

What's on today....

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 *Shadows* (India), *Don't Pass Me By* (Nepal), *Thin Air* (India) and *Mukht Kothea* (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: Abhudo 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.

Satyajit Ray retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society presents *Agantuk* (The Stranger) and *Kanchanjunga* by Satyajit Ray. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission, Rd No-2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Drama: BSCIC Sramik Karmachari Union presents 'Mayer Anchal' by Bhairabnath Goupadhyay. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 6:45 pm.

Conference: The conference 2000 of Barisal Division Association will be held. Venue: Engineers Institution auditorium, Ramna. Time: 8:30 am-8:00 pm.

Roundtable: Institute for Development Policy Analysis and Advocacy of Proshika, Samannay, Sangbad and ADAB will hold a roundtable on 'Kind of Budget Wanted: Thoughts of Grassroots People'. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Tophkhana Road. Time: 9:30 am-5:00 pm.

Roundtable: The Daily Arthaneti will hold a roundtable on 'Poverty alleviation in Bangladesh: 3 decades of experience'. Minister for Agriculture Begum Mottia Chowdhury, Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain will participate. Venue: VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 10:00 am.

Discussion meeting: Shacheton Juba Samaj will hold a discussion meeting to mark its 10th founding anniversary. Venue: Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association auditorium, 58/1 Purana Paltan. Time: 3:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Seminar: Campaign for Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding will hold a seminar in view of the ILO Maternity Protection Campaign 2000 that begins May 14. Chief guest: Minister for Labour and Employment M A Mannan. Venue: WVA auditorium, House No-405/A (20 New), Road No-27 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 10:00 am-1:30 pm.

Inaugural function: Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs will inaugurate a 'Mediation' training course for Family Court Judges and concerned lawyers in collaboration with USIS. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Tophkhana Road. Time: 5:15 pm.

Satyajit Ray retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society presents *Abhijan* (The Expedition) by Satyajit Ray on the 2nd last day of the retrospective. Venue: Auditorium of the Indian High Commission, Rd No-2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:00 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Chittagong division and the regions of Pabna, Bogra and Mymensingh in 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 forecasting mild to moderate heat wave over Rajshahi division and at the region of Mymensingh, Jessore and Kushtia during the period.

It also predicted slight rise in day temperature across the country.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 38.0 degree Celsius at Ishurdi and the lowest 22.1 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:33 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:16 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
Dhaka	35.6	26.7
Chittagong	35.0	26.5
Rajshahi	37.5	26.8
Khulna	36.2	25.8
Barisal	35.2	26.2
Sylhet	35.2	26.0
Cox's Bazar	34.5	25.4

HERE and THERE

PCP

By DU Correspondent

The annual council of Dhaka unit of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) ended at the DUCSU cafeteria yesterday with the slogan 'not conflict, let's build up greater national unity'.

Presided over by Dhaka unit vice-president of PCP Bengali Chakma, the programme was addressed by UPDF leader Ravi Shankar. PCP leaders Champanon Chakma, Protikar Chakma, Paramesshar Chakma and Meki Khisha.

At the beginning of the council, PCP leaders observed a one minute silence in the memory of martyrs killed in the movement for realising rights of the people of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

The PCP leaders alleged that the Jana Sanghati Samity (GSS) was assisting the terrorists in killing and unleashing various criminal activities in the region.

Later, a 21-member new executive body of PCP was formed with Bengamin Chakma and Mithun Chakma as its president and general secretary respectively.

BNP: Consensus

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Jatiya Party secretary general Nazim Rahman Manir, who met Khaleda Zia yesterday, told newsmen that the Opposition would not have any meeting with the Prime Minister concerning appointment of CEC.

The opposition would meet only the President if invited for discussion on the issue, he added.

Professional Action Committee, Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 12: The speakers at a discussion meeting and conference of professionals said that inefficient and incompetent persons at all level of administration due to the nepotism is crippling the socio-economic conditions of the country.

In the discussion meeting organised by the newly formed Professional Action Committee, Chittagong on the role of professionals in Socio-Economic development of Bangladesh.

