

## ● What's on today . . . . ●

**Meeting:** The monthly meeting of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be held. Chief guest: MA Jallil, Minister for Commerce. Venue: Surma Room, Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 12:30 pm.

**BSAF commemoration:** The commemoration of the first decade of Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) will be held. Chief guest: Justice Mostafa Kamal. Venue: National Museum. Time: 3:30 pm-7:30 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Amnesty International Bangladesh will hold a discussion meeting "End Secrecy, End Suffering" on the situation of human rights in Saudi Arabia. Venue: Office premises at 28 Kabi Jasimuddin Road. Time: 4:00 pm.

## ● . . . . and tomorrow ●

**Open discussion:** Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Associations (BFTA) will hold an open discussion on "Public Examinations: Existing System and its Reforms." Venue: VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 3:30 pm.

**Slide show:** A slide show of photographs taken by Anwar Hossain will be held. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 6:30 pm-7:30 pm.

## Weather

## Temperature likely to rise

Weather may remain mainly dry all over the country with partly cloudy sky over Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Slight rise in the day temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.8 degrees Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 15.7 degrees Celsius at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.13 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.53 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	32.5	19.4	46	39
Chittagong	31.5	21.0	71	54
Rajshahi	34.2	16.1	40	36
Khulna	34.2	19.0	53	43
Barisal	33.0	18.2	61	57
Sylhet	32.5	20.2	63	41
Cox's Bazar	32.6	21.8	73	48

## HERE and THERE

## Bangabandhu Mahila Parishad

Bangabandhu Mahila Parishad organised a day-long programme on Sunday in observance of the Independence and National day, says a press release.

The members of the parishad placed wreaths at the Savar National Memorial in the morning. Member also paid tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreaths at his portrait at Bangabandhu Bhawan.

The parishad arranged musical programmes in a vehicle that travelled Mirpur Stadium Square, Gulshan Circle 1 and 2, Shapla Square in Motijheel, Bangabandhu Square and TSC Road Island. A discussion was also held at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Parishad Convenor Prof Selina Akhter Jahan, Prof Ifat Ara Nargis, Dr Sitarun Nahar, Rashida Muhiuddin, Dr Maksuma Nahar, Apu Ukip, Badrunesa Hossain, Prof Nazmunn

Nahar spoke at the discussion meeting.

## Bangladesh Bank Club

Food Minister Amit Hossain Amu yesterday said the reactionary forces have been conspiring from the very beginning against the country's independence to foil the spirit of the Liberation War, reports BSS.

As part of their conspiracy, the anti-liberation clique is trying to create anarchy in the country by applying evil techniques, he said while addressing a discussion organised by Bangladesh Bank Club in observance of the 30th Independence Day on the Club premises here.

Among others, Governor Bangladesh Bank Dr Mohammad Farashuddin, Deputy Governor Khondokar Ibrahim Khaled, litterateur Selina Hossain, economist Dr Ataur Rahman, journalist Abed Khan and Sramik League president Abdus Salam spoke on the occasion. Club president Shamsuzzaman Bhuyan presided over the discussion.

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## World Water Forum of Journalists launched

Global organisation to have headquarters in Dhaka

Journalists covering the Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference on Water Resources in the Netherlands launched an independent global network of print and electronic media called "World Water Forum of Journalists (WWFJ)", reports BSS.

The meeting, held on the world Water Day at Yukono Hall of the Conference Centre in Dutch capital last week, chose Dhaka to be the headquarters of the WWFJ while Cairo will be the new forum's alternative office.

**Death anniversary**

The first death anniversary of Khurshid Israfil (Yakut), wife of former director of Animal Husbandry and Research Institute, Comilla, late Dr M A Israfil Khan, will be observed today, says a press release.

Khurshid was the daughter of late Khudadad Khan of Khan Shontala village.

She was a former member of the All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) and a prominent social figure of Comilla.

On the occasion, a feeding for the destitute programme will be held at her residence at Mirpur following Asr prayers today, the release added.

## Qulhwani

The qulhwani of Karimul Haque Chowdhury, Deputy General Manager of Rupali Bank, Cantonment Branch, will be held today at his cantonment residence, says a press release.

He died in a hospital in New Delhi on March 23. His namaj-e-janaza was held at Rupali Bank Cantonment Branch, Head Office and Baitul Mukarram Mosque yesterday.

He was buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard.

The meeting also decided to hold the first global conference of the WWFJ in Dhaka in September 2000. The theme of the conference will be Water for People: The Role of Media.

Following is the full committee of the WWFJ:

Chairman—Said Khilla (Egypt), Vice-Chairman—Manuel Satorre (Philippines), Secretary-General—Quamrul Islam Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Assistant Secretary Generals—Anna Brouwer (Netherlands), Dhuman Wickremaratne (Sri Lanka), Sharif E Khatib (Syria), Khouassi S Dohou (Benin) and Karim Jordan (Canada), Members—Richard Jordan (USA), Geraldine Coughlan (UK), Noriko Got (Japan), Yekaterina Aleksanyan (Armenia), Aditya Manshresh (Nepal), Hamid Ali (Pakistan), Basam Ewader (Palestine), Aida Tawid (Jordan), Daniel Sikazwe (Zambia), Alexander Kanengoni (Zimbabwe), Sharif Shahabuddin (Bangladesh), Lilit Stepanyan (Armenia), Damian Gangoda (Sri Lanka), Elizabeth Roxas (Philippines), Faile Mukulu (Jordan), Dr Said Sohki (Holland), Arhny N Chilema (Zambia), Pascal Adisoma (Benin), Alexander Ramirez (Costa Rica), Mohamed Fayaz Patel (South Africa), Martin Barberana Kruz (Mexico), Bon Saroeun (Cambodia) and Ahmet Kot (Turkey).



