

What's on today

Film show: Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Parey* will be screened. Venue: Sufia Kamal auditorium of Public Library. Time: 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Inauguration: A painting exhibition by Abhijit Chowdhury will be inaugurated. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road. Time: 4:00 pm.

Seminar: The 17th seminar of the International Centre for Study of Bengal Art (ICSBA) will be held. Venue: Library hall of the centre at House No 32E, Road No 17A, Banani. Time: 5:00 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Light rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind likely over Chittagong and Cox's Bazar regions. Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country with partly cloudy sky during the afternoon, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country during the period. Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 35.2 degree Celsius at Sitakunda and the lowest 14.8 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:12 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:57 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
Dhaka	32.1	21.6
Chittagong	34.8	31
Rajshahi	31.8	16.2
Khulna	34.0	19.4
Barisal	32.5	18.4
Sylhet	33.5	20.5
Cox's Bazar	34.0	23.6

HERE and THERE

AIUB

The fifth founding anniversary of AMA International University, Bangladesh (AIUB) was observed recently at the National Shooting Federation premises at Gulshan, says a press release.

The IUB's US-based senior advisor Dr V B Olsen, Chairman Dr Anwarul Abedin, president Qazi Jalal Ahmed, vice-chancellor Carmen Z Lomogona, founder director Hasanul A Hasan and Ishtiaque Ahmed were among those who addressed the audience.

Vice-Chancellor of the university distributed prizes among the winners of the various competitions.

A colourful cultural function was also held in this connection.

IUB

The School of Environmental Science and Management (SESM), Independent Univer-

sity, Bangladesh (IUB) held a national seminar on 'Contamination of Groundwater by Arsenic: Speciation, Source and Mitigation' yesterday at their new campus at Bashundhara, says a press release.

Experts on Arsenic from different universities and research organisations presented papers and participated on live discussions. Participants from different universities, ministries, research organisations, international organisations, NGOs and private organisations attended the seminar.

The experts agreed that appropriate methods be developed first before commercialisation of the technologies to assume safe potable water. In this respect proper governmental commitment and encouragement is essential for rapid development of technologies with a view to solve the national problem, they said.

Dhaka-Sylhet highway construction work to be started soon: Kibria

BAHUBAL, Habiganj, Mar 25: Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria has said that construction work of Dhaka-Sylhet highway will start soon, reports BSS.

Speaking at an all-party civic reception at the Bahubal Upazila Parishad premises yesterday, the minister said that a fire service station would be set up here and the area would come under gas supply programme.

Presided over by Bahubal thana unit president of Awami League Nazmul Hossain Chowdhury, the function was also addressed, among others, by Dewan Farid Gazi, MP, Enamul Huq Mostafa Shaheed, MP, Hosneara Wahid, MP, and district Awami League General Secretary Dr Mushfiq Hossain Chowdhury.

Highlighting the government's programmes for achieving economic progress, Kibria said the present government is working relentlessly for the welfare of the masses.

"We have introduced allowances for old age people and widows, Ashrayan Project and rural credit programmes for the underprivileged men and women," he said. The Minister said the image of Bangladesh has been enhanced in the outside world following these initiatives of the government.

"We have signed a peace accord with the tribals to stop insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Ganges Water Sharing Treaty with India which were praised by the international community," he added.

He called upon all to work unitedly to help the government implement its ongoing development activities.

Later, Kibria inaugurated the newly-constructed Palkpara-Sadurbazar road at Sadur upazila. Local Government and Engineering Department constructed the road at a cost of Taka 62 lakh. Local Awami League leaders were present on the occasion.

JCD leader jailed in Magura

MAGURA, Mar 25: A court here today sent Ashrafuzzaman Shamim, joint secretary of district JCD, to jail for 14 days for contempt of court.

He was arrested on Friday night following a case filed by Shaiful Islam, nephew of former BNP minister Majidul Huq, under PSA following a clash between rival groups of BNP in the town on March 9.

New RU proctor takes over

RAJSHAHI, Mar 25: Prof Azizul Islam of the Chemistry Department today took over charge as new proctor of Rajshahi University, reports UNB. He was given appointment as proctor to a three-year term by Vice-Chancellor Prof Saidur Rahman.

Sirajganj Circuit House cook found dead

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, Mar 25: Mystery surrounds the death of Motahar Hossain Jinnah, 49, a cook of the Sirajganj Circuit House.

Jinnah went to bed as usual after his duty and was found dead by other staffers at the Circuit House this morning.

