

What's on today....

Film show: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will screen three films - 'Coup de Torchon' (Clean State), 'Ai No Bori' (Empire of Passion) and 'Chez ma Tante' - will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 11 am, 4 pm and 6 pm respectively.

Film festival: Four documentaries will be screened on the second day of 'Focus on South Asia' Skin Deep (India), A Letter to Samien (India) will be screened in the 1st session while Three Women and a Camera (India) and Pure Chutney (Trinidad & Tobago) will be screened in the 2nd session. Venue: Goethe Institut, Rd No 9 (New), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm.

Annual district convention: Lions Clubs International, Dist 315 B3 will hold the inaugural session of its 4th annual district convention. Chief guest: Minister for Home Affairs, Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim. Venue: Ballroom of Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9:30 am.

Meeting: An extended meeting of the central committee of Bangladesh Democratic Lawyers Association will be held. Venue: Supreme Court Lawyers Samity Bhaban's Hall No 1. Time: 10:00 am.

Exhibition: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka presents the 3rd solo mixed media exhibition of artist Baish Kadir titled 'Virtual Reality in Life'. Chief guest: Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdus Samad Azad. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 4:00 pm. The exhibition will remain open from 9 am-12 noon and 4:00 pm-8:00 pm everyday till May 25.

Meeting: Friends and political comrades of late Kazi Akram Hussain, a peasant leader will hold a meeting. Venue: Data Soft premises, 73/D, Airport Road. Time: 4:00 pm.

Art exhibition: Gallery 21 presents a solo exhibition of contemporary artist Showkatuzzaman. Chief guest: DU VC Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury. Venue: Gallery-21, 785 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:00 pm. The exhibition will remain open from 10:00 am-8:00 pm till May 22.

Satyajit Ray retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society presents Agantuk (the stranger) by Ray. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:00 pm.

Drama: Philips Club will stage Kalyan Mitra's 'Shagor Shikha Manik'. Venue: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 6:30 pm.

JU reunion: The first reunion of the 19th batch of Jahangirnagar University will be held. Programmes include a tour of the campus, tree plantation, cultural programme, concert etc. Venue: JU campus. Time: 8:00 am-8:00 pm.

Reception: City Universal Puja Committee will accord a reception to Maj Gen (Retd) C R Dutta, Bir Uttam. Venue: National Museum auditorium.

Lawyers' meet: The extended meeting of Bangladesh Democratic Lawyers Association Central Committee will be held. Venue: Hall No 1 of Supreme Court Bar Council Building. Time: 10 am.

..... and tomorrow

Int'l arsenic confce: A two-day 3rd International Arsenic Conference, organised by Dhaka Community Hospital, will begin. Venue: Dhaka Community Hospital auditorium, 190/1, Bara Moghbazar. Time: 9 am.

Film festival: Four documentaries will be screened on the concluding day of 'Focus South Asia', a festival of documentary films. Listening to Shadous (India), Don't Pass Me By (Nepal), Thin Air (India) and Mukti Kotha (Bangladesh) will be screened in two sessions. Venue: Goethe Institut, Road No 9 (New), Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm respectively.

Rabindra Sangeet mela: Abhoday Music Associates has organised the second Rabindra Sangeet Mela (Tagore Song Fair). Prof Anisuzzaman will inaugurate the fair. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 8:01 am.

Teachers' rally: Bangladesh Teachers' Association has organised a grand rally of non-government teachers and employees to press for their 14-point charter of demands. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises. Time: 10 am.

EPAB conference: The third annual conference of Editing and Publication Association of Bangladesh will be held. The theme of the conference is 'Electronic Publishing in Bangladesh: A New Horizon'. BUET VC Prof Dr Nooruddin Ahmed will inaugurate the conference as chief guest. Venue: BUET central auditorium. Time: 9 am.

Film show: As part of the Satyajit Ray retrospective, Agantuk (The Stranger) and Kanchanjunga will be screened. Organizer: Zahir Raihan Film Society. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No 2, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm and 6:30 pm respectively.

