

What's on today....

Discussion and cultural programme: The Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum has organised a discussion and cultural programme to mark the 101st birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 4 pm

Seminar: A seminar on 'My Experience as a Development Expert' will be held. Sociologist-cum-Participation Specialist of RDO-11 Dr Khurshid Alam will present a keynote paper in the seminar. Venue: Seminar room of the Centre for Advanced Research in Social Sciences of Dhaka University. Time: 11 am.

CARE Day: Care-Bangladesh will hold a day-long exhibition of its various programmes and projects. Venue: Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex, Road-10, Dhanmondi. Time: From 9.30 am to 8 pm.

Open discussion: Biswa Sahitya Kendra has organised an open discussion on 'Nadto Barite Phere' (river also returns home), a poetry book by Samudra Gupta. Venue: Biswa Sahitya Kendra. Time: 5.30 pm.

Asiatic Society meeting: The monthly general meeting of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will be held. Former Director of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Aziz-ul-Haq will deliver a speech on 'Late Dr Akhter Hameed Khan'. Venue: Asiatic Society seminar room. Time: 4.30 pm.

Sangeet Parishad AGM: Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad will hold its annual general meeting and a reunion. Venue: Novera Hall, National Museum. Time: 4 pm.

BUP discussion: Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) has organised a discussion on participatory development activities. Venue: BUP auditorium, House-33, Road-4, Dhanmondi. Time: 9.30 am.

Aref Parishad meeting: An emergency general meeting of Kazi Aref Parishad (KAP) will be held. Venue: Teacher Student Centre, Dhaka University. Time: 5 pm.

QBBS meeting: Qatar Bangladesh Brotherhood Society (QBBS) will hold a meeting of its executive committee. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 7 pm.

Training: A five-day long training programme on block printing will begin. Organiser: Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (DORP). Venue: DORP project office, 243/3 Kathalbagan.

AGM: The Coastal Fisherfolk Community Network will hold its fourth annual general meeting. Venue: Community Development Library, Dhanmondi. Time: 3 pm.

Natore Samity meeting: Dhaka-based Natore Samity will hold its election and annual general meeting. Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Community Centre. Time: From 10 am to 3 pm (election) and 4 pm (general meeting).

..... and tomorrow

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of a book, Adolescent Girls Power, will be held. Venue: WVA auditorium, Road-27, Dhanmondi. Time: 2.30 pm.

Iranian film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen three films — The Apple, The Peddler, and The Cyclist — as part of its programme, the Contemporary Iranian Film Festival. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30 pm, 5.55 pm and 7.30 pm.

Discussion: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has organised a discussion on artist Zainul Abedin to mark his 24th death anniversary. Prof Anisuzzaman will be present as chief guest while Prof Abul Mansur will present the key-note paper. Venue: Shilpakala Academy gallery. Time: 5 pm.

Bankers' Forum seminar: Bankers' Forum has organised a seminar on Role of private banks in the economy of Bangladesh. Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman MP will be present as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 5.15 pm.

BIBM seminar: Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) will hold a seminar on 'Politics of Bangladesh and the trend in banking'. Ajay Dasgupta will present the key-note paper. Venue: BIBM seminar hall. Time: 9.15 am.

Safe Motherhood Day programme: The inaugural ceremony of the Communication and Social Mobilisation Programme on 'Reduction of Maternal Mortality' will be held. Health Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim will be present as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 12 noon.

Discussion: Amnesty International, Bangladesh has organised a discussion meeting in observance of the Amnesty International Founding Day. Law minister Abdul Matin Khasru will be present as chief guest. Venue: Sena Kalyan Bhaban auditorium (20th floor), Motijheel. Time: 4 pm.

Weather

Thundershower likely

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

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

Yesterday's highest temperature of 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Chuadanga and the lowest of 22.0 degree Celsius at Chittagong, Rangamati and Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.40 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.11 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

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City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	23.5	68	75
Chittagong	29.5	22.0	95	80
Rajshahi	34.3	26.8	75	81
Khulna	35.8	26.4	77	73
Barisal	33.5	25.5	81	89
Sylhet	24.3	23.0	100	98
Cox's Bazar	27.4	22.4	95	83

HERE and THERE

Photographic Society
Bangladesh Photographic Society (BPS) yesterday elected its new executive committee for 2000-2001 with Monwar Hossain Manik and Mohammad Ziauddin Lashkar as president and general secretary respectively, a BPS press release said, reports BSS.

Other office bearers and members of the 13-member committee are: Bulbul Ahmed (vice-president), Mohammad Amirul Islam Julius (joint secretary), Mohammad Mujibur Rahman (treasurer), M Yusuf Tushar (qualification secretary), Asif Mahmud (training), Azam Khan (organising secretary), Salma Chowdhury Lipi (publication), Rashid Ahmed (exhibition), Mohammad Mojibul Hossain and public relations) and Abdul Majid (member).

