

## What's on today....

**Film show:** Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen "The Middleman" as part of the Satyajit Ray Retrospective. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium. Time: 6:15 pm.

**Film show:** The British Council with sponsorship from Leaver Brothers Bangladesh Ltd will screen two films 'Fellow Traveller' and 'Meeting Venue'. Venue: British Council Auditorium, 5 Fuller Road. Time: 4 pm & 6:30 pm respectively.

**Meeting:** Sree Sree Ramna Kali Mandir and Sreema Anandamoyee Ashram Puja Udayan Parishad has organised a general meeting of devotees. Venue: Sree Sree Dhakeshwari National Temple Fair premises. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Drama:** Indian drama group 'Kala-Kranti' will stage its 3 productions at Nat-Mondal and Central Public Library auditorium as part of a 4-day programme organised by Biswa Kalakendra, Dhaka University. Deputy Speaker M Abdul Hamid will inaugurate the programme as chief guest. Venue: Nat-Mondal, auditorium (Adjacent to DU Central Library). Time: 5 pm. 'Hullor' will be staged on the inaugural day at 7 pm.

**Seminar:** The 7th seminar of Liberation War, Bangabandhu and Bangladesh Research Institute will be held. Keynote paper: Dr Montazuddin Patwary. Dean, School of Social Science, Humanities and Language, Bangladesh Open University. Venue: Room No: 101, National University, Shankar. Time: 4 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Exhibition:** A solo exhibition of paintings by expatriate artist Kazi Giasuddin will be inaugurated. Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalay, House No 275/F, Rd No 27 (old), Dhanmondi. Time: 6:00 pm. The exhibition will remain open from 3 pm to 9 pm daily on working days and from 11 am to 8 pm on holidays till May 20.

**Painting Exhibition:** The second solo painting exhibition by Pintu Islam will begin. Prof Mahmudul Haque, Director, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 5:30 pm. The exhibition will remain open daily from 9 am to 12 noon and from 5 pm to 8 pm till May 18.

**Lions Convention:** The 5th Annual Convention-2000 of the Lions Clubs International, District-315 A1, Bangladesh will be inaugurated by Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria. Venue: Sonargange Hotel. Time: 9:30 am.

**Rally:** Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will bring out a procession from Ramna Park gate, adjacent to Matshaw Bhaban, to celebrate the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. The procession will reach the National Press Club at 11:30 am and a rally will be held there.

**Dress Exhibition:** Shatabdi, a city fashion house will display its traditional crafts like Saree, Salwar Kamiz and Panjabi at a 3-day exhibition. Excerpts from works of Rabindranath Tagore will be inscribed on some of the crafts. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi. The exhibition will remain open from 4 pm to 8 pm till May 7.

## Weather

## Rain, gusty wind likely

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

Met office said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The country's highest temperature 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Chittagong and the lowest 18.6 degree Celsius in Faridpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:29 pm and rises on Friday at 5:21 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	29.4	20.8
Chittagong	34.4	21.5
Rajshahi	28.3	21.5
Khulna	32.3	20.4
Barisal	32.4	19.5
Sylhet	26.2	21.0
Cox's Bazar	34.0	23.4

## HERE and THERE

## BSEHR

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) has condemned police attacks on photojournalists during a recent siege of the residence of the Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor by some female students.

Issuing a joint statement yesterday the BSEHR president justice Sultan Hossain Khan and secretary general Sigma Huda also expressed deep concern at the police actions and urged the government to take lawful actions against persons responsible.

They also noted that in 1999, some 40 journalists became victims of police attacks while 45,

other newsmen came under attack from different armed cadres.

## DRU

Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) has strongly protested police action on a group of photojournalists, including Kazi Borhan Uddin of Daily Manobhramin, on the Dhaka University campus Monday, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, DRU president Anwarul Haq and general secretary Monwarul Islam said such police action against photojournalists while performing professional duty is unwarranted.

They demanded immediate action against the police sergeant responsible for it.

## DUPDAA polls May 20

The election of office bearers of the Dhaka University Political Association (DUPDAA) for 2000-2002 will be held on May 20 from 2 pm to 5 pm at the National Press Club auditorium, says a press release.