Weather

Temperature may rise

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

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country and day temperature is likely to rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, Met office said.

The country's highest temperature 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Patuakhali and the lowest 22.6 degree Celsius at Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:33 pm and rises on Saturday at 5:17 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	35.2	24.3
Chittagong	33.8	27.0
Rajshahi	35.7	23.2
Khulna	35.6	23.0
Barisal	34.8	23.5
Sylhet	34.5	24.6
Cox's Bazar	34.3	26.0

Jubo League leader shot dead in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, May 11: One young man was shot dead by unidentified miscreants at Pukuria under Banskhal thana here last night, reports BSS.

The youth was identified as Abul Kashem, 37, Vice-President of Jubo League, Pukuria Union and an aide to local union parishad chairman, police said.

The miscreants entered the house of Abul Kashem and shot him dead on the spot.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. Kashem's brother filed a case with Banskhal thana in this connection.

Arrest of killers of UP chairman demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Relatives of late Salamat Ullah Maznu, chairman of Baglul Union Parishad (UP) under sadar thana of Tangail district, demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the killers.

Maznu was allegedly killed at broad daylight by the members of an outlawed party on May 5 last. He was a member of national volleyball and kabaddi team and was an instructor of Aisur Academy. He was also a member of Arms Wrestling Federation.

Family members of the deceased said that Maznu had been elected UP chairman twice for his honesty, simplicity.

They alleged that the killers are not unknown to the district administration. But the administration is yet to take effective action against the killers.

Rotary News

North West Meeting

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held tomorrow (Saturday) at the Dhaka Club Ltd, Ramna, Dhaka (Guest House Restaurant) at 5:30 pm, says a press release.

Members have been requested to attend on time.

Police patronises terrorism at Savar, alleges BNP MP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP lawmaker Dr Dewan Mohammad Salahuddin of Dhaka-12 (Savar) in a press conference yesterday alleged that police were patronising terrorism and drug trading in Savar and people of his constituency were deprived of least security of life and property.

Referring to the incident of dacoity at his Savar residence at the night on May 6, the opposition MP painted a gloomy picture of law and order in Savar in the press conference at the National Press Club yesterday afternoon.

The lawmaker said that he had informed the Home Minister, Inspector General of Police and the concerned Superintendent of Police of the robbery at his residence and expressed frustration over negligence of police.

Even the ruling party leaders of Savar have expressed their concern over the law and order situation of Savar, Dewan Salahuddin said, adding, those leaders have also demanded arrest of terrorists. But Savar police has taken no initiative so far to arrest the terrorists.

Though in most cases police fail to arrest the culprits, four people have been arrested so far in connection with the dacoity. But police failed to get any information about the robbery or recover the robbed valuables.

Gang involved in theft of vehicles arrested

By Staff Correspondent

The DB police yesterday arrested an organised gang involved in theft of vehicles, said police sources.

Abdul Baten, 22, driver of a stolen vehicle was chased from near Muktijoddha Market at Mirpur and later arrested from near Gabtali early yesterday along with the vehicle, police said.

The DB later arrested Abdus Salam and his wife Khodeja Begum from a house at Mirpur Section 1, on a tip off from Baten, police said.

The gang members confessed to the police that they used to steal vehicles and later sell them off.

According to them vehicles used to be hired from different towns they visited. During their visits in those towns they used to stay in hotels and hire vehicles prior to leaving the town for their next destination.

On their way they used to give some intoxicant to the driver and flee the area driving the vehicle and later sell it.

PSC selection for Scientific Officer

Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC) selected 10 candidates for the post of Scientific Officer of Soil Resources Development Institute, reports UNB.

The registration numbers of the selected candidates are: 000038, 000691, 000491, 000506, 000664, 000692, 000157, 000132, 000288 and 000396.

Advani's remark

From page 1

the Indian army's victory in Bangladesh and in Kargil. He said the liberation of Bangladesh was a 'spectacular victory' which Atal Behari Vajpayee as the then leader of Jan Sangh had extolled.

