

**What's on today....**

**Exhibition:** A three-day long exhibition of pictures of Islamic and Iranian architecture will begin on occasion of International Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Day. Venue: Iranian Cultural Centre, Road No 8/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 10:00 am-10:00 pm and 3:00 pm-7:00 pm.

**Folk art exhibition:** A month-long exhibition on traditional and folk art and crafts will be inaugurated. Chief guest: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Iranian film show:** Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *The Sultors* by Ghassan Ibrahim and *The Children of Heaven* by Majid Majidi on the fourth day of the special film screening session. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Road No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm.

**CESTI seminar:** Centre for Scientific Technological Information (CESTI) of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will hold a seminar on "The French Cultural Perception: Between Universalism and Globalism". Venue: Alliance Francaise premises, 26, Mirpur Road. Time: 8:00 pm.

**Meeting:** Prokrich-BCS Central Coordination Council will hold an emergency meeting. Venue: Seminar room of Engineers' Institution, Ramna. Time: 7:30 pm.

**..... and tomorrow**

**Contemporary Iranian Film Festival:** Zahir Raihan Film Society presents *Hamon* and *The Tenants* at the 2nd part of the film festival titled Dariush Mehrjui Film Session. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:00 pm and 7:15 pm.

**Weather**

**Thundershower likely**

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Dhaka, Sylhet and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 33.0 degree Celsius at Madaripur and the lowest was 20.9 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 6.37 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.13 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	30.8	21.5
Chittagong	31.5	21.0
Rajshahi	30.7	23.5
Khulna	31.2	23.2
Barisal	31.5	22.8
Sylhet	30.7	23.7
Cox's Bazar	30.6	22.5

**HERE and THERE**

**Committee formed to set up college at Abutorab**

The people of Abutorab under Mirsarai upazila of Chittagong district living in Dhaka held a meeting in the DCC auditorium on May 17 with Hanurur-Rashid in the chair, says a press release.

The speakers at the meeting stressed the need for establishing a college in their locality. There are about six schools in and around Abutorab, the academic hub of the upazila, but there was not a single college there, they said.

A 16-member committee was formed with Group Captain (rtd) Zakaria as its convenor to take concrete steps towards establishing a college at Abutorab.

The meeting was largely attended by local leaders.

**SCF**

**By DU Correspondent**

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus protesting an attack on its activists at the Agricultural University on Friday night by the ruling party backed student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

Following the procession, the left leaning student organisation held a rally in front of Arts Building on the campus. SCF leaders at the rally alleged that BCL armed goons ransacked and set fire on the rooms of their activists leaving at least 15 students hurt.

They demanded exemplary punishment of those involved in the incident.

**Bangladesh Scientists Association**

Science and Technology Minister Lt Gen (Retd) Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan yesterday said that the posts of scientist of the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) would be increased to accelerate its research and innovative works, reports BSS.

"The scientists have to pay more attention to their inventions and research works for ensuring welfare of people," he said while speaking at the council and installation ceremony of the executive members of Bangladesh Biggan Samity (Bangladesh Scientists Association - BSA) held at the TSC auditorium of Dhaka University.

Chaired by President of the Samity Dr S M Imamul Haq, the function was also addressed, among others, by Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) Dr ATM Zahurul Haq, Chairman of BCSIR Prof Dr Moshhuzzaman, Science Secretary M Fazlur Rahman and Secretary General of the association Md Izar Uddin.

The Minister said the scientists have to play a vital role to build science conscious people in the country.

**DUPDAA executives**

**By DU Correspondent**

A new executive body of Dhaka University Political Science Department Alumni Association (DUPDAA) has been elected with M Khairul Alam and K M A Bari as its president and general secretary respectively.

The election to the 31-member body was held at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Other office-bearers are vice-presidents - Monjur Hasan, Moujiddin Chishti, and M I Talukder; joint secretaries - Farhat Munim and Abdus Samad; treasurer - H A M Alamgir; organising secretary - M Bazlur Rahman; assistant - O S Rezar Mannan; law secretary - Zahidul Bari; cultural secretary - A K M Nurul Alam Nantu; assistant cultural secretary - Delwar Hossain; sports secretary - A S M Rafiqul Hasan; information and research secretary - Zahid Hasan Chowdhury; office secretary - Hasmat Ullah; social welfare secretary - Mukit Khan; publicity secretary - M Tazul Islam; literary and publication secretary - Jamal Firoz; and women affairs secretary - Shamsunnahar Musfik Shikha.

And the members are Jamal Uddin Al Azad, Fajur Rahman, Rezaul Haq Mustak, Mahfuzur Rahman Siddique, Abdul Hashem, Syed Zahurul Islam, Nurul Islam, Abu M Sabur, Emdad Khan and Mesbah Uddin Ahmed Badal.

**CUDS debate competition begins in Ctg**

**From Our Correspondent**

CHITTAGONG, May 20: The 4-day long 'North South International 1st Inter-school Debate Competition' organised by Chittagong University Debating Society (CUDS) started here today.

The Principal of Chittagong Medical College Dr Shubhagata Chowdhury inaugurated the competition at local Shilpakala Academy at 9.30 am.

In the first session of the competition, 4 debates were held. In the 1st debate Bangladesh Elementary School defeated South Point School. Navid Anon of the winning school was declared the best debater.

In the 2nd debate on the topic 'Satellite is an abuse, not an amusement' Chittagong Grammar School (CGS) defeated Sider International School.

North South International School defeated Summerfield Tutorial in the 3rd debate on 'Child Labour should be banned' while on last debate on 'Private tuition deteriorates the dependency on school' William Karry Academy beat Bay View School.

The inaugural ceremony of the competition was presided over by the moderator of CUDS Dr Mahbulul Haq.

**36 DCC ward commissioners criticise Hanif**

**By Staff Correspondent**

Thirty-six ward commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation in a joint statement yesterday criticised Mayor Mohammad Hanif for tarnishing the image of the Nagar Bhaban.

They accused the mayor of harboring the terrorists, toll collectors, and political cadres. The Nagar Bhaban has been turned into a den of terrorists belonging to the ruling party, the commissioners alleged.

They said the mayor was trying to stage 'new dramas' to convince people. "But his ill motives will be exposed soon," they added.

The commissioners who signed the statement include Kazi Abul Bashar, Chowdhury Alam, Golam Morshed, Nabi Ullah Nabi, Sajad Zahir, Abdul Latif, Alhaj Liakat Ali, Maqbul Akhand, M A Masud, Shaikat Ali, Khawza Habibullah and Sheikh Shahabuddin.

**Death anniversary of Mohammad Nasiruddin today**

The sixth death anniversary of Mohammad Nasiruddin, editor of the monthly Saugat, will be observed today, reports BSS.

On the occasion, a *milad mahfil* will be held after Asr prayers at his residence at 38 Saratgupta Road, Narinda, Comilla.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the *milad mahfil*.

**Beating of newsmen 'DU students' bodies condemn incident**

Student organisations have strongly protested and condemned the incident of beating journalists on the Dhaka University campus, reports UNB.

Two Dhaka University correspondents, Tanveer Mahmud of the Bangladesh Observer and Mahubb Zaman Nahid of The Daily Star, were roughed up allegedly by Mazharul Islam Kajo, a pro-government BCL leader and his accomplices on the campus yesterday.

Habibunnabi Sohel, President and Nasiruddin, Ahmed Pintu, general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP, in a press statement condemned the attack on the two journalists.

JCD DU unit president Manir Hossain and general secretary Mostafizul Islam Mamun and leaders of left-leaning Chhatra Federation also condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punishment of those responsible for it.

**Tornado kills 2 in Chandpur**

CHANDPUR, May 20: An elderly woman and a minor girl were killed in a tornado that lashed west Subidpur union of Faridganj upazila here early today, reports UNB.

Aminunnesa, 60, and her 19-month-old granddaughter Ruy died while Zakir, Parveen and another unidentified 9-year-old boy sustained injuries during the tornado that lasted 15 to 20 minutes, local people said.

**Lecture on fanaticism today**

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury will deliver a lecture on 'Fanaticism: Its history and nature' at the Sofia Kamal auditorium, National Museum, today at 4.30 pm, says a press release.

Organised by the Muktijuddha Bangladesh Research Institute under National University, the lecture series is split into three sessions. The two other sessions will be held on May 22 and 23.

Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam will preside over today's session.

**Shantu Larma**

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The main principles of the accord are still ignored Larma said, pointing out that tribal refugees were yet to be rehabilitated, army was not withdrawn, planned Land Commission was not formed and the work on preparing voters' list for the CHT turned into a mockery.

"If you can live with your rights, why CHT people would not," Shantu Larma asked leaders of the political parties opposing the Peace Accord in the name of 'protecting sovereignty'.

Our right was not protected, in 1972 Constitution, he said, adding army was deployed at CHT in 1972 and is still there.

CHT people did not fight against any nation or they were not involved in separatist movement. Rather, they fought to protect their rights acknowledging the existence of Bangladesh said Larma, also the Chairman of CHT Regional Council.

"We are less in number, the arena of our culture is limited, but our way of life is that of human beings," he said. Not only the CHT people but also other ethnic minorities all over the country are deprived of their rights, Larma alleged.

He sought cooperation of all democratic, progressive people and organisations for establishing permanent peace at CHT.

Later, Shantu Larma formally inaugurated the founding anniversary and council programme.

**Ahad murder**

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At Shapla Crossing where Ahad was murdered was on the payroll of Kanguki Zakir, the main accused in the murder case, she alleged.

Shahabuddin Dilip, in charge of the check post was paid Tk 50 thousand a month, she said quoting Zakir's statement to the police. Dilip was also on duty when Ahad was murdered.

Dilip used to torture him mentally, she said quoting her deceased husband. "Dilip and others might have been involved in the murder," she suspected.

Two police officials who were performing duties with service revolvers near Shapla Crossing failed to come forward to help Ahad, she said.

Asked, who else other than Dilip were creating obstacle to the investigation, she said she could not mention their names for security of her only daughter.

**SAARC Secy Gen**

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vez Musharraf.

Lynpo Jigmi Thinley who visited Bangladesh last week hoped that the Summit would be held shortly and termed postponement of the summit as "a brief halt" in the organisation's journey.

The visit of Rodrigo is expected to help restore the process of technical and sectoral level meetings, paving the way for holding of the SAARC Summit at a later date through discussions among all member states.

The SAARC charter mandates that all the countries through consensus agree to hold the Summit.

Rodrigo will hold talks with Foreign Secretary Shafi Sami.

He will be the chief guest at a roundtable on "SAARC at a crossroads" organised by Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BISS) at its auditorium on May 23.

**Hadah murder**

**From page 1**

CHITTAGONG, May 20: Police are yet to rescue the abducted son of a customs official. Police said special team has been formed to continue the drive for rescuing the victim Ashik, five-year-old son of customs appraiser Mosaddek Billah.

Police today raided different places of the city to nab the abductors.

The abductors, over a telephone call to the parents of Ashik, demanded a ransom of Taka five lakh against his release, police said.

Ashik was abducted on Wednesday afternoon from 'Dubai Colony' under Panchlaish thana while he was playing with other children in front of his residence, police said.

**Swedish**

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denice. It has founded the Sweden-Bangladesh Polytechnic Institute in Kaptai.

Swedish aid in recent years was mostly for major programmes in primary education, health and rural development.

An extensive programme for improving infrastructure and creating employment for the poor in greater Faridpur has been going on till the mid 1970s.

In total Swedish aid to Bangladesh stood at 35 million US dollar in 1999 and it is expected to increase further this year. The government of Sweden has recently decided to expand the annual bilateral trade from Bangladesh. In addition a large number of NGOs are supported by Sweden and concessionary credits are extended to encourage business.

Trade between the two countries has shown a steady increase over the years. Total value of exports from Bangladesh to Sweden rose to record-high of 65 million US dollar in 1999 while imports stood at 22 million US dollar.

**CCC**

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istry.

The tenure of 16 chamber-directors, out of 24, expired but the term of the remaining eight is still valid, he added.

On the other hand, the date for final hearing of the petition filed by deposed CCCI president Kamaluddin Ahmed was fixed on May 22.

**Hasina**

**From page 1**

istry and formulation of rules for the Regional Council are also likely to be discussed in the meeting.

CHT Affairs Minister Kalpanaraj Chakma, Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, CHT Task Force Chairman Dipankar Talukdar and CHT Development Board Chairman Bir Bahadur, chairman of three hill district councils and all members of the CHT peace accord implementation committees will attend the meeting.

Refugee leader Upendra Lal Chakma will apprise the government of various problems they are facing.



The Management of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel welcomed the Commanding General of the 13th US Air Force of the US Pacific Air Forces Major General Daniel M Dick when he arrived at the hotel recently. K Shafiqul Alam, Acting General Manager, greeted the distinguished guest to the hotel.



Bangladesh Teachers' Association brought out a procession in the city yesterday to press home their various demands. —Star photo

**11-party doubts free, fair polls**

Eleven left leaning parties announcing electoral alliance yesterday expressed apprehension that free and fair polling will be impossible if the current conflicting political situation continues, reports UNB.

"People are already expressing doubt that the ruling and opposition parties will not accept the election results as they have started accusing each other of hatching conspiracy to rig the polls," a written statement of the 11-party alliance said.

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik read out the statement at a press conference here in the morning that was addressed by Dr Kamal Hossain, Rashed Khan Menon, Khalequzzaman, Nirmal Sen and Manjural Ahsan Khan.

The alliance put forward a 9-point demand for electoral reform and announced programme of holding rally in divisional headquarters in support of its demand. The rally will be held in Dhaka on May 25, Rajshahi June 6, Chittagong June 8 and Khulna June 15.

The demands included barring the loan defaulters, convicts in criminal case and retired military and civil bureaucrats from contesting election for a certain period.

The alliance alleged that the government is collecting election fund compromising national interest, carrying out propaganda through state-owned radio and television and harassing the Opposition under the Public Safety Act.

On the other hand, the coalition alleged that BNP is patronising anti-liberation forces by entering into electoral alliance with fundamentalist. "Both the ruling party and the major opposition party are making the situation volatile."

The alliance viewed that Awami League and BNP are seeking to appoint their "yes-men" as the Chief Election Commissioner and the current controversy over the issue amply proved it. It demanded a CEC acceptable to all the parties on the basis of consensus.

**Indians release 4 abducted Bangladeshis**

KURIGRAM, May 20: Four Bangladeshis, who were abducted by Indian citizens from Mashaldanga enclave on Thursday, were released today, reports BSS.

BDR officials said the Indian citizens freed the abducted Bangladeshis this morning but they could not be able to report to the mainland as the enclave now virtually remained cut off from Bangladesh.

When contacted, BDR Rangpur Sector Commander Colonel Shakil told the news agency that BDR was yet to get any positive response from the BSF regarding BDR's proposal for holding a flag meeting of the two forces.

**Guerillas kill 6 in Tripura**

AGARTALA, May 20: Six people, including two women, were killed and 13 wounded in separatist violence in India's troubled northeastern state of Tripura since Friday evening, police said, reports Reuters.

