

What's on today....

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

Classical music: Shilpakala Academy has arranged a programme of classical music. Venue: Novara Hall, National Museum. Time: 6:30 pm.

Scientific seminar: A scientific seminar on Osartil (losartan) will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 11 am.

Seminar: A seminar on Racial Discrimination will be held under the auspices of the Dav Centre for Philosophical Studies. The keynote paper will be presented by Prof Madhabendra Nath Mitra of Jadavpur University, India. Venue: Arts Building of Dhaka University. Time: 11:30 am.

Launch of ESCAP Survey: The formal launch of the Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific 2000 will be held. Venue: CIDRAP Auditorium, Chameli House, 17 Tophkhana Road. Time: 11 am.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

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

Met office predicted moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Chittagong, Sylhet and Barisal during the period. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 33.0 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and Jessore and the lowest was 21.2 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:38 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	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.6	22.9	93	76
Chittagong	29.0	23.0	97	80
Rajshahi	33.0	25.8	77	96
Khulna	30.6	25.0	85	73
Barisal	30.6	25.5	86	79
Sylhet	29.3	23.9	73	73
Cox's Bazar	25.5	24.0	92	96

HERE and THERE

Nat'l University Officers' Assoc

The annual general meeting of National University Officers' Association was held on the university campus on Saturday, reports UNB.

Chaired by association president Shamsheruzzaman, the meeting decided to submit a memorandum to the university authorities to realise their various demands.

Apex Club of Dhaka

State Minister for Jute A K Fazlul Huq urged service-oriented organisations to co-operate with the government in carrying out its poverty alleviation programme, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony of Apex Club of Dhaka at a city hotel on Saturday.

The function was addressed by Dr. Mushirul Rahman, Farukul Islam Shova and ASM Roquibul Hassan.

The State Minister reminded the Apex Club members of their responsibilities as conscious and educated social leaders and requested them to serve the less fortunate with renewed vigour.

The State Minister also announced that ten meritorious and poor students will be given scholarship through the Apex Club.

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The affected shopowners of Adarsha market staged a demonstration in front of the Nagar Bhaban in the city yesterday demanding steps for restoring peaceful atmosphere in their market. —Star photo

BCL leader shot in city

By DU Correspondent

A central leader of the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was shot by his rivals in front of Dhaka College on Saturday night.

Mohammad Alam, BCL central committee member, was rushed to the Dhaka medical College Hospital.

Tutul, Biplob, Jani, Mizan and Swapan of Dhaka College demanded money from Alam when he went to the filling station in front of the Dhaka College at about 11 pm, sources said. Alam, known as 'Digambar' Alam, went to the station to buy fuel for Dhaka University buses.

The youths, allegedly the associates of late BCL leader Sunjan, also hit on his head with iron rods when Alam refused to comply with their demand.

The youths, attacked him as he prevented them from having meals at a nearby hotel without payment, another source said.

When contacted, BCL general secretary Ajay Kar Khokon told The Daily Star that the attackers were earlier expelled from the organisation for their anti-organisational activities and now they have no link with the BCL. Khokon demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

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Israel suspends peace talks with Palestinians

JERUSALEM, May 21: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak suspended peace negotiations with the Palestinians on Sunday after demanding that Yasser Arafat act to quell a bloody uprising in the occupied territories, reports AFP.

Barak told his negotiating team to cut short the current round of talks in Stockholm and return home Monday "because of the situation in the Palestinian territories" and for consultations, his office said in a statement.

Public Security Minister Shlomo Ben Ami and close Barak aide Gilad Sher have been holding back-door talks with Palestinian officials in the Swedish capital in a bid to forge a framework for a final peace deal after decades of conflict.

The Palestinian team in Stockholm includes legislative council speaker Ahmed Qorei and cabinet member Hassan Asfur -- key players in the secret negotiations in Oslo which led to the first Israeli-Palestinian peace accord in 1993.

There was no immediate reaction to the withdrawal from the Palestinians.

However, there were indications that the Palestinians had moved to damp down violence Sunday.

Despite sporadic incidents of stone-throwing and protests where tyres and Israeli flags were set ablaze, the territories were generally calm and witnesses said Palestinian police were in several flashpoint areas to crack down on any violence.

The Palestinian Authority also forbade the Palestinian Prisoners' Club to publish appeals in the press calling for further demonstrations in support of detainees in Israeli jails, whose cause sparked the first riots more than a week ago which have left six Palestinians dead and hundreds wounded.

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CPA regional confce begins in Calcutta

The first five-day regional conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) branches in Asia and South East Asia Regions began at a local hotel in Calcutta yesterday, reports UNB.

West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu inaugurated the conference while the Speaker of Indian Lok Sabha G M C Bhatnagar chaired the function.

Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, host country India and CPA Secretariat were participating in the conference.

A six-member Bangladesh parliamentary delegation including Dewan Farid Gazi, Whip Mizanur Rahman Manu, Abul Kalam Azad, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Abdul Wahab and leader of the delegation Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid are participating in the conference.

Bangladesh delegation arrived in Calcutta on Saturday evening.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs of the West Bengal government Probdish Chandra Sinha, Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Calcutta M Humayun Kabir received the Bangladesh delegation at the NSC Bose International Airport.

The conference will be concluded on May 25 and about 100 delegates, representatives and observers from the representing countries are taking part in the conference.

40,800 pilgrims performed Hajj this year

A total of 40,800 pilgrims performed Hajj this year under both government and non-government arrangements, reports BSS.

This was stated at an evaluation meeting on Hajj management-2000 held here with State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam in the chair.

Out of the total Hajjis, 7684 performed Hajj under government arrangements.

The meeting expressed the opinion that improved and better services could be provided to the pilgrims if they could be sent to Saudi Arabia under government management only.

The meeting was attended by Religious Secretary M Mahfuzul Sobhan, Moulana Sheikh Mohammad Bin Sayeed Jalalabadi, Shah Abdur Razzak and Mir Anisul Haq.

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