

## ● What's on today.... ●

**Discussion meeting:** Bangladesh Anti Drug Federation of NGOs (BAF) in association with international federation of Non-govt Organisations for prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (IFNGO) will hold a discussion meeting on "The role of religion in prevention of Drug Abuse." Chief guest: Abdul Matin Khasru, Minister for Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. Venue: Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) auditorium, Motijheel C/A. Time: 3:00 pm.

**Lecture:** The Salma Khanam Trust Fund Lecture 1999 will be held. Topic is "Attaining Food Security in Bangladesh: Constraints and prospects." Organiser: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. Venue: Seminar room of the Society, 5 Old Secretariat Rd, Nimgali, Ramna. Time: 3:00 pm.

● ..... and tomorrow ●

**Film show:** Three movies *Ma femme est formidable* (*My wife is wonderful*), *Le Seme element* (*The fifth element*) and *Gabbeh* will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

**Demonstration:** Sammilito Sanskritik Jote (SSJ) will stage a demonstration to protest the activities of anti-liberation forces centering the renaming of different residential halls of Sylhet Shahjalal University of Science and Technology. SSJ will also bring out a procession. Venue: TSC of DU. Time: 3:00 pm.

## Weather

### Night temperature may fall

Weather may remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 28.0 degree Celsius at Sitakunda and the lowest 8.8 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:21 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:41 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	26.0	11.8	67	57
Chittagong	26.5	16.2	80	64
Rajshahi	24.9	13.0	83	79
Khulna	26.6	13.4	81	67
Barisal	26.5	11.8	73	79
Sylhet	25.7	13.0	77	73
Cox's Bazar	26.8	16.2	78	62

## HERE and THERE

### East West University

The students of East West University (EWU) have recently formed an Environmental Society (ES) with the aim of creating environmental awareness among people, conducting research and working for the betterment of social and physical environment of the country, says a press release.

Firdaus Ali, Acting Registrar of East West University is the chief advisor and SSM Sadru Huda, is the coordinator of the society.

### BCSIR Scientists Association

A farewell reception for thirteen retired scientists and engineers of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) was held in the auditorium of the Institute of Food Science & Technology (IFST), BCSIR yesterday, says a press release.

Organised by the BCSIR Scientists Association the reception ceremony was attended by Dr Md Moshizuzzaman, Chairman, BCSIR as chief guest while Azizur Rahman, President of the Association presided.

MM Golam Hosseini, General Secretary of the Association and Dr Md Abdul Awal spoke on the occasion on behalf of the working and retired scientists.

The thirteen retired scientists and engineers are Dr Md Nurul Islam, Ex-Director, Dr Md Nizamuddin, CSO, Dr Md Abdul Awal, PSO, Anowar Hossain, PSO, Lutfun Nahar Rashid, PSO, Shazeda Begum, PSO, Shaikh Abdullah, SSO, Shaikh Rahmat Ullah, Sr Engg. Md Ahsanullah Miah, Principal Engr, Md Shamsul Huque, Research Coordinator, Md Shahjahan, CSO, Md Shahjahan Khan, SSO and M A Gafur, CSO.

### Muslim Unity for Human Rights

Acting President of Muslim Unity for Human Rights (MUHR) Advocate M A Gaffar Majumder and Secretary General Adv Quazi Raquibul Islam have condemned the Russian military attack on Chechnya which is a flagrant violation of human rights, says a press release.

In a statement they said, "Russia has accepted self determination to their deferent provinces whereas they didn't accept self determination to Chechnya and their recent armed attack is a clear violation of international human rights."

### Plane hijack

From page 1  
They also are insisting on the Pakistani cleric Masood Azhar's freedom.

Indian negotiators opened talks with the hijackers late on Monday — four days into the hijacking — after the hijackers threatened to start killing passengers.

Talks are making progress. Negotiations are give and take," said A R Ghanashyam, an Indian diplomat in Kandahar.

In India, the government said it had given an appropriate reply to the hijackers demands, but did not elaborate.

Inside the control tower at the Kandahar airport where the Indian Airlines Airbus A300 is parked with 160 people on board, Indian negotiators talked by radio to the hijackers.

On the tarmac at Kandahar airport, Taliban soldiers, their heads wrapped in bulky turbans, periodically laid out their blankets and offered their prayers, some bowed in prayer beneath the wing of the parked aircraft.

