

What's on today....

Blood donation programme: Dhaka University VOA Fan Club will hold a blood donation, tree plantation and polio vaccination programme. Venue: Aparajeo Bangla, DU campus. Time: 9:00 am.

Prize distribution: Siddheswari Girls College holds its annual science and handicrafts exhibition prize distribution ceremony. Venue: College premises at 148, New Bailey Road, Ramna. Time: 11:30 am.

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 Kraurua (Crucity) on the 2nd day of Girish Kasaravalli Retrospective. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House 25, Rd 2 Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:00 pm.

Seminar: Centre for Advanced Research in the Humanities will hold a seminar on 'Mahasweta Devi and the Maternal Idea.' Venue: 434, Lecture Theatre, DU. Time: 4:00 pm.

Meeting: Dhaka University Alumni Association will hold a meeting of its executive committee. Venue: Maths Department, Science Annex Building, DU. Time: 4:30 pm.

Premiere: The premiere of telefilm *Bou Tuber Phool* produced by Akava Telefilms will be held. Venue: Star Vision, 18 Dulu Road, New Eskaton. Time: 7:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Founding anniversary: The Daily Ajker Kagoj celebrates its 10th founding anniversary. Chief guest: Chief Justice Latifur Rahman. Venue: Ballroom of Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 4:00 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light rain or thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the region of Jessore, Kushtia, Pabna, Bogra, Noakhali and Comilla in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged, the Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Satkhira and the lowest 16.6 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:04 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:15 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	30.4	22.7	80	67
Chittagong	29.3	21.0	79	85
Rajshahi	31.4	21.2	91	70
Khulna	33.2	22.5	73	65
Barisal	32.0	22.0	79	75
Sylhet	27.3	17.9	94	71
Cox's Bazar	30.5	20.2	77	-

HERE and THERE



Sk Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University

The election to the executive committee of Bangladesh University Teachers' Council was held recently, says a press release.

Dr. Md Khorshed Alam Bhuiyan, Assistant professor of Plant Diseases Department, was elected the President while Dr Md Giasuddin Miah of the Agro-Forestry and Environment Department was elected the Vice-president.

FEJC formed

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 5: A 24-member Executive Committee of Forum of Environmental Journalists, Chittagong, was formed for the next two years in a two-yearly election of the Forum held at its office here yesterday.

The committee Syed Murtaza Ali of The Asia Week and Shaded Siddiqui of the Bhorer Kagoj were elected the President and general secretary respectively. Other office bearers are: Vice-presidents - Kashem Mahmud of Bangla Bazar, Daizy of the Purbokone and Syed Abdul Wazed of the Purbokone.

Special Court resumes trial of Fatik, Panna murder cases

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Mar 5: The Special Court resumed trial of Advocate Fatik and Panna murder cases today.

Jainal, one of the prosecution witnesses in advocate Fatik murder case deposed in the court, saying that Ershad Shikdar killed Fatik brutally and later dumped the body into the Bhairab river.

Advocate Fatik was killed for having illicit connection with Khodja, first wife of Shikdar, the prosecution witness said.

Liaquat Lashkar and 'Jama' Farooq, Idris 'Jama' and Ayub Munshi were present at the time of the murder, the witnesses added.

Shikdar and his accomplices kidnapped advocate Fatik on April 6, 1998 and brutally killed him on April 7, said another prosecution witness Ehsanul Kabir, younger brother of Advocate Jahangir Kabir Fatik.

The court adjourned trial of Fatik murder case till March 22.

bokone. Assistant General Secretary M Shamsul Haq of Prothom Ali, Hasan Akber to the Azadi and Publicity and publication secretary: Kazi Abul Monsoor of the Janakantha.

Bangladesh Police Service Assoc

Additional Inspector General of Police Mohammad Nurul Alam has been re-elected president of the Bangladesh Police Service Association for the year 2000.

Deputy Commissioner (East) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Mohammad Mokhelesur Rahman has been elected general secretary of the association, said a press release yesterday.

