

News

What's on today....

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, Road-2, Dhanmondi. 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-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9:30 am.

Memorial lecture: A memorial lecture in memory of Latifa Kowsae, one of the organisers of a journal 'Samaj Chetana,' will be held. Prof Hasan Azizul Haque will give a speech on 'Movement for Women's Liberation: Bangladeshi perspective.' Venue: Modern Language Institute. Time: 4 pm.

Discussion on Earth Day: Bangladesh Environmental Journalist Association has organised a discussion to mark the Earth Day. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 12 noon.

..... and tomorrow

Film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 'Jalsahara' (The Music Room) as part of its programme — Satyajit Ray Retrospective. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:15 pm.

Weather

Thundershower likely

Rain or thundershows accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla during 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 predicting slight rise in day temperature.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessor and the lowest of 21.2 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.24 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.30 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	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.4	22.9	66	65
Chittagong	33.5	21.5	78	76
Rajshahi	33.5	21.6	85	73
Khulna	34.6	24.5	83	79
Barisal	34.4	23.5	76	75
Sylhet	32.5	21.7	77	68
Cox's Bazar	34.5	24.8	78	78

Fire Service & Civil Defence week begins today

Fire Service and Civil Defence Week-2000 begins today. Reports UNB.

On the occasion, Fire Service and Civil Defence Department chalked out elaborate programmes throughout the country.

The programmes include voluntary blood donation, brief exercises on fire extinguishing and rescue operation, publicity through electronic media, display of fire equipment, holding rally and speech on fire resistance at all the industrial units and educational institutions.

On the occasion, President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages highlighting the significance of Fire Service and Civil Defence Week-2000.

In his message, the President underscored the need for making efforts to create awareness among the people about fire fighting at grass-root level.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon the countrymen to come forward along

Health minister returns

Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlur Karim Selim returned yesterday from a 12-day official visit to the United Kingdom, reports BSS.

During the visit, the minister acquainted himself with the hospital management, health economy, different aspects of technology in the health services and other related matters which will help improve the health services and hospital management in Bangladesh.

The minister also discussed with the UK high officials on bilateral matters of mutual interests.



A group of young men of Bahadurpur Lane of Faridabad in the old city convinced the WASA contractor to fill the earth filling of a stretch of road in the area with necessary mixture. The youngsters of the locality got involved in the work when the contractor was violating his work schedule and kept the work pending for about a month. — Star photo

SAARC fashion show May 4

The SAARC Women's Association will organise a SAARC Fashion Pageant at Hotel Sonargaon at 7:30 pm on May 4, says a press release.

Designers from the countries in the region will display contemporary and traditional fashions at the show.

Zillur says Conspiracy to foil verdict of Bangabandhu Murder Case on

KULIARCHAR, Kishoreganj, Apr 22: Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman today said the anti-liberation elements are conspiring to foil execution of verdict in Bangabandhu Murder Case, reports BSS.

"No body would be able to save the killers of Bangabandhu. The verdict of the Bangabandhu trial case would be implemented as the people of the country are united," he said while speaking at a rally at the Chihasur High School field in Kularchar upazila in the district.

Chaired by president of Kularchar Awami League, the rally was also addressed by local leaders of Awami League and its front organisations.

Referring to various development activities of the present government, Zillur Rahman said the present government under the able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh is implementing various development projects across the country. "The opposition alliance is conspiring against the government to foil the on-going progress of the government," he alleged.

He said that law and order situation had improved in the country after making the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Later, the minister laid foundation stone of the main building of Kularchar High School and Faridpur Union Parishad Bhaban.

Easter Sunday Christian League for govt holiday

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Christian League has demanded that Easter Sunday be declared a government holiday.

In a press release yesterday, the Christian League also asked for inclusion of Christian religion in the curriculum of higher education.

The demands were made at a preparatory meeting for Easter Sunday to be observed today.

Chittagong Chamber directors protest Kamaluddin's statement

The Board of Directors of the Chittagong Chamber has rejected the statements of the Chamber's former President Kamaluddin Ahmed, made in a press conference on April 17 at the National Press Club in Dhaka. The Board of Directors held that the different comments made by Kamaluddin Ahmed in the press conference are misleading and ill-motivated, said a press release.

