

What's on today

Parade: The annual parade of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Lines will be held. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Venue: Rajarbagh. Time: 9:00 am.

Seminar: European Food Security Network organise the inauguration of a seminar on 'Integration of Cash Payment Systems in the Food Security Programmes of Bangladesh.' Venue: Conference room of IDB Bhaban (3rd floor), Rokaya Sharami, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9:00 am.

Seminar: Dhaka Dental College and Hospital will hold a seminar on 'Essential Oral Care'. Venue: BIAM auditorium, 63 New Eskaton. Time: 10:00 am.

Opening ceremony: The opening ceremony of Millennium International School will be held. Chief guest: Education Minister ASHK Sadique. Venue: School premises at Monica Estate, West Dhanmondi. Time: 10:00 am.

Inauguration: The 3rd solo Handpainted Pottery and Home Textile exhibition of Shahrukh Shahid will be inaugurated. Chief guest: State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Rd. Time: 4:30 pm.

Film show: *Shilpi* (The Dreamer) by Nabeyendu Chatterjee will be screened by Zahir Raihan Film Society as part of its ongoing 'Contemporary Indian Film Session.' Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:00 pm.

Music programme: The Muse presents its first monthly programme. Piano instrumental and western vocal, Indian instrumental and vocal music will be presented by the group. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House No 510, Rd No 7, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:30 pm.

SEHD workshop: Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) will begin a 3-day long workshop for journalists on 'Reporting Industrial Pollution.' Venue: Women's Voluntary Association (WVA), House No 20, Rd No 16 (new) 27 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A.

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Film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Anu* by Satyapriya Sanyal as part of its ongoing 'Contemporary Indian Film Session.' Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:30 pm.

Discussion meeting: A discussion meeting will be held by Bangladesh Diabetes Society on 'Diabetes Awareness Day.' Chief guest: Chief Justice Latifur Rahman. Venue: BIRDEM auditorium. Time: 7:00 pm.

Weather

No change in night temp

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country with partly cloudy sky over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office predicted.

The country's highest temperature was recorded yesterday at 28.0 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 9.6 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:00 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:23 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	25.8	18.6	82	24
Chittagong	26.5	17.0	80	59
Rajshahi	26.7	11.8	38	48
Khulna	27.7	16.6	54	47
Barisal	26.6	16.0	75	62
Sylhet	26.0	15.4	66	35
Cox's Bazar	26.8	20.2	61	53

HERE and THERE

GMCF

A 35-member Central Executive Committee of the Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum (GMCF) was elected on Friday with journalist Rahat Khan and writer Rahedul Hasan Sheeli as president and general secretary respectively, reports BSS.

Samajtantrik Mohila Forum

According to a GMCF press release, the committee was elected at the biennial conference of the forum chaired by M Baduzzaman held at the Institute of Diploma Engineers.

DU History Dept freshers' reception

Freshers' Reception of History Department of the Dhaka University was held on Thursday at the auditorium of the TSC. Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Professor Shahadat Ali was the chief guest. The function was presided over by the Chairman of the department, Professor Ifukhar-ul-Awwal, says a press release.

The chief guest, Prof Shahadat Ali, stressed the need of the study of history for generating patriotism and nationalism. He urged the students to study the history of the birth of Bangladesh. Professor Ifukhar-ul-Awwal felt that only an objective and unbiased study of our history can lead the nation to its ultimate goal of creating Sonar Bangla.

Int'l Mother Language Day Celebration Committee 2000

By Staff Correspondent International Mother Language Day Celebration Committee-2000, Naria, Shariatpur held a discussion recently as part of its week-long programme. Presided over by Principal Abul Kalam Azad, the programme was addressed among others, by Col (ret'd) Sawkat Ali MP as the chief guest, artistate Peejus Bandapadhaya of Gram

Theatre as special guest, advocate Sultan Mahmud Seeman, Professor M A Aziz Mia and Abdul Ohab Bepari.

