

The Nation

What's on today

Photography exhibition: The 1st solo photography exhibition by Md Zaherul Islam Tarun will be inaugurated. Venue: National Photographic Gallery, Bangladesh Photographic Society (BPC), 87 Science Laboratory. Time: 2:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Conference: The inaugural session of the Rotary International Presidential Conference 2000 will be held. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 3:30 pm. Chief guest: Chief Justice Latifur Rahman.

Seminar: Sandhani will hold a seminar on "Safe blood starts with Me. Voluntary blood donation starts with Sandhani," on occasion of World Health Day 2000. Chief guest: Satish Chandra Roy, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30 am.

Film show: Three French movies *Les Creatures* (The Creatures), *Les Gens* (The people) and *Le Travail* (The Work) will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 11:00am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Rock concert: A rock concert *FLAH* by the groups, the attempted Band, Glad Tigers, Migraine and Nemesis will be held. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 4:00 pm.

Inauguration: The 10th solo painting exhibition of miniatures titled "Image of the City" by Kazi Salaudin Ahmed will be held. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 5:00 pm.

Reunion: The 7th reunion of Bawanians will be held. Venue: Osmany Memorial Hall. Time: 10 am. Chief guest: Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif.

Tapestry exhibition: A week-long solo tapestry exhibition "Warp and Weft" by Shatequl Kabir Chandan will be inaugurated. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU. Time: 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

BRCS discussion: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) will hold a discussion meeting on "Role of BRCS in Voluntary Blood Donation programme, and Safe Blood Transfusion." Venue: Red Crescent Blood Centre, 7/5, Aurangzeb Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 3:30 pm.

Photography exhibition: A photography exhibition "The Wandering Lens" (from Shiraz to Samarkand, Himalaya and some more) by Deb Mukharji, High Commissioner of India to Dhaka, will be inaugurated. Venue: Drift Gallery, House No 58, Rd No 15/A (New), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5 pm.

Reception: Sharatipt Zilla Shikkha Trust will accord a reception to meritorious HSC and SSC 1999 students. Chief guest: Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak. Venue: Academy for Planning and Development, Nukhet. Time: 5:00 pm.

Rabindra Sangeet: An evening of Rabindra Sangeet will be presented by Rabi Rashmi, a cultural organisation. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, 754 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:45 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Annual general meeting: The AGM of Bangladesh Shishu Adikhar Forum will be held. The executive for (2000-2001) will also be elected. Venue: Dhaka Ahsanah Mission auditorium. Time: 9:00 am.

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershowers with gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Sylhet and Khulna divisions and the region of Bogra in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

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

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 39.5 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and the lowest 19.8 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:17 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	26.3	78	62
Chittagong	31.5	24.4	77	77
Rajshahi	39.5	26.6	78	29
Khulna	35.0	25.5	78	66
Barisal	33.1	25.3	79	72
Sylhet	31.0	19.8	82	75
Cox's Bazar	32.2	24.8	73	77

HR Commission

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privided of their human rights. People must expose repression whenever they demand an explanation for acts committed by government officials, said Kabir.

Dr. Abrar Chowdhury gave a vivid account of human rights violations across the country. A human rights commission is essential to protect and promote human rights, he said.

Debapriya Bhattacharya said civil and political rights are an important component of a free market economy.

"You cannot have strong private sector without ensuring fundamental human rights," said Bhattacharya. "Even the officials who have drafted the

Death anniversary

The third death anniversary of Alhaj Nizamuddin Khan an MP from Manikganj will be observed today, says a press release.

To mark the death anniversary, a *Qurankawni* and *doa mahfil* will be held at the residence of the deceased at Girls School Road in Manikganj.

Obituary

Ratilal Saha, father of a senior reporter of The Daily Prothom Alo Pranab Saha and a noted businessman of Ganthanda, died on Wednesday night. He was 72, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives. He was cremated at the Gaibandha Swashanghat yesterday.

The home ministry also said enacting such a law "would make it very difficult for the police to play a bold role during hartals and other political demonstrations. Innumerable cases would be filed against police by the demonstrators."

