

News

● 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 Ramma Kali Mandir and Sreema Anandamoyee Ashram Puja Udgajan 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 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 Mountazuddin Pathway, 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 Glasuddin will be inaugurated. Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalay. House No 275/F, Rd No 27 (old), Dhammudi. 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 AI, Bangladesh will be inaugurated by Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria. Venue: Sonargaon 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, Dhammudi. The exhibition will remain open from 4 pm to 8 pm till May 7.

Weather

Rain, gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershows accompanied by temporary gusty or strong 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
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
	63	65

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 Manob-Jamim, 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 Science Department Alumni Association (DUPDA) 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 attack and false cases against BNP activists and leaders of Sribardi, Kalaroa, Gafargaon and Laximpur.

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 Shyampur.

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 Khaleda Zia has appointed former Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sanskrity Sangsada (JASAS) president Rezabuddaulla 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-story 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 Shahid 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 teacher 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. Gonotantrik 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 (retd) Abdul Mannan Siddique was held at COD Mosque ground (Airport Road) after *Zohr* prayers yesterday.

He died of cardiac arrest 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 (retd) Shaiful Islam MP and other military officials, social and political leaders attended the *namaj-e-janaza*.

Gulkhuwan 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, Sariyatpur.

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

The body bore marks of injuries in his head.

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 Raliman, 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.

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