

● What's on today... ●

FEJB Workshop: Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh will hold a day long workshop on "Environmental Courts: Challenges ahead." Chief guest: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru. Venue: VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 9:00 am.

Seminar: Bengal Overseas Corporation Ltd will hold a seminar on Videoclip Coding Equipment of Marconi Data Systems Inc. Venue: Surma of Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10:30 am.

National workshop: The first national workshop on "Improved Flood Warning Dissemination" will be held. Chief guest: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak. Venue: Hotel Abakash, Mohakhal. Time: 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

Inauguration: Arena Multimedia Centre at Gulshan will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Minister for Science and Technology Lt Gen Noor Uddin Khan psc (Retd). Venue: 121/C Gulshan Avenue. Time: 9:00 am.

Workshop: The 1st national workshop on improved flood warning dissemination will be held. Organiser: Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and office of the National Project Director Consolidation and Strengthening of Flood Forecasting and Warning Services. Venue: Hotel Abakash, Mohakhal. Time: 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

Launching ceremony: Agrobased Industries and Technology Development Project ATDP, a project of Ministry of Agriculture supported by USAID and NELCO Foods Ltd, will hold a launching ceremony for its new Frozen French Fries (FFF) production line. Venue: Prantik 246/I, C-17, West Agaraon. Time: 4:00 pm.

Bonsai exhibition: Russian Cultural Centre presents a solo exhibition by Bonsai artist Nazmul Haque titled "Wonder world of Bonsai and Saikai." Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhamondi Rd No 7. Time: 5:30 pm.

Poetry Night: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in association with Eternal (an English recitation group) will hold a poetry night. Venue: Conference Room of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road. Time: 6:30 pm.

Meeting: Bangabandhu Parishad, Supreme Court Lawyers unit, will hold a general meeting. Venue: Supreme Court Lawyers Association Building Hall No 2. Time: 4:30 pm.

● and tomorrow ●

Children's art competition: Environment and Social Development Organisation (ESDO) will organise a children's art competition on occasion of Earth Day 2000. Venue: Surovi School, House No 16, Rd No 5, Dhamondi R/A. Time: 9:30 am-11:30 am.

Film show: Three French movies *J'accuse* (I accuse), *La Jeunesse* (The Young) and *Le Secret* (The Secret) will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Conference: Bangladesh Bar Council will begin a 2-day conference of all bar council delegates from across the country. Venue: Engineers Institution, Bangladesh (IEB).

Recitation: Apon Darpan a recitation programme by Farida Hosein will be held to celebrate the UNESCO declaration of Ekushey February as International Mother Language Day. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 7:00 pm.

Weather

No change in temperature

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Jessor and Kushtia in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over 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 35.2 degree Celsius at Jessor and Rangamati and the lowest 19.6 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:32 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity	
	in Celsius		percentage	
Dhaka	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Chittagong	34.0	26.5	65	63
Rajshahi	33.0	24.2	78	76
Khulna	34.6	26.0	87	87
Barisal	34.5	25.8	90	—
Sylhet	32.5	19.6	78	73
Cox's Bazar	34.4	24.5	73	75

HERE and THERE



Miah was elected president while Dr Mazharul Islam was elected vice-president.

Others elected are: MA Rob (treasurer), Golam Moshi (secretary general), Md Junab Ali (joint secretary and office secretary), Dr C S Karim (Special secretary) and Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Amirul Islam and Alibab Ullah Moni (members).

Krishibid Institution

Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury said yesterday that her party did not use the government power in accumulating fortune but has rendered services to the people, respectively of the executive committee of Institute of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh (IDEB) for 2000-2001 term at the 24th council of the IDEB held recently.

Other officer bearers of the committee are: Vice President (Khulna): Md Monirul Haq Khan, Vice President (Chittagong): AKM Moazzem Hossain, Vice President (Dhaka): Mdridha Nazrul Islam, Vice President (Rajshahi): Md Tajul Islam, Vice President (Barisal): Md Mustafizur Rahman, Vice President (Sylhet): Mahmudur Rashid Masrur, Vice President (Rangpur): Khan-daker A Rafiq, Joint Secretary: M Moazzamul Hoque, AKM Shajahan Khandaker, Finance Secretary: Kazi Nazrul Islam and Organising Secretary: Khurshid Ahmed.

IDEB Executives

By Staff Correspondent Rafiqul Islam Bhuiyan and AKM Hamid were elected president and general secretary respectively of the executive committee of Institute of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh (IDEB) for 2000-2001 term at the 24th council of the IDEB held recently.