Students ransack Motijheel Model College office

By Staff Correspondent

Female students of Motijheel Model High School and College ransacked the college office yesterday following cancellation of their registration for the upcoming HSC examination.

Tasibur Rahman, Principal of the college in a press release acknowledged that some students had ransacked the office of the college yesterday.

The incident took place when some students of the college went to the office and found that some irregularities regarding their registration.

A total 132 female students from humanities group of the college registered about two years back to appear for the HSC examination this year. But due to official mistakes, their forms were rejected said a press release of the college.

On Wednesday, the college authorities had asked the students to come to the college the next day to solve their problem.

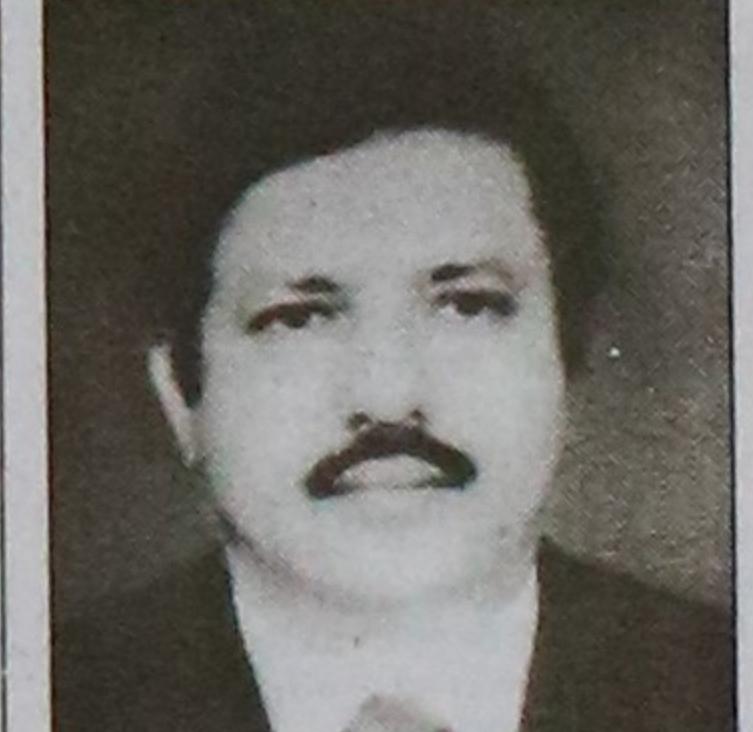
When they went to the college yesterday they found a notice saying that the college was closed and also found that police were deployed outside the campus.

The plane was allowed to land after the army gained control, but by then the aircraft had barely seven minutes of fuel remaining. There were 198 people aboard the aircraft including 60 children from US-run American schools in Pakistan, attended by children of US diplomats stationed here.

"The conspiracy started when Nawaz Sharif ordered (former civil aviation authority chief) Aminullah Chaudhury to stop the plane from landing," said Jaffri when handing down the verdict and sentence. "Until then the control tower was working lawfully, but after the

police deployed outside the campus swung into action and resorted to lathicharge to disperse the students.

The students then brought out a procession and marched upto the Jatiya Press Club, and held a rally there demanding justice for themselves.

