

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 Video 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 Abdul Razzak. Venue: Hotel Abakash, Mohakhali. 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, Mohakhali. 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 246/1, C-17, West Agargaon. Time: 4:00 pm.

Bonsai exhibition: Russian Cultural Centre presents a solo exhibition by Bonsai artist Nazmul Haque titled "Wonder world of Bonsai and Saiki." Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi 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's 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, Dhanmondi 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 Rafiqul Hosen 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 thundershowers 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 Jessore 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 Jessore 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 in Celsius	Humidity percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	34.0	26.5
Chittagong	33.0	24.2
Rajshahi	34.6	26.0
Khulna	34.5	25.8
Barisal	33.6	25.0
Sylhet	32.5	19.6
Cox's Bazar	34.4	24.5

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 her partymen at Cox's Bazar and Sathkira. 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 Mukhlis Ali Farazi presided over the function while Shah Haiduzzaman MP, Tabir Rahman MP, Khan Tipu Sultan MP, Ali Reza Razi MP, Aleya Afroz MP, District Awami League Secretary Sharif Abdul Rakib and Avoynagar Thana AL Vice President Abdul Wahab also spoke.

Mohammad Nasim said the unity among the autocrat razi-

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.

Instead of criticising the government, Begum Zia should convey her gratitude to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the present government had ensured her secured visit to those terrorist-free zone, he said.

He described the one-point demand of the opposition as a

means of saving the killers of Bangladesh.

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 extortion.

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 Avoynagar will be provided with 1000 digital telephone facilities.

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

Distribution of khas land demanded

About one lakh landless people brought out processions in different thanas of Pabna district yesterday demanding immediate distribution of khas lands, char lands and khas water bodies among them as per existing rules and policies, says a press release.

The rallies were jointly organised by non-governmental organisation Samata and its ideological network 'Land Network for Development' (A network of 44 local NGOs who are working on land issue in the North Bengal).

Later, memoranda were submitted to the Thana Nirbahi Officers (TNOs) of all the thanas for immediate action.

Other demands in the memoranda are: recovery all khas land, khas water bodies and char land from illegal occupant and land grabbers, punishment of land terrorists and land grabbers, dyara survey for char land and change of the policy for distribution among the landless poor, change the classification for those land which have already been cultivated, annulment of all false fishermen's cooperative societies, immediate stop of police harassment and disposal of all the false court cases, pending against landless poor and fishermen.

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Executive Director of Informatics Institute Dr Faruque Azia Khan speaking at the seminar on 'Internet Revolution'.

Informatics holds IT seminar at Holy Cross College

Informatics Institute Bangladesh held an IT Seminar at Holy Cross College on Tuesday, says a press release.

Among those who participated from Informatics were Atif Rahman, Director, Dr Faruque Azia Khan, Executive Director, Paul Caparas, Centre Manager.

The topic of the seminar was "Internet Revolution", and the presentation was made with a power point slide show.

After an introductory speech by Dr Faruque Azia Khan, the presentation was made by Mehreen Rahman, Course Consultant, and Paul Caparas.

A round of questions and answer, was also held where students from the audience presented their inquiries, and were answered by Nizamuddin Ahmed, Senior Marketing Executive of Informatics.

There are plans to arrange more such seminars on IT related subjects in various schools and colleges in the near future, the press release added. Informatics feels there is a need for this kind of seminars, so as to make students realise the importance of Computers in today's world.

Obituary

JAMALPUR, Apr 19: Dr AYM Mahmudul Huda Matin, former Professor of Radiology, Myensingh Medical College Hospital, died on Monday at Heart Foundation Institute, Mirpur, Dhaka, family sources said. He was 65, reports BSS.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Jamalpur High School compound yesterday and he was buried at his family graveyard here.

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

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 warned by the court.

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 Murtuza 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.

SC Bar leaders

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withdrawn him/herself from the particular case," they said adding, "It does not stop hearing of the case, another judge would hear it."

When contacted, former Chief 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 (Rtd) Md Hamidur Rahman said without elaborating.

Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, Member of the Law Commission, also reserved his comment.

Senior lawyer and Special Public Prosecutor in Bangladesh murder case Serajul Huq said as an aggrieved person, he intends to appraise the Chief Justice about the whole situation.

Senior Supreme Court Lawyer Dr M Zahid said the party in power should look for reform in the judicial system. He suggested that lawmakers should go for modernisation and reform of the judiciary that would ensure quick disposal of cases.

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

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.

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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 Gajal 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, DUJ leaders Altaf Mahmud, Abu Saleh, and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Press Sramik Federation president Mosharraf Hossain and secretary general Mozammel Husein. Employees Federation secretary general Murtuza Rahman Talukder, Shyamal Dutta, Nurul Amin Rokan, Mosharraf Hossain, Humayun Kabir Khokon and Munirul Islam Mazumder.

Nasim

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The home minister toned down his statement about the role of High Court and the trial. He spoke of his respect for the law, court and Constitution several times in his brief speech.

"The judges are there to ensure justice... We seek their co-operation in getting justice and hope the higher court will uphold the lower court verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case."

Nasim said his party had waited 21 years for justice since it had respected the law and the court "And now we want justice and hope the judges will ensure it."

"If our demand for justice is a crime, then the followers of Bangabandhu along with 12 crore people of the country will continue doing so for thousands of years."

Nasim, who is also organising secretary of Awami League, said his party's current agitation was to expedite the trial in the appeal court and it will continue systematically and peacefully with due respect to the court of law.

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Awami League activists brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday demanding execution of the verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case. — Star photo

Shazneen

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domestic servant of the house, is the principal accused in the case while contractor Hasan is the mastermind.

Shahid, Hasan along with other accused — supervisor Badal, carpenter Shani Ram, guard Humayun Kabir and maids Parvin and Minu — were arrested soon after the victim was killed. Among them, Humayun Kabir died of cardiac arrest last year.

All the accused in the case were present at the court during the proceedings.

Two cases, one for murder and the other for rape, are pending with the first Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court and the Women and Children Repression Prevention Court, Dhaka respectively.

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