

## What's on today....

**Seminar:** Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) will hold a seminar titled "Climatic Changes: Steps to face it" on the occasion of Earth Day. Venue: VIP Lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 9:00 am.

**Annual convention:** The 11th annual convention and scientific sessions of Association of Physicians of Bangladesh will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. Venue: Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9:00 am.

**Procession:** A children's rally will be held by Friends of the Earth Bangladesh and Institute For Environment and Development Studies on occasion of Earth Day. Venue: From Shishu Academy to Jatiya Press Club. Time: 11:00 am.

**BUP roundtable:** Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) will organise a roundtable discussion on Foreign Aid and Development in Bangladesh. Venue: BUP auditorium, House No 33, Rd No 4, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4:00 pm.

**BELA seminar:** Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) will hold a seminar on "Advancing the cause of Environment: The Indian Experience". Keynote speaker: Justice G B Patnaik, Justice of Indian Supreme Court. Time: 9:30 am-5:30 pm.

**Memorial meet:** Chalachitram Film Society will hold a memorial meet on Film personality and former curator of Bangladesh Film Archive A K M Abdur Rouf. Venue: Indian Embassy auditorium, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:00 pm.

**Graduation:** The graduation ceremony of the 104th batch of Quantum Meditation Method will be held. Venue: Quantum Meditation Hall, 1/1 Pioneer Road, Kakrail. Time: 6:00 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** A discussion meeting will be held on occasion of the 4th death anniversary of social worker and writer M A Haq. Chief guest: LGED and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman. Venue: Kabi Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum. Time: 7:00 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Satyajit Ray Retrospective:** Zahir Raihan Film Society in association with High Commission of India organises Satyajit Ray Retrospective. On the 1st day of the retrospective kanchenjunga will be screened a seminar on "Women in Satyajit Ray's Films: A Feminist Reading" will also be held. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium. Time: 5:00 pm.

**National workshop:** Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) in cooperation with Ministry of Land, Ministry of Environment and Forest and UNDP will hold a national workshop on "National Land Use Policy (Draft)". Chief guest: State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharraf. Venue: IDB Bhaban, E18-A, Begum Rokeya Sarani, Sher-e-Banglanagar. Time: 9:30 am.

## Weather

### Rain likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Barisal division during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.9 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and the lowest of 19.0 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.23 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.31 am.

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.7	20.3	68	67
Chittagong	34.9	20.7	86	71
Rajshahi	30.0	20.2	71	75
Khulna	33.5	21.4	78	86
Barisal	33.5	19.2	70	79
Sylhet	29.3	20.0	97	73
Cox's Bazar	34.8	25.6	100	73

## HERE and THERE

### Bangladesh Computer Society

Dr Karen L. Casper, Representative of The Asia Foundation, Dhaka, handed over a cheque to the president of Bangladesh Computer Society (BCS) Abdullah H Kafi at a simple ceremony at the Asia Foundation office on Thursday, says a press release.

Assistant Representative of the Asia Foundation Karan E

Swinner and general secretary of the Society Md Atiqul Ahsan were also present on the occasion.

Bangladesh Computer Society (BCS) will carry out a detail survey on IT companies to collect information about the rapid pace of development of this sector with the assistance of The Asia Foundation. Such survey will lead BCS to work closely with their members to understand the most critical constraints to IT development.

## AL govt respectful to Judiciary, says Nasim

MURADNAGAR (Comilla), Apr 21: Home Minister Mohammad Nasim today congratulated the Chief Justice for realising the death reference of Bangabandhu Murder Case to another criminal division bench saying, "we are respectful to the judiciary", reports UNB.

"We are ready to accept any verdict given by the court", the Home Minister said while addressing a reception accorded to Awami League Finance and Planning Secretary Yusuf Abdullah Harun at Muradnagar High School ground this afternoon.

He said the trial of Bangabandhu Murder Case could be held in special tribunal like Zia Murder Case. "But we are holding the trial in traditional system as we are not vindictive."

All the previous governments had patronized terrorism during last 21 years," Nasim said adding that the Awami League government has taken stern action against the terrorists.