It said, "conventionally, he/she who appoint/elect somebody/group through a particular means can remove him/them the same way. Accordingly, the Board of Directors of the Chamber who selected Kamaluddin Ahmed as President, unanimously removed him from the post for his various misdeeds on 14 March in presence of more than two-thirds of Directors. This was done in accordance with laws of the Chamber for the greater interest of the organisation.

"During that meeting a good number of newsmen were also present in the Chamber. It is for everybody's information that Akbaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu had no connection at all in the entire process of removal. Even in that process, Saifuzzaman Chowdhury had no personal interest. The Board of Directors, to safeguard the interest of the organisation, has removed Kamaluddin Ahmed. Kamaluddin Ahmed's comments relating to the miscreant's involvement in the entire process is apocryphal. Legal action is underway against him for his disgracing comments to the Board of Directors.

The issue raised by Kamaluddin in the press conference that according to the clause 19 of the Chamber's Memorandum and Articles of Association, membership cannot be cancelled without issuing 30 days' prior notice is completely baseless. In reality, his membership has been scrapped in accordance with the clause 4 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Chamber. And accordingly prior notice was served and response to the notice was also obtained as usual.

"In this regard it is also mentioned that upon his appeal, FBCCI formed a 3-member enquiry committee. The report is yet to be published. However, he termed that report as biased, false and ill-motivated. His comment on the report is disgraceful to the apex body of the business community and the members of the enquiry committee. Moreover, the one-member fact-finding committee formed by the Ministry of Commerce in response to his appeal, has also come under his attack in the press conference."

Meanwhile, motorists said that they were facing police scrutiny as they failed to display the stickers. BRTA failed to inform the law enforcing authorities about its failure to provide stickers to vehicle owners, the added.

Lawyers' confce ends

Recommendations made to keep judiciary above controversy

The two-day national conference of the lawyers ended at the Engineers Institution in the city yesterday adopting a set of recommendations to enhance the image of the legal profession and keep judiciary above controversy, reports BSS.

The recommendations included speedy trial of Bangabandhu murder case, repeal of all illegal rules, order, SRO and other distortions made in the constitution.

Briefing the newsmen, Barrister M Amir-ul Islam, Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, said the conference was very successful as the lawyers have reached a consensus on some important issues despite their party affiliations.

The other recommendations are ensuring of a corruption-free police, judiciary and public prosecutor (PP) as the primary step to root out corruption from society, separate pay-scale for judges, electing a Chairman for Bangladesh Bar Council instead of the existing provision of the Ex-Officio Chairman, formulating a high-power Judicial Commission to look into the matters of appointment, transfer, promotion and disciplinary proceedings of the judges and formation of circuit bench which will visit the courts and oversee activities.

Barrister Islam said the lawyers have pledged greater unity which will safeguard the image of the judiciary. The lawyers have also expressed their identical views to keep the judiciary above party politics, he added.

Referring to embarrassment issue of judges, he said, it is confined within the article 27 and 31 which ensure the fundamental and constitutional rights of a jurist. He said there is no room for embarrassment of a judge based on a certain political reason or strong public opinion to execute a verdict.

S S Halder, Advocate M A Salam Talukder, Abul Basit Majumder and Syed Ahmed were present at the press briefing held at the Bar Council Bhaban.

PM: Defeated forces

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ers from across the country flocked at the Paltan Maidan, carrying the National Flag and wearing T-shirts with slogans like 'Joy Bangla' and 'Joy Bangabandhu'. Different organisations of the freedom fighters and pro-Awami League bodies also joined the rally.

The huge rally venue wore a festive look with hundreds of flag flying and banners and festoons all around. The adjacent roads were also crowded with people.

A huge dais was erected with portraits of leader of the independence struggle Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his four close associates in the background.

The prime minister opened the rally by hoisting the National Flag and releasing balloons and pigeons. The audience also released hundreds of colour balloons.