After a post mortem at Sirajganj General Hospital, his body was handed over to his family members.

Details about his post mortem could not be learnt.

Khaleda to address Tangail rally tomorrow

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting tomorrow at Sakhipur thana parishad ground in Tangail, reports UNB.

The meeting organised by BNP will be held at 2 pm.

6 arrested under PSA in Barisal

By Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Mar 25: Barisal kotwali police arrested 6 alleged terrorists following two cases filed under Public Safety Act today.

According to police, a group of terrorists blasted a number of bombs, fire shots and ransacked Nathulabad Central bus terminal and Nabagram road areas last night. They looted Tk 6000.

Police arrested Zaman, Sattar, Arzoo, Manik, Sohag and Jewel in this connection today.

Dipon's art exhibition opens today

The first solo art exhibition of Mahamudul Rahman Dipon opens today at the Zainul Gallery at the Institute of Fine Arts, says a press release.

A total of 30 works in oil, acrylic and mixed media will be exhibited at the 9-day long event.

Renowned artist Hashem Khan will inaugurate the show at 11 am while Professor Mahmudul Hoque will preside over the inaugural ceremony. Artist Shamajit Roy Chowdhury will grace the occasion as special guest.

One beaten to death in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Mar 25: One man was beaten to death by his rivals today in Pagla, Fatulla thana. Police said victim Anwar Hossain, 32, was beaten by a mob.

However, witnesses said he was attacked by the ruling party cadre.

Hossain was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition where he later died.

Hossain had several cases pending against him.

A case was filed with Fatulla PS by his brother Mojibur Rahman accusing eight people.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina giving away Independence Day awards to the recipients at the Osmani Memorial auditorium yesterday. — PID photo

Silent protest today

From Page 1 local Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Lokman Ahmed, an organiser of Mukti-joddah-Janatar Mancha. In another incident, four crackers were blasted near the Sylhet railway station. None was hurt in the incidents.

The Mukti-joddah-Janatar Mancha has decided to welcome Humayun Ahmed and others at the railway station. Ahmed and the Dhaka-based cultural activists supporting him are expected to arrive at the station at 6:00 in the morning tomorrow.

Later, we would join Humayun Ahmed at the university gate at 2:00 pm, said Shamshul Islam Gazi, Deputy Commander of district Mukti-joddah Sangsad, Gazi said freedom fighters have some pre-scheduled programmes in the first half of the day on the occasion of the Independence Day.

Replying to a question, a visibly disappointed Gazi said that the local leaders of the ruling party were "not very enthusiastic about resisting the anti-liberation forces who are out to foil Humayun Ahmed's programme, while some of them have sided with the opposition forces."

Itekhhar Hossain Shamim, Joint Secretary of Sylhet Awami League, told The Daily Star that his party had no programme as regards Humayun Ahmed's hunger strike. "However, I will join Ahmed in my personal capacity."

Meanwhile, the district administration still seems to be undecided about its tomorrow's course of action. Police officials were holding a meeting until filing of this report at 10 pm.

However, the commonmen in the town seem curious. They are waiting to see the outcome of the stand-off.

UNB adds: Meanwhile, supporters of the hunger strike have started arriving in Sylhet town from Moulibazar, Habiganj and Sunamganj districts. They include political, social and cultural activists.

Informed sources said transports reserved in adjoining districts will carry more supporters tomorrow morning.

FFs' grand rally on April 22

Hundreds of freedom fighters from different parts of the country will participate in a grand rally and colourful parade at historic Paltan Maidan on April 22 to reiterate their pledge to safeguard the spirit of the Liberation War and to resist the re-emergence of anti-liberation elements, informed sources said, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to take salute from more than 2,000 freedom fighters who will participate in a colourful parade as part of the grand occasion, they said.

Rice worth Tk 12 lakh looted in Khulna

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Mar 25: None has so far been arrested in connection with the looting of 3,000 bags of rice worth Tk 12 lakh from MV Rawnak at Daulatpur ghat at midnight of March 19. The looted rice is yet to be recovered.

The rice was bound for Narshingdi from Noapara of Jessore. One hour after the barge arrived at Daulatpur ghat, ten armed youngsters took away the rice bags in six trucks.

Police later took three into custody for interrogation who named the alleged looters in their judicial confession under section 164. The private car of a ward commissioner has also been seized as it was allegedly used for the robbery.

Police suspect that the owner of the barge may be involved in the robbery. He is also absconding.