Other office bearers-elect are: NSI Director Mohammad Kutubur Rahman and DMP Commissioner Mohammad Matiuur Rahman (vice-presidents), and AIG Mohammad Sanaul Haq (treasurer).

The election and the AGM of the association was held at the police headquarters lawn in the city recently. Home Minister Mohammad Nasim and Inspector General of Police AYESI Siddiqui attended the programme as chief and special guests respectively.

CCCI polls

From Page 1

Mosharrar Hossain, submitted nominations for election.

But when it became clear Muazzem would win the race thanks to the support of the ex-president of the chamber and BNP leader Zafarul Islam Chowdhury MP Javed prevented the chamber from providing membership to 500 businessmen, CCCI sources said.

The supporters of Muazzem filed a case, and the court issued injunction against the election, which is still in force. As a result, Kamal Uddin is still president of the chamber.

But in a recent turn of event Saffuzzaman got the support of Zafarul Islam Chowdhury, renewing pressure on Kamal Uddin to quit.

Saffuzzaman Javed said 23 directors out of 24 were now on his side. "We want to infuse dynamism into the activity of the chamber holding election and asked the president to resign," he said.

Javed warned they would take action according to the rules if Kamal Uddin did not resign voluntarily.

"We met at the office discuss an upcoming grand rally of businessmen in the port city scheduled for March 14," said Javed.

CCCI President Kamal Uddin said that according to the Trade Ordinance, no change in the leadership of chamber would be valid after the expiry of 270 days of a due election. "So I will not resign, I was elected and I will resign after holding the election," Kamal said.



Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Minister for Environment and Forest, delivering her inaugural speech at a global workshop of the environmental journalists on "Curbing Air Pollution: The role of the media" at the CRIDAP auditorium in the city. The workshop is being held by Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) in collaboration with Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APEJ) and Commonwealth Environmental Journalists Association (CEJA).

JCD threatens non-stop movement to oust govt

By DU Correspondent

Leaders of BNP and its student organisation Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at a protest rally in the city's Sabujbagh thana yesterday warned of a non-stop movement against the ruling Awami League if their current repression on the opposition is not stopped.

"Stop repression on opposition activists otherwise the people of the country united against you, (Sheikh Hasina) will oust you from the power," cautioned Barrister Moudud Ahmed while addressing the rally as chief guest.

He urged the people not to be afraid of the continual repressive measures, calling upon them to intensify the current one-point movement against

the "puppet and autocrat" ruler. Moudud Ahmed said that the government of Hasina has begun harassing the opposition activists because she is afraid of the ongoing oust-government movement.

Demanding release of all BNP and JCD leaders, the BNP leader urged Hasina to resign immediately and hand over power to a neutral caretaker government for fresh polls.

Presided over by Sabujbagh thana JCD president Chowdhury Wahidur Rahman, the rally was also addressed by Nazimuddin Alam MP, Khairul Kabir Khokon, Fazlul Huq Milani, Abdus Salam, Munshi Bazul Basit Anju, Mosharrar Hossain and Manir Hossain.

Mannan Bhuiyan condemns arrest of 8 BNP men

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has condemned the arrest of eight BNP men and filing of a case against 26 under the Public Safety Act at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, he said that in the name of people's public safety the government has enacted the PSA showing disregard to human rights and democracy only to cling to power by suppressing opposition workers. The incident in Teknaf is a glaring example, he said.

The BNP leader demanded the release of its workers and withdrawal of the case.



Adamjee Jute Mills workers held a procession at the mill premises yesterday to press for their various demands.

'Women are being harassed openly in the country'

Beijing Plus Five Review National Committee resents govt's silence on acts of violence

"Beijing Plus Five Review National Committee" yesterday vented resentment over what they called absence of minimum security in family, society and state, and regretted that respect for women as human beings has waned rapidly, reports UNB.

