

## What's on today....

**BIRDEM rally:** Physicians, doctors, nurses and other officials and staff of BIRDEM will hold a rally to demand a "Pollution-free Dhaka." Venue: From in front of BIRDEM hospital to Shishu Park. Time: 8:30 am.

**National conference:** Federation of Teachers Associations in Bangladesh will hold its national conference. Education Minister A S H K Sadek will inaugurate the conference. Venue: Polytechnic Institute auditorium, Tejgaon. Time: 9:30 am.

**COM TEQ '99:** The 3-day long fair COM TEQ '99 will begin. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

**Lecture:** Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (CESTI) of Alliance Française de Dhaka in Association with Bangladesh Institute of Research in Diabetes, Endocrine & Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM) will hold a scientific lecture session on "Endosulfines, endogenous regulators of insulin-release, possible implication in the genetic of diabetes". Venue: CESTI auditorium, Alliance Française de Dhaka. Time: 10:00 am-11:00 am.

**BR seminar:** Bangladesh Railway (BR) will hold a seminar on "Role of Dhaka ICD in Container Transport". Venue: Jalshaghar Hall, Hotel Purbani International. Time: 10:30 am.

**AMCHAM meeting:** American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AMCHAM) will hold a meeting on "Polio Eradication from Bangladesh". Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 12:30 pm.

**DRU meeting:** A meeting of the executive committee of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) will be held. Venue: DRU office, 8/4-A Topkhana Rd, Segunbagicha. Time: 1:00 pm.

**Meeting:** Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) will hold a meeting on creating awareness about the extinction of birds in the country. Venue: 5/14 Humayun Road, Moham-madpur. Time: 3:00 pm.

**ADAB seminar:** Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) will hold a seminar on "29 years of Independence: Women and the Poor of Bangladesh". Venue: Women's Voluntary Association (WVA), House No 20, Rd No 16, Dhan-mondi R/A. Time: 3:00 pm.

**Seminar:** ExecuTrain in association with Bangladesh 2000 will hold a seminar on Development of E-commerce Professionals in Bangladesh. Chief guest: Minister for Commerce Abdul Jalil. Venue: Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB). Time: 3:30 pm.

**SSJ gathering:** Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) will hold a gathering to demand staying of the order of renaming of SUST hall names and to protest against fundamentalism in the country. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Cultural evening:** Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will hold a two-day cultural programme. On the first day of the programme today Papiya Sarwar and Rowshan Ara Mustafiz will present songs. Venue: National Museum. Time: 6:30 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Cultural evening:** Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will hold the 2nd day of its cultural programme. Singers Shubir Nandi and Farida Parvin will present songs. Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Museum, Shahbag. Time: 6:30 pm.

## Weather

### Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and on the regions of Jessore and Kushtia in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

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

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 36.0 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 20.3 degree Celsius at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.21 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.34 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	33.7	24.7
Chittagong	33.5	24.3
Rajshahi	35.8	25.0
Khulna	35.5	24.5
Barisal	34.0	23.5
Sylhet	33.7	23.0
Cox's Bazar	34.5	24.4

## HERE and THERE

### WPO seminar

By Staff Correspondent  
The Dhaka-based World Peace Organisation (WPO) yesterday held a seminar on "Ways of Establishing Permanent Peace in the World."

The seminar was held at the Dhaka University's TSC auditorium in the afternoon.

Advocate Syed Shah Alam presented the key-note paper in the seminar.

### ICAB

Institute of Chartered Accountant, Bangladesh (ICAB) on Friday honoured four personalities for their contributions to the 1952 Language Movement and the War of Liberation, reports UNB.

They are ASM Abdur Rab, Minister for Fisheries and Livestock, Khaled Mahmud Ali, Chairman Sadharan Bima, Dr Shah Mohammad Farid, Member Planning Commission and Advocate Gazul Huq.

The minister received the ICAB crest from its president Abul Khair Chowdhury while three others from the minister at a function organised by the Institute, marking Eid reunion, Pahela Baishakh and holy Ashura.

### BCS Food (general) Officers' Assoc

Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu yesterday said that the government was committed to ensure food security of the country, reports BSS.

"To meet the food requirement of the people is a sacred responsibility of the government," he said while addressing the sixth annual meeting of the BCS Food (General) Officers' Association at the Food Directorate recently.