Members of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Shishu Academy participates at a cultural function followed by the discussion. A drama titled 'Hamed Alir Swarga Darsan' was also staged which was participated by the members of the Keertinasha Theatre.

BILS

The second Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS)/LO-FTF trainees conference concluded yesterday at BIM campus, says a press release.

Findings of four the working sessions held were discussed at two sessions on the second day by the BILS leaders and participants. The session was conducted by the BILS leader Jahan Ara Begum, Abdullah Al Noan, Nurul Islam, Nazrul Islam Khan and Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan.

The concluding session of the conference accepted recommendations from participants. A total of 400 TU activists of the country attended the conference.

Nat'l confce of Engineers Institution at Sylhet today

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Feb 26: The 44th national conference of the Engineers Institution, Bangladesh will begin in Sylhet on February 27.

Officials of the Institution told a press conference held at the Sylhet Press Club this afternoon that the 4-day occasion will be attended by about 1500 delegate members of the forum of the degree engineers of the country while foreign delegates from 5 other countries are also expected to be present. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to be the chief guest at the inaugural function while the Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia will be the chief guest at the concluding ceremony.

Urs begins at Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Feb 26: The 680th Urs of the Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) began in Sylhet today. The two-day ceremony started through placing *Gulaf* at the *mazar* of the saint in the early morning. Other programmes include, *Quran Khwani*, *Fateha Khwani*, *Jikr-Ajker* etc.



Students of National University held a meeting in the city yesterday to press for rescheduling of the university's Masters 1st part exam on April 8 and Masters final part exam on May 13. — Star photo

Current political instability a threat to democracy

Speakers at discussion meet say

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting on 'Democratisation in South Asia and Bangladesh Perspectives' in the city yesterday blamed politicians and bureaucrats for the current political instability in the country. The democratic process will be endangered if it continues, they said and stressed the need for a consensus among political parties to solve the political problems in a peaceful manner.

The discussion was organised on the occasion of the 8th National Convention of Bangladesh Political Science Association, held at a city hotel. Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed was in the chair. Former vice-chancellor of

Chittagong University Prof. I R Chowdhury was the chief guest while Moudud Ahmed a central leader of opposition BNP was the special guest. Prof. Ataur Rahman presented the keynote paper on the topic. Abu Hena MP, Prof. Shamsur Rahman, Prof. Saifulah Bhuiyan, Prof. Dil Ara Chowdhury, Shah Abdul Hannan, Prof. Mahbub Ullah, Prof. Tajul Islam Hashemi, Dr Jagul Haider and Dr Hassan Mohammad took part in the discussion. Dr Ataur Rahman said that the country got two chances — one in 1990 and the other 1996 — to give democracy a chance to flourish. But the chances were due to the narrow interests and intolerance of politicians.

The main reason is the mistrust and animosity among the political forces. Ineffective parliament and lack of consensus are the other reasons, he added. The ruling party is 'less tolerant and less accommodative' while opposition BNP is resorting to 'illogical' hartals, he said. 'The Awami League government is politicising the army, police and bureaucrats for staying in power'. 'Violence and muscle power in politics should be eliminated for the sake of the country and its economy,' Dr Ataur added. It is the responsibility of political parties to ensure an effective parliament. 'But our politicians have failed to abide by democratic norms.'