**Abducted son of Ctg customs official yet to be rescued**

**From Staff Correspondent**

CHITTAGONG, May 20: Police are yet to rescue the abducted son of a customs official. Police said special team has been formed to continue the drive for rescuing the victim Ashik, five-year-old son of customs appraiser Mosaddek Billah.

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**Five Star group**

**From page 1**

prevented contractors from dropping tenders.

UNB adds, Raza hails from Agailjhara in Gouranadi of Barisal.

Raza, the former general secretary of Zahurul Haq Hall students union of Dhaka University, was suspended from BCL after the killing of another BCL leader Zakir on Jagannath Hall premises in 1992.

Later, Raza engaged himself with the business and formed the group styled as 'Five Star Group' in Nagar Bhaban.

The other members of the group are: Iqbal Hossain Apu, Anwar Hossain, Shahabuddin Farazi and Mostaq Ahmed Suntu alias Kala Suntu, all the former and incumbent members of ruling party student wing BCL.

**Blair blessed**

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concern about the heightened press interest in the birth and the likely effect it is going to have on other members of the family.

A Downing Street spokesman said no further information would be immediately available. It is expected that the Blair's will make a public appearance over the weekend and that an official photograph of the new baby will be issued.

Ahead of the first appearance of the youngest sibling of Euan, 16, Nicholas, 14, and Kathryn, 12, the crowd at the gates of Downing Street were asking themselves all the usual questions that have been bandied about since the surprise pregnancy was officially announced on November 18.

What will be the baby's name, will Tony change nappies and will he take paternity leave?

And as for the mother, she is already being held up by some as the role model of the modern woman -- she was still appearing in court, as Cherie Booth QC, as recently as Tuesday in her role as a top lawyer.

Much press speculation has centred on Cherie Blair's outspoken views on parental responsibility for newborn babies and whether she will be able to persuade the British prime minister to take paternity leave.

**Petrobangla**

**From page 1**

rector of Mines and Minerals -- who was also serving on contract. The latter was the main choice of the PMO due to his 'family connections'.

The PMO nominated the Director of Mines and Minerals as Chairman. However, due to negative press reports regarding his professional integrity, restrictions in the government service rules that one could not be promoted during his contract service and some other factors, the decision was withheld.

Meanwhile, a secretary-level lobby reportedly campaigned for reappointment of the former chairman on the plea that he could expedite two contracts with two foreign oil companies. The contracts -- one with a US company and the other with a Canadian company -- are being delayed due to their built-in flaws and because these hamper national interest, the sources added.

**Britain's king of tabloids Larry Lambs dead**

LONDON, May 20: Sir Larry Lamb, the editor who brought to the top Page Three girls to Britain's tabloid press, has died. He was 71, reports AP.

Lamb, who had been in failing health since suffering a heart attack eight years ago, died Thursday. The Sun newspaper said.

Lamb was editor of The Sun for three years dating from 1969, soon after it was purchased by Australian media mogul Rupert Murdoch, and again from 1975 to 1981.

He oversaw The Sun's transition from a flagging broadsheet to a racy tabloid, renowned for its punning headlines, jingoism and topless models.

It became Britain's most popular newspaper, selling more than 4 million copies a day at its peak and gleefully influencing public opinion. Its pro-Conservative stance is credited with helping elect Margaret Thatcher in 1979.

On Friday, Thatcher called Lamb "a great editor and a huge influence on the world of British newspapers."

**BCL supporters**

**From page 12**

within three why he should not be given exemplary punishment for his unruly behaviour.

The probe body has also been asked to submit its report with recommendations so that action could be taken against the school, he came to know that his son was beaten to death by a group of fellow students, the FIR said.

Abu Zafar then went to the school. Talking with some of the students including one Saikat and the principal of the school, he came to know that his son was beaten to death by a group of fellow students, the FIR noted.