For details information regarding election, members of the association are requested to contact the temporary election commission office at 56, Dilkusha C/A, ground floor in the city C/O, Eastern Overseas Shipping Lines Ltd.

## BNP joint meeting today

By Staff Correspondent

A joint meeting of city BNP president, general secretary, vice-president and city presidents and secretaries of its front organisation will be held at BNP central office at 5 pm today.

Meanwhile, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in statement yesterday has condemned and protested BNP activists and leaders of Sribardi, Kalaroa, Gafargaon and Laxmipur.

## Minor boy chopped to death

By Staff Correspondent

Unidentified miscreants chopped to death a minor boy in the city's Uttara area in the early hours of yesterday.

The dead was identified as Manik, 12, son of Abdul Awal, a day labourer of village Shyam-pur.

According to police, the gang of miscreants took the victim to a nearby paddy field at about 2 am Tuesday and left him chopped to death.

Acting on a tip-off, police recovered the body from the field yesterday morning and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police could not confirm the reason behind the incident. A case was filed in this regard but none was arrested.

## New Information secty of BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia has appointed former Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sanskritik Sangstha (JASAS) president Rezabuddin Chowdhury Information and Research Secretary of the party's national executive committee.

The appointment will be effective immediately.

## Construction of JU Arts Faculty building faces setback again

Teachers, students dispute selection of site after foundation stone is laid

By JU Correspondent

Construction work of the long-awaited Arts Faculty building of Jahangirnagar University (JU) is again facing a setback following protest from a group of teachers and students who oppose the construction on the site selected for the building.

Teachers of the university have split into two groups — one supporting the construction at the place where it is going on now, and the other opposing it.

The construction of the five-storied Arts Faculty building began on April 4 at a site between the Central Shaheed Minar and the Agrani Bank JU branch.

Two days after the foundation stone was laid, some of the university teachers raised their voice against building the Arts Faculty Bhaban there. Three teachers — Prof Shamsul Alam and Prof Monjurul Haq of Geography and Environment Dept and Dr Amir Hossain of Economics Dept first distributed a ten-point statement saying that the site chosen for building the Arts Faculty is not suitable for construction of such a building.

They also submitted a memorandum to the university Vice-Chancellor and distributed copies of it among all teachers of the university.

The university authority had decided to cut down ninety four trees near and on the pro-

posed Arts Faculty site. Some unidentified persons tied up red ribbons and small posters on the site pleading with authorities not to cut down the trees. The authorities later postponed the auction called for selling the trees.

In their statement, the protesting teachers has said that the campus will become very congested if the Arts Faculty is built at this site. It will gradually result in overcrowding on the area, which will spoil the serenity of the nearby Shaheed Minar.

A number of trees will also have to be cut down for construction there which will harm the environment.

They also said that the site where the new building is to be built was originally a lake and was later filled with soil, rendering it unsuitable for such a construction. Besides, the university authorities will have to spend Tk 65 lakh to fill up a part of a nearby lake as part of the building scheme. The total area allocated for the faculty is also not enough for the Arts Faculty building. If the university needs to expand the building later, there will have no space for doing so, they pointed out.

They also alleged that the authorities have not assessed the environmental impact of the construction on the site. If

built there, the lake behind it will be polluted which will affect the migratory birds that throng to the campus every year.

Meanwhile, 112 teachers of the university also signed the statement joined the campaign asking for selection of a new site.

Teachers supporting the present site, on which construction has already begun, allege that the protesting teachers' aim is to bar the authorities from building the Arts Faculty at all.

"If they want the welfare of the faculty and its students and teachers, they would have raised then objections earlier before the construction work began," one senior teachers said, adding that the university will face a huge economical loss if a new site has to be chosen now.

A teacher opposing the construction said, "Since we were not involved in the implementation procedure of the Arts Faculty authority choosing the site. We did not know of the final decision on selection and so could not oppose it before."

Different left-leaning student organisations also have protested the authorities plan to build the faculty there. Gonotrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) held protest processions and rallies on the campus to press the issue.