Other officer bearers of the committee are: Vice President (Khulna): Md Monirul Haq Khan, Vice President (Chittagong): AKM Moazzem Hossain, Vice President (Dhaka): Mdridha Nazrul Islam, Vice President (Rajshahi): Md Tajul Islam, Vice President (Barisal): Md Mustafizur Rahman, Vice President (Sylhet): Mahmudur Rashid Masrur, Vice President (Rangpur): Khan-daker A Rafiq, Joint Secretary: M Moazzamul Hoque, AKM Shajahan Khandaker, Finance Secretary: Kazi Nazrul Islam and Organising Secretary: Khurshid Ahmed.

BADSA

A meeting of Bangladesh Development and Services Association (BADSA) was held at Rajshahi Housing Complex at Maghbazar recently, says a press release.

The meeting was presided over by renowned scientist and president of BADSA Dr MA Wazed Ali Miah.

The new executive committee of the association was elected at the meeting. Dr Wazed

held a *milad mahfil* was held at his residence in the city and munajat was offered for salvation of the departed soul.

The death anniversary of noted physician and former head of the department of Surgery and Principal of Dhaka Medical College Professor Kabiruddin Ahmed was observed on April 9, says a press release.

A *milad mahfil* was held at his residence in the city and munajat was offered for salvation of the departed soul.

He left behind his wife, four daughters, and a large number of relatives and admirers.

Clean BNP of razakars, terrorists: Nasim

AVOYNAGAR (Jessore), Apr 19: Home Minister Mohammad Nasim today urged BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia to clean her party of *razakars* and terrorists immediately, otherwise, he warned, they would cause her serious damage in near future, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting at Nawapara Shankarpasha Technical High School ground, he said the leader of the opposition should take lesson from attacks on her by partymen at Cox's Bazar and Sathkhira. These criminals are not unknown to Begum Zia and she should expel them from her party and hand over them to the members of the law enforcing agencies, he said.

Thana Awami League President Mukhles Ali Farazi presided over the function while Shah Hadizuzzaman MP, Tabibur Rahman MP, Khan Tipu Sultan MP, Ali Reza Razu MP, Aleya Afroz MP, District Awami League Secretary Sharif Abdur Rakib and Avoyanagar Thana AL Vice President Abdul Wahab also spoke.

Mohammad Nasim said the unity among the autocrat *raza-*

kar and propagandists would bring nothing positive other than the sufferings of the people. "If a woman can shake hands with the alleged killer of her husband, the lady can also kill thousands to grab the state power," he said.

The minister said Awami League after coming to power has proved that the propaganda being spread for the last 21 years are false and misleading. "During the last four years of Awami League's rule, neither a part of Bangladesh had been turned into an Indian part nor a mosque closed," he said.

Referring to Begum Zia's recent visit to south-western part of the country, the Home Minister said the BNP chief should be ashamed for comments against terrorism as the terrorists were patronised by her party law-

makers.

Criticising Begum Zia's stand in favour of a transport leader who made his fortune only by collecting tolls from transports, he said, this was unfortunate for the nation. He said the government would stop illegal toll collection from roads and highways at any cost.

"No compromise will be made in this regard," he added.

Earlier, Mohammad Nasim at a review meeting on law and order situation of the district observed that the law enforcing agencies would soon be provided with modern equipment to curb terrorism.

He said despite resource constraint, the government had no dearth in sincerity to root out terrorism and extort.

Mohammad Nasim urged the local people to do best for the development of the district and the region as well. He assured them that river port areas of Nowapara and Avoyanagar will be provided with 1000 digital telephone facilities.

He also asked the police officials to set up more camps in this area if required.

Opposition blasts

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rule of law.

BNP Secretary-general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said threat on the judges by the ministers and the Dhaka city mayor and the procession wearing shrouds are "naked interference in the judiciary".

The Awami League ministers and leaders are using abusive language against the judges and threatening to lay siege to the houses of judges.

The BNP leader said the ruling party leaders and even the prime minister herself had made malicious remarks against the higher court and its judges several times and didn't refrain from making comments even after being summoned.

He vowed to resist the government move to destroy the judiciary and reintroduce one-party system. He urged the judges to stick to their job ignoring government pressure.

Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Matiur Rahman Nizami termed the ministers comments on the judiciary and the judges of the higher court as "terrorist statement".

He said the Awami League wants to establish its control on everything by muscle power as it has had no respect for democracy, rule of law and independent judiciary.

