

What's on today....

**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 Zaimul Abedin to mark his 24th death anniversary. Prof Anisuzzaman will be present as chief guest while Prof Abul Mousur 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 Khairul will be present as chief guest. Venue: Sana Kalyan Bhaban auditorium (20th floor), Motijheel. Time: 4 pm.

**Workshop:** Bangladesh Police Nari Kalya Samity in cooperation with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs will hold a day-long workshop on 'The position of women in the family: Ways to remove discrimination against women.' Home Minister Mohammad Nasim will be present as chief guest. Venue: Police Telecom auditorium, Rajarbagh. Time: 10 am.

..... and tomorrow

**Discussion and publication ceremony:** Jatiyatabadi Peshajibi Parishad has organised a discussion on 'President Ziaur Rahman's contribution to the political arena' to mark his 19th death anniversary. Also, a publication ceremony of a book, 'Political Philosophy and Ideals of Zia,' edited by Dr Emajudin Ahmed will be held. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will attend the programme. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 3.30 pm.

**Contemporary Iranian Film Festival:** Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two films — 'Once upon a time, Cinema' and 'Gabbah.' Venue: German Cultural Centre, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time: 5 pm and 6.45 pm.

Weather

Thundershower likely

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

Slight fall in day temperature is expected over the country. Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Chuadanga and the lowest of 20.6 degree Celsius at Dhaka.

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

| City/Town   | Temperature in Celsius |      | Humidity in percentage |         |
|-------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
|             | Max                    | Min  | Morning                | Evening |
| Dhaka       | 26.2                   | 20.6 | 89                     | 84      |
| Chittagong  | 28.9                   | 21.5 | 85                     | 93      |
| Rajshahi    | 31.2                   | 23.4 | 90                     | 92      |
| Khulna      | 34.5                   | 27.8 | 84                     | 76      |
| Barisal     | 21.5                   | 24.0 | 92                     | 83      |
| Sylhet      | 23.4                   | 21.9 | 95                     | 100     |
| Cox's Bazar | 32.1                   | 22.6 | 74                     | 95      |

HERE and THERE

Homeo Peshajibi Samity

Homeo Peshajibi Samity, Bangladesh, yesterday demanded of the government to fulfill its 4-point demand including 20 per cent of the health sector's allocation for homeopathic education and treatment in the national budget, reports UNB.

The demands were raised at a meeting of the samity held at Colonel Taher auditorium in Bangabandhu Avenue. The meeting also demanded appointment of DHMS physicians along with BHMS physicians in every district and upazila, government allowances for the teachers and employees and bring homeopathic hospitals under the government.

Presided over by president of the samity Prof Dr Shahjahan Kamal, the meeting was addressed by its secretary general

Prof Dr Abdur Razzag Talukdar, Prof Dr Nazrul Islam, and Homeo Medical College Chhatra Oikya Parishad president Dr M Obaidul Huq Khan.

Ramu Samity, Dhaka

Ramu Samity, Dhaka was launched at a formal get-together at a function at Indira Road in the city recently, says a press release.

The samity comprises of people of Ramu thana under Cox's Bazar residing in Dhaka.

The function was addressed by Fani Bhusan Sharma, Sujan Sharma, Shaukatul Alam Chowdhury, Abdul Momen Chowdhury, Prof Shahedul Alam Chowdhury, Dr Md Mostafa Kamal Chowdhury and president of Chattagram Samity Azizul Haque Chowdhury.

Dr Kamal visits injured Kader Siddique

By Staff Correspondent

President of Gano Forum Dr Kamal Hossain visited injured veteran freedom fighter Kader Siddique at the National Cardiovascular Institute on Friday night.

Kader Siddique, chief of Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League (BKSJL), and some of the party activists were injured in a clash with the police at Tangail on Thursday.

Dr Kamal condemned the police action and expressed sympathy to the injured leader.

Chairman of Jatiya Party Hussain Mohammad Ershad also visited the BKSJL leader.

Leaders and activists of different socio-cultural and political organisations also went to the hospital to seek Kader Siddique.

Mayor's call to strengthen AL party activities

Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif yesterday called upon the leaders and workers of the city Awami League to strengthen the party activities for gaining victory in the next general elections, reports BSS.

"Awami League believes in constructive politics as it is a pro-people political party," he said while speaking at a meeting of the Dhaka City Awami League yesterday evening.

