

## What's on today . . .

**Blood donation programme:** Institute of Business Studies (IBS) of Darul Ihsan University will hold a blood donation programme in collaboration with Shandhani of Dhaka Medical College. Venue: IBS at Darul Ihsan University premises, House No 9/B, Road No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

**BIISS seminar:** Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) presents a seminar on "WTO 2000 Negotiations and Bangladesh Agriculture". Venue: BIISS auditorium, 1/46 Elephant Road. Time: 10:00 am.

**National conference:** A 2-day national conference on 'International Criminal Court and Ratification by Bangladesh' will begin. Organisers: Asian Network for an International Criminal Court (ANICC) and Bangladesh Coalition for an International Criminal Court. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 3:00 pm.

**Porosh:** Poribesh Rokkha Shopoth (Porosh) will hold a meeting to decide on its programmes to combat sound pollution. Venue: Porosh premises, 9/12 Lalmatia Block D. Time: 4:00 pm.

**Contemporary Iranian Film Festival:** The two-week long Contemporary Iranian Film Festival by Zahir Raihan Film Society begins today to mark the society's 14th founding anniversary. Today's films: 'The Taste of Cherry' by Abbas Kiarostami and 'The Last Act' by Varuzh Karim-Mashti. Venue: Goethe-Institut, Dhanmondi Road No 9. Time: 5 pm and 6:45 pm respectively.

**Meeting:** The central executive committee of Prokrichi-BCS Central Coordinating Council will hold an emergency meeting. Venue: Council office premises, 15/2 Topkhana Road, (BMA Bhaban). Time: 7:30 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) in collaboration with Asia Network for National Conference and International Criminal Court (NICC) will hold a discussion meeting on the question of International Criminal Court and its ratification by Bangladesh. Venue: Institute's seminar room, House No 22, Rd No 7/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 7:45 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Contemporary Iranian Film Festival:** On the 2nd day of the festival Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 3 films: 'The Need' by Alireza Davoudnejad, 'The Runner' by Amir Naderi, and 'Prince Ehteshab' by Bahman Farmanara. Venue: Goethe-Institut, Dhanmondi-9. Time: 4:30 pm, 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm respectively.

**IDE,B discussion meeting:** Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDE,B) will hold a discussion meeting on 'Workers and Labourers of Bangladesh in perspective of globalisation process'. Venue: IDE,B seminar hall, 160/A, Kakrail. Time: 10:30am-4:30 pm.

## Weather

### Temperature may remain same

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

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country and the day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 37.5 degree Celsius at Khulna and the lowest 23.2 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:34 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:15 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	35.8	26.4	69	47
Chittagong	34.5	24.5	64	81
Rajshahi	36.0	25.3	73	68
Khulna	37.5	24.2	70	54
Barisal	35.7	26.2	68	78
Sylhet	35.0	24.6	75	63
Cox's Bazar	34.0	25.5	72	96

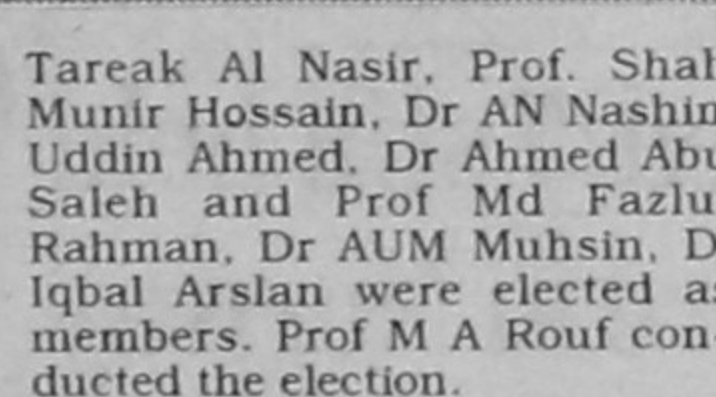
## HERE and THERE



### Bangladesh Society of Pathologists

In the 19th annual general meeting of Bangladesh Society of Pathologists held on May 5 at the LGED auditorium, a new executive committee of BSP has been elected unanimously with Prof M Sohrab Ali and Dr Md. Tahminur Rahman as president and general secretary respectively for the session 2000-2002, says a press release.

