

News

● What's on today....

Cardiology congress: The inaugural session of the first SAARC Congress of Cardiology will be held. Organiser: SAARC Cardiac Society. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10 am.

Certificate award ceremony: British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dr David Carter will distribute certificates among the lawyers and trainers who took part in three separate training courses held under the auspices of Legal Education and Training Institute of Bangladesh Bar Council. Venue: Bangladesh Bar Council premises. Time: 1 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Dialogue: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) will hold an indoor dialogue on "Fertility Behaviour in Bangladesh and West Bengal: A Comparative Study." Venue: CPD office, 6/A, Eskaton Garden, Romna. Time: 3:00 pm-6:00 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions, at a few places over Khulna division and at one or two places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Thick fog may cover the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country, the Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 29.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Patuakhali and the lowest 12.0 degrees at Syedpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:48 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37 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	
Dhaka	20.5	19.7	97
Chittagong	27.3	18.4	87
Rajshahi	20.0	14.5	98
Khulna	28.0	20.2	94
Barisal	27.0	17.5	100
Sylhet	22.7	16.7	98
Cox's Bazar	29.0	18.3	81
		Evening	96



Home Minister Mohammed Nasim yesterday cutting a cake to mark the silver jubilee of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police. — Star photo

HERE and THERE

Young Learners' Centre

Scouts of young learners from different parts of the capital yesterday celebrated the third founding anniversary of Young Learner's Centre, their favourite hangout, at the British Council on Fuller Road in the city, reports BSS.

Defying early February shower and attendant cool weather, members of the centre and young learners from Toddlers' School, Scholastica School, Bangladesh International Tutorial (BIT), Sunnydale School, Maple Leaf International School, Dawn Grammar School, Bangladesh Shishu Academy and Resource Bangladesh participated in a range of cultural events marking the day.

The functions included Minabazaar, drama, dance, recitation and songs.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dr David Carter opened the day's programme, releasing colorful balloons.

British Council Director Tom Cowin and Chief Executive of Standard Chartered Bank here Sethu Venkataswamy were present.

In the afternoon, Bangladesh International Tutorial received prizes for erecting best innovative stall and as best performing institution in the cultural programmes.

Assistant Director of British Council Mahmud Nomani distributed the awards.

Biochemical Society

The Bangladesh Biochemical Society yesterday paid glowing tributes to professor Mohammad Hossain, the vice-chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University, who died in a car accident on Friday, reports BSS.

In an emergency meeting held under the chairmanship of vice-president of society professor Harun K M Yusuf, the meeting paid glowing tributes to late Professor Hossain, describing him as a great scientist, scholar and dedicated social worker whose death is an irreparable loss to the country.

It conveyed deep condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

The university of Science and Technology, Chittagong, also condoled the death of the VC of the Agricultural University.

His tragic death is a big blow not only to the teaching community and scientists but also to the entire nation, National Professor and VC Prof. Nurul Islam said in a message.

Bangladesh Chhatri League expressed profound shock at the death of professor Hossain. In a message, Bahadur Bepari and Ajay Kar Khokon, President and general secretary of the organisation, said that the nation had lost an ideal teacher and scholar in the death of professor Hossain.

Clinton will ask for increase in defence budget

WASHINGTON, Feb 5: President Bill Clinton will make a final crack at politically unpopular military base closings in the \$360 billion defence budget he sends to Congress on Monday. That request appears doomed in an election year, but other parts of the request seem likely to win more favour among military-minded lawmakers, reports AP.

At roughly \$300 billion, the budget will be up from last year's \$288 billion and will represent "the first real defence increase in over a decade," according to Defence Secretary William Cohen.

The budget for the fiscal year that begins next Oct. 1 is expected to earmark \$60 billion in money to buy new weapons, defence officials say.

About \$1 billion of that will be devoted to addressing shortcomings exposed in the Kosovo war, including the purchase of an additional Joint Stars ground surveillance radar aircraft, an additional squadron of Navy EA-6B Prowler electronic warfare aircraft and several unmanned surveillance planes.