Presided over by Dr Md Nurunnabi the meeting was addressed by renowned journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury as the chief guest and among others by Prof Hasanuzzaman, Dr Md Enamul Haq Ex VC of Islami University, Sirajul Islam, Adv Shamsuddin Ahmed Mirza, Adv Ahmed Sagor, president Chittagong Bar Council, Khurshid Jamil Chowdhury, Secretary, BMA, Chittagong.

Talks on problems of newspaper industry today

Leaders of Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad will hold talks with their counterparts of Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) today, reports BSS.

They will exchange views on the problems of newspaper industry at Jatiya Press club at 11 am.

Congratulations



World University in Arizona, USA conferred 'Cultural Doctorate' degree on Hamida Banu Shova, founder chairperson of Queens University for her contribution in spreading education and administering an educational institution successfully, says a press release.

Shova comes of a respectable family in Domar thana under Nilphamari district. She obtained her BA (Hons) and MA degrees from Rajshahi University.

She established Queens University in 1997 in the city's Bani area on her own. She is the lone woman entrepreneur in Bangladesh who set up an university in private sector for spreading higher education.

She also established Queens International School, a kindergarten in Domar thana of Nilphamari district in 1993 and launched 'Hamida Banu Shova Scholarship' for poor, meritorious students.



Dr M Fazlul Huq, former Director of BCSIR Laboratories, Chittagong, has been awarded first Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda Gold Medal for his contribution to research on science and technology, reports BSS.

Science and Technology Minister M Noor Uddin Khan handed over the award to Dr Fazlul Huq at a scientific seminar held on the occasion of the week-long birth centenary celebration of Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda at the BCSIR auditorium yesterday.

Born in 1943, Dr Fazlul Huq passed MSc. in Chemistry from Rajshahi University in 1964 and obtained PhD degree in Organic Chemistry from Dijon University, France in 1976.

Dr Fazlul Huq developed 42 processes and obtained patent for 34 processes. He leased out 30 processes of which 7 processes are in commercial production.

He published 39 research papers and write-ups in both national and international scientific journals and periodicals, a BCSIR press release said.

Renowned litterateur and academician Prof. Motahar Hossain Sufi has been awarded Sa'dat Ali Akhond Literary Award 2000 for his significant contribution to Bengali literature, reports BSS.

The prize money of the Akhond Literary Award run by the Bangla Academy, is Taka 10 thousand.

Prof. Motahar Hossain is a renowned literary critic and researcher. Born in 1932 at Munshipara under Rangpur district, Prof. Motahar Hossain Sufi obtained his post-graduate degree in Bangla Language and Literature from the University of Dhaka in 1960.

Prof Motahar began his career as a teacher in Bangla Department in Rangpur Carmichael College in 1960.

Bhutanese FM

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Ister Abdus Samad Azad, Bangladesh Ambassador to Bhutan, S S Chakma is already in the capital in connection with the visit.

Opening of an overland transit route and emphasis on expansion of bilateral trade are likely to dominate official talks between the two foreign ministers on May 15.

The Bhutanese minister will call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed tomorrow and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on May 16. He will also meet Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia but the schedule has not been fixed as yet.

Other programmes of Thimley include meeting the Bhutanese community in Dhaka. He would also visit the site at Baridhara in the city where the new building of Bhutanese Embassy would be constructed.

Bhutan being a landlocked country also looks forward to Bangladesh's support and cooperation in opening a new overland land route for its exports and imports.

Renowned Bangladesh economist Prof Rehman Sobhan speaking at a seminar in the capital recently said, "Bangladesh should give emphasis on the interests of the small South Asian SAARC states. It particularly should play a leading role in liberating Bhutan and Nepal from their landlocked status by providing access to the ports."



A sequence from the drama 'Sagar Secha Manik' staged by Philips Club at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University auditorium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Sharif

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conducted on the basis of evidence, records, testimony. It will not be a trial conducted via the press.

Sharif's civilian government was overthrown last October in a bloodless military coup. His ouster was generally welcomed by Pakistanis who had grown frustrated by the relentless corruption of successive governments.