But in 1971, the United States had sent its Seventh Fleet to India's neighbourhood. Kargil was perhaps the first occasion when India could secure the backing of the entire world in its favour, Advani added.

The leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Manmohan Singh (Congress) protested Advani's purported comparison and said the Home Minister need not enter into 'polemics' while dealing with such a serious issue as militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress members were on their feet demanding withdrawal of Advani's purported comparison while members belonging to BJP rose in defence of the Home Minister.

After this, the Congress members staged a walk-out and they were followed by those of the Left parties.

Death anniversary

In observance of the first death anniversary of retired SP Atiar Rahman Biswas a *milad mahfil* will be held today at his 345, Pirebag, Kallayanpur residence, says a press release.

Relatives, colleagues and admirers have been requested to attend the *milad* and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

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Mannan Bhuiyan at 4-party alliance meeting AL conspiring to appoint CEC without discussion with parties

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has reiterated opposition's appeal to the President to appoint a new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) acceptable to all through discussion with all political parties.

Making a note of warning, he alleged that the ruling Awami League is conspiring to appoint new Chief Election Commissioner secretly and without any discussion with the parties.

"We will not accept if the government appoints new Chief Election Commissioner without discussion with all," Bhuiyan said and warned the government of a consequence.

Bhuiyan was addressing a public meeting at Mohammodpur Biscuit House playground yesterday afternoon, organised by the Dhaka city unit of the All Party Action Council (APAC) to protest recent double murder.

The BNP Secretary General said the AL is not only a failure and incompetent government, but it is also a "commitment betrayer and law breaker" one because it held stick procession against the honourable judges

Former civil servant

From page 1

Suranjit Sengupta, however, ruled out the first option. "Constitutionally, the essential component of the Election Commission is the Chief Election Commissioner. There is no scope for a Commission without the chief."

Asked what background he would like the next man to come from, Sengupta said the "prime minister has to find a very dynamic person with a deep sense of integrity."

"Not necessarily that the commission has to be a club of former judges," said Sengupta, pointing to former Indian CEC T. N. Seshan. "A retired bureaucrat, Seshan created a lot of sensation in terms of fighting evils inherent in the electoral process."

He combined in himself good administrative ability and good knowledge he earned during his service as an ICS official.

He believes that "whoever became the CEC, he would barely be able to effectively contribute to further growth of democracy unless electoral laws are reformed."

Meanwhile, a representative of Prime Minister's Office communicated to President Shahabuddin Ahmed on Wednesday on the development of the government's efforts to have a dialogue with the opposition before appointment of the CEC.

The president was reportedly given the copies of the letters exchanged between the prime minister and the leader of the opposition. He was reportedly told that the governing party was left with no option but to suggest a name unilaterally.

It was also reportedly hinted to the President that the government would prefer a retired civil bureaucrat for the job. The president's view could not be known immediately.

Meantime, President Ahmed made some queries about the works of the EC on Wednesday afternoon.

The honourable president phoned me yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon," acting chief election commissioner Moshataque Ahmed Chowdhury admitted to the Daily Star last evening. "He wanted to know the important jobs of the Commission at hand these days. The president also wanted to know about the feasibility of holding Upazila elections in the near future."

I told the president that the situation does not favour the polls right now. He also wanted to know how old I am."

Chowdhury expects a new CEC by May 15. "We can go ahead with preparing the new national electoral roll without the CEC. But we cannot hear the appeal on the parliamentary membership of Jatiya Party chairman H. M. Ershad without chief election commissioner."

The hearing is scheduled to begin on May 15.

ADB loans

From page 1

Bangladesh," said ADB Resident Representative Suphit Suphiphat.

Rajat Nag said that the Bank recognised the need for more power generation, but emphasised better demand management and reduction of systems loss.

He said that power system loss in Dhaka area came down to 26 per cent from 43 per cent in 1993 and hoped that it would drop to 18 per cent in the next two or three years if reforms in the power sector were carried out properly.

