

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 "Elli Briest" at 7:00 pm. Organisers: Zahirul Haq Film Society. Short Film Forum and Goethe-Institut. Venue: Goethe-Institut, Road No 9, Dharmundi.

Memorial meet on Nirod Chy: English Department of Dhaka University will hold a memorial meeting on Nirod 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), Dharmundi. Time: 4:30 PM.

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

and tomorrow

Discussion on Kaikobad: Kaikobad Sanskrityik 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 Robul Hossain and Dr Gulshan Ara. Venue: BCPS auditorium, Mohakhali. Time: 11 am.

Launching ceremony: Nitol 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, Transhipment Debate and Reality'. Keynote Speaker: Sheikh Shahidul Islam, JP President. Venue: Jashagar, 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 thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Barisal, Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Raja Shahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions till 6 pm today, reports BNNB.

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 Sathkhira 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	85	25.2	24.5	81	80
Chittagong	30.0	85	24.5	23.6	85	88
Rajshahi	30.2	88	25.6	24.5	88	88
Khulna	32.5	90	24.5	23.6	90	77
Barisal	30.5	82	24.0	23.6	82	92
Sylhet	32.8	80	25.6	24.5	80	71
Cox's Bazar	31.5	85	25.0	24.5	95	85

Talukdar's condition

From Page 1
head Subhrawary 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-e-Khoda Torik, the rally was addressed, among others, by Hafiz Adnan Riyad, Sharifuzzaman Sharif, Nadira Sultan Nodi and Mahbubur Rahman Shapoor.

Srikait is said to be a very prospective project as it is surrounded by Titas, Salda, Kashempur and Lalmai geological structures. BAPEX will drill up to 3500 meters there. This project has also been in the ministry's clearance.

BAPEX could buy the 'ready plant' for the Fenchuganj project at a much lower cost which would reduce the project cost and time, the sources said.

Besides the Fenchuganj project, BAPEX is also pursuing the Tk. 52 crore Srikait Oil and Gas Exploration Project in Block 9 and an 'Operation Capability Strengthening Project' to develop its efficiency. Both these projects are approved by Petrobangla and are now awaiting the ministry's clearance.

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Bangladesh urged to sign, ratify statute 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 UN.

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

They appreciated the Bangladeshi message of peace and justice and position of casting vote in favour of the Court's Statute in the Rome Conference in 1998.

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 and Tobago, San Marino and Italy — have already ratified the statute.

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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 Bangladeshi 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 dream 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 at daybreak.

Placing wreaths at 5:30 am, President Shahabuddin 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

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 appear within a week why he should not be prosecuted for allegedly committing contempt of the Supreme Court.

The division bench comprising Justice Kazi Ebadul 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 to the AL".

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.

The government spread the problem of one area to other areas. Now the slum owners have increased the rent, and sanitation and drinking water problems are also mounting," said Azal Mia at the embankment slum, known as Shahid Budhijabi Road slum.

At Agargaon BNP slum, Nazma Begum, a rickshaw garower, said several families from Khilgaon Bagicha slum have rented accommodations in the already congested area and more are coming.

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Despite repeated reminders, the US company is yet to take back the unused fertiliser. ADB reportedly refused to bear the cost for sending the consignment back to the exporter and there were also complications in carrying the poisonous fertiliser.

BADC officials came to know about existence of 1,000 tonnes of "poisonous substance" in the fertiliser well before the second consignment was brought.

But BADC started distribution of the second consignment as many as 12 districts including Khulna and Sathkhira after it got the BARI report.

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