The army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf vowed to weed out the corrupt and recover the stolen wealth. To this end he established the National Accountability Bureau giving it sweeping powers to investigate, arrest and prosecute corruption cases.

Special accountability courts were established throughout Pakistan to try charges of corruption and corrupt practices.

Adam said Attock Fort was being used for Sharif, his brother Shahbaz and several other high profile former politicians, because their security was easier to ensure.

An immense amount of violence has crept into the present environment in Pakistan, which no one can deny," said Adam making it an expensive task to give high profile accused the protection they require.

One of Sharif's defense lawyers was shot and killed in southern Karachi in March, just as the former prime minister's hijacking trial was coming to a close. So far no arrests have been made.

Because the accountability courts will be hearing several charges against Sharif and members of his family, the process is expected to continue for months with dozens of court appearances, explained Adam.

Dayaganj

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ception at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon in recognition of what his followers termed "his 13 years of development."

Commissioner Shahid was accused of abetting the murder of Ahmed Hossain Sumon who was shot dead during a raid by DB police in his own house at Karimullah Bagh in the city in the early hours of February 10.

Meanwhile, M Nihar, brother-in-law of Kamal filed an FIR with the Sutrapur Police station yesterday accusing Feroz Alam Pintu, Shahadat, Asaduzzaman, Kala Mintu, Nurul Huq, Anwarul Huq, Anwar Hossain, Abdul Hannan and Muhiul for the attack, said Sutrapur Police.

Of the accused, DB arrested Anwar Hossain, Asaduzzaman and Abdul Hannan from Bangla Motor area at about 10:00 pm on Thursday night. DB also seized two pistols from their possession and filed a case under Arms Act.

Local people, however, said that the armed attack was a sequel to previous rivalry between Commissioner Shahid and the principal accused in the case Firoz Alam Pintu.

Pintu is the brother of Juba League leader Suntu who was killed few months ago, sources in the locality said.

Another accused Shahadat is the brother of Sumon. Shahadat said he was implicated in the case for harassment. During the incident, I was recording my statement with police in connection with Sumon murder case, he said.

Kamal Hossain who was gunned down during the attack was FIR-named accused in Suntu and Michael murder cases. Suntu and Michael were leaders of Juba Dal and JCD respectively, sources said.

Savar University College governing body HC bench issues rule nisi upon 11 members

By Staff Correspondent

A High Court Division Bench of the Supreme Court issued rule nisi upon 11 members of Savar University College governing body asking them to show cause why the impugned order regarding execution of its *Vokalatnama* and "fraud" practice upon the court by their advocates and allowing time to their lawyers to submit apparently not genuine *Vokalatnama* on the fixed date by the Subordinate Judge, Second Court, Dhaka should not be set aside or such other or further order or orders passed as to this court may be deemed fit and proper.

The division bench comprising Justice Md Moazzam Hoque and Justice Md Abdur Rashid issued the rule upon a Civil Revision filed by Monzoor Alam Khan, Head of the Department of Political Science of Savar university College on May 7 last.

In the revision (No 1719 of 2000), the petitioner Monzoor Alam Khan said that he had instituted Title Suit No 383 of 1999 pending in the court of Sub Judge of Second Court of Dhaka against 18 persons including the Education Secretary on November 15. Later on November 18 he filed an application for injunction against the defendants to prevent so that the defendants could not dismiss him illegally.

According to a press release, the Court issued a show cause notice upon the defendants to reply within seven days from the date of receipt.

One of the defendants, AGF Saad Jugul, who is Principal of the college, appeared in the court by filing *Vokalatnama* on November 28 and appointed Haribandhu Sarker, Chittaranjan Baul, Kamrun Nahar Begum, Subash Chandra Adhikari, Uttpal Biswas and Mohammed Nazrul Islam as advocates.

Only two of the advocates Haribandhu Sarker and Chittaranjan Baul accepted the *Vokalatnama* with date but without any address. The defendants filed three written objections on March 29 last against the injunction petition filed by the plaintiff.