Qulkhwani

The qulkhwan of Jamshed Ahmed (Jimi), Director of Magnum Packages Ltd, will be held today after Asr prayers at his residence at House No-9, Rd No-71, Gulshan-2, says a press release.

Jimi, son of late Md Mohiuddin Ahmed, ex-GM of Progit Pvt Ltd and a Director of Uttara Motors, died of a cardiac arrest on March 23. He was 29.

Death anniversary

The 29th death anniversary of Shaheed Scientist Dr Harinath Dey will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

Dr Harinath was killed by the Pakistan Army on March 27, 1971.

He was Principal Scientific Research Officer of BCSIR at the time he was killed.

Feeding of the destitute will be held at his residence at 43, Malakartola Lane, Sutrapur on the occasion tomorrow, the release said.

45 uplift projects in Shariatpur

SHARIATPUR, Mar 25: Shariatpur Pourashava of the district has been implementing 45 development projects under its Annual Development Programme at a cost of over taka 59 lakh in the current fiscal, according to official sources. The projects included poura market, hotel and mosque, reports BSS.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives.

200 terrorists

From Page 1 listed 180 terrorists in the district's six thanas including Feni Sadar. Of them, terrorist drives in 1998 and 1999.

They also arrested a number of identified terrorists during a special operation launched in the district on March 8.

"We are trying to arrest the terrorists, ignoring their political identities or connections. The operation will continue until the arrest of the last terrorist," said Mohammad Galam Rasul, Additional Superintendent of Police in Feni.

"The terrorists, in most cases, are being patronised by the so-called 'godfathers' of the two main political parties," an official of the district police administration said.

Sources said nearly half of the terrorists belong to Feni Sadar, 25 to Dagonbhuiyan, 13 to Chhagolnaya, 12 to Fulgazi, 29 to Sonagazi and 21 to Parshuram.

A local journalist said the "godfathers" have their own representatives in every thana and important bazar of the bordering district to run their criminal activities. They (godfathers) allegedly maintain liaisons with a section of police to ensure their criminal activities run smoothly.

Locals alleged these godfathers, who carry out illegal and terrorist activities and run smuggling 'syndicate', often kill innocent people to terrorise the entire population.

Over 12 lakh people in 45 unions are almost helpless due to the unabated terrorism, police said.

Shackles

From Page 1 over the country to mark the holocaust.

Besides, a sequence was created with light and sound at the Pookhanna BDR headquarters, Rajshahi Police Lines, Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall and Jagannath Hall of the Dhaka University and in some other places which were the prime targets in the crackdown.

The government, political parties, socio-cultural and professional organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the Independence Day.

In the capital, the day will be heralded with 31 gun salutes. The National Flag will be hoisted atop all public and private buildings, which will also be illuminated with kaleidoscopic lights. Main roads and road islands in the capital and in other cities will be decorated with flags and lights.

200 terrorists

From Page 1

agencies could come under one committee that would sit time to time and give approval as per set rules, they said.

The participants included, among others, former RAJUK chairman Rahmatullah, team leader of the draft-making committee of National Building Code, 1993, Prof Azadur Rahman, Dhaka WASA Chief Engineer Kazi Md Shish, DCC Chief Engineer Shamsul Haq Bhuiyan, RAJUK Chief Engineer Md Saidur Rahman, former town planner of RAJUK Md Shaukat Ali Khan, National Commissioner and Deputy National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts Afzal Hossain and Mesbahuddin respectively, President of Real Estate and Housing Association, Bangladesh (REHAB) Toufik Seraj, Prof Khairul Enam and Salma Awal.

Earlier, Prof Nizamuddin of Architecture Department, BUET, presented the salient features of the Building Construction Rules, 1996. The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam moderated the workshop and made concluding remarks. Habibul Alam, National Commissioner (Programme) of Bangladesh Scouts, also spoke briefly.

Mayor Hanif, once again, highlighted his much-propagated concept of forming a metropolitan government to remove the lack of coordination among different service-providing agencies.

The City Corporation has taken up pilot projects in five wards to set an example how it can solve problems in the way of providing civic amenities to the citizens, he told the workshop.

Referring to over three and a half lakh rickshaws plying the city streets, the city father, urged opposition political parties not to indulge in 'politics' when the DCC is trying to withdraw unauthorized rickshaws for public welfare.

He attributed the problems in the city to the lack of vision during post-liberation period and said, if something can not be done now, Dhaka will become a difficult city to live in another 10 years.

