

What's on today....

Seminar: A seminar will be held on the last day of the workshop on "Dance Therapy for the Disabled". Arvil Hiltman, Artistic director of Magpie Dance (UK) is conducting the workshop. Venue: Sangskriti Bikash Kendro, 22/2, Free School Street, Hatirpool. Time: 6:00 pm.

Workshop: A two-day long workshop on environment titled "Global Workshop 2000" will begin. Organisers: Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB), Asia Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APEJ), and Commonwealth Environmental Journalists Association (CEJA). Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Tophkhana Road. Time: 9:30 am.

Exhibition: Altamira present their Eid collection of fashion apparels for men and women. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Française de Dhaka. Time: 3:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Seminar: The British High Commission organises the British Consultants Bureau Trade Mission seminar on "British consultancy: partnership with local firms". Chief guest: Md Abdul Jalil, Commerce Minister. Venue: Ballroom of I. Sonarjgon. Time: 1:30 pm.

Book launching: Abu Taher: His Art Work, a book on artist Abu Taher will be launched. A 10-day long exhibition of his selected works will also be inaugurated. Venue: Bangla Academy, Gallery Bhaban. Time: 5:00 pm.

Grish Kasaravalli retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Tabarana Katha* on the first day of Grish Kasaravalli Retrospective. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium. Time: 6:00 pm.

Film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Itihasa* (Daughters of History) by Shameen Akhtar. Venue: Muktaamancha of Jahangirnagar University. Time: 6:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Meeting: A special general meeting of Commonwealth Student and Youth Organisation (CSYO) will be held. Venue: CSYO central office, 43 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:00 pm.

Film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Krutu* (Cruelty) on the 2nd day of Grish Kasaravalli Retrospective. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House # 25, Rd # 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:00 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Moderate rain or thundershowers is likely at a few places over Sylhet division and at one or two places over Dhaka, Barisal and Khulna divisions and the regions of Pabna, Bogra, Noakhali and Comilla in next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period. Met Office said. The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 32.8 degree Celsius at Chuadanga and the lowest 14.6 degree Celsius at Rangpur and Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:04 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:16 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	30.7	22.5	82 67
Chittagong	29.0	20.1	74 86
Rajshahi	30.3	20.0	89 81
Khulna	32.2	21.4	91 67
Barisal	31.6	21.4	91 76
Sylhet	25.5	18.0	94 75
Cox's Bazar	29.8	19.2	73 80

HERE and THERE

SPGR

The Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGR) brought out a massive procession from the Institute of Engineers, says a press release.

President of SPGR Abdul Jabbar Khan led the procession which ended at the Jatiya Press Club.

The leader of SPGR urged the government officials to arrange a tripartite meeting between Pakistan, Bangladesh and SPGR before March 23. He also urged stop of eviction and demolition of camps at Mirpur and Sayedpur.

Bangladesh Charushilpi Sangsad

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Charushilpi Sangsad has appealed to the authorities in Tangail to construct a monument for language martyrs as per the design of Sadiqul Hasan, according to a press release.

The release said that the design, approved earlier by the Public Library authorities, had been withdrawn. "We are convinced that the design will profoundly represent the Language Movement and its martyrs," it said.

Novartis, BASF

By Staff Correspondent

German Embassy organised a classical guitar concert at the Liberation War Museum auditorium yesterday for raising fund for the museum, said a press release yesterday.

Two guitarists of Duo Ghibiriz, a German band, played guitar at yesterday's concert that was sponsored by Novartis and BASF Bangladesh Ltd. it said.



Prof Dr Nooruddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of BUET delivering speech as chief guest at the 19th reunion and biennial general meeting of '61-Club' yesterday at BUET Central Auditorium. Former ambassador and club president M R Osmani presided over the inaugural function.

CCHRB

By Staff Correspondent

The Coordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB), in its fifth meeting of the executive committee has decided to monitor the implementation of the Public Safety Act through a cell, a press release said.

Experts in law, development, representatives of the civil society and NGOs will be involved in the monitoring process. Details of the cell are now being prepared.

'61-Club'

The nineteenth reunion and biennial general meeting of '61-Club' formed by the graduates of the then Ahsanullah Engineering College was held on Saturday at the Central Auditorium Complex of BUET, says a press release.

Prof Dr Nooruddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of BUET inaugurated the reunion and meeting as the chief guest. In his speech, Prof Dr Nooruddin Ahmed said the unique contributions of the '61-Club' towards bridging the gap between the profession of engineering and the academic stream of BUET are appreciated by all.

The university is aware of the need for making full use of the opportunities offered by the Dr Rashid Foundation, an exemplary contribution by the '61-Club' to BUET.

He distributed 2 Gold Medals and 3 Silver Medals among the meritorious sons of the club members. Presided over by Engr MR Osmani, former ambassador and President of '61-Club', the inaugural function was also addressed by Engr Md KAS Abdur Rahim, general secretary of the Club, Engr L K Siddiqui, Engr Dr Mahdumzaman, Architect Badrul Huda and Md Selma Bahar Zaman.



The sewerage line at the road leading from Bijoynagar to Purana Paltan lies broken and the dirty water that seeps out of it engulfs the area in a pungent smell, much to the agony of the users of the road. —Star photo

Menon's call to protest visit of Clinton

RAJBARI, Mar 4: Workers Party general secretary Rashed Khan Menon today called for protesting the visit of US President Bill Clinton to Dhaka on March 20, reports JNB.

He said the US President was coming to look after the interest of his country and not of Bangladesh.

The left leaning leader speaking at the inaugural function of the three-day peasants' conference here today blamed the government for failing to meet its commitment to the farmers.

Menon criticised the government for leasing out gas and oil fields to foreign companies and the Chittagong Port.

He called upon the farmers to build up resistance to corruption and misrule of Awami League and also the communal forces. He said the country would be ruined if the present government continue in power.

The conference at the Railway Azadi Ground here was presided over by Anisur Rahman Malik and addressed by 3 MPs from India Mahbub Mehdi, Comrade Binoy Kunkar and Samar Chowdhury.

Lokshaba member Binoy Kunkar said the leftists in India were helpless and suggested forging unity of the left forces.

'Home of micro-credit' attracts Clinton

American Chamber (AmCham) President Forrest E Cookson has said that micro-credit programme and the democratic transition of Bangladesh work as the driving elements for US President Bill Clinton's visit to this South Asian country, says BSS.

The AmCham President, in an interview with BSS yesterday, said it was natural that President Clinton, who tried hard to improve the condition of the poor in his country, would like to visit the "home of micro-credit."

Cookson said as democracy was working "fastest" in Bangladesh of all other Muslim countries in the world, the US President, who is interested to see democracy flourishing everywhere, is coming to Bangladesh.

The AmCham president dismissed the notion that US-based multi-national companies engaged in oil and gas sector exploration worked as the major catalyst in the visit of the US President. He said even though gas and oil sector was figuring big in the US-Bangladesh trade relations, it was not the major and lone reason for the US President's visit.

Cookson, however, expected that the US proposal to Bangladesh to open up more in the export of gas and oil sector will be there during the talks between Bangladesh leaders and the US President.

He said: "I feel that our President should talk to both the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition in regard to opening up gas and oil sector."

About the probable agenda of discussion that may come up in the official talks with the US President, Cookson pointed out

that discussions on redirecting the amount of debt under PL 480 to reforestation programme in Bangladesh, increasing garments import quota by USA, development in the field of information technology (IT) through US cooperation and peace keeping operations might be held.

The government of Bangladesh could draw the presidential attention during talks to implement the US government's plan to redirect the PL 480 debts to reforestation so that Bangladesh could invest the amount in its social sector without giving back the money.

The AmCham President said the introduction of trade unionism in the Export Processing Zones was likely to be discussed in the talks which would be tagged with the question of increase in the US quota in the import of garments from Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has to come up with a reasonable proposal regarding TU issues in EPZs before or during the talks with President Clinton," Cookson said.

He said he felt President Clinton would show interest in the development of information technology in Bangladesh and lay stress on improving the scenario of the country's telecommunication sector.

He said Bangladesh government has to put up the success of the peace keeping operations carried by its armed forces in the world and persuade the President to convince the developed nations to contribute more to the UN on peace-keeping so that developing nation like Bangladesh could send peace keepers, which has declined in the recent times.

DU admission: Forms go on sale today

The distribution of preliminary admission forms of first year honours courses for 1999-2000 session of Dhaka University begins today from some specific banks, a DU press release said yesterday.

The value of each admission form has been fixed at Taka 225, the release added.

AL works out party programmes for March

Bangladesh Awami League decided to observe a number of occasions this month at a party meeting chaired by President of the party Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganobhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Party sources said the meeting decided to observe the historic March 7, celebrate the birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 17 and the Independence Day on March 26 and mark the fall of autocracy on March 30.

All village, union, thana and district units of the party have been directed to observe the occasions in a befitting manner.

The meeting urged the workers and leaders of the party to disseminate the success stories of the government and highlight the achievements of the present government through public rallies and in other forums.

It called for building a united resistance through raising public awareness of the conspirators who are trying to hinder the development process initiated by the government.

Presidium members, secretaries, members of the board of advisors, president and general secretary of Dhaka City Awami League and party MP's elected from the capital, among others, attended the meeting.

Committee formed to observe Int'l Women's Day

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 46 women's and development organisations have formed a committee to observe the International Women's Day on March 8, says a press release.

The theme of this year's observation will be "Resist repression on women." A torch procession and a cultural function have been organised to observe the day. The torch procession will begin from National Museum and move on to Dhanmondi playground. The cultural function will be held at the playground.

Case filed against Sonali Bank cashier for embezzlement

COMILLA, Mar 4: A case was filed against the cashier of Sonali Bank, Comilla WAPDA branch, with the Bureau of Anti-corruption for embezzlement of Tk 5.67 lakh, reports UNB.

According to the case, Lutfar Rahman, head cashier-cum-sub-accountant of the bank, misappropriated Tk 6.84 lakh from 10 accounts during his service with the branch from June 1989 to May 1995.

The cashier deposited only Tk 1.17 lakh back after the facts became first known. He is at present abroad.

Rickshawpuller commits suicide in Narayanganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 4: A rickshawpuller committed suicide by taking poison in Dharmaganj under Fatulla thana on Saturday afternoon.

Jamal, 28, was a tenant of one Tara Miah of Dharmaganj area. The reason behind the suicide could not be known. A case was filed with Fatulla thana in this connection.

Sumon Murder Case

From Page 1
to the venue accompanied by hundreds of people of his locality. Following the press conference they brought out a procession demanding punishment to the culprits.

Some locals who came to the press club also circulated leaflets mentioning the under world activities of Saidur Rahman Sahid, commissioner of Ward No 83, who is accused of influencing the DB for the killing. Shahid, however, denied the charge.

Sumon, 23 his elder brother, Shamim Hossain, and niece Tuli, 10, were shot during the raid at their Karimullahbagh residence in Shyampur at about 3:30 am on February 9.

Sumon died on the spot while two others received bullet injuries.

Addressing the press conference, brother of the deceased Haji Mozammel Hossain said the killers of Sumon are still at

Chief Justice

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ul Islam, presented the key-note paper in the seminar.

Islam said the emergence of Bangladesh was based on a claim to human rights.

He said that despite certain provisions for the protection of human rights in the Constitution, the achievements in this regard have not lived up to expectations.

"It is very unfortunate that reports are very common that law enforcers have been frequently violating human rights in many forms and even within their territory," he said.

Islam proposed the immediate introduction of "Directorate of the Public Prosecutor", which will ensure a transparent investigation into any human rights violations. He also urged the government to open an office of the ombudsman immediately.

BNP body

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They also suggested induction of existing leadership of front organisations in city and central BNP. They stressed the need for immediate solution to intra-party conflicts.

At the meeting, the policy markers apprehended that the government may go for massive repression" on opposition to suppress the current out-governed movement after the visit of the US President.

It also discussed the possibility of Upazila polls and decided to launch massive movement against holding of any election before the national polls.

Sources said the meeting decided to ask party leaders and activists across the country to prepare for next general election.

Standing Committee members Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Ol Ahmed, M Saifur Rahman, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddique, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Dr R A Gani and Moudud Ahmed attended the meeting.

SSC exams

From Page 12
High School under Luximpur district were expelled for supplying copies to students, while 17 outsiders were arrested outside the centre at Chandina High School on the same charges.

At Talagang High School in Barura thana of Comilla, a frenzied group of youths stole a camera from Abul Kalam Azad, a local journalist, when he took photographs of some over-enthusiastic outsiders supplying copies to students inside the examination hall.

Monument

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Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Haji Mohammad Selim MP were among others present on the occasion.

Hasina promised to remove the age-old barriers between the government and the people for improving economic condition of the deprived masses in a true democratic order.

"So long a handful of fortunate people roaming around the corridor of power have sucked up honey and wallowed in opulence... I want to change it to end the plight of the poor people and ensure their economic welfare," she said inaugurating the Bangabandhu Square Monument, Fountain and Mural.

"We don't want to be content with preserving memories of the nation's glorious democratic movement and struggle for independence... We want to bring about socioeconomic advance of the people and build the nation imbued with spirit of liberation war."

"I believe in accountability and transparency, I do not want to see any wall between the people and me. I want to end the misery of the poor," an emotion-charged Prime Minister said at the auditorium of D. aka Metropolitan Theatre.

The prime minister said although she is the president of Awami League and chief of her party's parliamentary board, she did never go for campaigning for her party candidates in any by-elections in order to ensure impartiality and people's confidence in voting.

She said her government allocated 40 per cent of ADP to socioeconomic schemes to help poor people attain economic self-reliance.

Hasina admitted that some fortunate people who used to be within the periphery of power sucking honey in the past are not happy with so much spending for improving poor people's lifestyle.

large and are threatening them. The Shyampur police still could not complete its investigation regarding the incident event after a court order. Hossain said.

Soon after the incident, the Shyampur Police refused to accept a case from Sumon's relatives in connection with the killing since the DB had already lodged a case in this regard.

They later filed a complaint case with the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on February 14 which ordered the OC of Shyampur to conduct an investigation in connection with the killing and register a regular case on the basis of the complaint given by the relatives.

The 16 DB personnel involved in the pre-dawn raid in Sumon's Karimullahbagh residence were charged with the killing.

The DB personnel included AC Masum Rabbani and AC Tanveer Ahmed, Inspectors Mobarak Ali, Arman Ali, Iqbal Rahman, Jalil Ahmed, Wahab Khan, Rashedul Alam, Sis Mahub Rahman Wazed Ali, Nurul Islam, Mamun Khan, Morsalin Mahub Rahman, Shamsuzzaman and Nurul Islam.

The nine armed hoodlums of the area charged with the killing are Abul Zakir, Mohammed Ali Bhulu, Aban, Mona, Khokon, Ismail, Khairul and Noor Islam.

Abduction

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annual budget of about Tk 40 lakh and runs 42 branches at the district level. It provides medical facilities. It has also set up medical facilities in the five divisional headquarters.

The case was registered by the complainant and it is not a political case," he told this correspondent.

Ershad's son

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were away from the residence when Shad was arrested.

When contacted last night, Ershad termed the incident a "conspiracy", to put pressure on him and his party for the anti-government case.

"I am really surprised at the way the government behaved," Ershad said. "How could it be an incident of kidnap when the girl was found in her own house?"

DMP Commissioner Matiar Rahman ruled out any "conspiracy", as alleged by the JP chief.

"The case was registered by the complainant and it is not a political case," he told this correspondent.

Sylhet clash

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The university was closed sine die last week amid attack and threats on faculty members after five months of impasse. The rightwing elements led by local leaders of BNP, anti-liberation Jamaat-e-Islami and other fundamentalist groups waged the campaign against the naming of dormitories after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam, and some Liberation War martyrs including J C Dev.

Officials said the injured people including five policemen were being treated at different hospitals and clinics.

Khaleda

From Page 1
and showed their dedication on previous occasions. She hoped that they would succeed in carrying out the present movement and strengthening the party. She advised the new leadership to gear up party activities at ward and thana levels in the city and go for a massive anti-government campaign.

Turning to the situation in the country, the former prime minister said the nation is now facing various crises due to misrule of the Awami League government.

About the Public Safety Act, she said the government has already proved that it is aimed at repressing the opposition activists and harassing innocent people.

She reiterated that if BNP is voted to power, it would cancel the PSA. BNP is preparing a list of police officers who are filing false cases against the party leaders and activists under this "black and repressive law".

Presided over by Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, the meeting was also addressed by, among others, Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Abdus salam.

Food aid

From Page 1
ber said that further consultation would be needed in March before "we (EC and Bangladesh) are ready for signing the agreement."

Md Shah Jahan, a food ministry joint secretary, said further reductions in food aid should be avoided because it might threaten successful programmes and the food security of the poor who participate in them.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP) global food aid portfolio has been changed radically. Over 70 per cent of food aid are used for meeting emergencies while the remaining 30 per cent goes for development purposes. Few years back, sources said, food aid ratio was the other way round.

Increasing numbers of food-assisted programmes have to be borne by the country itself instead of dependence on food aid from outside. WFP representative to Bangladesh Dr Werner Kiere said recently.