## Mannan Siddique laid to rest

By DU Correspondent

The *namaj-e-janaza* of former home minister and founder chairman of Phoenix Insurance Company Major General (ret'd) Abdul Mannan Siddique was held at COD Mosque ground (Airport Road) after Zohr prayers yesterday.

He died of cardiac arrest at Calcutta on Tuesday. He had been suffering from cardiovascular and lung complicity for long time.

He was buried at the Dhaka Cantonment Graveyard in the afternoon yesterday.

People from all strata including former president and Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad, chief of Navy and general secretary of Bangladesh Workers Party Rashed Khan Menon, former minister Tariqul Islam, General (ret'd) Shafiqullah MP and other military officials, social and political leaders attended the *namaj-e-janaza*.

Quikhwani of Abdul Mannan Siddique will be held at his DOHS residence (Road-6, House-83) after Asr prayers Friday.

## Murder at Amligola One arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Police yesterday arrested one person for his alleged involvement in the killing of a day labourer whose body was recovered from the rooftop of a tin-shed house at Amligola in Lalbagh Tuesday night.

The arrested person was identified as Abul Basher son of Mafizuddin of Zazira, Sariapur.

According to police and hospital sources the body of Abul Alim was recovered from the rooftop of a semi-pukka tin-shed house at Amligola at about 8 pm.

The body bore marks of injuries in his head.

Alim hailed from Keraniganj and was residing at Amligola and working as a day labourer.

Lalbagh police is interrogating Basher but could not confirm the cause behind the killing till yesterday.

A case was filed in this connection.

## Canadian envoy calls on VC of BUET

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh David Preston called on Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Prof Dr Nooruddin Ahmed at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed matters of mutual interests particularly the academic and research activities of the University and generating and promoting of the collaborative and linkage programmes between BUET and the Universities of Canada.

## BPJA condemns police attack on photojournalist

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Photo Journalist Association (BPJA) in a statement yesterday condemned the police atrocities on a press photographer while he was carrying out his official duties on May 1.

The Association demanded punishment of the policeman who had assaulted the photojournalist within three days. They also threatened to launch a countrywide movement against police if no action is taken against the accused policeman.

Kazi Borhanuddin, a photo journalist of Daily Manab Zamin was assaulted by police while trying to take photographs of a group of female students of Kuwait Moitree Hall of the DU who were making an attempt to lay a siege to the office of the VC demanding supply of water and power in their dormitories.

Sergeant Haider Ali tried to stop Borhan from taking photographs of the incident. When Borhan refused to stop the police sergeant hit him with his walkie talkie.

The female students took Borhan to the VC's office and later rushed him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with severe injuries in his nose and on his head.

The assault on Borhan came only a week after photos were published in different dailies of a police inspector found to have cheated a foreign exchange dealer.

## Bangabandhu murder Huda's petitions relating to the case rejected

The High Court yesterday rejected two applications of Major (Ret'd) Bazul Huda for preparing additional paper book and granting permission for examination of the case records, reports BSS.

A High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Mohammad Rulul Amin and Justice A B M Khairul Haque, after hearing both the counsels of the petitioner and the state said "there is no merit in the applications."

Major (Ret'd) Bazul Huda, a condemned prisoner in Bangabandhu Murder Case, filed two applications for preparing additional paper book of the original book and an order permitting the petitioner's counsel to examine the case records.

## StanChart, Grindlays

three weeks with a review of the Grindlays asset portfolio and then other business and support functions.

Christopher Castleman, SCB's Group Executive Director responsible for the bank's operation in Africa, Middle East and South Asia regions and also a key person behind this acquisition, is visiting Bangladesh today and tomorrow. He is likely to decide on future direction of the bank's business here just after the visit.

Sources concerned said that the decision on nomination of a new chief executive for the new bank is likely to be finalised by next week in consultation with the Group CEO Rana Talwar, who is visiting India and the Middle East during the same time.

Once that is finalised, four or five teams are likely to be formed to look at corporate banking, personal banking, finance and administration, human resources and Information Technology integration.

Though there is a feeling of uncertainty among the officials of Grindlays and even SCB, the group has declared its commitment to key people retention and talent management.