The Jamaat secretary general said it is the duty of the government to protect the judiciary from any sort of attack and ensure independence, honour and dignity of the judges, but the AL government forgot its responsibility.

Workers Party general secretary Rashed Khan Menon said people of the country want trial of the August 15 killings and the process of the trial has taken due course.

This reflects how the minister had undermined the constitution. Majority of the people wanted trial of the killing of the father of the nation. The judiciary of Bangladesh is not separated from the executive branch. If the government has to bring out procession and stage demonstration demanding justice that how the common folk would get justice," he asked adding, "that it is not good for the nation".

He is the function of the court to protect itself, Justice ATM Afzal declined to comment on the issue.

"We the judges should not participate in public debate whether we are in or out of office," he told The Daily Star.

Another former Chief Justice, Mostafa Kamal, also refused to comment.

"It is the function of the court to protect itself," Justice ATM Afzal declined to comment on the issue.

"There is no scope for inefficiency for this vital institution."

Some top business leaders expressed apprehension that Home Minister Mohammad Nasim's reported remarks about the judiciary might lead to a situation of confrontation.

The minister's statement is irresponsible and dangerous for democracy and it would instigate more terrorist activities in the country. None would then secure, they said when contacted.

Another top chamber leader said, "I am really shocked. This is a provocative statement."

Some chamber leaders wondered how could the minister responsible for maintaining law and order could say something like this.

"This is really shocking that a minister, particularly the home minister, made such remarks," one leader said.

The business leaders, however, did not want to be identified.

There might be many other international companies willing to invest in the private port but lack of a clear-cut government policy on it kept them away, said Sinha.

"Since Asma has TB and jaundice, it will be quite complicated to treat her because she also takes drugs to suit the transplanted kidney," he said.

On August 11, 1998 Asma underwent an operation at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for removal of her ovarian tumour but doctors "mistakenly" removed her only functioning kidney, endangering her life. Her five months' pregnancy was also terminated during the same operation.

When all these came to light and DMCH gynaecologists attempted to cover up their fault, a media focus on the ill-fated poor girl led to an inquiry and her quick transfer to BSMUH on September 7, 1998.

But her condition deteriorated due to alleged poor attention. After five months' painful survival on haemodialysis, a costly procedure to excrete toxic fluid from body, a kidney, donated by her mother, was transplanted in her body.

Soon after the kidney transplantation, she regained weight and appetite. Her persistent abdominal pain had also disappeared.

The government had formed two bodies to probe her operation at the DMCH but their findings are yet to be made public. A human rights group, Odhikar, had filed a writ petition on behalf of Asma seeking prosecution of the doctors and compensation.

However, we've discovered that a board official hid the reply as part of their conspiracy," alleged a college official. However, he said he hoped the crisis would be resolved in a couple of days.

The chief engineer of the power station rushed to the scene and opened the main gate when he heard the news.

Newspapermen call to observe May Day

Leaders of Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad yesterday called upon all journalists, press workers and employees to observe the historic May Day in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

They also urged them to enjoy holiday on the occasion.

Addressing separate meetings at the offices of Dainik Bhorer Kagan and Dainik Manab Jamin, they said the owners and management would be responsible for any consequences if anybody is forced to work on May Day.

The Parishad leaders called upon all to attend the grand rally to be held at Jatiya Press Club on April 30 to press for realisation of their 9-point demands, including 60 per cent dearness allowance.

Work stoppage will be observed in all newspapers and news agencies on April 30 from 10 am to 2 pm enabling all to attend the grand rally, the leaders said.

The meetings were addressed by BFUJ leaders Amanullah Kabir, G M Yakub, Akhtar Ahmed Khan, M A Aziz, DUK leaders Altaf Mahmud, Abu Saleh, and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan. Press Sramik Federation president Mosharrof Hosain and secretary general Mozammel Huq. Employees Federation secretary general Matiur Rahman Talukder, Shyamal Dutta, Nurul Amin, Rokan, Mosharrof Hossain, Humayun Kabir, Khokon and Munirul Islam Mazumder.

Menon said the Awami League had hampered the process through its activities, he said.

Menon said the Awami League applied force on the judiciary in the past and has continued to do so till date. This is a bad omen and our entire judiciary system is threatened today. The government was committed to establishing rule of law in the country, but the Awami League threatened it through launching verbal abuse on judiciary and the judges," said convenor of Bangladesh Samantrik Dal Khalequzaman.

He said the judges have surrendered to the threat by not charging the government with contempt of court.

Khalequzaman said the AL pr