A still from a pantomime presentation of *Gupiguen Baghabaen* by Chandralok Khelaghor Ashor at the SAARC Shishu Kishore Maitree Mela held at Shishu Academy auditorium yesterday. — Star photo

Speakers suggest common platform to free country from communalism

Speakers at a discussion yesterday underscored the need for forming a common platform comprising all left, democratic and pro-liberation forces to free the country from the clutches of communalism and reactionary quarters, reports BSS. Participating in the discussion entitled 'Ways to face the rise of communal forces in Bangladesh,' organised by Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at the War of Liberation Museum, they said all quarters will have to fight consistently the rising communalism from their respective positions. The speakers were also critical of the strategies taken by some big political parties at different times by accommodating the communal parties into their fold to go to power. The religion-based political parties, they said would never

deliver the good to the people and ultimately destroy the big parties. The function was also addressed, among others, by General Secretary of CPB Mujahidul Islam Selim, Journalist Faiz Ahmed, General Secretary of Sammilite Sangskritik Jote Golam Quddus, writer and freedom fighter Haroon Habib, journalist Santosh Gupta and writer Bashir al Helal. Mujahidul Islam Selim gave an overview of the rise of religious fanaticism throughout the whole world and painted its adverse impact on the socio-economic and political fields. He dwelt on the communalism in Bangladesh, analysing several factors including social and economic aspects that led to the rise of reactionary forces. Faiz Ahmed criticised those big parties which had taken the communal forces into their fold

to achieve temporary gain of going to power. He underlined the need for forging an alliance of all left forces and to chalk out programmes to fight communalism which he said will 'devour all parties.' Golam Quddus called for convening a grand conference of secular, democratic and pro-liberation forces to launch vigorous movement against the communal forces. Haroon Habib urged all irrespective of party affiliation to start a national mass movement to fight communalism in the country. He urged all big and small progressive parties to shun their egoistic attitudes and stand on a common point to eradicate communalism. Santosh Gupta said political forces would have to fight against the communal forces.

JUJA forms two executive bodies

By JU Correspondent Members of Jahangirnagar University Journalists' Association (JUJA) have formed two different executive bodies following one group's allegation of manipulating the election procedure. The annual election of JUJA for 2000 was held on February 23 in which Fakhru Arefin (Ajker Kagaj) and Sohul Ahsan (Prothom Alo) were elected president and general secretary respectively. The other office-bearers are: Lemon Awal (Khabar) vice president, Khaled Saifullah Manik (UNB) joint-secretary, Shawkat Hossain (Banglar Baani) treasurer, Moshirur Rahman (New Nation) office and publication secretary, and Kazi Zakir Hossain (Muktakantha), Atiqur Rahman (Manab Zamin) and Mchedi Jamil Ajker Awar) executive members. But, three elected office-bearers resigned from the new body following some members' allegation of manipulating the election procedure and formed counter association. The new association, led by a convening committee later held another election. All the nine members were elected in opposition with Sarder Zohayer Hossain (Utdaq) and Choker Malitha (Bhorer Kagaj) as president and general secretary respectively.

Sandhani seeks help for cancer patient

Sandhani, a voluntary organisation of medical and dental students, has appealed for financial help for the treatment of Dr A. Monsur who is suffering from Multiple Myeloma. A press release of Sandhani said that Dr Monsur, a young doctor, who is now suffering from cancer is unable to bear the exorbitant cost of treatment. Dr Monsur has been examined by local specialists who have advised him to seek overseas treatment. The treatment costs might be as high as Tk 50 lakh.

Colleagues condole death of Dr Alauddin

The cabinet colleagues of State Minister for Housing and Public Works Dr Md Alauddin, who died yesterday in New Delhi, instantly expressed their heart-felt shock at the sad demise of their good friend due to post-operation complications in the prostate glands, reports BSS. General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League and Minister for Local Government Zillur Rahman in a condolence message described Dr Alauddin, an uncompromising leader on question of protecting people's rights. The country has lost an honest and pro-people politician in the death of Dr Alauddin, he said. Minister for Homes, Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim said Dr Alauddin would be fondly remembered by all patriotic citizens. He was a valiant freedom fighter and always fought against injustices throughout his long political career, he said. Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasanat Abdullah in a similar message expressing his deep shock said 'the country has lost a true politician in the death of Dr Alauddin.' Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism, Public Works and Housing Eng. Mosharraf Hossain, now in London on a visit, recalled with deep respect his long political association with Dr Alauddin. State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hussain Chowdhury Maya recalled with respect the active contribution of Dr Alauddin in the War of Liberation in 1971. State Minister for Textile AKM Jahangir Hussain also condoned the death of Dr Alauddin describing him as a real friend of the masses. State Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture Obaidul Quader in a message said the country has lost a senior politician, freedom fighter and an ardent social worker in the death of Dr Alauddin. They prayed for the peace of the departed soul and conveyed their heart-felt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

