

What's on today....

Reception ceremony: Obstetrical and gynaecological Society of Bangladesh will accord a reception to the senior gynaecologists in recognition of their contribution to the health service. An installation ceremony of the newly-elected executives of the society will also be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10 am.

Drawing competition: Udichi Shilpi Goshti has organised a drawing competition for the children and juveniles to mark the 101st birth anniversary of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Venue: Fine Arts Institute. Time: 8 am.

Memorial meeting: A discussion meeting in memory of AL leader Mohiuddin Ahmed will be held to mark his third death anniversary. Prof Anisuzzaman will preside over the meeting. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 5 pm.

Drawing competition: The cultural centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the assistance of Bangladesh Shishu Academy has organised a drawing competition and a prize giving ceremony on the occasion of the International Children Day. Venue: Shishu Academy Art Gallery. Time: 9:30 am.

Weather

Thundershower likely

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at most places over the country's six divisions with heavy to very heavy falls at places over Chittagong, Dhaka and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

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

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Khulna and Chuadanga and the lowest of 22.5 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:39 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12 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	31.7	24.6	96	85
Chittagong	30.8	24.0	92	89
Rajshahi	33.3	26.5	84	77
Khulna	35.0	26.8	81	81
Barisal	33.5	26.5	83	83
Sylhet	32.3	24.5	97	100
Cox's Bazar	31.0	22.5	91	95

PM's directive to set up 24 UP complexes on priority basis

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities to construct 24 Union Parishad complexes on priority basis to help the women UP chairmen perform their responsibility, reports BSS.

"Today you are 24 women UP Chairmen in the country because of the government's steps for empowerment of women and I hope, in the next UP election your number will be 24000," Hasina told the women chairmen who called on her at her office.

The Prime Minister gave the directive when the women UP chairmen submitted a number of demands for various structural facilities for the smooth functioning of UPS.

The women chairmen also raised other problems including fund shortage and lack of security measures.

Hasina assured them of launching a special fund for them, and urged them to explore the potentials to increase their own resources. "If you can mobilise your own resources it would be helpful for you to take up many development schemes in your respective areas," she told them.

The prime minister expressed the hope that the women chairmen would be able to set an example in the country as honest and capable administrators of local bodies in comparison to their male counterparts.

Khaleda hints at non-cooperation with CEC

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said that it was not possible for the opposition to be a part of any activity of the new Chief Election Commission because he was appointed unilaterally by the ruling Awami League.

Briefing newsmen, BNP leader Anwar Zahid said that the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament told this while she was discussing about the situation following the appointment of the CEC with the chiefs and top leaders of Democratic League, Jagg, PNP and NDA.

The meeting was held at 29 Minto Road, the official residence of Khaleda Zia, in the evening.

Zahid said Khaleda Zia sought suggestion from the political parties about opposition's future course of action and advised them to find out such programmes in which people's participation will be further increased.

She said that her party had decided to discuss with the opposition parties separately and take up future programmes in a well-planned way by coordinating the opinions of the parties.

The opposition leader said BNP will seriously pursue the movement and emphasised the strengthening of the current one-point movement.

Emerging from the meeting, PNP President Shaikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu said that Democratic League chief Oli Ahad yesterday gave a concrete proposal to form a Central Action Committee (CAC) to further gear up the movement.

The proposal suggested that Khaleda Zia will be the Chair-

The first death anniversary of Advocate Anwaruzaman Chowdhury, former member of Bangladesh Bar Council and former president of Chittagong District Bar Association, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, *Qurankhwani* and a *milad-mahfil* will be held after *Juma* prayers at his village home at Paragalpur under Mirsarai Thana in Chittagong.

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



In remembrance Family members of the rebel Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam offering *monajat* at the poet's mazar on the Dhaka University Campus yesterday to mark his 101st birth anniversary. — Star photo

OIC Secy General No country has requested us to withdraw our candidature: FM

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said Bangladesh is in the race for the post of OIC secretary general with a good position and no country requested Dhaka to withdraw its candidature, reports UNB.

"It's the turn for Bangladesh," he said replying to queries about the prospect of winning the prestigious office of the 55-member Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), Samad said while addressing a press conference yesterday.