The petitioner filed an application before the court to the effect that it had been transpired from the court record that except defendant Principal AGF Saad Jugul, none had appointed any advocate by executing *Vokalatnama*. The petitioner prayed to the court saying that the advocate of defendant AGF Saad Jugul had practised "fraud" upon the court for

Sramik Party leader dead

Advocate Hosena Asaf-ud-Daula, vice-president of Jatiya Sramik Party and wife of late journalist Asaf-ud-Daula Reza died of cardiac arrest at the BIRDEM Hospital in the city yesterday. She was 61, reports BSS.

Temperature

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lines, according to sources in PDB and DESA. There was no load shedding elsewhere in the country, PDB said. "Power supply was almost interrupted in the city except very brief intervals in few areas" one official said.

PDB set two production records in last two days. For the first time this summer, it generated more power yesterday than the country's demand, PDB control room said.

Generation was 2615 MW yesterday against a requirement of 2575. On the day before, it was 2664 MW, PDB's all time high, against a requirement of 2704 MW.

Smooth power supply during the last couple of days slightly reduced sufferings of people from the unbearable heat, PDB officials said.

The heat became unbearable since Thursday night, said city dwellers in different areas. The suffering was more for people of low-income groups.

Sources at the meteorological office said such high temperature and humidity is normal in May, the hottest month in Bangladesh. The maximum humidity recorded in Dhaka yesterday was 65 percent.

Eleven power generating units out of 63 in the country remained shut yesterday.

PDB sources said the overall power generation scenario improved in the last couple of days as most of the major units except Rajan-2 resumed operation.

Rajan-2 is of 210 MW capacity but the ten others which did not operate yesterday are of low capacity, PDB sources said.

Asked whether PDB will be able to continue its present performance, an official said, "Please pray so that none of our major power generating units go out of order."

7 Indian states

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reports on matters pertaining to militancy," he said after a conference of the chief ministers of the region, which is popularly called India's "Seven Sisters."

The seven state leaders also said they would try and win back guerrillas by offering them jobs and security and added that New Delhi should start peace talks with the tribal rebel groups.

"Unless we put pressure on the centre jointly, as one region, there cannot be economic development in the far east," said Nagaland Chief Minister S C Jamir.

"We need to address these common problems in a more united and forceful manner so that the region can catch up with the rest of the country," he added after the one-day political conference ended here. Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, Chief Minister of Assam, the largest of the seven states, said federal funds coming in "bits and pieces" were insufficient for the economic development of the impoverished region.

"Almost all the issues like insurgency, economic development, inter-state boundary disputes, besides efforts to woo outside investments, need a common approach and cannot be tackled by a single state alone. So we decided to have this joint meeting," Mohanta told.

"This is a good beginning," he added.

The petitioner further said that as per law, one is not allowed to act in the Court of Law for anybody's behalf.

After hearing the petitioners lawyer the court issued the said rule calling to stay all further proceedings of the Title Suit No 383 of 1999 pending in the Court of Subordinate Judge, Second Court, Dhaka.

The rule, returnable in four weeks, was issued upon AGF Saad Jugul, Nirmal Kanti Das, Firoz Kabir, Mohammod Yusuf, Advocate Nazrul Islam, Mohammed Hossain Ali, Kamrul Ahsan Sonahar, Shamun Manab, Ruhul Amin Miah, Mohammed Elias Hossain.

Advocate Harun Ar Rashid appeared for the revision petitioner.

BNP won't call hartal

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hierarchy agreed in principle recently not to call hartal at least in next two months to give time to party's thana and district units to complete their respective units council session and form full-fledged committees.

They said the party could not look into the organisational matters properly and failed to complete its thana and district unit council during the last four years. The reason is that BNP on advice of the hardliners launched an "untimely" movement, which was not properly planned. It damaged the image of the party and grassroots workers had to suffer a lot, they said.

"We have progressed a lot as we succeeded to form committees in almost all wards, thanas and districts across the country in last one month owing to the fact that there has been no hartal during that time," said an influential leader, preferring anonymity.