BNP leaders led by its chairperson Khaleda Zia placing wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar on the Independence Day.

— Star photo

## JS session

From Page 1  
President Bill Clinton's recent visit to the country. It will replace the prime minister's weekly question-answer session, which usually takes place on Tuesdays. That session will be held tomorrow instead.

Parliament is due to amend the controversial Public Safety Act, dropping some tough provisions and some anomalies. It passed the law during the last session.

Another important bill up for consideration would extend the tenure of the 30 parliamentary seats reserved for women by 10 years.

However, there is no chance the bill will pass, since it requires the BNP's support to ensure the two-thirds majority needed for constitutional amendments.

Other government bills include one about the establishment of a human rights commission in the country.

The possibility of negotiations between the government and the opposition to resolve the parliamentary impasse remains bleak.

The BNP and its two allies -- the Ershad-led Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami -- have boycotted parliament since the 13th session was in progress last June.

Opposition MPs have been absent for 85 of 287 days of the 44-month-old seventh parliament. Their absence in the past three sessions amounted to 34 days.

The opposition MPs walked out of parliament during the last budget session but still attended parliamentary standing committee meetings.

Their last walkout was to protest the government's move to give transhipment facilities to India. They have cited different political issues since to continue the boycott. All of those issues have boiled down to one point -- resignation of the government to pave the way for early general elections.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan brushed aside thoughts that his party would join the session earlier this week when he said there wasn't a congenial atmosphere.

But Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, who plans to table the bills on women's reserved seats and the PSA, said he hoped opposition MPs would return to parliament to support the crucial bill.

Peace efforts by the Speaker and business leaders made little headway against the opposition tough stand. An attempt to return the opposition to parliament for Clinton's visit also failed.

The government hasn't made any fresh attempts to restart negotiations with the opposition. Even Clinton's suggestion to Khaleda Zia to settle political differences in constructive ways had little effect.

**NCL urges cable operators to resume transmission of pay channels**

By Staff Correspondent

Nationalwide Communication Limited (NCL), service provider of pay satellite channels, yesterday called upon the cable operators to resume broadcast of pay channels.

"If these pay channels are not made available to viewers within next 10 days, then we will introduce direct-to-home dish connections as an alternative to present system," Abul Khair, Chairman of NCL, told a press conference.

He alleged that cable operators had not taken any positive step to solve the problems regarding the transmission of pay channels.

Cable operators have recently suspended transmission of 12 pay channels after the NCL increased the renewal fees.

The NCL chairman said the increase is nominal in view of currency devaluation, increase of programme rates and lack of local advertisements.

**Independe ride**

From Page 1  
count on the normal rate of Tk 85,000 per hour, Zaman said.

The Speaker had gone to Biswanthi to address a stipend distribution ceremony at a school at the thana headquarters.

Political observers said the visit was for his personal and party activity and was not connected with his responsibility as a Speaker.



Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University placing wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar on the Independence Day.

— Star photo



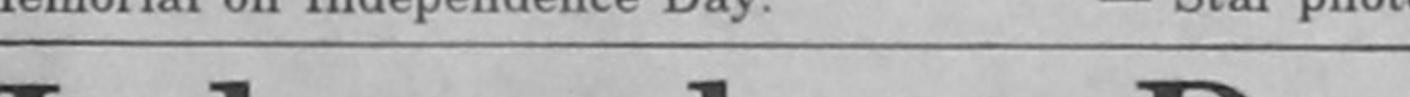
Ektatagar Ghatak Dal Nirmul Committee pays tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War on Sunday.

— Star photo



Dhaka Ainjibi Samity placing wreaths at the National Memorial on Independence Day.

— Star photo



Independence Day

From Page 12  
The way you achieved victory by defeating the enemies during the liberation war is the way to free the country from the clutches of poverty," she told a juvenile rally at Bangabandhu National Stadium in the morning.

Special prayers were offered in all mosques and other places of worship for divine blessings and the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country. Better meals were served to people in all jails, hospitals and orphanages.

"We want to build a developed nation where no one will remain homeless, no one will die of hunger and no one will be left out in the darkness of illiteracy," she said. "Inshallah, each citizen will be given a home, food, education and a better life.

"Bangladesh is no longer a nation infested with cyclones, floods and natural calamity. Today, all agree that Bangladesh is a country full of prospects," she told the crowd. "Even American President Bill Clinton, who came here recently, acknowledged it."

Hasina said two important decades had passed full of trials and tribulations.

"We don't want to waste a single moment now. We want to create a society where each child can get an education, security and no one has to give his life like Russell."

The Prime Minister also opened a display of military hardware, arranged for the occasion to show the public country's military might.

Sophisticated arms, ammunition, equipment, vehicles, tanks, ship's replica, helicopter and aircraft used in the Army, Navy and Air Force were on display at the six-day exhibition at the Tejgaon Old Airport runway.

Political parties, cultural and social groups held discussions and staged musical programmes to celebrate Independence Day.

It was a public holiday. The national flag fluttered atop gov-

ernment and private buildings. Main thoroughfares were decorated with miniature red-green flags, balloons and bunting. Government buildings were illuminated in the evening.

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