Brig (Retd) M Atiqur Rahman conducted the elections at the Election Commissioner while

Debabrata Chowdhury acted as the Assistant Election Commissioner. The installation ceremony of the committee will be held on June 2, the release said.

He left behind his wife, four daughters, two sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death. Prowash Amin, a reporter of the Prothom Alo, is one of his sons.

His *qukhant* will be held at his village home at Chandgaon on Monday.

Tk 640 cr NNP from July to raise nutritional status of all

The government will launch a Taka 640 crore (about US\$ 124.46 million) nutrition project from July this year to raise nutrition level of people in general and children in particular as malnutrition kills about 600 children every day, reports BSS.

The National Nutrition Project (NNP) will be the first of a series of investments in the health sector that will support the government's 15-year plan to extend community nutrition services to the entire country, official sources said.

The World Bank, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the government of the Netherlands will finance the bulk of the project, while the Bangladesh government will bear 11 per cent cost of the four-year project from July 2000 to June 2004, the officials said.

Under the new project, about 30 per cent of the rural population living in 139 upazilas, including the people of two urban areas, will receive community-based nutrition services to be provided by non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The officials said Bangladesh, with one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world, is cutting its development potentials, affecting health and education of children and productivity of adults because of this problem.

If this current trend continues, the economic loss due to malnutrition will be around US\$ 22.9 billion (over Taka 115,000 crore) in ten years which can be averted through an effective national nutrition programme, they said.

Out of the total estimated loss, US\$ 11.4 billion would be in productivity due to stunting caused by protein-energy malnutrition, US\$6.8 billion due to iron-deficiency anaemia and US\$ 4.7 billion due to iodine deficiency.

Despite some positive changes with the implementation of the on-going World Bank-supported US\$ 70 million Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP) from 1995 to 2001, malnutrition is still at an "unacceptably high level," they said.

The officials said low birth weight rate is about 50 per cent, stunting still remains at 51 per cent and more than 70 per cent pregnant women are still anaemic. It is estimated that 25 per cent of maternal deaths are related to malnutrition haemorrhage and anaemia.

The NNP services will cover nutritionally vulnerable groups such as children under age of two, adolescent girls, and pregnant and breast-feeding women.

In addition to the expansion of community-level services, national activities to be financed by the project would include behaviour change communication interventions and

micro-nutrient supplement (iron and vitamin A).

The officials said more than five million children and one million pregnant and breast-feeding women will benefit from the community nutrition services (CNS) to be provided under the project.

The CNS services will include monthly growth monitoring of children under two years, counseling and nutrition education for mothers, and provisions for supplementary food for malnourished children and pregnant and lactating mothers, they added.

The project will also target adolescent girls, who will be made to meet regularly to have their weights and heights measured and charted, participate in learning activities on nutrition, personal hygiene and reproductive health, and receive micro-nutrient supplements.

Part-time female community nutrition promoters, popularly known as 'Pushi Apa', working in centres that are being run on donations and managed by village committees will provide nutrition services. The NGOs contracted by the government will assist in mobilising communities and delivering services.

The officials said food supplements will be purchased, prepared and sold in the centres by the women members to help complement household incomes.



A group of juvenile mime artists of Renuka Lalit Kala Academy present an item at a cultural programme held at the Shishu Academy auditorium yesterday to mark the 20th founding anniversary of the organisation. — Star photo

Killers of Shipu

From page 1
manager of the shop, was also shot during the incident and later admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Sources close to Jewel's family said he had gone into hiding after he was named in the FIR. Some others said Jewel was moving around with his father, the ruling party lawmaker from Mirpur constituency.

The car found near the place of occurrence did not have original document and it had carrying a duplicate number plate, said Gulshan police.

Kamal Majumder could not be reached for his comments. But his wife told the Daily Star yesterday that some "ambitious" people who were after her husband implicated Jewel the murder case.

She said Jewel, 22, is studying computer science at a private university. She said Jewel had narrowly escaped when miscreants shot at him two months ago.

Asked whether her son had lodged any case with police regarding that incident, she answered in the negative. Her son did not know the two other accused in the murder case, she said.

Asked why Jewel did not turn himself in to police to prove his innocence, she said, "My son has gone out with his father." "We are still thinking about it," was her reply when asked if they planned to file a lawsuit for having the image of Jewel's father tarnished.

Police quoted witnesses as saying that Naimuzzaman Jubair, Jewel and Saiful Alam,

3-day workshop begins in Khulna

KHULNA, May 26: A three-day workshop began here today with the objectives of enhancing efficiency, developing ideas of the new agriculture policy and promoting technical skill of all officials and employees of the Directorate of Agriculture Extension, reports BSS.