Market rumours say that most of the business and pro-

## NASA

From Page 1

Sky & Telescope's Alan MacRobert poured cold water on any fears of high tides, intense earthquakes, or even the wobbling of the poles.

"Let's get real," he said in a statement. "Nothing like that is going happen."

Our Special Correspondent adds: There will be no natural disaster on earth when five planets come on a parallel near the globe along with sun and moon on Friday, Bangladesh Astronomical Society said in a statement yesterday.

"The stars came nearer to earth before with sun and moon in February 5, 1962 and at 16.9 degree in the sky. They will again come at 29 degree on September 9, 2040. There had been no effect on the humans on earth or any reaction on the nature, leading to any natural disaster," said Monalisa Rahman, general secretary of the association.

Refuting the unscientific claims, she said such an occurrence in the space will take place at 2 p.m. Bangladesh time. But Bangladeshis will not be able to witness such a rare event as the planets would disappear before the evening, she added.

## OC wants

From Page 1

owner of the house, on April 25 said Sadik had rented the third floor of the house sometime in early 1998. He paid the rent of the house until July 1999.

Sadik forcibly dislodged the tenant of seventh floor and occupied it in July 1999, said the complainant.

Since occupying the flat, Sadik did not pay the rent or other bills, the complainant said. Sadik had been threatening the caretaker whenever the latter went to him to collect the rent and other dues.

Sadik forcibly occupied the ground floor of the building on April 9 and evicted the sister of the owner, the complainant said.

Sadik however told the Daily Star that he had already left the house. He also said he will hand over the house to its caretaker soon.

## Shoib Chy

From Page 1

The Special Branch of Police (SB) probed the matter and lodged a case with Motijheel police on July 17 last year.

Later, Motijheel police and CID arrested Shoib Chowdhury and investigated the case thoroughly.

Shoib Chowdhury confessed to the police of sending the E-mail to the newspaper from a computer centre at Nikhet.

Shoib Chowdhury is now in Dhaka Central Jail.

## Petrobangla

From Page 1

deprived of their legitimate promotion opportunities.

"Any government employee, who has enjoyed Leave Before Retirement, and is working under a contract, can not be promoted as per government rules," said a source.

"The services of an retiring employee can be extended, under the 1974 Public Servant Retirement Order, only on exceptional circumstances in the interest of the public. But there has been no previous instance of promotion after retirement."

An official noted that the director of Mines and Minerals was the junior most director of Petrobangla.

Earlier last week, the Energy Ministry sent the files of Sajeedul Karim, a former director of Petrobangla, to the Prime Minister's Office for the promotion and appointment. However, the PMO rejected the ministry's proposal at a meeting on Saturday.

It was said that until the appointment of the new chairman, the senior most director, Waliullah, a retired colonel, will be the acting chairman.

On-contract services and make-shift appointments dominate the top posts at the Power Division of the Energy Ministry, Petrobangla and its affiliates and the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

cess functions would be retained by SCB senior officials whereas Grindlays people might get advantage in personal banking and credit cards.

The StanChart which went into the 1997 Asian crisis with strong businesses in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, emerges with additional core markets in India and Thailand. It then purchased Grindlays for 1.34 billion dollars, 2.3 times the 590 million dollar book value of Grindlays and includes 750 million dollars in goodwill.

The deal has made StanChart the largest foreign bank in term of assets in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh and the second largest in Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates.

The bank has been seeking to expand in the region since the end of the Asian crisis and recently acquired Thailand's Nakornchai Bank and Lebanon's Metropolitan Bank.

It also sought to acquire Bank Bali, an Indonesian bank, but the deal fell through after Bank Bali became involved in a political scandal. It is also reported to look at Egypt and Taiwan for possible acquisition while setting up an office in Africa's Ivory Coast is at the final stage. The bank which is very strong with its African network recently reopened an office in Nigeria and expanded its network in Latin America through another acquisition.

All these things are happening under the leadership of Rana Talwar, who is well known as a brand builder and emerging market specialist.

## FEMA

From Page 1

ommendations titled, "Strengthening Electoral Process in Bangladesh," said future polls can be more fair and neutral if the suggestions and recommendations are accepted.