Presided over by the president of the association M A Hashem, the function was also addressed, among others, by Deputy Minister for Food Dhirendra Devnath Shambhu, joint secretary to the ministry Dulal Abdul Hafiz, director general of the directorate AKM Nurul Afsar.

### Death anniversary

The fourth death anniversary of Quazi Nuruzzaman, first VP of Saadat College in Tangail, will be observed today, reports UNB.

A *milad mahfil* will be held at Batul Aman Jame Mosque at Motijheel Colony after Asr prayers.



FEMA held a seminar on "Women and Political Parties" at the Ahsania Mission auditorium in the city on Saturday.



Shiite Muslims mourn as part of an Ashura procession in the city on Sunday, the tenth day of Muharram.

## Warrant of arrest against Manab Zamin editor

MUNSHIGANJ, Apr 17: A magistrate court here today issued warrant of arrest against the editor of the Manab Zamin and two others in a defamation case filed by chairman of Munshiganj municipality, reports UNB.

Magistrate Mahfuz Karim issued the order of arrest of editor Matur Rahman Chowdhury, publisher Mahbuba Chowdhury and staff reporter Shaiful Islam Jiban.

Chairman Anisuzzaman filed the case accusing them of publishing false reports in the daily on April 7 and 8 that tarnished his political and social image.

### Kibria

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were working against the poor people of Bangladesh.

"It is against the country. I went to Paris to get the donors' support for the programmes to eradicate poverty and they opposed it."

"You will be surprised that they listed the signing of the CHT agreement, the Ganges Water Treaty and bus service with Calcutta as the reasons why the donors should not support Bangladesh."

Kibria said donors expressed satisfaction over Bangladesh's achievement in the social sector and managing the macro-economy as a whole.

The donors assured Bangladesh of continued assistance, he said.

Prior to the meeting, the donors indicated they would give between 1.8 and 2.20 billion US dollars in fresh aid to the country in 2000-2001 depending on the progress of reforms and aid utilisation.

## President

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any problems," he said and regretted that instead of showing tolerance and unity to achieve the national goals, there has been tendency to look at everything from political angles.

"If you work there remains a possibility of making mistakes, but it is better to nurture the outlook of rectifying the mistakes by taking right decision thereafter," he said.

The president said that there should be the approach to accept how people evaluate a work instead of claiming one's own work as the best piece.

"Go alone" is against the spirit of democracy. If our political parties could realise this, it would bring prosperity for the people and the country."

Turning to the problem of overpopulation, which has a cascading effect on almost all other issues, the president said the political parties should forge consensus to implement the family-planning programme.

He regretted that the political leaders were frequently addressing meetings and issuing statements, but always side-tracking the family-planning programme.

"Probably, they (politicians) prefer not to talk about the family-planning programme for fear of the conservatives who oppose the family-planning concept." There would be no problem in implementing the programme if all the parties could take a unanimous decision.

He suggested forming all-party committee in every union and thana to stop the cheating on public examinations as it eats into the vitals of the country's education system.

Referring to the observance of Mujibnagar Day, Shahabuddin said farsightedness and sacrificing outlook of the wartime government opened the greatest chapter in the struggle for achieving national independence. He paid rich tributes to those who led the war to a successful end.

The discussion meeting was chaired by Prof Anisuzzaman, Chairman of Bangla Academy, and also addressed by Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister's Political Adviser Dr S A Malek and Cultural Secretary Syed Abdur Rab.

## Javed trying to influence

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private bank at gun point last year and declared himself the chairman without any legal basis.

At a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, Kamal termed the whole exercise of Javed illegal. He said there is no provision in the article of association of CCCI and Trade Organisation (TO) ordinance to bring a no-confidence motion against any elected president and even the board of directors do not have any right to cancel the membership of anyone.

Kamal also claimed the board could only suspend membership for a certain period and if it wished to cancel anyone's membership then it will have to convene a general meeting giving a 30-day notice.

"And only the general meeting can cancel anyone's membership after voting," he said. He also alleged that Javed forced the other board members to support him.

## Transit with Nepal

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transport agreement between the two countries was on the table for nearly two years. If it is signed, it would reduce drastically the time needed to reach Mongla from Nepal."

Similar views were expressed by President of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) Pradeep Kumar Shreshtha during a recent visit to Bangladesh.

"Nepalese businessmen are very much interested to use Mongla Port for transshipment of their goods, but they are unable to use the port properly due to poor road communication between the transit point and the port," he told in Dhaka.

The Nepalese Federation President also said Mongla Port is more cost effective than Calcutta port for transshipping goods of Nepalese origin.

There should be a regular Customs point on the Bangladesh side and various support facilities including warehousing and other services should be provided to encourage Nepalese exporters to use

Mongla port, one source noted. The government had earlier produced a Tk 47 crore Project Concept Paper (PCP) for improvement of roads, bridges and ferry service in the northern region of Bangladesh.

The PCP stressed immediate start of work on the 60-km stretch of highway from Bangladesh to Tetulia and Panchagarh.

Experts say that in the long run, nearly Tk 500 crore would have to be invested for improvement of road communication between the northern districts and Mongla Port to make Bangladesh-Nepal transit route operational.

Bangladesh could expect to get a quick return from the investment as Nepal would be able to transship over one million tons of cargo through Mongla instead of Calcutta.

The experts also noted that the Nepalese economy and the businessmen would also be immensely benefited from shipment through Mongla as transportation through Bangladesh would be cheaper and faster.

## EC not equipped

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is a strong possibility of success of such a move. "As far as collection of funds is concerned, top leaders of any party are not supposed to be very happy over the present state of affairs. It is very difficult these days to manage funds needed to for conventional political activities. Besides, no politician perhaps loves to get dependent on black money holders."

**Election Expenditure**  
Agreeing with the EC observation that most of the candidates spend much more amount than the legally fixed ceiling of Tk three lakh, Bhuiyan said there are candidates who perhaps spend Tk three crore each in a constituency during parliamentary polls.

He also shares the EC view that 'most of the candidates submit false returns of their expenditure'.

Observing that money plays a big role in election these days, the BNP secretary general said, "If the nation fails to stop this, it would be very difficult for honest people to contest polls in future. An all out effort should be made to check election expenditure."

**Election Dispute Resolution**  
Mannan Bhuiyan stressed that any dispute arising out of parliamentary polls should be resolved within six months from the date of the elections. "The Commission should be provided with all necessary support, legal and logistic, to make sure that no electoral case is pending with any tribunal or court after six months of parliamentary elections."

The EC has taken a move to replace six Election Tribunals at the divisional headquarters with a Dhaka-based one, comprising two High Court judges. The proposed tribunal is supposed to dispose of all disputes within a year after the polls. At present, a dispute is hardly resolved during the term of a parliament.

Bhuiyan suggested that representatives from political parties as well as 'socially acceptable neutral personalities' could also be there on the Tribunal.

## ADAB concerned over anti-NGO activities in B'baria

By Staff Correspondent

ADAB, the association of NGOs in Bangladesh, has expressed its concern over the anti-NGO activities in Brahmanbari by the religious fanatics and demanded security of the NGO workers and offices in the region.

In a statement yesterday, ADAB chairperson Khushi Kabir and director Shamsul Huda said the teachers and students of some local madrassahs and their followers are carrying out anti-NGO activities again using the so-called statement of Proshika president Kazi Faruque Ahmed.

"They are giving provocative statements and threatening to attack NGO offices and kill NGO activists working in the region," the ADAB release said.

ADAB said that Kazi Faruque did not say at a seminar on April 9 that "the top religious leader of Brahmanbaria was a collaborator in 1971... he handed over women to occupied forces... they also raped women."

ADAB pointed out that only one newspaper published the 'comment' which is false, baseless and fabricated. And there was no such news in other newspapers.

A rejoinder was sent to that newspaper on behalf of Kazi Faruque Ahmed, requesting to withdraw the false and fabricated news.

Expressing grave concern, ADAB said the identified quarters unleashed a reign of terror in Brahmanbaria capitalising on the false and fabricated news and demanded of the higher authorities including the home minister to ensure the security of NGO offices and activists as well as their families.

## Cook's call

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soon.

Cook stressed Britain's hope that India will "give priority to joining the global efforts to contain nuclear arms", and as a first step adhering to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Singh said the two countries would address their differences on nuclear issues "with the sense of maturity and mutual respect which characterises our relations."

Nuclear tests by India and Pakistan in 1998 increased the stakes over Kashmir, which US President Bill Clinton described as one of the most dangerous places on earth.

Cook said he and Singh also discussed the chances of a restoration of democracy in Pakistan, where General Pervez Musharraf seized power in a bloodless coup in October.

## Transport strike called off

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Road Transport Worker's Federation (BRTWF) called off its transport strike following assurance from the government for release of their leaders, sources said. The strike was scheduled to begin yesterday and last till May 2.

Assurance was also given of involvement of the federation leaders in the ongoing government drive against illegal toll collectors and that police would not invoke the section of murder case while bringing charges against drivers for accidental deaths, sources noted.

The Federation called off its programme after signing an agreement with the Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju on April 16, said a BRTWF press release, adding that the Inter District Truck Drivers and Workers Union also called off its strike the same day.

Mohammad Ishak Biswas, joint secretary of the Inter District Truck Drivers Union told The Daily Star that the agreement was signed following a four hours discussion on Sunday.

The agreement was signed by the communications minister on behalf of the government and Shahjahan Khan MP of the

ruling party on behalf of the Federation, he added.

Under the agreement efforts will be made for early release of the arrested leaders of transport organisations. Besides police case against truck drivers for accidental deaths will be filed under Section 304 (b) and not under Section 302.

## Poet Abu Zafar Obaidullah flown home

By Staff Correspondent

Ailing poet and former minister Abu Zafar Obaidullah Khan was flown to Dhaka from Singapore in an unconscious state on Saturday.

He had been under treatment at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, said a press release.

The condition of the poet has improved but he is still unconscious, doctors said.

Poet Obaidullah Khan fell unconscious following a cerebral infarction on February 15. He was operated upon at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) and was later shifted to Mount Elizabeth Hospital.

## Don't pay heed to propaganda: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has protested "imaginary and false" propaganda against his party and called upon the party men and people not to be misled.

In a statement yesterday, he said that BNP under the leadership of Khaleda Zia, which launched the movement against the "subservient, corrupt and repressive" government, is marching towards its expected victory.

Bhuiyan said the government which failed to foil the ongoing movement by resorting to all sorts of repressive measures, has currently intensified the "information terrorism" in a pre-planned way to hurt BNP's intra-party unity and to distance its alliance partners.

Besides, a conspiracy is also out to destroy the image of party's leaders and activists, he added.

Mannan Bhuiyan also said leaflets and news reports are being published and distributed to create conflict between the BNP and the alliance.

## Two robbed of Tk 6 lakh

By Staff Correspondent

Thieves shot two gas station employees and stole Tk 6 lakh from them while they were going to deposit the money in a local bank in Tikatuli in Sutrapur yesterday morning.

The victim were identified as Moklesur Rahman, 35, and Emran Hossain, 23. Both are employees of A. Han's and Company (fuel station) at 42/2 Tikatuli.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### Scancem Bangladesh Ltd. seeks to recruit a

#### Sales Manager - Corporate and Institutional Sales

Scancem Bangladesh Ltd. is a member of the Heidelberger Group, Europe's largest cement and building material company and the 3rd largest in the world. The Group operates, since 1998 an import terminal in Chittagong and is at the moment constructing a grinding plant in Dhaka. Scancem Bangladesh Ltd. is expanding the organisation and is looking for a proactive, dynamic and dedicated person to achieve company business objectives. The position will work out of Scancem's head office in Dhaka.

#### Responsibilities

The incumbent is responsible for:

- \* Implementing of marketing plan through sales team in a competitive business environment
- \* Achieving challenging sales and growth objectives
- \* Anticipating potential opportunities and in a proactive manner offer satisfactory solutions
- \* Developing and maintain an effective business relationship with the concerned Private and Government sectors.
- \* Developing knowledge and skills of sales team and target groups through training.

#### Required Qualifications :

- \* Master in Civil Engineering and/or MBA with major in Marketing preferable
- \* At least second division/class throughout the academic career
- \* Adequate experience in industrial environment and in leading sales team
- \* Effective inter-personal and communication skills combined with high levels of initiative and drive
- \* Instinctive problem solving and decision making ability
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- \* Proficiency with MS office applications

Interested persons are requested to send an application with resume along with a recent passport size photograph to reach the Personnel Dept. by 30 April 2000. Copies of certificates and testimonials should NOT be enclosed with the application. The name of the position should appear on top of the envelope.

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview.

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