Other office-bearers of the organisation are: Prof SM Ali, Senior vice president, Prof Ruhul Amin Miah, vice President, Dr Benazir Ahmed, Joint Secretary, Dr Farooque Ahmed Organising Secretary, Prof. Fouzia Akhter Banu, Treasurer, Prof Dr Kanan, Prof M Isnaq, Dr Jalilur Rahman, Prof



### Bangladesh Scouts

A farewell reception was accorded to Dr Hasan Mahmud Babar, former deputy national commissioner (training), at the Shams Hall, National Scout Bhaban on Sunday, at 5:30 pm, says a press release.

The function was addressed by M Fazlur Rahman, Chief National Commissioner, Afzal Hossain, National Commissioner (Extension Scouting), Dr Hasan Mahmud Babar, M Rafiqul Islam Khan, Mihir Kanti Majumder, Abul Kalam Azad, Mesbauddin Bhuiyan, Executive Secretary (incharge), M Abul Hussain Sikder, M Shah Alam, National Commissioner (Training) presided over the function.

At the end of the ceremony a crest was presented to Dr Babar for his contribution to scouting.

## Senior Assistant Secy Moslem Uddin dies

M Moslem Uddin, a senior Assistant Secretary, Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Ministry, died of heart complications on Saturday at his Uttara residence. He was 55, reports BSS.

He is survived by his father, mother, wife, two sons and a host of relations to mourn his death.

Moslem Uddin had been suffering from the heart disease for a long time.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, Secretary M Sakawat Hossain and all officers and employees of the ministry expressed deep shock at the death of M Moslem Uddin and prayed for the peace and salvation of the departed soul.

They also offered sympathies to the members of the bereaved family.

## Obituary



Alhaj HK Abdul Hye, an eminent lawyer, president of the Bangladesh Legal Aid Society and president of the Libya-Arab Friendship Association, died of cardiac arrest at the National Heart Institute in the city yesterday. He was 66, says a press release.

Hye obtained his LLB degree from the Dhaka University and was enrolled as an advocate in the High Court of the then East Pakistan in 1966. He was enrolled in the Supreme Court in November 1971.

Apart from legal practice, he was also associated with many organisations and two daily newspapers, The Sangbad and The New Nation for two years as the Court Correspondent.

He has left behind his wife, a son, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends. He was buried at the Azimpur Graveyard yesterday.

His *Qulhwani* will be held on Thursday after Asr prayers at Sharif Mahal, Haji Abdul Hye Road, Zigatola in the city.

**BAGERHAT, May 15:** Mir Mostafa Kamal (Mostu), an eminent sportsman and social worker, died of heart attack on early hours of Saturday. He was 60, says a press release.

Late Mostafa Kamal, brother of Mir Sakawat Ali MP, was the Central Secretary of Bagerhat District Sports Association for a long time.

In his student life, he was the Sports Secretary of PC College Chhatra Sangsad.

He left behind his wife, three sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death.



## Shafiuddin elected Lions Club vice-dist governor

Lion Alhaj Md Shafiuddin Miah, a social worker and managing director of Shitak Prokoushal Sangstha (Pvt) and member of Lions Club of Dhaka New City was elected as the Vice District Governor of Lion's Club International District 315 A2 at the fifth annual district conference held at Hotel Sheraton recently, says a press release.

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman was the chief guest at the inaugural function of the conference while Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad was the chief guest at the closing ceremony.

The President of the Teachers Association also came under attack while his car was set ablaze. The authorities were then compelled to close the varsity *sine die* on December 23 in compliance with the decision of an emergency meeting of the Syndicate.



William R Pace, Convenor of 'Coalition for an International Criminal Court' visited the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the city yesterday. —PID photo

## Unusual incident at SC

From page 1  
loudly despite repeated attempts to calm him by other senior lawyers present in the court.

All the five judges in the court tried to calm him saying that they had not heard any such comment by Justice Ebadul Huq.

The other lawyers also told the judges that they did not hear any such comment by Justice Huq.