Referring to the CHT peace accord, he said earlier, Tk 100 crore had to spend to meet the establishment cost of the administration, including Army and BDR in Chittagong Hill Tracts area, but this amount is now being spent for development of the region.

Requesting the opposition parties to shun the path of undemocratic activities and ter-

rorism, he said election would be held on time.

"If people cast vote for us we will be in power again otherwise go in opposition." There is no reason for anxiety as the democracy has been given an institutional shape, the minister said.

He gave directives to the local police administration to take stern action against the terrorists and who patronize them.

### Nor'wester

From Page 1

Tashat, Abul, 40, of Pirgachha, Saharanra, 32, of Haridepur Union, Aleya, 25, and Babu, 3, of Taraganj.

All the five were killed in house collapse, local administration sources said.

Fifteen of the injured were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital and 30 were admitted to thana health complexes.

The storm accompanied by hail and heavy shower swept the areas with a speed of 100 km per hour. It started at about 10 pm and lasted over an hour, witnesses said.

Power supply was disrupted in many areas as a large number of electric poles were damaged. About 500 telephone connections were snapped due to damage of poles.

## Earth's eco-systems in trouble

Human population at risk, warns TIME's special edition on Earth Day

The Earth's five major ecosystems are in such critical condition that the human population is at risk, according to a major analysis previewed by TIME magazine.

TIME's exclusive appeared in its first-ever global special edition, "How to Save the Earth," on Wednesday ahead of Earth Day today, writes a correspondent from New York.

The pilot analysis is the most ambitious ever undertaken. The US \$ 4 million study involving 175 global scientists is scheduled for release at a special millennium session of the United Nations General Assembly. The analysis looks at the natural world in a new way, concludes TIME's Eugene Linden, "not just as a beautiful place that should be preserved for aesthetic or moral reasons, but as an economic asset that delivers irreplaceable goods and services."

In essays written exclusively for TIME's global special edition, US President Bill Clinton writes that now is the time to "make environment a core foreign policy objective." The US must "provide the leadership needed to put all nations on a cleaner, more sustainable path to prosperity," he writes.

Leonardo DiCaprio, honorary chairman for Earth Day 2000, urges people to "be part of the biggest Earth Day ever on April 22, 2000. ... It's time to send a message that politicians and corporations can't ignore." Also featured in TIME are a variety of articles about global

environmental issues.

Pre-eminent paleontologist Richard Leakey urges creation of a "Global Conservation Fund." He concludes, "We need a permanent global endowment specifically devoted to wildlife protection" funded by the governments and international aid agencies.

Mark Hertsgaard calls for a "Global Green Deal" to revive economies and restore the environment. He is author of the new book, Earth Odyssey.

Harvard Professor E O Wilson warns "we are in the midst of the seventh mass extinction" in an essay on biodiversity.

Ethnobiologist Mark Plotkin, featured in the Imax film Amazon, presents an excerpt from his new book, Medicine Quest: In Search of Nature's Healing Secrets published Viking.

Carl Safina, founder of the National Audubon Society's Living Oceans Programme, accuses Japan of being "exceptionally disrespectful towards the oceans."

TIME science writer Michael Lemonick reports "only a handful of the most doctrinaire diehards still dispute the idea that human activity is warming up the planet."

Construction of dams has amounted to "a world war against nature," charges Marc Reisner, author of Cadillac Desert, who explains why many dams need to come down.

Science writer Jeff Kluger notes that in 1900, when global population was 1.6 bil-

lion, life expectancy was 30. Now 6.1 billion are here and life expectancy is 65.

The newly-named "Heroes for the Planet" in TIME and TIME FOR KIDS include Laurie Marker of Namibia's Cheetah Conservation Fund; Britain's Prince Charles for his organic farming and village development initiatives; Nirmala Palammy for advocating family planning choices in India; Noah Idechong of Palau for protecting Micronesia's reefs; Brian Staszewski of Canada for showing schools how to save as much as 30% in energy costs to spend more on education; Julia "Butterfly" Hill who lived 738 days atop of California redwood tree to save it from loggers; Amory and L Hunter Lovins of Colorado's Rocky Mountain Institute and Robert F Kennedy Jr's "personal hero," New York eco-cop Ron Gatto.