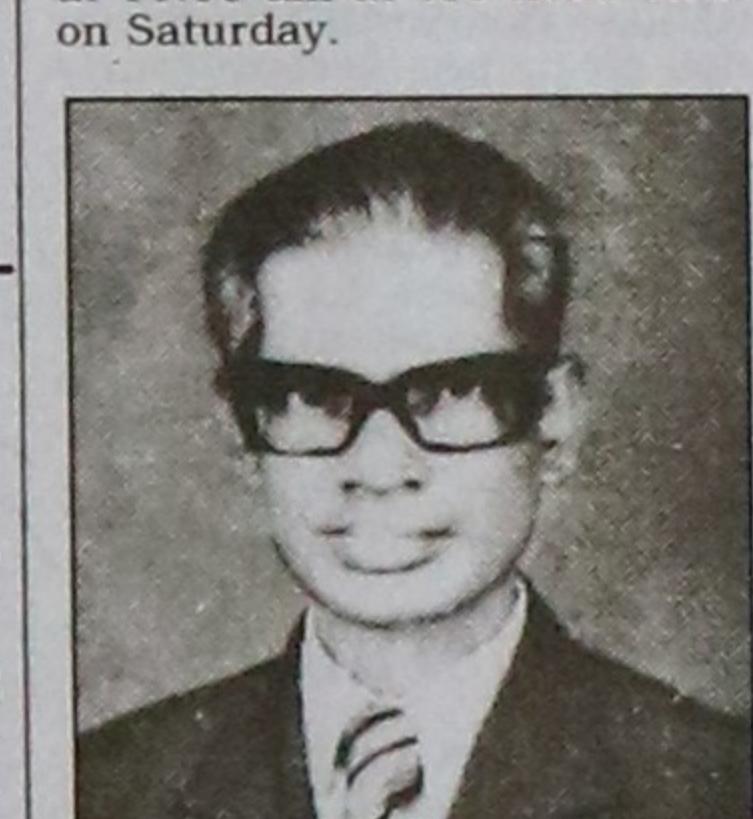


Humayun Zahir's death anniversary tomorrow

The 7th death anniversary of Humayun Zahir, former Chief Legal Adviser of Janata Insurance Company Ltd. will be observed tomorrow at Janata Insurance Company Ltd. head office, 125 Motijheel C/A in the city, says a press release.

Humayun Zahir was the Chief Legal Adviser of Janata Insurance Company Ltd., Chairman of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL) and District Governor of Lions' Clubs International. He was the founder of Dhaka Mahila College at Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

In observance of his death anniversary a *milad mahfil* will be arranged at Dhaka Mahila College at Dhanmondi after Asr prayers today. A *milad mahfil* will also be arranged at 11:00 am at JIC head office on Saturday.



Death anniversary of Mohammad Hossain today

The eleventh death anniversary of noted journalist Mohammad Hussain will be observed today, says a press release.

Hussain was the News Editor of Daily Azad, Sangram, Gonokantha and Janapad. He was also the elected vice president of BPFU.

A *milad mahfil* will be held on the occasion today after Asr prayers at 121/5, Banani Army Officers Quarter, the residence of his son, Major Hussain Imam.

The ministry suggested the government drop another provision that would allow the commission to conduct investigation - *suo moto* or after an application by a victim. If the provision was not dropped, the ministry argued, certain NGOs working on so-called human rights issues would be able to blackmail or embarrass government officials for political reasons.

The home ministry also objected to a provision allowing the commission to take part in human rights case with the court's permission. "An embarrassing situation will be created for government officials if the commission takes part in court proceedings."

The ministry recommended a provision to ensure the proper monitoring and control of NGO activities, instead of encouraging the NGOs in human rights activities.

The home ministry also said enacting such a law "would make it very difficult for the police to play a bold role during hartals and other political demonstrations. Innumerable cases would be filed against police by the demonstrators."

The home ministry also said following the procession, they also held a rally at the *Aparajyo Bangla* on the campus at noon.

Sharif gets life term

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League party officials have said they will not ask their supporters to take to the streets. Sharif's wife, Khulsoom, who wept when the verdict was announced said the conviction could lead to spontaneous protests.

The judge also ordered all of Sharif's extensive properties confiscated. He ordered Sharif to pay 2 million rupees (drs 37,000) compensation to the 198 passengers and crew aboard the Pakistan International Airlines aircraft he prevented from landing. He was also fined an additional 1 million rupees (drs 18,500).

Sharif is expected to appeal. The law allows to avenues of appeal to the Sindh Provincial High Court and to the Federal Supreme Court.

Sharif was charged with hijacking and terrorism after refusing to allow the passenger aircraft returning Gen Pervez Musharraf to Pakistan to land in the southern city of Karachi. The standoff in the air over Karachi occurred in the midst of an Oct 12 coup. The army seized power after Sharif dismissed Musharraf and replaced him with a junior general.