ICSMB exam results

Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Managers of Bangladesh (ICSMB) has announced the results of the Chartered Secretary Summer 1999 examination held in January 2000, according to a press release. Candidates bearing the following roll nos came out successful: CS Inter Level I: Roll No — 1-15, 1-23, 1-25, 1-26, 1-27, 1-31 and 1-42 (Total 7 candidates). CS Inter Level I & II: Roll No — 1-12, 1-22 and 1-28 (Total 3 candidates). CS Inter Level II: Roll No — 1-38 and 1-45 (Total 2 candidates). CS Inter Qualified: Roll No — 1-01, 1-02, 1-03, 1-08, 1-33 and 1-50 (Total 6 candidates). CS Final Group I: Roll No — F-1, F-7, F-8, F-17 and F-21 (Total 5 candidates). CS Final Group II: Roll No — F-03, F-04, F-05, F-09, F-10, F-12, F-13, F-14, F-15, F-18 and F-19 (Total 11 candidates). The successful candidates have been requested to contact the institute's office immediately for their admission in the next level/group. The coaching classes for the next session of the Institute will commence on March 4.

Int'l confce on Safe Communities begins

The 9th International Conference on Safe Community began yesterday at the Institute of Child and Mother Health at Matuail with a view to paving the way towards a global initiative for safe community, reports BSS. Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim inaugurated the conference as the chief guest. Presided over by the Vice-Chancellor of the Engineering University, the conference was also addressed among others by Habibur Rahman Mollah MP, representative of WHO Dr Harjotanej, head of the WHO collaborating centre for Safe Community Prof Leif Svanstorm and Director of ICMH Prof MQK Talukder. The Health Minister in his inaugural speech said, restoring of peace and discipline is the pre-requisite for achieving socio-economic emancipation. In this context, he said for the restoration of peace in the society it is essentially necessary to establish a safe community. He said that with a view to establishing a society free from terrorism and anarchy the present government has enacted the Public Safety Law. He sought full cooperation of all concerned for successful implementation of such law for the greater benefit of the people, which will help establish a safe community in the country. He also urged upon the participants including experts and professionals to work with utmost sincerity with a view to reducing the child-mother mortality rate and for the development of nutrition for safe motherhood. A total of 233 experts from Bangladesh and 60 experts from abroad have been participating in the 3-day long conference. The country's represented in the conference include Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, USA and Vietnam.

JU School & College reunion held

By JU Correspondent The first reunion of Jahangirnagar University School and College was held at the college premises Friday. Ex-students of the institution brought out a colorful procession on the university campus in the morning on the occasion. Later, a cultural function was held at the college premises where the students took part in recollecting the memories of their school and college life. Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Abdul Bayes was the chief guest at the function while chairman of the institution's managing committee and treasurer of the university Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir was special guest. Principal of the institution Monsur Ali Mia, convenor of the programme Azizur Rahman Mukul and member-secretary Mostafa Hasan delivered the welcome speeches. Some 500 former students of the institution took part in the reunion. A cultural programme was held in the later half of the programme.

Nat'l exhibition on solar technology begins March 2

By DU Correspondent A three-day long national exhibition on solar technology will begin on March 2 at the energy park area on the Dhaka University campus. Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of the University will inaugurate the programme at 9:30 am. As part of the programme a symposium on 'The Present Situation and Main Problems to Implement Solar Energy in Bangladesh' will also be held at the auditorium of Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka at 10:00 am. Muhammad Fazlur Rahman, secretary of Science and Technology Ministry will be present at the symposium as the chief guest. The programme has been organised by Bangladesh Solar Energy Society and Renewable Energy Research Centre of Dhaka University.