What will your junior learn from you? Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury said trying to stop Barrister Huq from speaking loudly.

"This should not be allowed," said Justice Ebadul Huq.

Barrister Huq then calmed down, resuming his argument. Huq was representing three companies — Beximco Pharma, Doha Securities and Shingepur Holdings — accused in the 1996 share market scam.

These companies were seeking transfer of the cases to the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court from the Third Additional

Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court.

The hearing on charge framing against the three companies began on January 3, 1999 and continued for three days in the First Additional Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka.

But the cases were recalled and referred to the newly formed Metropolitan Court, which then sent those to the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court.

The accused companies then sought transfer of the cases to the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge, who had earlier heard the cases as the First Additional Sessions Judge of Dhaka District.

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court rejected the transfer application, prompting the three companies to go before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, which allowed the transfer to the Second Metro Court.

The SEC later went before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the

judgement of the High Court.

Yesterday, appearing as SEC lawyer, Barrister Zahir said that the petitions of the three companies had become infructuous as the judge of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Court, where the High Court had transferred the case, was transferred to Bhola.

Dr Zahir argued that the High Court was wrong in referring the cases to the Second Metro Court as the Metropolitan Court acted within its jurisdiction by sending those to the Third Metropolitan Court.

He also sought directive of the court for an expeditious hearing of the cases as several years have already passed since the filing of those.

Appearing for the three companies, Barrister Rafiqueul Huq said that the High Court was right in sending the cases to the Second Metro Court.

After hearing both the sides, Chief Justice Latifur Rahman said the appeal has been disposed and that the judgement will follow with observation on the High Court judgement.

Editing any books. Most of the writers and editors of the books are experienced in their respective fields, he added.

At the most, he categorically said, a person was involved in writing four or five books only, not more than that.

The TEB chairman, however, admitted that he might have some faults.

"As a human being, I may have some faults. As the sovereign authority of the state, the parliament could punish me for that. Or, it could give me a chance to rectify myself," he said.

## Mass procession

From page 1

Held at 29 Minto Road with city BNP president and APAC convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP in the chair, the meeting called upon the leaders and activists of the opposition parties and their front organisations as well as the city dwellers to make the mass procession a success.

The meeting urged the government to appoint a Chief Election Commissioner through discussion with the Opposition.

## Clarification

From page 1

Ltd. was not lowest. They only became lowest by drastically curtailing (during negotiations) the maintenance cost to an unrealistically low amount.

(d) Proper weightage was not given while allotting marks considering the importance and value of different categories of equipment.

It was revealed that for the same equipment of same make and specification, one bidder was allotted full marks while another got zero mark.

In view of above anomalies the PAV referred the matter to the National Council of DAB for a decision.

The National Council, the highest decision making body of DAB, after three-day discussion decided to cancel the present tender (as per clause #5, pp14 of the tender document).

The concerned government authority was duly informed of NC decision and appropriate action are being taken accordingly.

## Electoral roll

From page 1

An EC press release said allocation in the current fiscal year's budget is Tk 32 crore as against the estimated requirement of Tk 69 crore to complete the work.

It said a control room has been set up at the Election Commission Secretariat to monitor preparation of the voters' list. All concerned have been requested to contact the control room on telephone 912973 and 9129033 to know anything relating to preparation of the voters' list. The control room will remain open from 9 am to 5 pm during working days.

The enumerators started visiting house to house and gathering information of every individual voter in separate forms.

The voter list last prepared in 1995 on the basis of which 1996 general election was held. Later, between July to October 1998 an initiative was taken to update the voter list. And as per updated voter list total voters in the country stood at about six crore, said the press release.

## Dr Motiur Rahman to attend confce in South Korea

Dr Motiur Rahman Molla, Coordinator, MS (OMS) Course and Head, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Department of Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital left on May 12 for Australia and South Korea with three patients for surgical treatment in Australia under the joint project of Australia-Bangladesh Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Project, says a press release.

The project is mainly supported by Rotary Club of Brisbane High-rise, Australia and Rotary Club of Dhaka Mid City. Dr Molla is the founder chairman of the project.