It observed that the women, instead of getting sympathy, compassion, cooperation and justice, are being harassed and oppressed openly.

"We have our back on the wall... We are being harassed and insulted," said Laila Hasan of the Committee while reading out a written statement at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club ahead of International Women's Day on March 8.

The committee leaders referred to the barbarous act of assaulting a woman on Dhaka University campus on December 31 night and said it had expected that the government and administration would feel

sorry for the incident.

Criticising the government's silent role on the assault of a woman by fundamentalist group on the Victory Day in Brahmanbaria, the leaders said the Committee would not accept the duel policy of the government that speaks of women's empowerment and remains silent when people indulge in violence on women.

They also expressed concern over the harassment of the victim's family by the culprits. Tasmina Hossain MP, Khushi Kabir, Hosne Ara Khan and Sitara Musa also spoke on the occasion.

The committee will bring out a rally at 12:01 am from Central Shaheed Minar on the International Women's Day on March 8. "Itihaas Kannyu," a short film, based on women oppressed during 1971 war, will be screened at the venue on the day.



Repair work on roads in the city last for days at a time worsening the city's traffic condition every now and then. Digging at this road at Bijoynagar adds to traffic congestion in the area that lasts for hours, much to the chagrin of the people.

Probin Hitoishi Sangha acting SG assaulted

Dr KM Rashid, acting secretary general of Bangladesh Probin Hitoishi Sangha, was physically assaulted by a group of armed men at his office over organisational dispute on Saturday, reports UNB.

Dr Rashid had been working as the acting secretary general of the organisation for two months.

Sources said that he was in office when some armed men came in and assaulted him. They dragged him down the stairs from the first floor and threatened dire consequences if he ever returned to the BAAIG office.

SSC examinees

From Page 12

dent leaders of Shahjadpur Govt. College who are allegedly belonging to ruling party's student wing, BCL.

The on-duty magistrate expelled two teachers - Abdur Razzak and Provat Chandra - at Chandaikona High School examination centre on charge of supplying copies to the examinees.

Our Magura Correspondent says: Six examinees were expelled on the third-day of SSC examination in Jharkhand centres of the district under Jessore Education Board.

Air pollution

From Page 12

increase in emission of black smoke from the automobiles, industrial boilers and brick burning - all this is making the situation worse.

In capital Dhaka, the situation is alarming, mainly due to vehicular and industrial emissions. In Chittagong city, vehicular and industrial emissions almost equally contribute to air pollution.

Exhausts from brickfields widespread in the countryside also keep polluting air, Sajeda added.

But, said the environment minister, the air pollution situation was not yet acute in other smaller towns and rural areas.

Our Special Correspondent adds: There were two sessions during the day. Mahbubul Alam chaired the first technical session on 'Air pollution and the economy.' Besides presentation of the key note paper by Frederick Temple, Mohammad Rezauddin, director, DOE and Dr O Yokohama from Japan and ten others participated in discussions. The second technical session on 'Environmental Reporting' was chaired by Syed Fahim Munaim, managing editor of The Daily Star. Paul Martin of the World Bank and Dr Naila Zaman Khan from the Institute of Child Health and Dr Ray Chiuang from the USA made their presentation. The conference ends today.

Citizenship

From Page 1

Islamabad and asked donors to deposit money there to help pay for the repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis.

"Several years have passed but nothing is known about the fate of that account. It seems the whole issue went to the cold storage due to the Pakistani government's hodgepodge of policies," said Khan.

He said Pakistan provided food, shelter, and even arms to 40 lakh Afghans during their war against the Soviet Union.

"Pakistan is testing nuclear bomb and weapons. Pakistan is providing help to the Kashmiri's fighting against India. But it is a matter of shame to say that Pakistan can not afford the burden of its own citizens stranded in Bangladesh," said Khan.

Khan also appealed to the government to take note of the forcible eviction of the stranded Pakistanis from their camps, despite clear cut directions in this regard.

The government should hold off on tearing down the camps until a decision on the Biharis fate is made, said Khan.