JU human chain today for reopening Shahjalal Varsity

By JU Correspondent Gonotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a conglomerate of left-leaning student organisations of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will form a human chain on Dhaka-Aricha highway today demanding immediate reopening of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST). The programme was announced at a rally on the university campus yesterday. GCO brought out a procession from Prantik gate in the evening. The procession paraded the campus and ended with a rally. Addressing the rally, the leaders condemned the role of the president of the country alleging that he had yielded to the fundamentalists' pressure. 'While the president was generally expected to make arrangements to implement SUST Syndicate's decision of naming student dormitories and other buildings, he has yielded to the pressure and ordered postponement of the naming,' Monishankar Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, JU unit, alleged. Demanding immediate reopening of the university, GCO leaders asked for withdrawal of the postponement order of naming of the university dormitories. Meanwhile, 79 teachers of the university, in a signed statement, strongly condemned the attack on SUST Teachers' Association President Jinal Abedin and demanded exemplary punishment of the persons involved.

'Bangla 2000' to be launched today

By DU Correspondent The premier show of a software titled 'Bangla 2000' will be held at the *Lekhok Kunga* of Bangla Academy today at 4:30 pm. Dr Anwar Hossain, Director General of the Academy will be present at the publication ceremony of the software, made under supervision of overseas Bangladeshes, as the chief guest while Dr Zafar Iqbal, Shahtar Kabir, Ahmed Hassan Jewel and Mojibur Rahman Shapan will be present as the special guests. The software, developed by Dr Abdus Shakil and Amirul Islam Manik, is meant for use of those who do not know how to type in Bangla. It will help typing Bangla in a easier and quicker way. The software will be marketed by Business Information and Advisory Services Limited (BIASL).

Seminar on Language Movement at JU today

By JU Correspondent A seminar entitled 'Language Movement, International Mother Language Day and Our duties' will be held at Jahangirnagar University (JU) today. Organised by Department of History, the seminar will be held at Room No 201 of Arts Faculty at 10:00 am today. Abdul Baten Chowdhury and Golam Rabbani will present the keynote papers on the topic. Prof Sarder Fazlul Karim and Prof Badzur Rahman Khan will also discuss on the topic while Prof Hasina Matin, chairperson of the department will preside over the seminar.

Educationist dead

A social worker and educationist Abul Rashid Khan died at the age of 90 at his Ibrahim-pur residence yesterday evening, family sources said, reports BSS. He left behind his wife, seven sons and three daughters. His eldest son is Additional IG of Police Abdul Rahim Khan. The namaz-e-janaza of Khan will be held at his Moreganj village home under Bagerhat tomorrow. He will be buried at his family graveyard there.

Qulkhwani Bangabhaban

The qulkhwani of Shamsun Nahar (Baby Zaman) wife of late Shamsuzaman and younger sister of Lt Gen (Retd) Md Atiqur Rahman, former Chief of Army Staff, will be held today after Magrib prayers at her residence at 84, Park Road, Baridhara, says a press release. All her relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Obituary

Abdul Quddus Saadi, father of AL Mosabbir Saadi, sports reporter of Daily Independent, died of brain haemorrhage at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital in Dhaka on Friday, reports UNB. A renowned social worker of Ashutapara in Iswardi Thana under Pabna district, Saadi left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death. He wrote a good number of poems, stories and novels under pseudonyms 'Channachara' and 'Apriya Sikder'. Saadi was buried at his village graveyard on Friday.



A group of students of Maple Leaf International School performing at a cultural programme titled 'Bangla is still my mother tongue' at the Nazrul Institute auditorium yesterday in celebration of International Mother Language Day. — Star photo