

News

What's on today....

Seminar: A seminar will be held on the last day of the workshop on "Dance Therapy for the Disabled". Arvil Hulman, 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 (FEJBI), Asia Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (AFEJ), and Commonwealth Environmental Journalists Association (CEJA). Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 9:30 am.

Exhibition: Altamira present their Eid collection of fashion apparels for men and women. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise 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 F. Sonargaon. 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.

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

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



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

..... and tomorrow

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

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

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Moderate rain or thundershower 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 Raiganj 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	16.0	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

SPGRC

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

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

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

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 Alisamullah Engineering College was held on Saturday at the Central Auditorium Complex of BUET, says a press release.

President 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 Osman, 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. Md. Huzzaman, Architect Badru Huda and M Selina B. Karim Zaman.

DCCI hails govt decision to lift restrictions on V-SAT use

President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Attaul Islam, yesterday appreciated the government's decision of withdrawing restrictions on the use of very small aperture terminal (VSAT) and rationalisation of the tariff in the form of reducing the satellite cost for Internet service, says BSS.

The decision will pave the way for accelerating the pace of Internet use, promote local and overseas investment in software development and other related fields.

The government's decision would be considered as a milestone in the process of economising the cost of IT operation and Internet use in Bangladesh, he added.

Obituary

Dr Altaf Hossain Talukder, Professor of Zahrul Islam Medical College and Hospital and former head of the Department of Gynecology at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, died of liver cancer in the city's Shamarita Hospital in the early hours of yesterday. He was 70, says a press release.

He was buried at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard yesterday.

He was also the head of the Department of Gynecology at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and former Director of Raiganj Medical College.

Dr Shawkat Ali said the major task now is to bring flood

prone areas under sustainable productive zones of agriculture sector.

"Nearly 20-25 per cent of the country is flooded every year and, so, we have to chalk out plans taking into consideration this reality," he said.

The agriculture secretary stressed the need for incorporating details in the FAP about sustainable agriculture in flood-prone areas. This issue has to be addressed in the FAP, he added.

He said: "The net cultivable land has been decreasing and, so, we have to prepare plans to increase crop production by using available land and water."

Dr Kholiquzzaman laid emphasis on harmonising farmers' knowledge and technological package for a sustainable agriculture in flood-prone areas. Harmonisation of these two can increase crop production, he added.

Organised by Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP), the function was also addressed by Agriculture Secretary Dr A M M Shawkat Ali, Chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed and Member Secretary of BWP T. A. Khan.

Chairman of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) Quamrul Islam Siddiqui, who is also chairman of BWP, presided over the function.

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