Participants of the workshop will discuss issues relating to Commitment to duty, Work under participatory system, Environment-friendly projects, Human resources management and development of information management strategy, an official handout said.

On secret information, an officer in charge of Daulatpur thana raided Khalishakundi village and recovered arms and ammunitions from an abandoned area. None was arrested in this connection, according to police sources.

Earlier, police arrested one Nipun against murder case of Ruman, who was brutally killed on 16 May. Arrested Nipun was son of Jummat Ali of Eidgapa. It is reported Ruman was killed due to rivalry between two groups. Other accused of the murder case is absconding.

At one stage, Milton, chief of Milton Bahini, was caught by his rivals as his supporters fled the scene.

The rivals later took Milton to Kaunia Begunbari area, beat him and severed tendons of his hands and legs. They left the place leaving Milton seriously injured in front of Lakunia Met Office.

Both sides were locked in clash by exploding crackers and firing shots.

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Police recover arms, ammunition in Kushtia

KUSHTIA, May 26: Police recovered one hundred and fifty five cartridges of rifle, two hand grenades and two magazines from the village of Khalishakundi under Daulatpur thana recently, reports BSS.

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Steps taken for normal power supply during Pepsi Asia Cup

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Prof Rafiqul Islam said yesterday preparations have been taken for uninterrupted power supply during the Asia Cup cricket tournament in the city, reports BSS.

Talking to engineers while visiting the power control panel at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, automatic voltage regulator and the Central Electricity Control Centre of DESA at Katabon yesterday he said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a meeting on Thursday night had directed all concerned to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply during the Asia Cup tournament.

Islam said electricity supply to the Bangabandhu Stadium and other parts of the country will be normal if there is no technical fault locally or natural disaster.

He expressed satisfaction over the work of a team comprising the technicians of the Power Development Board, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority and Rural Electrification Board to look after the constant supply of electricity during the tournament.

The state minister urged the people to be rational in power consumption during the peak hours to help the tournament go on smoothly.

Repeat of Vested Property Act demanded

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Puja Uddapan Parishad has threatened to go for a tougher movement if the Vested Property Act is not repealed during the next budget session.

The Parishad at a meeting yesterday with its president Dr Lalit Mohan Nath in the chair also asked all its units to prepare for the movement.

The meeting said there is a national consensus regarding repeal of the Vested Property Act and all political parties expressed their solidarity with the demand at a rally held at the Central Shaheed Minar recently.

Meanwhile, leaders of Bangladesh Hindu, Bouddhu, Christian Unity Council has expressed its solidarity with the programme of the Parishad.

Speakers at the meeting urged the government to take effective steps to repeal the Act.

Maj Gen (Retd) C R Dutta, Advocate Sudhangshu Shekar Howladar, Prof Ranjit Kumar Dey and Dr Nim Chandra Bhounik attended the meeting.

They said their party chief was admitted to Tangail Hospital at 11 pm on Thursday and was shifted to Suhrawardy Hospital in the capital yesterday as per advice of doctors.

The leaders demanded immediate release of the party chief's brother Murad Siddique and other arrested party men, removal of the OC of Tangail thana and exemplary punishment of those involved in the incident on Thursday.

Later, Dhaka city unit of BKSJL brought out a militant procession in the city protesting the alleged police attack.

A rally held in front of the central office, was addressed, among others, by Hannan Badal, Ismail Hossain, Mafizul Haque Khandakar and Abul Hossain Hiti. Kamal Uddin Ahmed presided over the meeting.

Tamil woman sent to jail in Bogra

BOGRA, May 26: Police today sent a woman suspected to be an Indian citizen of Tamil origin to jail for vagrancy, reports UNB.

Police said army personnel of Majhira cantonment here on Thursday found the woman moving suspiciously around the cantonment.

The army personnel informed police after they failed to ascertain any information from the woman.

On preliminary inquiry, police learned that the woman might have come from Tamil Nadu in India. She knows neither English, nor Bangla and speaks only in her regional language.

Bangladeshi girl wins gold medal

Dipanwita Das has won the "Supreme Gold Award 1999" in the International Children Art Exhibition held in Japan, says a press release.

She is the only contestant from Bangladesh to have won the Prize. The theme of her winning painting was "Winter Cake Festival."

Dipanwita is the only daughter of Das Deba Prashad and Latika Roy.

Extend time for enlistment of voters: BNP

By Staff Correspondent
BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has expressed concern at alleged non-availability of voter registration forms and demanded one month's extension of time for enlistment of voters.

"Today, I went to my constituency in Shibpur (Narsingdi) to enrol my name in the voters' list but no registration form was available", he said in a statement yesterday. Non-availability of forms was reported from many other areas, he alleged.