Dr Molla will attend an international conference in South Korea on June 6 as a councillor of Bangladesh. Later, he will deliver a lecture at Asahi University, Gifu, Japan on June 10th as guest speaker.

## Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court

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## PCJSS

From page 12

would be provided with Tk 15,000 per family in cash in addition to other supports, he said.

He said rehabilitation of refugees who returned from India, was quite satisfactory under a 20-point package programmes.

"In most of the cases the rehabilitation was done about 100 per cent. Task Force chairman said.

Matters related to return of land to the refugees would be looked into by land commission, he added.

## Biosafety

From page 1

city, they said.

As research on biotechnology may lead to various kinds of biohazards, internationally it is not allowed without proper biosafety measures, they added.

Prof Dr Naliyung Choudhury, Member (Bioscience) of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Project Director of NIB, said a drafting team under the task force will prepare the first draft of the biosafety act. The final version will be readied after careful review.

Dr Syed Hadiuzzaman, a Botany professor of Dhaka University, who coordinated preparation of the biosafety guidelines and is a member of the drafting team said the draft act will be ready by June this year.

Biotechnology expert and Biochemistry teacher at Dhaka University Dr Zeba I Seraj said enactment of a biosafety act will be a great leap forward in genetic research in the country.

Dr Ferdousi Begum, Executive Director of Development of Biotechnology and Environmental Conservation Centre (DEBTEC), a private research institute, appreciated the belated move for formulating a biosafety act. "The government will create infrastructure facilities and provide legal cover but ultimately, the private sector should be the key players in biotechnology development."

Farhad Mazhar of UBINIG, an NGO, said, "Mere endorsement of biosafety guideline does not validate biotechnological maneuvering. Unless there is law, citizens will not get justice against biodegradation."

He sees Bangladesh's entry into genetic engineering as a "criminal offence on the part of the state".

Experts however noted that enactment of a biosafety act would set aside all concerns regarding GMOs, raised by environmentalists.

## Khulna APAC

From page 12

Besides, a 21-member steering committee for the city unit has also been formed in the meeting.

APAC's district committee has been formed with 101 members.

Four co-convenors have been made to run this committee. They are central joint secretary general of BNP Ashraf Hossain, district president of Jatiyo Party S M Babar Ali, district ameer of Jamaat Moulaana Tamizuddin and district president of IOJ Moulaana Golam Kibria.

A 16-member Steering Committee and a five-member Advisory Committee have been formed for the district unit of APAC.

Thiny said, "Bhutan does not have any surplus electricity at the moment but it has the potential to generate more power."

Abul Samad Azad expressing his satisfaction at the outcome of the talks and said renewed efforts will be made to boost trade and mutually beneficial cooperation within the framework of both regional and sub-regional cooperation.

## Regional

From page 12

lier by a Bhutanese survey team. This route, when opened, could facilitate export of Bhutanese cargo from its eastern region.

Thiny suggested that there was scope for more bilateral trade. Many more commodities manufactured or assembled in Bangladesh can find market in Bhutan. These include garments, shoes, pharmaceuticals, tableware, kitchenware, leather goods, electronics, car spares and batteries, he said.

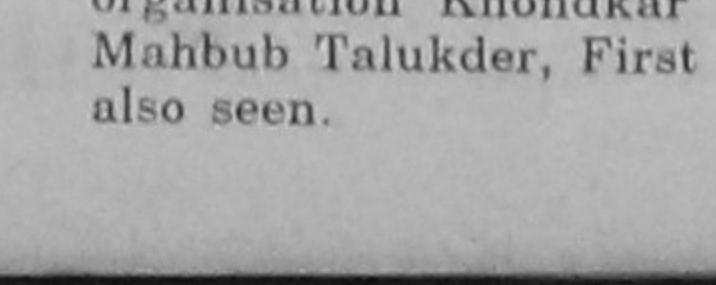
Thiny pointed out that Bhutan exported goods worth nearly six million dollars to Bangladesh and imported goods worth two million dollars.

Businessmen in Bangladesh realise that there is a growing capacity in Bhutan for purchasing Bangladeshi finished goods.