Azad said Indonesia is not putting up any candidate while Egypt also will not be contesting for the post. Morocco, whose Azzadine Laraki has been holding the post of secretary general, did not show its interest at the initial stage to continue.

Bangladesh declared its intention first nominating Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury for the post.

The Foreign Minister said it is difficult to say who is going to hold the post since the secretary general is usually elected on consensus among the member states.

Azad said that Saudi Arabia, a potential factor in OIC, had clearly supported Bangladesh's candidature.

He said that the women chairmen would be able to set an example in the country as honest and capable administrators of local bodies in comparison to their male counterparts.

JCD leader Sumon dead

By Staff Correspondent Hasan Sarwar Sumon, general secretary of city's south union of Jatiyatabad Chhatra Dal (JCD) died of heart attack in the early hours yesterday. He was 28.

After his first *nama-jana* at the Azimpur Chhapra Mosque, the body of Sumon was brought to the BNP central office where hundreds of party leaders and activists paid their last respects to him.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia and BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan paid their last respects to the late JCD leader. He was buried at the Azimpur graveyard after his second *janaza* at BNP central office.

The *janaza* was attended, among others, by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, ZA Khan, Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Mirza Abbas, Amanullah Aman MP, Barkatullah Bhulu MP, Abdus Salam, Khairul Kabir Khokon, Emran Saleh Prince, Shirin Sultana, JCD leaders Monwar Hossain Rana, Bazul Bashit Anju, ABM Mosharrar Hossain and Monir Hossain.

JCD leaders said that Sumon was a sincere and dedicated activist but the Awami League government had implicated him in at least 30 "false" cases and had arrested him four times during the last three and half years.

BSEHR

From page 12 the Election Commission and the EC would make the final electoral roll on the basis of the lists coming from the ward level committees. The chairman of the UPS/Municipalities/City Corporations or the TNOs or the DCs would not have any right to open the sealed voters list prepared by the ward committees.

"The state should provide remuneration to the ward committees for the job," Huda suggested. "There should also be provisions for fining those caught cheating while preparing the list."

Huda replied in the negative when asked whether the BSEHR has submitted the suggestions to the EC. "We shall submit the proposals soon."

He evaded a direct reply when asked whether the BSEHR was too late to propose its 'alternative method', especially when the EC has already started preparing the fresh electoral roll.

Asked whether he has any immediate plan to move a bill in parliament to get the proposals legislated, Huda said: "It depends on the political situation. If our party (BNP) decides to go to parliament, I might think of it."

He, however, asserted that the EC has the authority to incorporate the proposals into electoral rules, barring the provision for imposing fine on those cheating while preparing the electoral roll.

Dr Jahan Ara Rabbee, wife of Shaheed Dr M Fazle Rabbee, died of cardiac arrest at BIRDEM Hospital at 5 am today. She was 64, reports UNB.

An honours graduate in Internal Medicine and Gynecology from Dhaka Medical College, Jahan Ara retired as an Additional Director General of Directorate of Health Services in 1992.

She is survived by a son and two daughters.

She will be buried at Azimpur graveyard alongside her husband's grave after her *nama-jana* at Lalmatia Block C mosque after Asr prayers today.

Her *qarkhwani* will be held at her residence House-1/4, Block C, Lalmatia, Dhaka, after Asr prayers on Saturday.

Opposition plans

From Page 1 The sources said the alliance's Central Liaison Committee is holding discussions to announce the siege programme at the EC Secretariat between May 31 to June 2 and a hartal on June 11 to protest the appointment and the national budget, anticipating that it is not going to be pro-people.

But top alliance leaders said the alliance partners are deeply divided over the fresh action programmes considering the rainy season and Asia Cup cricket tournament in Dhaka.

Some leaders of BNP and the other alliance partners prefer to go ahead with tougher action programmes to force the new CEC to quit office. They are pressing the BNP leadership to immediately announce programmes.

However, most BNP leaders argue that a massive street protest centring only on the appointment of the CEC may weaken the current out-governments agitation.

Sources said opposition leader Khaleda Zia met the chiefs of the seven-party alliance yesterday to have their opinion before finalising the future movement strategy.

She will soon meet with JP, Jamaat, IOJ and other parties active in the street separately, the sources said.