Pentagon officials said the budget would include \$5 billion

over the next five years for housing allowances to military members who live off-base.

Clinton also will ask for a \$2.2 billion increase on spending for a national missile defence system, long a top priority of congressional Republicans. The president has said he will make a decision this June on whether to move to the next stage and actually begin plans for deploying such a system.

Clinton also will ask for authority to close more bases starting in 2003.

However, Republican congressional leaders have expressed almost complete opposition to more base closings any time soon, and even Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle has been an opponent of a new round.

The administration has not said how many bases it thinks should be closed, nor which would be targeted. That would be decided by a congressionally authorised Base Realignment and Closure Commission, subject to presidential approval. The Pentagon lacks the authority to close bases on its own.

The last round of base closings was approved by the president and Congress in 1995.

MP's step to publish book on TSC incident condemned

By Staff Correspondent

Members of a newly-formed platform for prevention of sexual harassment of women have condemned Jaijal Hazari, a treasury bench Member of Parliament's decision to publish a book titled "Badhoner Bichar Chat", says a press release.

The joint coordinators of "Jouno Nipiron Protroth Mancha" have also demanded expunction of the MP's statement regarding Badhon on the floor of parliament recently.

The press release said that by accusing Badhon, Jaijal Hazari had proved that he had close connections with the ones who had sexually harassed Badhon on the night of 31st December last at the TSC area of Dhaka University.

"Since the obscene and vulgar statement of Jaijal Hazari in the Parliament is yet to be expunged, the moral stand of other MPs has also become clear."

The platform has also condemned and protested against an article written by Nilima Ibrahim. It said, the article was written to save the culprits.

DMP observes silver jubilee

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Metropolitan Police celebrated the silver jubilee of its 'raising day' at the DMP headquarters in the city yesterday.

The DMP building was illuminated with coloured lights and a band party of the police played tunes of patriotic and popular songs during the function which began at 4:30 pm.

Matiur Rahman, the newly appointed Commissioner of DMP was the host of the programme in which Mohammad Nasim, Home Minister, and Minister for Post and Telecommunications was the chief guest.

Among others Prof Zinatun Nesa, Minister of State for Women and Parliamentary Affairs was also present.

AYB Siddique, IG Police and top ranking police officials in the city also participated in the celebrations.

DAB submits memo to President

By Staff Correspondent

The Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) has submitted a memorandum to the President urging him not to assent to the Public Safety Bill, says a DAB press release.

At a rally organised by DAB in the city yesterday, members of the organisation gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar and termed the Public Safety Act as a "black law" which should be scrapped to uphold human rights in the country.

"History is a witness to the fact that the people who enact this kind of law themselves become victims of it."

The rally was chaired by Professor M A Hadi. A silent procession was brought out after the rally.

Obituary

Naziruddin Ahmed, a retired district magistrate, died yesterday at 3:30 in the afternoon, says a press release.

He was suffering from old age complications.

He is survived by three daughters and seven grandchildren and innumerable number of relatives and well-wishers.

He was the founder principal of Dhaka City College.

The Gulkhwan of Naziruddin Ahmed will be held on Friday, February 11 after Aar prayers at his residence at House no 73, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi.

Reza Hamed

Rizia Ahmed, mother of Brigadier Rokonuddoula, died yesterday at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) at Dhaka Cantonment.

She was 74, reports BSS.

Rizia Ahmed left five sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Family sources said that she will be buried at Banani army graveyard for eternal rest after namaz-e-janaza at new DOHS Mosque following Aar prayers today.

The quirkwan of Rizia Ahmed will be held after Aar prayers at House number 41, Road-14, Sector-4, Uttara Model Town on Monday.

The family members have requested all relatives, friends and admirers to attend the quirkwan and pray to Almighty Allah for peace of the departed soul.

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