Kazi Md Shish of Dhaka WASA portrayed a horrific picture of the clogged sewerage system in the city and said it is due to too much use of polyethylene bags. "Each day Dhaka people dispose off 60 lakh polyethylene bags. I wonder, the sewerage system is still working," said Shish.

He warned of the fast deteriorating quality of Buriganga and Shitalakya waters and said, "We doubt whether the Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant of Dhaka WASA would be able to treat the Shitalakya water for domestic if its quality deteriorates further."

Md Saidur Rahman of RAJUK said that residential areas in Dhaka were being illegally used for commercial purposes. Garment industries are being set up in Gulshan. People construct buildings deviating from RAJUK plans. When the authorities go for action against the offenders, they take recourse to long legal process, Rahman said.

He defended RAJUK's position as regards peoples' tendency to keep building materials on streets. "Those roads are maintained by the Dhaka City Corporation, not by us."

On the other hand, DCC Chief Engineer Shamsul Haq Bhuiyan said, when DCC goes for action, the violators of building construction rules argue that due to faulty RAJUK plans, they had to keep the materials on the streets. "Earlier, we (DCC) used to get copies of RAJUK plans beforehand, but the system seems no longer in practice."

REHAB President Toufik Seraj told the workshop that commercial developers should not be blamed for all the problems that people in a fast growing city face. He argued that developers gave their best efforts, in constructing buildings, keeping public safety in mind. He sought necessary amendments in building construction laws and long-term planning to give Dhaka a good shape in days to come.

Speaker

From Page 1 minister Saifur Rahman was stopped and drew the attention of the Speaker in this regard.

This angered some local AL and BCL leaders and activists. Some chairs were hurled towards the podium, witnesses said.

The Speaker left the venue immediately under security escort. He drove straight to the district circuit house and then to the Airport.

Intra-party feud was the cause of the incident, said a number of local leaders of other parties. But ruling party leaders blamed JCD activists for fanning the programme.

Nat'l confce on Rabindra Sangeet from March 30

The 3-day-long 19th National Rabindra Sangeet Conference will begin on March 30 at the Shaheed Smriti Udyan at Tangail, says a press release.

The conference is being organised by Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad. The Parishad will hold a press conference in this regard at the Chayanaut Bhaban at Shankar, Dhamondia at 4:00 pm tomorrow, the press release added.

Prashika Manabik Utsayon Kendra

প্রশিকা ভবন
জাই/১-গ, সেকশন-২, মিরপুর, ঢাকা-১২১৬

টোতার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রশিকা মানবিক উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্রে ৩০০ (তিন শতাতি) (২৫০টি ৮০ সি.সি. এক ২০টি ৫০ সি.সি.) মোটর সাইকেল সরবরাহে জন্য সুপ্রতিষ্ঠিত প্রকৃতকারক/ডিসার/এজেন্ট-এর কাছ থেকে দরপত্র আহবান করা হচ্ছে।

বিজ্ঞপ্তিত বিবরণসহ সিডিউল বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন থেকে এপ্রিল ০৪, ২০০০ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে শনিবার থেকে বুধবার সকাল ৯-৩০ মিনিট থেকে বিকেল ৪-৩০ মিনিটের মধ্যে এক বুধবারের সকাল ৯-৩০ মিনিট থেকে দুপুর ১২-০০ টার মধ্যে হিসাব বিভাগ থেকে ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকার (অফেইকেশ্যন) ক্রয় করা যাবে।

দরপত্র আগামী এপ্রিল ০৬, ২০০০ সকাল ১১-০০ টার মধ্যে অন্তর্ভুক্ত বিভাগে রক্ষিত টোতার বক্রে জমা দিতে হবে। একই দিন সকাল ১১-৩০ মিনিটে সকল দরদাতার উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে।

কোন কার্য দর্শনে ব্যতিরেকে যেকোন অবধা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন। উল্লেখ্য যে কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ১৫(পনের) দিনের মধ্যে মটর সাইকেলগুলি সরবরাহ করতে হবে। কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের মধ্যে সঠিকভাবে মটরসাইকেল সরবরাহ করতে ব্যর্থ হলে কর্তৃপক্ষ জামানত বাজেয়াপ্ত করতে পারবে। অনিবার্য কারণবশত নির্ধারিত দিনে ও সময়ে দরপত্র খোলা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।

ক্রয় বিক্রয় সংগঠক



Children of the Kendrio Khelaghar Asar brought out a procession in the city yesterday to press for uprooting communalism. — Star photo