

News

What's on today....

Discussion meeting: A discussion meeting will be held on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic March 7 speech. Organiser: Bangla Academy. Chief guest: Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria. Venue: Seminar room of academy. Time: 11:00 am.

Merchant convention: Vanik Bank will hold a merchant convention. Venue: Bukhara Restaurant. Time: 7:30 pm.

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.

Film show: Zahir Raham Film Society will screen *That* shadowed on the last day of the Grish Kavarallav Retrospective. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhamondi R/A. Time: 6.00 pm.

Photograph exhibition: An exhibition of photographs on Werner Herzog and Klaus Kinski documented by Swiss photographer Beat Presser is going on. Venue: Exhibition Hall, Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhamondi R/A.

..... and tomorrow

Cultural programme: Setubandha, a cultural organisation will hold a cultural programme. Chief guest: Amir Hossain Amu, Minister for Food. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 6.30 pm.

Rally: Bangabandhu Mahila Parishad will hold a gathering followed by a rally on occasion of International Women's Day.

The rally will parade through different city streets. Venue: Gathering: Central Shaheed Minar. Rally: From Shaheed Minar to Press Club. Time: 8.00 am.

BCPS lecture: Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) will hold a lecture on "Calcific Supraspinatus Tendinitis". Venue: BCPS auditorium Mohakhali. Time: 11:00 am-11.50 am.

Publication ceremony: SahSufi Industrial Corporation Ltd will hold the publication ceremony of Bangladesh Investment and Trade Directory 1999-2000. Chief Guest: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed. Venue: VIP auditorium, National Press Club. Time: 4 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light rain or thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Pabna, Bogra, Faridpur, Dhaka and Comilla in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country. Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 32.5 degree Celsius at Patuakhali and the lowest 18.2 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:05 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:14 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 | 23.2 | 81 | 69 | | |
| Chittagong | 29.0 | 20.4 | 83 | 79 | | |
| Rajshahi | 31.8 | 21.5 | 93 | 57 | | |
| Khulna | 32.2 | 22.5 | 79 | | | |
| Barisal | 32.4 | 21.2 | 91 | 82 | | |
| Sylhet | 28.2 | 18.6 | 83 | 73 | | |
| Cox's Bazar | 21.7 | 20.0 | 86 | 85 | | |

HERE and THERE

East West University

The Computer Club of East West University organised a seminar on "Object Oriented Methodology (OOM)" on Saturday on the University campus in the city's Mohakhali area, says a press release.

The seminar was addressed by Prof Dr M Alamgir Hossain, Chairman, Department of Computer Science, Dhaka University, as the keynote speaker and Dr Ali Asgar, Professor, Department of Physics, BUET, as the special guest.

Both the speakers emphasised on the Object Oriented Methodology for managing the complex environment for development of the modern sophisticated and user-friendly computer software. The advantages, simplicity, reliability, security, reusability etc. of OOM were discussed elaborately in the seminar.

The seminar was conducted by Dr Mohammad Musa, Provost, Chancellor, EWU, Firdaus Ali, Registrar of the university delivered welcome speech.

Other speakers were Dr. Asaduzzaman, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Computer Science, Quazi Re-shadur Rahman, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Syed Akther Hossain, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science of the University, who also discussed about different aspects of OOM.

The seminar was largely attended by the students of East West University.

The meeting decided to hold a seven-day long programme to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the unit on the first week of April.

Condolence meet

A meeting to condole the death of Hazi Abdul Latif Bhuiyan and Afzal Khan, founder of the Hazi Abdul Latif Bhuiyan College and founding secretary of the governing body of the college respectively, was held at the college auditorium at Matuail Dakshinpara, Demra on Friday, says a press release.

Presided over by Abdul Obab Bhuiyan, the condolence meeting was attended by former MP Salauddin Ahmed as chief guest. Principal of the college Mafail Bhuiyan, Mohiuddin Khan and Abdur Rahman, among others, also spoke on the occasion.

Speakers recalled the contribution and services of Latif Bhuiyan and Afzal Khan, who died recently, to establish the college and for its development.

The meeting was followed by a *milad mafil*.

BSES

Bangladesh Solar Energy Society (BSES) has elected new executive body to run its operation for 2000-2002, a release of the Society said, reports BSS.

The newly elected executives of BSES are: President — Prof Mohtasham Hossain, Vice President — Dr Nirmal Chandra Bhoumik, Secretary — Prof Mohammad Ibrahim, Treasurer — Dr Mohammad Kamruddin Khan, Joint Secretary — Dr Abdur Rashid Sarker, Members — Saiful Islam, Latifa Kader, Prof Rezaul Karim Majumder and Saeed Ahmed.

VOA Fan Club

DU Branch

Voice of America (VOA) Fan Club, Dhaka University (DU) Branch yesterday launched a social campaign for tree plantation, blood donation and polio eradication at the historic Batamul of the university, reports BSS.

Visiting VOA Director Sanford J Unger inaugurated the campaign at a simple ceremony.



The third annual general meeting of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. (PGCB) was held at a local hotel Thursday. Quamrul Islam Siddique, Chairman of the Board of Directors of PGCB who is also the Chairman of Bangladesh Power Development Board, presided over the meeting.

— PGCB photo

Teachers' Assoc condemn beating of headmaster in Sherpur

The Bangladesh Teachers' Association (Amanullah-Selim) has condemned the beating of a headmaster of a high school in Sherpur on Saturday by a ruling party MP and demanded his exemplary punishment, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday the leaders of the association said their attention was drawn to a press report that MA Bari MP of Sherpur beat the Headmaster Aminuzzaman Lebu at Nakshi Bazaar in front of people.