Mohammad Hanif said the whole nation is now united in the mainstream politics of development.

Qulqhwani

The qulqhwani of eminent businessman Iftekhar Ahmed (Shipu), who was killed by assailant's bullets on May 24, will be held tomorrow after Aar prayers at his residence at House No 45/E, Road No 13/C, Bauani, says a press release.

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulqhwani.



Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman taking a closer look at a project on display at the CARE Day exhibition organised by CARE, Bangladesh at the Sultana Kamal Women Sport Complex in the city yesterday.

BARD founding anniversary observed

COMILLA, May 27: The 41st founding anniversary of Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD) was observed here today in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Chairman of the Public Administration Reform Commission (PARC) ATM Shamsul Huq and Managing Director of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed were chief guest and special guest respectively at the function held at Kotbari, Director General of BARD Md Sikander Ali Mondal presided.

The PARC chairman referred to the pioneering role of BARD in poverty alleviation and rural development and said that a 20-year visionary programme would have to be fixed to create new job opportunities and spread computer technology.

Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed, a former director of BARD, stressed the need for concerted efforts to face the challenges of the new century to eradicate poverty.

Paying homage to Dr Akhter Hameed Khan, founder of BARD, the speakers said that he had showed the people a way to self-reliance by organising co-operative movement.

Dev efforts being hampered by natural disasters

Zillur Rahman says at CARE Day function

By Staff Correspondent

The first CARE Day was observed in the city yesterday.

CARE Bangladesh, a US based NGO which is serving the humanity since 1947, organised the day-long programme at Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex at Dhannondi.

Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman was the chief guest at the inaugural function while country director of CARE Steve Wallace delivered the welcome address.

In his speech, Rahman said that Bangladesh is a potential and promising country. It has a great scope for rapid development through proper utilisation of its natural resources, fertile land and mass people.

"Unfortunately the development efforts of Bangladesh cannot attain its expected dynamism due to natural disaster, drought, poverty, unemployment and lack of proper direction," he said.

He pointed out that the country could not practice democracy in its rightful way. "As a result, democratic values and people's participation in development were hindered to a great extent," he added.

Rahman said that the government believes that it is essential to have concerted efforts of people in the development process because it is not possible for government alone to do everything.

"We believe that it is possible to have sustainable development through people's participation along with the initiatives of the government and efforts of the NGOs," he explained.

Referring to CARE's long-standing activities in Bangladesh, the minister said that the people will always remain grateful to the organisation for its significant and efficient role in relief operation during the devastation floods in 1998.

While describing various aspects of CARE's operation in Bangladesh, Steve Wallace said the organisation is keeping pace with the changes in the world. "Changes are taking place in what we do and how we do it," he said.

Later, the minister formally inaugurated an exhibition of various programmes and projects being undertaken by CARE Bangladesh.

CARE operates a total of 26 projects and programmes across the country.

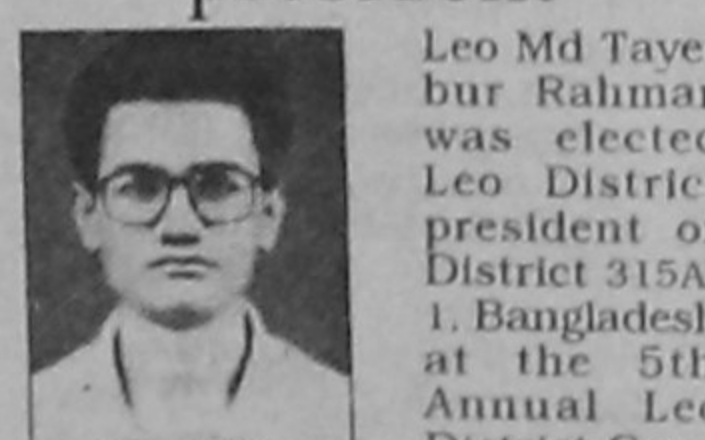


The excessive rainfall during Friday night submerged most of the city thoroughfares putting urban life in jeopardy. This photograph was taken from Rajarbagh area.



The billboard erected on top of Hotel Sakura at Shahbagh collapsed during storm that lashed the city yesterday morning.

Tayebur Rahman elected Leo Dist president



Leo Md Tayebur Rahman was elected Leo District president of District 315A-1, Bangladesh at the 5th Annual Leo District Conference held on May 19, says a press release.