Pointing to an erroneous news item published in a section of the press in Bangladesh, Thiny said, Bhutan does not have any surplus electricity at the moment but it has the potential to generate more power."

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National Bank Limited donated Tk 3 lakhs to Central Kachi Kanchar Mela recently. Seen above is Rafiqul Islam Khan, Managing Director of the bank handing over the cheque to Amjad Hossain, Advisor of the organisation Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, Director and Mahbub Talukder, First Advisor of the organisation are also seen.



## Bangabazar drama

From page 1  
A section of traders at the market said that the gang had occupied it with support of about shopkeepers who had rented the shops from the owners.

Of the 427 shops at the market, about 140 are run by people who rented those from the owners, sources said.

The shop owners were seen busy yesterday afternoon, checking their goods while the association leaders were making a list of stolen items.

The illegal occupants had painted black the signboard of Mahanagar Hawkers Market and also signboards of many shops. They took away the television set from the association office.

When the goons occupied the market, police were standing nearby, witnesses alleged, adding that Ramna police also refused to register a case in this regard.

Police took action on Saturday when leaders of the market association along with those of three other associations of nearby markets marched towards Mahanagar Market to drive away the goons.

Police took over the market Saturday night but failed to arrest any one of the FIR-listed accused till yesterday.

Shops at Ideal Hawkers Market nearby, occupied by the same group about 25 months back, are also likely to be returned shortly, sources said.

The DCC in a press release last night said a group of hoodlums tried to capture the market saying that the land belonged to the so called Waqf Estate in the name of Shahzadi Begum.

## Kashmir minister

From page 1

Indian police personnel were injured today in a landmine explosion triggered by suspected Muslim separatist rebels in Kashmir, police officials said.

A special police patrol team from the local counter-insurgency wing was injured in the blast in the southern Kashmiri village of Nawgam, 100 kilometer south of Srinagar.

One of the injured is in a critical condition and has been flown to the hospital in Jammu, police said.

Police said a massive search had been launched in the area for the attackers.

India accuses Pakistan of training and arming militants since the insurgency began in 1989 while the Pakistan government says its support is limited to diplomatic and moral backing.

Since the insurgency began, more than a dozen lawmakers belonging to the National Conference party that governs the state have been killed by the guerrilla groups.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars — two of them over Kashmir — since they won independence from Britain in 1947.

The latest incidents came a year after the start of a summer-long flare-up last year when India discovered hundreds of armed intruders occupying the icy heights of the Argil sector of Kashmir. More than 1,000 combatants were killed in 11 weeks of fighting.

Western pressure helped ease tension between the two countries as Pakistan ordered the intruders to pull back.

The lines were Haripur-Sonargaon, Manikganj-Aricha and Madanganj-Mir Kadim. Manikganj-Aricha line and Haripur-Mir Kadim lines were restored last night, but the other one was still inoperative till filing of this report.

## Workshop

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Salma Khan said issues relating to women's development do not get importance in the planning, implementation and review of the development programmes of the other ministries. She emphasised the need for co-ordination among the various government and non-government agencies working for the advancement of women.

Motiur Rahman expressed deep concern over the increasing trend of women's and children's repression all over the country. "This is very shameful that the women and children are still in a vulnerable state," he said, adding, neither the government nor the political parties are coming forward to save them.

Motiur Rahman said our civil society was supposed to play the pivotal role in eradicating repression on women and their empowerment but they had lost their neutrality in the recent times.

He criticised both the ruling Awami League and opposition BNP for not taking steps to stop repression on women and their advancement in the society. "Further, political turmoil and violence are affecting them in most cases," he regretted.

Motiur Rahman said that both the present and former prime ministers were women themselves, but they could not do anything remarkable for their fellow women.

He said mass media, particularly print media, could play an important role in this regard through publishing reports discouraging repression on women and children. He also emphasised on creating mass awareness and concerted movement to stop repression on them.

Dina Haq said that the government had taken various steps to stop repression of women and their advancement but said that such steps could not be implemented due to various limitations like limitation of resources.

She said government has chalked out various problems of the women and hoped the problem would be solved soon if NGOs and other women organisations help