They said Lebu accompanied the TV crew to World Vision's training camp of tribal youths at Gazni under Jhenai thana. Bari who was at the same area distributing wheat to the distressed people sent his men to the TV crew to shoot his work.

When the TV crew refused, the MP beat him with a shoe, it was alleged.

Historic March 7 today

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cracked down on the innocent people of Bangladesh on the night of March 25 and the people then took up arms against them.

The nation achieved a triumphant victory against the Occupation Forces and established an independent Bangladesh on December 16, 1971 after a nine-month war at the cost of three million lives and dignity of two lakh women.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed in a message yesterday called upon the country, irrespective of party affiliations, to work united in an atmosphere of tranquillity and understanding for the greater cause of the country and welfare of the people.

The President described March 7 as a very significant day in the history of Bangladesh and said the importance of March 7 was tremendous in the process of establishing an independent and sovereign Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the people to buildup united resistance against the anti-liberation elements, killers of 1971, autocratic rulers and identified reactionary forces to free the country from hunger, poverty, oppression and deprivation.

The Prime Minister said, father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman amid ocean of people in the Race Course Maldan gave a clarion call to the Bangalees to launch the struggles for freedom and independence.

Reiterating the vision of March 7, she said, united struggles against negative politics and people's victory in that movement reflects the determini-

nation of March 7.

To observe the Day, various political parties, socio-cultural organisations and professional bodies have drawn up elaborate programmes.

Newspapers will publish special articles and the Radio and Television will broadcast special programmes on the Day.

The programmes include paying tributes to the memory of Bangabandhu and discussion meetings and rallies.

The ruling Awami League will hold a public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city at 3 pm today. Party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside.

AL and its front organisations will also hold a rally at the Bangabandhu Bhaban today.

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Bangla Academy will hold a discussion on the occasion at 11 am today where Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria will be the main speaker. Prof Salauddin

will preside over the function while State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will be the special guest. Other participants are Rahat Khan, Ramendu Majumder and Poet Asad Chowdhury.

Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsads Central Command Council will hold a discussion on the occasion at its central office here this afternoon.

Effective HR body

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blackmailing or embarrassing government officials out of political motives", the ministry argued.

The ministry seems to have ignored the fact that human rights can not be ensured at all without a legal mandate for probing into allegations of human rights violation by any individual or quarter — be it public or private.

The home ministry also objected to another provision that gives the commission the authority to take part in proceedings of cases of human rights violation, subject to prior permission of the court concerned. "An embarrassing situation will be created for government officials, if the commission takes part in court proceedings," the ministry said.

Opposing the idea of "encouraging NGOs in human rights activities", the ministry rather recommended "provisions to ensure proper monitoring and control of NGO activities".

The ministry suggested deleting another provision that allows the commission to recommend financial compensation to the victims or their families. In this regard, the ministry suggested "considering the implications of introducing such a legal provision when the High Court instructed the government and a district magistrate to pay compensation even in the absence of such a provision".

But the draft Bill that has vested the authority of appointing the commission in the President said that he would make the appointments in consultation with a four member panel comprising the Prime Minister, Speaker, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Chief Justice of Bangladesh.

The Cabinet therefore decided to send it back to the ministerial committee to "make the draft consistent with constitutional provisions". But what is alarming is that the Cabinet also asked the ministerial committee to consider the home ministry's observations.

Human rights experts believe that the proposed commission, even if set up in the light of the proposed Bill, would not be very effective as it would not have the authority to punish any human rights violator. It would only have the right to recommend punishment. Now, if the government incorporates the home ministry's observations in the draft, the commission would also be asked to take on responsibility for interrogation", the ministry said.

"Enactment of such a law would make it very difficult for police to play a bold role during hartals and other political demonstrations. Innumerable cases would be filed by demonstrators against police".

It would also create problems for the jail administration, the home ministry observed. "Inmates would have the scope to sue the authorities concerned for human rights violation as the prisons keep inmates much more than their capacities".

The secretariat of the home ministry came up with the observations on January 2, a day after President Shahabuddin Ahmed announced in the Jatiya Sangsad that an independent human rights commission was in the offing.

A Tk 1.5 crore project — Institutional Development of Human Rights in Bangladesh (IDHRB) — was approved by the government of Khaleda Zia in 1995. Sheikh Hasina's government, especially the law ministry, went for implementing the project in March 1996.

Following a lot of field work, discussions and consultative meetings with local and foreign experts, IDHRB authorities submitted the draft Bill in early 1998 seeking setting up of a national human rights commission.

The Cabinet on April 12, 1999 in principle approved the Bill and a law ministry proposal for setting up of a national human rights commission.

The Cabinet however formed a six member ministerial committee headed by Education Minister ASHIS Sadeque to review certain legal and technical aspects of the draft legislation.

Other members of the committee were Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khashru, State Minister for Textile K M Jahangir and State Minister for Planning Mohiuddin Khan Alangir.

Chayan told the court that Shikdar and his accomplices attacked him, his elder brother Munirul Islam and Khalid Hossain with arms and lethal weapons to kill them.

Two motor bikes and a car were shown to the court as evidences. The court was told that Shikdar and his men snatched the vehicles from Munir, Chayan and Khalid and later dumped them into the Bhairab River.

The trial of the case will resume tomorrow in the special court.