The 47-page recommendations suggested increase of women's reserve seats from 30 to 64 in Jatiya Sangsad. It said there should be one reserve seat in each district, who will be directly elected in the parliament.

FEMA, an independent election monitoring body, also suggested that the parties nominate at least 25 per cent women in the parliamentary polls.

The FEMA also emphasised registration of the political parties in the Election Commission.

Talking to newsmen, Abul Ahsan termed the meeting with the BNP chairperson as excellent and said that she has appreciated the initiative taken by the FEMA.

## CU Syndicate

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virtually closed since December 19, '99 following the incident in which two Shibir activists were killed in a gunfight between CU units of BCL and Shibir.

Demanding trial of the killers, AFSA, mainly comprising CU Shibir and JCD, enforced indefinite strike at CU. It created the deadlock that prevailed for over four months pushing the students of the university into a great uncertainty.

## Launch capsizes

From Page 1

daughters Rokana, 3, and Lipli, 5, Milon Barman, 9, Nurul Islam, 30, Swapan, 10, Abul, 40, Alim, 12, Bikas Das, 40, Ananda Saha, 45, Happy, 5, Sirajuddin, 30, and Nikhil Chandra Das — all from Nabiganagar.

The dead also include Dhan Mia, 50, and Shera Begum, 40, of Ashuganj, Bachchu Mia, 30, and Asad, 30, of Bhairab, Jarina Khatun, 14, and Sabuj Mia, 20, of Raipura, Deep, 11, of Kuliachar, Mizanur Rahman, 25, of Brahmanbaria, and Master of MV Dolphin Shahidul Islam, 32, of Barisal.

## Share scam

From Page 1

In the adjournment petitions, the three companies said that they needed time to prepare concise statements "due to a misunderstanding between two senior advocates Serajul Huq and Rafique-ul-Huq".

They sought four weeks time to prepare the statements for arguments.

Later, Dr Zahir filed an expeditious hearing appeal with the court, stating that it was almost 11 months since the High Court gave its judgement regarding these cases.

He also said that the respondent companies were deliberately delaying the process by filing adjournment petitions.

## 7 more trees

From Page 1

moved those big trees. Let me tell you, we will replace those trees with new saplings," said Islam.

But residents told the Daily Star that the DUTP officials were "making quick money" by selling the trees. The road certainly needs repair, but not at the cost of these rare trees. They said hundreds of priced trees were felled in similar way during military regimes. These trees had never caused any accident on the road between Mirpur and Pallabi.

The move to fell trees at Mirpur coincides with felling of about 10 Mahogany trees along the Kamal Ataturk Avenue. The Kamal Ataturk Avenue trees were saved when "the highest authority" intervened to stop the DUTP move following protests from residents who said the trees could have been protected by constructing a walkway along the road.



## RU teacher dead

Prof Dr Sarwar Jahan of Bangla Department of Rajshahi University and Director of its Teachers-Students Cultural Centre died of cardiac arrest at Suhrawardy Hospital early yesterday. He was 56, reports UNB.

He was admitted to the hospital on April 30. He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

A noted cultural personality, Dr Sarwar was a regular TV/Radio Tagore song artist. Eminent singer M Rafiqul Alam is his younger brother.

After his post-graduation from the Rajshahi University in 1965, he joined the university in 1967. Dr Sarwar obtained his PhD from Dhaka University in 1983.

He was the founder of Rajshahi-based NGO Association for Community Development (ACD). He was also the member of RU Senate and councillor of Bangla Academy.

ACD officials and members expressed deep shock at his death. They prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

## Social worker dies

Musammam Sufia Khatun, a noted social worker of Basabo area, died of cerebral vascular complication at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the city yesterday morning. She was 62, reports BSS.

Family sources said Sufia Khatun, wife of late MA Gani and mother-in-law of Dr Mohammad Jamal Uddin Khalifa, had been suffering from cerebral vascular complications for a long time.

She is survived by her three sons, six daughters and a host of relatives and admirer to mourn her death.

She was buried at Shahjahanpur Graveyard after *namaj-e-janaza* on Basabo playground after Zohr prayers.

M A Latif, vice-president of Narayanganj district Awami League, died of cardiac arrest at Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday.