

News

● What's on today ●

Film show: Tannir 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 thundershower 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
Dhaka	32.1	21.6
Chittagong	34.8	21.2
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
	—	56

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 Olsden, chairman Dr Anwarul Abedin, president Qazi Jalal Ahmed, vice-chancellor Carmen Z Lomogna, 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 competition.

A colourful cultural function was also held in this connection.

IUB

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

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

BAHUBALI, 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 Bahubali 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 Bahubali 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 Musliq 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 ini-

tatives of the government.

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

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

Later, Kibria inaugurated the newly-constructed Palkpara-Sadarbazar road at Sadar 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 hajat when produced by the police, reports BSS.

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



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

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 appoint 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 town 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, Satar, Arzoo, Manik, Sohag and Jewel in this connection today.

Dipon's art exhibition opens today

A joint meeting of the leaders of journalists, press workers and employees unions yesterday called upon the owners to refrain from publishing newspapers on March 27, reports UNB.

The leaders of different unions, in the meeting at the National Press Club, discussed various problems of the newspaper industry and said the concerned owners will be held responsible if any unwanted situation is created over this issue.

The meeting cautioned the newspaper owners to refrain from their 'evil design' to snatch the rights of journalists, workers and employees of the newspaper industry from enjoying holiday on national days.

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFU), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Bangladesh Newspaper Employees Federation, and Bangladesh Press Workers Federation attended the meeting and decided to build up a countrywide united movement to realise their demands.

The first solo art exhibition of Mahamudur 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 Mainul Hoque will preside over the inaugural ceremony. Artist Shamarji 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, Fazlulla 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 Fatullah PS by his brother Mojibur Rahman accusing eight people.

JCD leader jailed in Magura

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

Death anniversary of Shafiqul Islam

The 29th death anniversary of Shafiqul Islam, former BCSIR scientist Dr Harinath Dey will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

Dr Harinath was killed by the Pakistan Army on March 27 of 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, Malakortola Lane, Sutrapur on the occasion tomorrow, the release said.

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The 22nd death anniversary of Mohammed Anisur Rahman

The 22nd death anniversary of Mohammed Anisur Rahman, former EPSC of Palgram Kasba village of Khulna, will be observed today after Asr prayers, says a press release.

On this occasion a *milad mafil* will be held at the residence of his only son W R Tawheed at CTC-12 Century Tower, Maghbazar.

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45 uplift projects in Shariatpur

SHARIATPUR, Mar 25:

Shariatpur Pourashava of the

district has been implementing

45 development projects under

its Annual Development Pro-

gramme at a cost of over Taka 59

lakh in the current fiscal, ac-

cording to official sources.

The projects included poura market,

hotel and mosque, reports BSS.

News

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 many 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 Chhagolnaiya, 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 terrify 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 Peekhkhana BDR headquarters, Rajarbagh 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.

UNB adds: Meanwhile, supporters of the hunger strike have started arriving in Sylhet town from Moulvibazar, 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.

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.

They also issued separate messages on the occasion.

In his message, President Shahabuddin Ahmed called upon all to be tolerant to others' views and to keep away from confrontation for flourishing democratic norms and ideas in the country.

"All should reach consensus on important national issues. It is the desire of the countrymen that all should devote to free the hard-earned democracy from various obstacles through peace, amity and broad-based unity," he said.

The President said: "It is my sincere desire that all the people would rise above personal and party interests and combine their talent and efforts for the development of the country and welfare of the nation."

Prime Minister Hasina urged the countrymen to build up a vigilant resistance against the sinister plot of the anti-liberation forces, communal elements, autocrats and the identified reactionaries.

This is needed "so that by no means the foes of freedom and progress can get further scope to bring about a catastrophe to the nation taking advantage of our negligence," she said in her message.

Hasina said: "We are committed to build up a 'Sonar Bangla' free from poverty, hunger and illiteracy in fulfillment of the dream of Father of the Nation. I seek all our co-operation from my countrymen in these efforts."