The alliance components blamed BNP for delay in taking up action programmes whenever needed and said there is a gulf of difference in thinking among the powerful BNP lead-

ers. Representatives of the Central Liaison Committee also blamed the secretaries general of their parties because they do not attend meetings regularly, thus unnecessary delay in decisions.

"Absence of the secretaries general from meetings is the biggest problem facing the liaison committee. We cannot decide promptly and most of the time have to wait for days to get their clearance," said a CLC member, who wanted not to be named.

Another representative said the secretaries general have already made the CLC an ineffective body because most of their proposals about action programmes were eventually dropped.

Why should we (CLC) sit day after day if our proposals are not accepted... Should we be the only party to continue such exercise? he asked.

A top BNP leader told the Daily Star yesterday that the possibility of action programme prior to the end of the cricket tournament is unlikely. He said the opposition has already staged demonstration in the city and other parts of the country soon after the CEC's appointment. The opposition will stage countrywide demonstration against Syed's appointment on Saturday, he said.

"We will launch a militant movement once the rainy season is over," he added.

AES-PDB discord

From Page 1 The project site was originally scheduled to be handed over to AES in mid-July last year. But due to failure of the land site developer to complete the project in time, PDB convinced AES to take over the site on November 15 without any LD. But PDB could not hand-over the site till January 3. The delay after that was due to the dispute between AES and PDB and therefore AES has agreed to give up all claims after that date.

"Now it is expected that AES would implement the project fast in its own interest," observed one source.

"We believe, it will finish the remedial work before the LLA is registered. We also believe that AES would be able to ensure the project's Financial Closing very soon."

AES would be completing the project and go for commercial operation 37 months after the registration.

AES will have to pay 45000 dollars LD per day if it fails to meet its deadline for commercial operation.

The government is pursuing the 450 MW Meghnath project since early 1996. AES offered a 20-year levelised power tariff of 2.79 cents (about Tk. 1.4) per kilowatt hour and was selected as the best bidder.

However, for one reason or the another, AES was having serious disagreements with PDB and the agreements were practically signed in July last year.

AES was supposed to ensure the project's Financial Closing within seven and a half months of signing of the final agreement but it could not do it till now.

Last month, the conflict between AES and PDB intensified when the project's consultant Mott McDonald issued a hand-over certificate to CWHEC on behalf of PDB without its approval.

After this, PDB issued a notice to AES to take over the site and warned of termination of the contract for failure, but AES refused.

OC, sipoy of GRP closed in Sylhet

SYLHET, May 25: An Officer-in-Charge and a sipoy of GRP have been closed for their alleged involvement with a group of people in black-marketing tickets at Sylhet Rail station, reports UNB.

Anyone finding the phone set has been requested to return it to the Daily Star office at 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka.

Remove all odds imbining Nazrul's teachings: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday when anti-liberation and fundamentalist forces trying to divide the nation, the non-communal spirit of rebel poet Nazrul Islam shows the right way to tread, reports UNB.

"The non-communal spirit of poet Nazrul has enlightened the nation with new vigour when the nation is celebrating 100th birth anniversary of the nation's poet," she said, addressing the concluding function of birth centenary celebrations of the National Poet.

Addressing the national function at Osmani Memorial Hall in the afternoon, the prime minister said: "We will have to dedicate ourselves to the service and welfare of the people being imbued with the ideals of Nazrul."

She said Kazi Nazrul Islam is the national poet of Bangladesh, poet of the Bengalis and poet of the people. She urged the people to imbibe Nazrul's teachings and raise their heads high removing all odds and obstacles.

Yesterday's function was the concluding session of two-year long celebration of the birth centenary of National Poet. Cultural Ministry took up countrywide programme for the two-year celebrations.

"We are formally closing the two-year centenary programme of poet Nazrul. But it's not that we are dropping the curtain on works of Nazrul. Rather the hundredth-year celebrations will provide a new stimulus for the nation to conduct research and continue work on our national poet," said the PM.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, Prof M Anisuzzaman, Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman, granddaughter of the poet Khilkhil Kazi and poet Nurul Huda also addressed the function.

Subsidy

From page 12 crop production of 22.5 million MT in the current fiscal year, the agriculture minister said: "We'll continue to procure crops from the farmers to give them the necessary price support. This would give them impetus to grow more food."

She listed the successive bumpers in crop production as the success of the government and portrayed the growth trend as a proof to the government's right policy in food management.