"The coming budget will have a block allocation for further welfare of the freedom fighters. I have already asked the finance minister to work out the principles for such allocation," Hasina announced at the rally.

The guard of honour was led by Mahbubuddin, known as SP Mahbub, who had also led the guard of honour presented to the Mujibnagar government when it was formed during the liberation war.

Hasina read the rally that all forms of assault on the freedom fighters started since Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed in 1975.

She alleged that the post-75 military governments killed many freedom fighters, distorted the history of independence, freed war criminals and rehabilitated them in the society, introduced communal politics and snatched people's right to vote and food.

In this regard, the PM referred to late President Ziaur Rahman. "General Zia hanged so many soldiers that he did not spend a single day without passing such orders. It is heard that Zia used to sign orders for hanging while taking breakfast."

Chaired by Dr S A Malek, PM's political adviser, the rally was also addressed by renowned

BNP: Judges

From Page 1

effective, destroying the institution of election, the government was issuing aggressive statements against the judiciary and threatening judges.

The meeting said the procession was directed against the judges of the High Court, an action that surpassed the "barbarism of the medieval age."

The meeting strongly condemned the action and the vilifying statements made by government leaders.

The BNP said ruling party leaders, including the prime minister, have been making false and fabricated statements against the judiciary and the judges since the assumed power.

They are issuing threats, asking for implementation of the verdict of a lower court before the appeal in the case is disposed by the higher court.

This is being done to block justice and is intended to destroy the judiciary, it stated.

Issuance of fitness

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and restricting BRTA from charging the vehicle owners more than Tk 40 for each sticker.

"We have agreed to the price restriction but now the price of the vehicle is unable to find three suppliers of papers," said a BRTA official, explaining the reasons behind the delay in the process.

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Death anniversary of Shilu Abed today

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beaten by Thandu's supporters when a group of newsmen went to Bagha High School polling centre at 1:30 pm to inquire into allegations of false voting. The attackers also snatched Tk 1100, a camera and a tape recorder from him.

Saidur was given primary treatment at Charchhat Upazila Health Complex. He filed a case with Bagha thana through Charchhat thana, official sources said.

An election camp of Raihan was ransacked near Kalu Hati Govt Primary School Centre at around 9:30 am. The attackers, armed with sharp weapons, injured three supporters of Raihan and snatched all papers including the voter list.

Seriously injured Sulaiman, 30, was admitted to a private clinic at Charchhat upazila headquarters while the rest two were given first aid. A case was filed in this connection with Charchhat thana accusing four AL activists - Kamal, Jamal, Kalu and Jamrul. Police are yet to arrest any of them.

Three persons were arrested for allegedly trying to cast false votes at three polling centres. One Shamsujohar of Khairhat village in Bagha thana was arrested for allegedly creating terror in the area.

Though no election fever was seen earlier, a huge number of voters were seen standing in queues in cheerful mood. More than 30 per cent votes were cast by 2 pm, officials said.

At Halidaghachi Government Primary School centre, 570 votes were cast till 10:25 am. Out of 3556 votes at Charchhat Pilot High School centre, 1215 were cast till 11:10 am.

A total of 917 votes out of 1988 were cast at Yusufpur Government Primary School centre till 3 pm. More than 51 per cent votes were cast at Baduria Government Primary School centre till 3:30 pm, officials said.

At Ramchandrapur School centre, some supporters of Raihan alleged that their voters were being resisted from going to the centre. On-duty police however said that the allegation was not true.

During a visit to 21 polling centres, this correspondent found that the AL candidate could not give polling agents at all the booths.

A good number of activists of the BNP-led four party opposition alliance were seen casting votes. Some of them, when contacted, said local interest was the reason behind this.

Proshika condemns threat to its president

Proshika yesterday expressed its deep concern and condemnation over the open threat of "Kill at sight" to Proshika President Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed given from the meeting of religious fanatics in Brahmanbaria on April 19, says a press release.

Registering its vehement protest and indignation over such unlawful and barbaric utterances, Proshika, a leading non-government organisation, called upon the government to take punitive action against those who made such threat.