### Epsilon Blood Donor's Club

#### By Staff Correspondent

A blood donation campaign aiming at raising awareness among the people particularly youths for blood donation was organised yesterday, says a press release.

A total of 25 bags of blood were collected at the programme organised by Epsilon Blood Donor's Club sponsored by Rotary International.

Epsilon President Nirmal Kanti Mitra inaugurated the programme while Rotarian Ahmed Faroque, Red Crescent Blood Centre Director Zakaria Khaled and Bangladesh Scout's National Commissioner Habibur Alam were present as guests at the programme held at the Red Crescent Society Blood Donation Centre.

### Islamic Preaching Society

Islamic Preaching Society held a discussion on Eternal Teachings of Al Quran and the Challenge of the 21st Century on Monday at the auditorium of Jatiya Press Club, says a press release.

Libyan Charge d'Affaires in Bangladesh Mahfuz Rajab Rahim attended the function as chief guest while Justice MA Rouf was present as special guest.

President of Bangladesh Libyan Friendship Society Advocate HK Abdul Hye, Prof ANM Abdul Mannan Khan, Prof ANM Raisuddin, and vice president of Islamic Preaching Society M Habibur Rahman, among others, spoke on the occasion.

President of the Islamic Preaching Society Maulana Mohammad Nur Hossain presided.

### Shibchar Thana Jatiyatabadi Forum

Shibchar Thana Jatiyatabadi Forum in Dhaka held a discussion followed by an iftar party on Tuesday at the auditorium of the Jatiya Press Club, says a press release.

Former minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf attended the discussion as special guest while general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskriti Sangsthan (JASAS) Wasimul Bari Rajib, Abdus Salam, Joint Convenor of Dhaka Metro BRTC, BNP, among others, took part in the discussion.

Forum President Motiur Rahman Surjo presided over the meeting.

### Plane hijack

From page 1  
They also are insisting on the Pakistani cleric Masood Azhar's freedom.

Indian negotiators opened talks with the hijackers late on Monday — four days into the hijacking — after the hijackers threatened to start killing passengers.

Talks are making progress. Negotiations are give and take," said A R Ghanashyam, an Indian diplomat in Kandahar.

In India, the government said it had given an appropriate reply to the hijackers demands, but did not elaborate.

Inside the control tower at the Kandahar airport where the Indian Airlines Airbus A300 is parked with 160 people on board, Indian negotiators talked by radio to the hijackers.

On the tarmac at Kandahar airport, Taliban soldiers, their heads wrapped in bulky turbans, periodically laid out their blankets and offered their prayers, some bowed in prayer beneath the wing of the parked aircraft.

### 12,880 families rehabilitated under Ashrayan projects this year

Some 12,880 destitute families have so far been rehabilitated in 1,288 barrack houses under the Ashrayan projects in the current year, reports UNB.

Another 7,270 families will soon be rehabilitated in 727 barrack houses.

This was disclosed at a review meeting held at the Prime Minister's office yesterday with the Principal Secretary to the prime minister in the chair.

Apart from this, 34,000 metric tonnes of wheat has been allocated for earth filling work at 1,030 barrack houses to rehabilitate 10,300 families.

Under VGR programme, food assistance has been provided to a total of 11,930 families and over Tk 2 crore has been distributed among the people rehabilitated under the Ashrayan project.



Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Minister for Environment and Forest, speaking at the inaugural session of a two-day 'Global Workshop of Environmental Journalists' organised by FEJE, CEJA, AFEJ at the CIRDAP auditorium, Wednesday.

### Bangladeshi student killed in Bangalore road accident

NEW DELHI, Dec 29: A Bangladeshi student, identified as Mohammed Syedul Karem was killed in a road accident on Monday night in Bangalore. Bangladesh High Commission sources said here today, reports BSS.

Syedul Karem, son of Habibur Rahman, Section-10, Block-B, Lane-13, quarter-6, Pallabi, Mirpur, Dhaka, was killed when the motorbike he was driving collided with a bus.

The body has been kept at the Bowring Hospital in Bangalore, the source said.

The Bangladesh High Commission, according to sources, was trying to inform the incident to Syedul's father who is working in Kuwait.