The book launching programme was also addressed by two out of three editors of the book, Dr Raisuddin Ahmed and Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Chief of Party of IFPRI Dr Paul Dorosh and USAID Director Gordon West. IFPRI official Gogam Robbani conducted the programme.

Dr Raisuddin Ahmed lauded Bangladesh's advancement in various sectors over the years and noted that many pessimistic views expressed by international personalities about Bangladesh are now proven wrong.

Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi gave a view about the conflicting interests of different stakeholders in food trade. He spoke of food pricing dilemma and laid importance on changing the food security paradigm which should focus on poverty reduction and human capital development.

The book — Out of the Shadow of Famine — describes the evolution of food policy in Bangladesh and sets out guidelines for the future course of the country's food policy.

Kader Siddique

From page 12 apprehending violence between supporters of KSJL and Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

KSJL decided to hold the rally at Paura Uddyan, protesting arrest of Siddique's brother Murad. BCL also called a meeting at the same venue, demanding punishment of Murad.

Family sources said Siddique fell unconscious when police entered their residence, used batons and fired gunshots.

"The residence is cordoned off by police. We are 19 to 12 people inside. Police arrested those who tried to go outside," one of the inmates, Miraj, said at 9 pm over telephone.

Who's knocking

From Page 1 rested two persons from Kafrol on the basis of charges brought against them by dwellers of a house in the locality.

Regarding city dwellers' non-cooperation with the enumerators, some police officials said that people would come forward to help them only if they proved their identities.

Earlier, Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Matur Rahman had warned city dwellers not open the door unless they could identify the people pressing the calling bells at their doors.

The statement was issued with the aim of bridging the collapsing law and order situation of the city and wide scale robbery across the city in broad daylight, the police commissioner had said.

Some enumerators told this correspondent that the city dwellers were so scared, that they were not willing to open their doors even after getting the assurance that the visitors were from the election commission secretariat to register them as voters.

Enumerators visiting Elephant Road, Dhanmandi, Mohammadpur and Uttara, areas said that they visited the same house more than once to get the forms filled for voters' registration.

Mobile phone set lost

A mobile phone set belonging to the Chief Reporter of the Daily Star, Shehab Ahmed, was lost yesterday afternoon when he was at the Ministry of Environment and Forest in the Secretariat.

Anyone finding the phone set has been requested to return it to the Daily Star office at 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka.

PCJSS threatens

From Page 1 rity forces including army, paramilitary BDR and law enforcing agencies including police, Ansar and VDP are also being listed as voters of the area," Goutam alleged.

"We have submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission urging them to postpone the process of preparing the voters list. We clearly told the commission that we will not accept the fresh voters list if anyone other than the permanent residents of the area is included in the list. The process has to be consistent with the CHT agreement."

The CHT agreement sets four conditions for a person to be a voter as far as local government elections are concerned.

Defining a voter of the Hill District Local Council/Hill District Council, the clause 9 of the CHT treaty says, "A person will be considered eligible to be enrolled in the voters list if he/she (1) is a citizen of Bangladesh; (2) is not less than eighteen years of age; (3) does not stand declared by a competent court to be of unsound mind; and (4) is a permanent resident of hill district."

The CHT treaty recognises existence of non-tribal permanent residents in the hill region, while clause 3 of the agreement defines them specifically: "Non-tribal permanent residents will mean those who are not tribal, but own legally acquired lands and generally live in the hill districts at specific addresses."

However, EC member Mosh-taque Ahmed Chowdhury does not find any substance in Larma's contention. He said there is no constitutional scope to exclude anyone living in the CHT from the voters' list so far as parliamentary election is concerned.

"We told Mr. Larma that the way we are preparing the voters' list is absolutely consistent with the Constitutional provisions, and there is no scope for suspending the process of preparing the electoral roll in the CHT," Chowdhury told the Daily Star Wednesday.

"So one does not need to be the owner of a piece of land for being a voter in the parliamentary polls in any of the CHT constituencies," said a senior Supreme Court lawyer.

"But the case of local government in the CHT is different. Under the laws amended in the light of the CHT agreement, a non-tribal person cannot be a voter in the local government elections in the CHT if s/he does not own lands and does not live in the areas."

Asked whether the laws relating to the CHT are in line with the Constitution, the lawyer said it is to be decided in the court of law.