TIME also names celebrity "Heroes for the Planet" including actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Ted Danson (Danson founded the American Oceans Campaign); actress Susan Sarandon who supports Mark Plotkin's Amazon Conservation Team; Sting, who throws an annual rain-forest benefit concert in New York's Carnegie Hall; writer Arundhati Roy who has campaigned to stop dams on India's Narmada River; Hong Kong actor Chow Yun-Fat who does promotional work for the World Wildlife Fund, and Brazilian singer Gilberto Gil who was so worried about water pollution he took a seat on the city council.

## Congratulations

Fahima Akhter Poni won a talent-pool primary scholarship, obtaining 6th place in the talent list of Feni thana, says a press release.

She is the only daughter of Shamima Akhter Jahan of Nazir Road in Feni.

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Momena Akhter Sweetie won a talent-pool primary scholarship, obtaining 1st place in the talent list of Purbani Purbani, says a press release.

She is the daughter of Md Masudur Rahman.

## News Editor of Independent mugged, stabbed

Akhtarul Haque, News Editor of the Independent, was stabbed and robbed of his money by a group of muggers on the Dhaka University campus in the early hours of Thursday, reports BSS.

According to the victim, two muggers stopped his motorbike and when he passed the Institute of Fine Arts of the university at around 3:20 am, he, along with sub-editor of the Independent Abu Mohammad Masani Liton, was on his way to his DU campus residence at that time after office duty.

The muggers, in their twenties, asked them to hand over the belongings at dagger point. Both Akhtar and Liton handed them over Tk 8,000 and requested the muggers not to hurt them. But one of the muggers, wearing lungi and shirt, stabbed Akhtar in his right hand and fled the scene with the money.

Akhtar was then rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) but the on-duty attendant asked Liton to pay Tk 200 for treatment, a press release of the Independent said.

Although Liton informed him that the victim is the News Editor of an English national daily, he did not pay heed to it and took the money without any receipt. The attendant provided him first aid.

## Mass on Sunday

By Staff Correspondent  
The Christian Community will hold a mass at the south plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad to mark the Easter sunrise at 5:30 pm on Sunday.

## Obituary

Ramesh Ray, a Sub-Assistant Engineer of Faridpur Roads and Highway Department and Secretary General of Sarak-O-Jana-path Diplo-

ma Prakashwally Samity died of a brain haemorrhage in a city clinic yesterday noon. He was 47, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

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Sheikh Abdur Rahim, a senior officer of Uttara Bank, died of cardiac arrest yesterday morning, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, 2 sons and a host of relatives.

Rahim was one of the founders of Prabha Sangha and Prabhakar Kira Chakra.

## PM: Complete trial

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must be punished, otherwise peace would not return," she said.

The prime minister said the unity and coherence between the three organs of the state — the executive, legislature and judiciary — was a must for development and democracy.

She said this unity was not possible in the absence of democracy adding that the country was still facing the curse of unconstitutional rules and urged all to make their own efforts to come out of the situation.

Sheikh Hasina said terrorism, which now became a major concern on society, was originated from an attitude to take "everything into one's grip — from schools to bus terminals."

"This phenomenon originated due to long absence of democracy," she said.

The prime minister admitted that the investigation processes against terrorists were not always fault-free but if one terrorist gets bail he feels encouraged to commit the crime with a renewed vigor.

She also said delay in delivering justice hinders the efforts to ensuring order in society and urged the judiciary to take the issue in consideration.

Hasina said the government had little to do even to ensure its accountability if the cases, including the corruption charges, remain pending in the court.

The prime minister urged the judiciary to ensure justice so that the "justice does not weep in wilderness" adding, that criminals must face punishment for the sake of justice.

She termed the killing of ex-president Ziaur Rahman as "unfortunate for the nation" and said that her government had

## Rape incidents at JU

GCO demands action against those involved  
By JU Correspondent

Gonotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a conglomerate of left-leaning student organisations of Jahangirnagar University (JU), staged demonstrations on the campus yesterday demanding cancellation of studentship and certificates of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) workers who were involved in killing and rape incidents.

The GCO leaders also announced a series of agitation programmes to press for their demands. The programmes include processions, rallies and laying siege to the Administrative Building.