The challenges we are likely to face in the coming days are implementation of plans and policies and enforcement of regulations. Here, besides government efforts, we seek cooperation and support of civil society, NGOs and you, the journalists' community of Bangladesh," she told the inaugural session of the workshop.

Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury inaugurated the workshop urging journalists to use their "green pen" to raise awareness among the people across the world, particularly in Bangladesh.

The challenges we are likely to face in the coming days are implementation of plans and policies and enforcement of regulations. Here, besides government efforts, we seek cooperation and support of civil society, NGOs and you, the journalists' community of Bangladesh," she told the inaugural session of the workshop.

Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJE) in collaboration with Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ) and Commonwealth Environmental Journalists Association (CEJA) organised the workshop titled 'Challenges of New Millennium: Reversing Environmental Degradation and Role of the Media'.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, Ministry of Environment and Forest, and several development agencies are supporting the international meet.

Sajeda Chowdhury identified rapid growth of population as the prime challenge for the country's environment and said Bangladesh has to continue

Meanwhile, a faction of Chhara League has been observing a separate siege programme at CU campus since December 27 protesting arrest of some of its activists in connection with December 19 incident.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested three workers of BKSJL while they were making publicity for today's meeting. Ramna police said they were arrested on charge of "creating public nuisance" and will be produced in court today.

President of Bangladesh Libyan Friendship Society Advocate HK Abdul Hye, Prof ANM Abdul Mannan Khan, Prof ANM Raisuddin, and vice president of Islamic Preaching Society M Habibur Rahman, among others, spoke on the occasion.

President of the Islamic Preaching Society Maulana Mohammad Nur Hossain presided.

### Islamic Preaching Society

From page 12

He launched his Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League (BKSJL). It was foiled allegedly by activists of Chhara League, ruling Awami League's student

front.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested three workers of the refinery while they were making publicity for today's meeting. Ramna police said they were arrested on charge of "creating public nuisance" and will be produced in court today.

The muggers intercepted the car and snatched a bag containing the amount from the employees at gunpoint, police said.

The incident occurred at around 1:30 pm when three employees of the refinery were going to deposit the money with Agrani Bank Agrabad branch in a car.

The muggers intercepted the car and snatched a bag containing the amount from the employees at gunpoint, police said.

On receipt of information, police rushed to the spot and brought the three to Kotwali Thana for interrogation.

A case was recorded with the Thana in this connection.

### Khaleda

From page 1

the agreement signed with the government, the withdrawal of all false cases filed against opposition MPs and former ministers and the implementation of the four-point agreement signed with the government earlier.

2) the withdrawal of the "indecent" remarks made by Khaleda Zia by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament, accompanied by an unconditional apology for the remarks.

(3) The indecent remarks must be expunged from the parliamentary records.

(4) The Prime Minister must assure the nation she won't make indecent remarks about Khaleda Zia again, and

(5) The Speaker must be neutral and transparent.

Sources said the BNP Chairman asked Prof. A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, the opposition's deputy leader, to draft a response to the Speaker's letter.

They said they expect Khaleda Zia to sit with some top ranking party leaders today to discuss the Speaker's letter and the response. They suggested the reply could be short, since the Speaker wrote his second letter without taking steps to address the BNP's five preconditions.

A top BNP leader told The Daily Star that the government showed a "non-serious effort" prior to the beginning of Sangsads session and called the Speaker's initiative "eye wash."

Another 7,270 families will soon be rehabilitated in 727 barrack houses.

This was disclosed at a review meeting held at the Prime Minister's office yesterday with the Principal Secretary to the prime minister in the chair.

Apart from this, 34,000 metric tonnes of wheat has been allocated for earth filling work at 1,030 barrack houses to rehabilitate 10,300 families.

Under VGR programme, food assistance has been provided to a total of 11,930 families and over Tk 2 crore has been distributed among the people rehabilitated under the Ashrayan project.

The Speaker could at least convene a meeting to determine the status of the 4-point agreement. But he didn't call the ruling party or the opposition to discuss the issues, the ENP leader added.

The Speaker could at least

convene a meeting to determine the status of the 4-point agreement. But he didn't call the ruling party or the opposition to discuss the issues, the ENP leader added.

The Speaker could at least

convene a meeting to determine the status of the 4-point agreement. But he didn't call the ruling party or the opposition to discuss the issues, the ENP leader added.

The Speaker could at least

convene a meeting to determine