At places, ruling party men in collusion with some dishonest enumerators are also creating obstruction so that BNP leaders, workers and supporters can not register their names in the voters' list, he alleged.

Any malpractice in preparation of voters' list will not be tolerated, he warned.

PARC proposals

From page 1
tor corporations in the next six months before its term expires on November 30.

Shamsul Haq said the long-felt need to address public complaints to the government has been simplified. A system for receipt of letters at the Secretariat with acknowledgement has been introduced. Disposal of files within a given time frame is being implemented. It came after certain measures for improving accountability and service standard in government organisations was recommended and accepted, he said.

Another recommendation implemented is simplification of payment of travel tax. The system for payment of utility bills at one place has also been introduced at a limited scale.

Another proposal on formation of 'work improvement teams' in ministries/divisions and other government offices is under implementation.

A vital proposal for preparation of performance based annual reporting system by ministries/divisions to remove anomalies in this regard is going to be submitted in a revised form.

But declaration of three-year-old domestic utility bills as time barred for payment is yet to be implemented despite approval by the Cabinet. It was revised and resubmitted to the authorities concerned, PARC sources said.

Other proposals like simplification of the process for issuance of passport and driving licence, performance standard and a 'citizens charter' for public servants, early retirement with incentives, simplification of pension payment, monetisation of vehicle entitlement of officials, modernisation of land administration, ensuring security on highways are yet to be implemented.

Besides, recommendations for ensuring transparency in administration, appointment of an ombudsman, establishment of an effective organisation to curb corruption at all levels of the administration and removal of the colonial legacy of class system also remained to be implemented, the sources said.

Tangail: Probe statement by Hasina

By Staff Correspondent
BNP has asked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to refrain from making 'false and distorted' statements in future and said it is the ruling Awami League which has been using religion for petty personal and party interest.

In a statement yesterday, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan protested the PM's remarks at a function of 'so called' madrassah teachers association on May 2 and said the AL has betrayed the people and has not implemented any of the commitments given to the people.

He said the PM 'used religion nakedly' during the last parliamentary polls. Since the independence, the AL has continued its onslaught not only on the values of Islam but also on the values of other religions, he added.

The AL government imposed Section 144 around the national mosque Baitul Mukarram and fired bullets and tear gas shells inside it, he said.

Contradicting the PM's claim, Mannan Bhuiyan said it is not true that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established Madrasah Education Board. It was then president Ziaur Rahman who set up the autonomous Madrasah Education Board by promulgating an Ordinance on February 27, 1978, he mentioned.

Referring to the PM's claim that she allotted land for the Biswa Ijtema venue at Tongi, the BNP secretary general said "It's a blatant falsehood" because Khaleda Zia as prime minister had allotted land for the Ijtema venue on the bank of the river Turag.

"It is not possible to suppress the truth," he said.

Storm

From page 1
het 47 mm, Chandpur 41 mm, Majdi 28 mm, Teknaf 25 mm and Rangpur 21 mm.

Rain water remained stagnant in low lying areas of Chittagong city yesterday, our staff correspondent reported.

UNB adds from Cox's Bazar: Onrush of hill waters from across the border due to torrential rain inundated low-lying areas of 10 unions in Chokoria thana yesterday.

Local people said some 50 lakh people have been marooned by the flash flood which also devoured a good number of houses on the bank of Matamuhuri river.

Outlaw held

From page 1
With over 500 armed cadres throughout the southern zone of the country, Shimul used to earn more than one crore taka every month by illegal means including drug trafficking and sale of arms bought from across the border, police said.

One of his armed cadres, identified as Palash, was arrested by Khulna thana police on Wednesday. Palash was also wanted in several murder and other criminal cases, police said.

White fish

From page 1
20,000 mechanised boats and local nets is not done systematically, which threatens growth of fish fries side by side with disturbing the fish stock at the fishing grounds," said Ali Azam, principal scientific officer of Marine Fisheries Survey and Management Unit here.

Azam said a survey is on to make an estimate of the stock of fish in the fishing grounds in the EEZ. More marine fish could be harvested through planned fishing in the Bay.

General secretary of Marine Fisheries Association Amin Ullah said "There is a sustainable stock of fish in the high sea and the catch is good, but the government should have control on the mechanised boats operating indiscriminately to help boost the stock."

He went on, "Some set-back nets and push nets are also responsible for destroying fish fries while the fish come to shallow waters during breeding season."

According to an estimate by marine fisheries department, the catch of Bay fish by the deep sea trawlers went up in recent years. In the 98-99 fiscal year, 12053 metric tonnes of marine fish were harvested while the catch in '97-98 was 13,229 metric tonnes and in '96-97 it was 10,026 metric tonnes.

About 10 years ago, the catch per year ranged between 6,000 metric tonnes and 8,000 metric tonnes.

BNP alleges 'false' statement by Hasina

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