On the new plan, Nag said the ADB would address the poverty alleviation issue with focus on basic infrastructure such as transportation, energy and water resource management.

According to ADB analysis, such projects were very effective in reducing poverty through growth.

These infrastructure projects would now be targeted more towards high-poverty areas and instead of financing only national highways the plan would include better demand management and reduction of systems loss.

He also said that power sector investment would focus on rural electrification in the poorer regions and water management projects on flood protection and irrigation for high poverty areas exposed to frequent drought.

Two new areas are also being explored for future intervention and these are child nutrition and Information Technology (IT), including e-commerce, Nag said.

to the citizens, but also failed to ensure security of the country because the Indian BSF and robbers are making frequent attacks in the bordering areas and killing BDR jawans and innocent people.

The Indians, he alleged, are even also for grabbing Bangladesh's lands, taking away standing crops and cattle heads, but the government kept silent and is not lodging complaints of those occurrences. The AL government is now conspiring to hand over the gas resources to the India.

Bhuiyan said the nation has united against the 'misrule and anti-state' activities of the government and asked the AL to quit power immediately. He urged the city dwellers to make the May 16 mass procession by the Four-party Alliance a grand success.

Presided over by Moham-madpur thana unit APAC convener Abdul Haq, it was addressed, among others, by BNP leaders Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Sadek Hossain Khoka and Abdus Salam, JP leaders Saifur Rahman, Jamaat leader Ali Hossain Mujahid and IOJ leader ARM Abdul Matin.

This government has not only failed to provide security

Tit for tat

By Court Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court Dhaka on Wednesday fined a female school teacher Tk 200, in default to suffer imprisonment for 20 days for torturing a minor student.

The court found Mohsina, a teacher of Sher-e-Bangla Girls' School at Tikatuli in the city, guilty of torturing Farhana Akhter Kona, a student of class four, 10 years ago.

Kona fainted on August 20, 1990 as she had to stand for a long time as directed by her teacher for wearing shoes not approved by the school.

Following the incident, her father Akhterul Alam filed a case with CMM's court, examining nine prosecution witnesses, the court gave the verdict.

Transport

From page 1

was always against the interest of transport owners, workers and the transport industry.

They demanded immediate steps against those trade unions which are violating the norms of trade union.

When an industry expands, those organisations demand tolls, the leaders alleged. They also expressed their concern over terrorism in the sector.

A quarter has called the transport strike from May 16 to protect toll collectors in transport sector, they said.

They requested the Home Minister to continue the drive to stop extortion.

Rustam Ali Khan, General Secretary of BTUA, read out the written statement at the press conference. Presidents and secretaries of the three organisations were also present at the press conference.

Obituary

Minnat Ali, former Commercial Manager of BTMC and a resident of village Hossainpur, Shambhupura Union under Sonargaon Upazilla in Narayanganj district died on Tuesday at National Heart Institute of cardiac arrest. He was 68, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, 5 sons, 2 daughters, 2 brothers, one sister and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His *namaz-e-janaza* was held on Wednesday at Hossainpur Eidgah and he was buried at Hossainpur graveyard.

A *milad mahfil* will be held on tomorrow after Asr prayers at his residence at 24, AKM Das Lane, Tikatoly. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the *milad*.

★★★ Syeda Rowshan Akhter Bilkis, wife of Moham-mad Jahan-gir, a Local Government Officer of Manchester, died of cancer at a Manchester hospital on Tuesday, at age 54, family sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

Besides her husband, Bilkis, a former student of Barisal BM College and Dhaka University Bangla Department, left behind a daughter and a host of relations and admirers to mourn her death.

She was the sister of journalist Shawkat Anwar, filmmaker Kabir Anwar and BARC Nutrition Research Officer Syeda Farida Akhter.

Her body will be flown in the city this morning by a Bangladesh Biman airliner. Her *namaz-e-janaza* will be held at Shiddheswari Mosque after Zuma prayers today.

She will be buried at the Banani Graveyard.