The GCO leaders also brought out processions in each dormitory protesting the presence of BCL workers on the campus, who were charged with killing Ananda, a BCL activist, in 1997.

Addressing rallies on the campus, the student leaders alleged that the members of BCL 'killer group' and 'rabid group' started returning to the campus to extort money from the contractors who are responsible for the construction work of Arts Faculty building.

GCO leaders alleged that some teachers and officials want to rehabilitate this group on the campus in their interest. Sources said some of the accused BCL leaders and activists are now staying in the dormitories. Last year, the authorities, in face of the student movement, pledged that any of the accused would be arrested, if found on the campus.

GCO will bring out a procession today from the 'Prantik' gate and lay siege to Administrative Building Sunday group as part of their agitation programme.

initiated the trial process of his assassination and the subsequent government of his wife also did not take any move to start the trial process," she said.

Sheikh Hasina said the government also had initiated the General Manzur murder trial and both the cases were now pending before courts.

Chaired by Attorney General and ex-officio chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Mahmudul Islam, the function was also addressed by the Chief Justice, the Law Minister, Vice-President of the council Barrister Amirul Islam, SS Haldar and Abdus Salam Talukdar.

## Shishu Sasthya Foundation lottery draw

The lottery draw of Shishu Sasthya Foundation was held in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The first prize of Tk 30 lakh went to ticket no. Uma 0233125 while ticket no. Gha 0196187 bagged the second prize — a car.

Three tickets — a car, 0173543, Kha 0318929, and Gha 0230340 — won the third prize. Each will get Tk 1 lakh.

State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain was present at the ceremony as chief guest while Aly Zaker was special guest. Prof MR Khan, president of the Foundation, presided over the function.

## APAC calls hartal in Sylhet Apr 25

SYLHET, Apr 21: All Party Action Committee (Opposition) has called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal here on April 25 protesting authorities' decision to name certain Bhabans and hall of Sylhet Shahjalal Science and Technology University, reports UNB.

The hartal programme was announced at an APAC meeting at the local Jamaat-e-Islami office today.

## CCHRB

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robbery were reported in March as against 165 of February and 126 of January.

Besides, 179 incidents of mugging were reported in March as against 49 of February and 53 of January.

Incidents of looting and theft for the period of March were reported at 141 and 53 while for February those were 24 and 41 and for January 34 and 126 respectively.

A total of 37 cases of kidnap were reported in March as against 47 of February and 68 of January, the report added.

## One hacked to death in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, Apr 21: One person was hacked to death in a room of Azam Khan Commerce College in the early hours of today.

The victim was identified as Abdul Quddus, 42, a deed writer in the lower court. He was the principal accused in the 'Nazrul Muhuri Murder Case', police said.

Police rushed to the scene and recovered the body after an unidentified caller gave them a tip.

Police suspected that the murder was a sequel to previous enmity. 'Nazrul Muhuri Murder Case' was filed in early 1997. Nazrul Islam, also a deed writer, was stabbed to death in the court, police said.

Dilla Begum, wife of Quddus, filed a case with Khulna thana against five people including a physician.

## 100 shanties set afire by rivals in Shaikopa

From Our Correspondent  
JHENIDAH, Apr 21: Two rival groups at Barely char in Shaikopa thana clashed and set fire to over 100 shanties belonging to both the groups in a bid to evict each other from the char area yesterday.

The fire left about 300 people shelterless.

None, however, was injured in the fire.

Of the rival groups, one is from Shaikopa and the other from nearby Khoksha thana.

About 30 families from Shaikopa have been living in the char for the last 30 years. Another group from Khoksha came there recently and built about 80 shanties, witnesses said.

A tense situation is prevailing in the area for the last few days as the two sides clashed with each other over possession of char land.

Meanwhile, a meeting between the TNOs of Shaikopa and Khoksha thanas failed to resolve the problem, police and witnesses said.

## PM: Opposition

From Page 1  
time."

Commenting to BNP's hope that the party would win 200 seats in the next general election, Hasina said smilingly, "How they can count seats now? Are they planning to rig the election?"

