and post office.

To help the consumers, Dhaka city has been divided into several zones where the banks and post offices would receive the bills.

The banks and post offices would receive Tk 5 as commission for their services from the concerned utilities.

PARC also proposed that a bill for the ongoing month should reach the consumers within 20th day of the following month. The consumers should pay the bills by 10th of the month after. If a consumer is unable to pay by that period, a monetary fine would be imposed.

The utilities would provide the consumers a certificate of payment annually so that they are not harassed.

Alamgir Kabir's bail petition hearing adjourned till Aug 19

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday adjourned the hearing of the bail petition of BNP lawmaker Alamgir Kabir till August 19 on the prayer of the government in this connection, reports BSS.

A High Court Division Bench on August 9 had granted ad interim bail to Alamgir Kabir in a murder case under Atrial Police Station in Naogaon district.

Soon after the bail order of the High Court, the government filed an application before the Appellate Division seeking stay of the bail order.

Acting defence secretary takes charge

Mohammad Idris Ali took over as Secretary-in-Charge of the Ministry of Defence yesterday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

He was Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's office. He replaced Syed Yusuf Hossain who had taken over as Comptroller and Auditor