Flash flood in Ctg

From Page 1 The FFWC recorded 141 mm rainfall at Lama, 101.5 mm at Chandpur, 86 mm at Kanaighat in Sylhet, 55 mm at Sheola in Moulvibazar, 42.6 mm at Parshuram in Feni and 20 mm at Sylhet during the past 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. yesterday.

In Dhaka city and adjoining areas, 49 mm rainfall was recorded till 6 p.m. flooding low lying areas and many city streets.

The FFWC recorded moderate to very heavy rainfall at many places in the Meghna basin and the south eastern hill basin, very light to moderate fall at many places in the Ganges basin and moderately heavy fall at one or two places in the Brahmaputra basin in the last 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. yesterday.

SPARSO said the main bow of the cloud has moved towards Chittagong-Arakan coast causing downpour in Chittagong and CHT regions.

In the rest areas of the country, rainfall will be light to moderate, SPARSO said.

The Met office said that a low over the Gangetic West Bengal, its associated trough extending up to north Bay, is likely to cause further rains.

Besides, the advancing monsoon wind reaching to Yangon coast yesterday also made the Bay rough. It is due to reach Teknaf coast by June 2, a day ahead of its scheduled arrival, a senior meteorologist said last night.

He said the pre-monsoon rains in end-May is not unusual. It happened last year at the same time.

The rainfall recorded in the past 24 hours ending at 6 p.m. yesterday were: Cox's Bazar 80 mm, Rangamati 163 mm, Chittagong 180 mm, Sitakunda 30 mm, Sylhet 34 mm, Srirangal 56 mm, Feni 61 mm, Majdi 9 mm, Comilla 65 mm, Chandpur 86 mm, Mymensingh 13 mm, Tangail 1 mm, Faridpur 12 mm, Madaripur 2 mm, Khepurpara 14 mm, Ishurdi 11 mm, Bogra trace, Rangour trace and Dinajpur 9 mm.

Master Plan

From Page 1 Town Planner of the DMDP is also Rank's Town Planner who is busy with plan approvals and other jobs; he has no time to do a second job," said the official.

"The NAM conference centre should have been constructed in the old airport area because in case of a big event thousands of residents in Mirpur will not be able to use Rokeya Saroni, and this would worsen the traffic situation," he said.

The government announced recently that Ashulia would be turned into a water base recreational centre. But experts say the Master Plan designates Ashulia as a "flood flow" area where no structures should be built. Instead, they say, the vast area in the north of Mirpur behind the Botanical Garden should be turned into a water base recreational area.

China trade bill

From page 12 make it an issue in the November congressional campaigns.

"Congress has turned its back on the American manufacturers base and America's working families," asserted Teamsters president James P Hoffa.

But US Chamber of Commerce president Thomas Donahue called the vote "a victory of fact over fear and a historic win for the American economy and our national security."

Republican leaders promised 150 votes; they came up with 164. Democratic sponsors of the bill set a goal of 70-80; they produced 73.

Labour waged one of its most intense campaigns ever against the bill. Of the 211 House Democrats, 138 voted no.

Meanwhile, a Reuter report from Beijing said: A relieved China hailed a "wise" bill passed by the US House of Representatives, but lashed out at provisions on human rights monitoring.

A Trade Ministry official said the bill will help the healthy and stable development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation with China on the basis of equality and mutual benefit," Xinhua news agency reported.

But Hu Chusheng attacked provisions on human rights as interference in China's internal affairs and said they were "unacceptable to the Chinese government."

"China pays close attention to and expresses strong dissatisfaction with this act and reserves the right to react on the issue in the future," he said.

"We urge the US side to correct its wrongdoing, so as to ensure a healthy and smooth development of China-US economic cooperation and trade," he said.

DEB
From page 12
When contacted, Chairman of DEB A T M Sharifullah admitted that some unscrupulous board officials are engaged in preparing forged certificates.
Asked if he knows them, he replied: "They are known to all... If you go to them as a client to have such certificates, you would be able to identify them."
In reply to a question why proper action was not being taken against them, the chairman said they have certain "limitations."
He however said that as part of their drive to check the malpractice, certificates were printed from the Security Press at Gazipur this year and an international tender would be floated soon to procure papers carrying special type of watermark which will be used for preparing certificates.