An optimistic Hasina then said, "Mine is the strongest government since 1975. We took a lot of steps to alleviate poverty, eradicate illiteracy and resolve many other social problems. People have already started getting the benefits. We never suffered from indecision and took prompt and timely action."

She said her party was always for election as it struggled for long for restoration of democracy and change of government through election.

Answering another question on Upazila elections, Hasina said her government is ready for local government polls.

"Now it is up to the Election Commission when it will hold the elections."

BSS adds: The government has decided to start construction of two chancery buildings every year at Bangladesh missions abroad, the Prime Minister said.

She said construction of the buildings in New Delhi and Riyadh would be taken up this year.

Sheikh Hasina also disclosed that the government was also negotiating to purchase two flats near the UN Headquarters to house the Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the world body.

UNB adds: On the question of SAARC, the Prime Minister said certain specific developments like dislodging of a democratic government in Pakistan caused postponement of the SAARC Summit which was scheduled to take place in Kathmandu last year.

She however said discussions are going on at the official level to reactivate the regional body. The accident which caused injuries to Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, current Chairperson of the SAARC, is also delaying the process of holding the next summit, the Prime Minister said.

## Mary Ann

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during his tenure. American inter-

also received growing focus during his tenure, particularly with US oil and gas companies vying for business in Bangladesh.

His predecessor David Merrill also went on retirement after his Dhaka assignment but is now serving as a Consultant of an oil company that does business with Bangladesh.

William B Milam who preceded Merrill is now US envoy to Pakistan.

Incidentally Holzman, prior to his Bangladesh assignment, was Deputy Chief of Mission at Islamabad.

## Grameen Court

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The law ministry in its bill proposed to appoint a senior assistant judge as the presiding officer of the Grameen Court.

The judge was to visit different villages under a particular thana and resolve the disputes there.

The proposed bill was prepared on the basis of a study carried out under the Grameen Court project undertaken in 1996.

The United Nations Development Project provided fund amounting Tk 5 crore for the feasibility study of the project. A team of officials and consultants visited the Philippines, Japan, China, India and UK to study the working of similar types of courts in those countries.

## PM: Wilful delay

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Bangabandhu are tried."

To another question, the Prime Minister said her government did not appoint any judge in the higher judiciary on political consideration. This was often done by the past BNP government, she alleged.

"Allegations are there that even district leaders of BNP were appointed High Court judges," she said, adding that her predecessor had problems with the then Acting President over such a practice. Hasina said her government stopped it.

## CJ: If politics enters

From Page 1  
jeopardise democracy. So, we all should be accountable to the constitution, that is to the public opinion."

The chief justice also called for practising tolerance for democracy saying "one cannot be democrat without tolerance."

Barrister Amirul Islam described the growing incidents of crime as a fallout of "unconstitutional rules" and said many offenders were rehabilitated in trade, commerce and politics in this process.

Referring to the assassination of Father of the Nation, most of his family members and the four national leaders, he said justice was not done during the 24 years since 1975.

Though there was disposal of one case, appeal hearing is being delayed and obstructed for "difficult reasons".

"The trial of jail murder case is also being delayed for different reasons. President Ziaur Rahman was killed, so was killed General Monzur. There was no case for the first one. The people of this country do not know what is the position of the second case we are reconciled to everything of this nature," he said.

"Serious consequences follow in this respect," he said.

Regarding executive-judiciary relations, Barrister Islam said both state organs were pledge-bound to keep the supremacy of the constitution as the President, the Prime Minister and her cabinet colleagues and all the honourable justices were pledged to preserve, support and ensure inviolability of the constitution.

"All of them have put the signature in the deed of the swearing to behave with all as per law without any fear or

favour, rising above their liking or disliking," he said.

Barrister Islam said the common people of this country expect justice from both the executive and the judicial departments. They expect constitutional justice.

The Bar Council's vice president also laid emphasis on re-thinking on the appointment process of judges saying in almost all countries judges are appointed from amongst people who are aware of human rights and having advanced thinking of a society desirous of the freedom loving people.

"Judges should be appointed through such a system that before their appointment they undergo an exercise, and they are not include on being empanelled. It is for placement of judge in his real position. In many European countries there are two systems from the very beginning of the study of law — one system is meant for making the judges and