Lack of co-ordination

From page 12

dent on groundwater and forgot about surface water.

"It is sad to see that wells are being used for dumping garbage, rivers are losing their depth and many of the rivers, minor and major, have dried up."

"We need to address this immediately and on an urgent basis. We have even urged upon the donor agencies not to spend any more money on a technology that is poisoning people but to divert the fund for such exploration."

In case of research, too, Professor Rahman said, some vital issues remain unaddressed.

"We have come to know the carcinogenic effect of arsenic more than three years back. Unfortunately, there is yet to be any research in this regard."

"It has already been proved that arsenic in drinking water in excess level (more than 0.05 mg/L) causes cancer of liver, lung, kidney and other vital organs. In fact, arsenic patient management is a new concept. There is available data on management of arsenic patients. Sadly, there has not been any effort to initiate research so far."

"The World Health Organisation's role is also very disappointing. It has no such action programme on the issue."

Among major issues yet to be resolved, he said, is quality test for water.

"We are yet to have a reference laboratory where we can examine whether water testing being carried out by different agencies is reliable. For cross-check, we don't have a reference laboratory."

"Even the field-test kits be-

ing used now are not reliable in the sense that they have been known to have given confusing results on which many future directions are being planned even by the government agencies for providing safe water."

An anonymous source, a member of leading organisation working in this field, said, "We have already witnessed many mitigation activities in this field. In fact, there are too many organisations even within the donor agencies working to address the issue. Unfortunately, there is no platform where the agencies would be able to share their views and information."

Professor Rahman and other experts feel that the national steering committee and the technical advisory committee are not properly functioning, their non-action leaving many an issue unresolved.

"The Local Government Division of the LGED ministry should have guided the technical committee. But, obviously, it did not play its role," complained many experts, even some working on the committee.

Sources said that it has been more than eight months since the national steering committee on arsenic last met to discuss arsenic mitigation activities across the country in September 1999. The committee is supposed to meet at least once in every three months. In the last meeting, the secretary of cabinet division had proposed that the members should meet at least once a month to speed up the process of the monitoring. However, there was no decision in this regard yet.

Rajuk: 100 buildings

From page 1

erised over the last three months, putting a brake on malpractice. "A vested quarter" has been involved in irregularities regarding plan approval but the practice has been greatly controlled.

"Now we are ensuring that all plans submitted to us cover environment, earthquake and land use issues and these must be done by qualified people," he said.

But Rajuk officials were puzzled to find that about a month ago, plan for a 10-storey building in Kalabagan area was approved without any back up file with Rajuk. The owner of the project denied knowing it, saying the developer had managed it. The approved plan carried the signatures of all Rajuk officials concerned except the Authorised Officer. They are now thinking of sending the file to the CID, sources said.

The government should immediately conduct an inquiry into the alleged malpractices, the sources said. They pointed out that in almost all these cases, fake approval was given in violation of 'height restriction' in the city's most critical

points. These buildings would not only pose environmental problems but also choke the roads and create serious crises of services like water, electricity, gas and sewerage.

An official pointed out that many people have started construction based on these 'fake' plans and the government should immediately ensure that they follow the 'height restriction' of six-stories.

The government should cancel the building plans of those who have not yet started construction and ask them to apply for fresh approval of plan," the official added.

PM's letter

From page 1

of the Constitution.

"Since I have not received any positive response from you, I have to proceed as per the Constitution," the letter said.

Earlier, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria tried to contact senior BNP leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Saifur Rahman yesterday evening to discuss the issue, it is learnt.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of Secretary to Vice-Chancellor/Coordination Officer.

The candidate must:

- Be a graduate
- Be fluent in English - both written and oral
- Have at least 5 years experience in secretarial work
- Be computer literate
- Be below 40 years of age

Secretarial training from a recognized institution will be an added qualification. Preference will be given to female candidates. Attractive pay package available.

Please submit c.v. with a copy of the latest photograph to the undersigned by 30th May 2000.

The University of Asia Pacific

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