He also asked the government to protect them from "maasams" who were menacing them in Iran, Lohapatti and other camps.

Khan said the movement is planning a march to welcome United States president Bill Clinton at 11:30 a.m. on March 20, and he urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to help resolve the issue.

JS body

From Page 12

its tasks immediately and submit the report along with its recommendations.

The meeting urged the opposition to join parliament to discuss the issue and introduce an effective Education Policy for the nation.

The meeting also said the authorities should immediately fill the vacant teaching posts in government colleges.

Steps to improve the standard of education in the country's Degree Colleges, enlistment of the latest topics of science and other related issues came up for discussion.

It also examined the pros and cons of the terms and conditions of establishing Degree Colleges or its centres prior to approval.

Acreege of actual land belonging to a proposed Degree College should be ascertained prior to its approval.

Chairman of the University Grants Commission presented a descriptive report on the overall activities of the National University.

Admission forms

From Page 12

spend more this year for checking fake admission and there will be two admission cards in the form.

"It is not a business affair and the price has been increased as it was needed to reduce subsidy. The money in excess will be used by the dean offices as usual for development of the departments and other academic activities after audit," said Prof. Sahadat Ali, pro-vice-chancellor of the university.

He said that the student organisations are trying to destroy the image of the university and termed their demand illogical.

"If needed we will discuss with all the students and the organisations as well since the organisations do not represent every students. None should destroy the congenial academic atmosphere for only Tk 25", he added.

Among others, treasurer, faculty deans and proctor addressed the conference and regretted harassment to the applicants and the guardians. Meanwhile, the student organisations held rallies at the TSC and in front of administrative building and accused activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of attacking them.

Addressing the rally, they said BCL activists attacked

them in presence of the pro-VC and the proctor at Janata Bank at TSC.

They demanded trial of the attackers and lowering of admission form price. They also threatened to lay siege to the VC office.

A total of 749 forms of "Ka" unit (science group), 177 of "Kha" unit (arts group), 281 of "Ga" unit (commerce group) and 171 forms of "Gha" unit were sold from the three banks yesterday.

Sylhet Kotwali thana OC closed

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 5: The Officer-in-Charge of Sylhet Kotwali thana has been withdrawn.

An official said Inspector Shaiful Alam, OC, was closed to the Sylhet police line mid-night last night for negligence of duty on February 29.

A group of activists from the All Party Students Action Committee burnt an effigy of the foreign minister on that afternoon in Bandar Bazar in front of police, who didn't take any action. The minister had flown to Sylhet with the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to attend the inaugural convention of the Institution of Engineers.

MOU on free trade

From Page 1

and extension of the MFA," Jallid said.

Bangladesh enjoys quota facility for export of garments to the US market following the multi-fiber arrangement (MFA). The arrangement expires on December 31, 2004, ending the quota facility.

The commerce minister said Bangladesh would get more opportunities in export to USA if a free trade arrangement was possible. "We want to explore the opportunity through the visit of the US President."

The business community also feels that free trade between Dhaka and Washington will significantly benefit the country's export business.

"It will be a golden opportunity for our exporters, specially in garment sector," said Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Aftab-ul-Islam.

Referring to bilateral trade,

with the balance in favour of Dhaka, he said free trade would also open new windows of export to the United States benefiting Bangladesh's economy.

Officials said at present, Bangladesh enjoys a favourable bilateral trade with USA. Dhaka's annual exports to Washington, mainly garments, fetch 2 billion dollars against imports worth 400 million dollars.

Aftab also said Bangladesh should propose US investment in software service sector.

"There is a market of 200 billion dollars in the sector, India and the Philippines already joined it. US entrepreneurs can invest in the sector which will also employ thousands of educated youths."

As V-SAT has been opened, he said, this is high time to attract US and other foreign investors to come to Bangladesh and invest in the software service.