Outside the Karachi courtroom security was tight. Overhead an army helicopter hovered and on the rooftops of nearby buildings army and policemen with automatic rifles took aim at the street below.

Four activists of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League, who tried to demonstrate outside the courthouse, were arrested, according to eyewitnesses. They screamed anti-army slogans and declared Sharif their prime minister as they were being led away by police.

Sharif and his coaccused arrived at the courtroom in armoured personnel carriers, surrounded by army guards.

The antiterrorist court that tried Sharif was established during his term in power. The legislation requires the maximum penalty be handed out.

When the legislation was introduced Sharif sought to deny anyone convicted by this court a right of appeal. The Supreme Court stepped in, ruled the legislation unconstitutional and ordered at least one right of appeal.

US pleased

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"verdict or its fairness," said PJ Crowley, spokesman for the White House National Security Council. "But certainly we are pleased that the death penalty has apparently been taken off the table."

Sharif's political party, the Pakistan Muslim League, plans to appeal the verdict.

"We hope that the appeals process will be fair and transparent. The Pakistani government should continue to allow open access and open reporting of the proceedings, and provide due process to Mr Sharif," Crowley said.

"He should be allowed access to the counsel of his choice. And we will continue to monitor the proceedings closely," he said.

Sharif eventually ordered infiltrated militants to return to Pakistan following US pressure, raising tensions between him and the military.

The lone private member's bill was introduced and sent to the relevant parliamentary body for scrutiny. Dewan Farid Gazi of the ruling Awami League moved the bill, seeking mandatory provision for hanging portraits of Father of the Nation at all offices of government, semi-government and autonomous bodies and Bangladeshi missions abroad. It also seeks punitive action against officials defying the Rules of Procedure.

The two other bills are the Forest (Amendment) Bill 2000 and the Bangladesh Environment Protection (Amendment) Bill 2000.

According to the Environment Court Bill, 2000, judges of these courts will be appointed in consultation with the Supreme Court.

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On the occasion of the day, the Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said, "We had set goals at Alma Ata in 1978 promising to ensure health for all by year 2000. But unfortunately, due to undemocratic rule in the country those goals could not be achieved; but with practice of democracy, however, we are now able to meet the health needs like reducing maternal and child death," he said.

Among others who spoke at the press conference were the State Minister for Health Prof M Amanullah, Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Sheikh Kabir Hossain, additional secretary of Health ministry Dr D Kumar Nath.

Brigadier (retd) A Q M Hafiz, WHO's National Programme Officer conducted the proceedings of the press conference.

"On an average, a civil matter takes about five years from filing to decision in a District Court. In some cases, 15 to 20 years can elapse before a decision by the appellate court is received," he pointed out.

"A perverse result of this is the intentional use of the courts to delay paying for utilities like electricity and other services."

The report said existing code of conduct for Bangladesh's judges is difficult to uphold when salaries range from about 100 US dollars per month for an Assistant Judge to 400 dollars per month for the Chief Justice of Bangladesh. Housing allowance and other benefits add approximately 50 per cent to the compensation package.