Nayon charged Bayazid for stealing mangoes and bananas from his room. Nayon and his friends started beating Bayazid when he denied the charges. Bayazid collapsed and fell on the floor. Nayon then sat on his chest and beat him further, causing his death at about 4:00 am Thursday, the FIR stated.

Concealing the fact, the school authorities filed an unnatural death case, the FIR alleged.

Police recovered the body and sent it to DMCH morgue for autopsy. In the inquest report police said that there were marks of injury all over the victim's body.

**President**

**From page 1**

dent. "If she wants to propose a name for presidential approval, her office would create a file in this regard to be put up to the President."

Another ruling party leader said that the PM had many things to communicate to the President, including 'how the government attempt to nominate a CEC on the basis of consensus action against the Opposition'. "Besides, she might have something to tell the President following Khaleda Zia's stand that the Opposition would respond to a Presidential initiative for negotiated settlement of the CEC issue."

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chief Khaleda Zia met the President on May 16 to inform him that the Opposition was ready to respond to any initiative by him for a consensus on the issue. She blamed the ruling party for disrupting the process of dialogue.

Earlier, a government attempt for talks between the second tier of leaderships of the ruling party and the Opposition was foiled on May 15. The government side abandoned the idea of a dialogue claiming that Khaleda Zia had 'destroyed' the atmosphere for talks.

Khaleda said at a public meeting on May 14 that the Opposition would discuss the issue of appointment of a new CEC after this government handed over power to a caretaker administration.

The post of CEC fell vacant when Mohammad Abu Hena resigned on May 8.

**More rains, flood**

**From page 1**

The advance elements of the monsoon have already arrived in the North Andaman Sea and its adjoining region, moving towards the Bay of Bengal.

"It is likely to be early by a day or two, bringing showers from the first week of June. It would arrive in the Teknaf coast by June 2", he said.

There is nothing wrong in an early arrival of monsoon by a day or two, he said, but the rains are high then there is a possibility of flooding more than the normal average in monsoon.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said rivers in all the basins marked rise, some of them significantly, and the Khowla was flowing 27cm above the danger mark at Habiganj after a remarkable rise by 292cm yesterday morning.

This is a clear indication of possible flash flood that the country faced at the beginning of May in Sylhet region.

Met Office in its monthly forecast said one more flash flood is likely in the greater Sylhet, Mymensingh, Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts regions.

The centre in its daily report also indicated moderate to heavy rainfall in almost all places over Brahmaputra and Meghna basins. Moderately heavy to very heavy at all places of South Eastern Hill Basin. The rivers in the Hill tracts regions rose significantly.

**CEC: Khaleda warns**

**From page 1**

"We want to say that a new CEC must be appointed by consensus through discussion so that he is accepted by all. Otherwise, people will not accept it," she told the gathering marking joining of an industrialist and a group of lawyers from Mymensingh district to BNP.

A K M Kamrul Hossain Titu, a noted industrialist of Nandail thana in Mymensingh and more than 100 lawyers led by Advocate Abdul Aziz joined BNP expressing allegiance to the leadership of Khaleda.

The BNP Chairperson said not only appointment of the CEC but the Election Commission should be reorganised and steps be taken so that the fresh voter list is genuine and fair.

About fresh voter list now under preparation since May 15, she asked her partymen to motivate people to enroll them as voters. At the same time they should be vigilant against manipulation of the voter list and enlisting of fake voters.

The former Prime Minister said Awami League is manoeuvring to make unknown people as voters and thus want to undermine the voting rights of the people.

She also asked her partymen and members of the public to expose if any stranger is found enrolled as voter.

Khaleda said all sections of people -- political parties, professionals and even a section of the ruling party -- have lost confidence in the government because of its misdeeds.

She reiterated her stand that unity of the 4-party alliance will remain intact. The ruling party would be given such a lesson through the rocklike solid unity that they will not get a chance of seeking apology from the people.