Entire itinerary

From Page 1

various aspects of those distance, time needed for attendance and movement of the President and his entourage, sources concerned said.

Helicopters of the US Air Force and bullet-proof limousines will be flown in ahead of Clinton's scheduled visit. The entire security aspect will be overseen by the US Secret Service with assistance from Bangladesh's elite Special Security Force (SSF).

Another US advance team US is due to arrive in Dhaka on March 8 or 9 and it will act as a 'communications and control bridge' for the President's visit, the sources said.

The team will consist of an elaborate security detail including some members of the elite US Secret Service (SS) which is charged with the protection of the President, officials from the White House and the State Department. Some of the team members would stay in Dhaka while others will shuttle between Dhaka, Delhi and Washington till the conclusion of Clinton's visit in the evening of March 20.

Pangaea offers

From Page 1

lected based on their proposal to drill 10 exploratory wells in three years. The government has agreed to lower that number to just three wells.

Officials from Petronas, Malaysia's national oil company, should arrive in Bangladesh on March 12 after a long break from the process due to lack of government interest.

Petronas submitted proposals for Blocks 8, 9 and 11 along with the U.S. oil giant Mobil and BAPEX, a Bangladeshi company. The joint venture was asked once to strike a partnership with Tullow, which always received the government's preference with regards to Block 9 and 11. However, the government changed its mind, and Petronas dropped out of the picture for two years.

Industry insiders said there was a move to bring Petronas in Block 11 and Block 8 (with Pangaea). Therefore, Petronas was once again interested in Bangladesh.

Jalal murder

From Page 1

last year. The deceased was later identified as Jalal Ahmed Shaif, a DB informer and a resident of Lalmatla.

The charge sheet submitted by the CID in connection with the killing accused four persons including DB Inspector Ziaul Ahsan, Harivideh Billal, Constable A Rauf and canteen manager Anwar Hossain. Among them all but Inspector Ahsan are now in the jail custody.

Ahsan was granted bail for 14 weeks b the High Court Division of the Supreme Court in September last year. It however expired and the court ordered him to surrender before a lower court by March 14.

Meanwhile, Dhaka's effort to have Clinton's South Asian tour begin from Bangladesh, instead of from India, stands almost scuttled as the US Secret Service is learnt to have turned down Dhaka's proposal due to what they said lack of required infra-structure and security related conditions here.

A 30-member accredited White House Press Corps will accompany Clinton. Besides, some 250 US journalists belonging to the print and electronic media are likely to come with him, the sources said.

Ctg Port

From Page 1

grammes by the dock workers under the banner of 22 trade union bodies for the past few days, port sources said.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury has already supported the agitation of dock workers and threatened to launch movement with the people of Chittagong to resist any move for signing agreement with SSA for construction of the private container terminal.

BNP: Reports

From Page 1

executive committees and formed convening committees.

He said the party chief has instructed the Secretary General to take necessary steps for formation of new executive committees in those organisational districts within March-April. The districts include Dhaka, Chittagong (south), Barisal (north), Rajshahi city, Comilla (north), Khulna city, Narayanganj, Bhola, Gazipur and Munsiganj.

Another top leader of the party said these district and thana units are not being able to complete their biennial councils because of the government's "unbearable repression, suppression and harassment".

Citing some examples, he said police rounded up 28 leaders and activists of BNP at Mirpur in the city when they were holding a party meeting. False cases have been filed against 141 BNP men in Kendua thana in Netrokona and 97 activists in Halaughat thana in Mymensingh.

Such false cases have been filed against nearly one lakh leaders and activists of the party across the country, he claimed.

Asked about organisational weaknesses, a member of BNP Standing Committee said, "We are determined to complete formation of full-fledged committees in the remaining districts by April because we now want to prepare for the next general elections as well as intensify the current movement."

Another Standing Committee member said policy makers of the party at a meeting on Saturday suggested a "change of strategy, making the party election-oriented and strengthening organisational activities."

Both the leaders, however, sought anonymity.