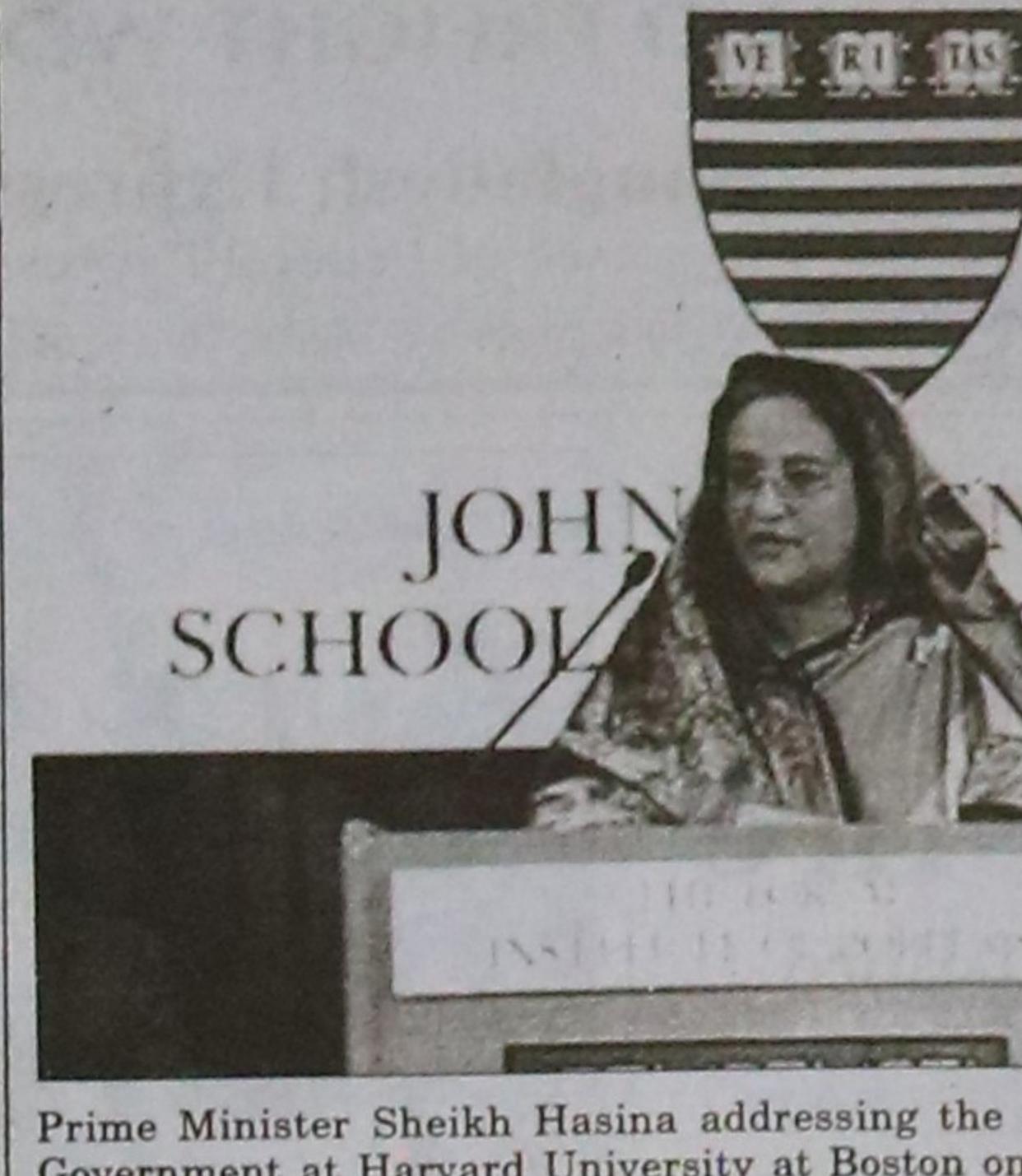
"By pricing the services of its judiciary at levels that are equal to or below that of clerical staff of the private sector, the system encourage corruption," the Bank said.

"Higher salaries alone will not dispel dishonesty, but, international experience shows that together with improved career prospects, promotions and increased budgets, respectable wages help create an environment for sustainable reform."

The WB said while additional recruitment might help, improved incentives, automation and simplified administrative procedures are more likely to broaden judicial coverage and reduce the case backlog.

A *milad mahfil* will be held at the local mosque to mark the death anniversary.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the ARCO forum at John Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University at Boston on Wednesday.

— PID photo

Gandhi's grandson arrives today

Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi arrives here today on a week-long visit to Bangladesh, three of which were passed.

The three bills were on setting up of green courts and amendments to two laws relating to conservation of forests and protection of environment.

Rabi, who is also a whip of JP, protested the arrangement saying it curbed the rights of private members. But the Speaker said the agenda prioritised private members' businesses as provided in Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure.

The much-awaited Zila Parishad Bill was introduced in the House yesterday, seeking constitution of elected local government bodies at district-level.

Two other bills concerning development and management of water resources and setting up of a water development agency were also tabled on the day. All the three bills were sent to parliamentary standing committees on relevant ministries for examination and to report back in one month.