"We will be able to complete the remaining organisational matters in the next one month or so if there is no hartal."

He said the party chief is now convinced that organisational matters should have to be given top priority both to intensify movement and prepare for elections.

The leader said BNP has decided to emphasise strengthening organisational activities at thana and constituency levels instead of district units. The importance of district units has drastically reduced since the introduction of parliamentary system in the country.

He said the party plans to in-

roduce "constituency units" in place of district committees. However, there will be a coordination committee in each district to look into the activities in the constituencies.

Some senior leaders said Khaleda Zia's recent public meetings across the country have greatly encouraged the grassroots party activists.

They said leaders and activists are also beginning to prefer public meetings since it is helping to strengthen the party and at the same time mobilise public support. The chairperson is under tremendous pressure from district and thana units to hold such meeting.

And Khaleda Zia is also responding to those requests. She is scheduled to pay a three-day visit to Kurigram and Nilphamari districts from Saturday, and to Faridpur and Rajbari districts on May 17-18.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told the Star that it is not possible to build an effective movement without a strong organisational network. Similarly, it is not possible to strengthen the organisation without movement. "We are doing both."

Mannan Bhuiyan disclosed that BNP is getting ready to launch soon an even tougher anti-government movement. "That is why we are now busy with organisational matters and mass campaign programmes to mobilise people's support in our favour."

On a question, he said BNP is continuing movement against the government and that holding public meeting, procession and demonstration are also part of the movement.

Kotchandpur stalemate

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month's detention.

Only a few days back, transaction of money at Kotchandpur was much more than that in Jhenidah district headquarters, sources said.

Business at Jhenidah is very dull now as traders from Kotchandpur and Kaliganj are not visiting the district headquarters as frequently as earlier, some businessmen said.

People from some other parts of the country also invested money with the Syndicate Bank but they dare not go to Kotchandpur now because of the uneasy situation, they said.

Many businessmen from Chittagong used to take money from Rajol for business purposes. They used to transact money through two banks at Jhenidah, they said.

Meanwhile, the investors have also started protesting against the newly formed 70-

member committee for collecting and refunding their money. Some local people alleged that many of those in the committee were also involved in the money lending business.

Family members of Anwar Mian, a member of the committee invested Tk 1.5 crore with the Syndicate Bank, one source claimed requesting anonymity.

"We are almost sure that we will not get back our deposits," said a resident of Hospitalpara at Kotchandpur.

"A rickshawpuller became a millionaire. We would like to see him pulling rickshaw again," he added.

The committee has so far listed names of 100 'agents' and 'sub-agents' and 200 investors, committee sources said.

Meanwhile, local MP Shahidul Islam Master was included in the committee yesterday. The committee also includes the chairman of Kaliganj Municipality. The committee was reconstituted on Wednesday in presence of the DC and SP of Jhenidah.

Kajol was running his business through Akli Samabay Sanchoy and Rin Dan Samity, registered with the Co-operative Department, DC Shoyebur Rahman said.

He said he has nothing to do regarding the matter since the two associations were registered with the Co-operative Department.

Asked about the responsibility of the local administration, he said, "It is the affair of the Co-operative department."

The District Co-operative Officer could not be reached for his comments.



The Appraisal Mission of Japan Bank for International Cooperation, JBIC, attended a workshop for JBIC SAPROF study on Greater Faridpur Infrastructure Development Project in the city yesterday. The workshop was jointly organised by LGED and JBIC. Sitting from left are Yasushi Negishi, head of the Mission, Md Monowar Hossain Chowdhury, Chief Engineer, LGED, Yamanaka Masahito, team leader, SAPROF study and Shahidul Hasan, Additional Chief Engineer, LGED. The 76 million dollar greater Faridpur Infrastructure Development Project will be implemented by LGED within a period of five years beginning next year.



The Shyampur Thana unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led by convenor of its city unit Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP brought out a procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for mass procession (gona michhil) scheduled on May 16 and demanding scrapping of Public Safety Act.

— Star photo