In the conference, Leo Rezauddin Titul was elected District Vice President, and Leo A.S.M. Sharif and Leo Syedur Rahman were nominated as District Secretary and District Treasurer respectively.

The day-long conference was presided over by District president Leo Md Asaduzzaman.

Reopening of Ring Shine factory demanded

By Staff Correspondent  
Jatiya Garment Sramik Jote has demanded immediate reopening of Ring Shine Sweater Factory at Dhaka Export Processing Zones (DEPZ) in Savar.

The Jote in a meeting yesterday also demanded punishment of those who are responsible for the untoward incident at the factory on May 2.

Held at the Jote office on Bangabandhu Avenue, the meeting was presided over by labour leader Fazlur Rahman. Jote leaders Joyanal Abedin, Taslima Akhtar, Mayenuddin, Shirin Akhter, Anjumana Ara and Shahina Akhtar also spoke on the occasion.

Erosion threatens Chandpur embankment

CHANDPUR, May 27: The erosion by the river Meghna at Chandpur has threatened the existence of Chandpur Town Protection Embankment. The erosion at Chandpur Nutan Bazar area has been continuing alarmingly for a week, reports BSS.

According to Bangladesh Water Development Board, Chandpur office sources, about 200 feet area of Chandpur Town Protection Embankment at Jamuna Ghat area have already been eroded.

The erosion by the mighty river Meghna has started here with the beginning of the monsoon. The water level in the river has been increasing day by day at Chandpur.

Sangskritik Jote stages hunger strike

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday said that certain "evil forces" had further increased their destructive activities in the country to foil the execution of verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case, reports BSS.

"It is unbelievable that the trial of the killers of a country is yet to be completed after a period of 25 years," he said while addressing cultural activists in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhannondi yesterday afternoon.

The minister expressed his solidarity with the cultural activists who staged a token day-long hunger strike demanding early execution of the lower court's verdict of Bangabandhu murder trial. The hunger strike was organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote (BSJ).

Kibria said the anti-liberation forces are trying to undermine the spirit of the country's liberation war and destabilise the democratic atmosphere by creating obstructions in country's development activities.

"The self-confessed killers of Bangabandhu should be punished within the purview of the existing law of the land," he said and thanked the cultural activists for participating in the peaceful hunger strike.

While describing various aspects of CARE's operation in Bangladesh, Steve Wallace said the organisation is keeping pace with the changes in the world. "Changes are taking place in what we do and how we do it," he said.

Later, the minister formally inaugurated an exhibition of various programmes and projects being undertaken by CARE Bangladesh.

CARE operates a total of 26 projects and programmes across the country.

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Asia Cup opener

view of the uncertainties, we have made an alternative provision. There will be an inspection in the morning by the umpires. And if the umpires find that the match could not be played tomorrow (Sunday) then it will be held on the following day," he said in a pre-tournament press briefing.

Tomorrow, May 30, was a scheduled rest day of the ten-day meet, the final of which will take place on June 7. Appreciating Sri Lanka's spirit to accept the rest day as reserved day, Saber said that the option would also be open for the other two teams.

The meet has another couple of rest days (May 31 and June 4) other than the reserve day for the final on May 8. But those days, if needed, can be considered as reserve days following the mutual understanding between the two teams.

"It does not depend on the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). It is important to get the consent of the participating teams. But this is certainly something that we would like to materialise," said Saber, adding that it would allow the cricket-crazy zillions both at home and abroad to enjoy the game of glorious uncertainties.

The tournament caused enormous enthusiasm among the local cricket fans, and they have already ensured a full audience despite the threat of persistent rain.

Meanwhile, the general sec-

retary of the BCB, Syed Ashraf Haq, refuted the reports on the possibilities of shifting the tournament to another country.

"The event has to be completed by June 8. If the tournament falls through due to the inclement weather then it would be considered as no-tournament," said Ashraf.

The next Asia Cup will be held in Pakistan in the year 2001. But there is no chance of holding the meet in any other place," he said.

Rickshawpuller's honesty

A rickshawpuller set a rare example of honesty Friday night by returning a cellular phone to its owner who left it on his pedal-powered three wheeler.

"Last night rickshawpuller Mohammad Zahangir came to my residence, and to my utter surprise returned my cellular phone," Talukdar Riazul Islam, assistant architect of the Social Welfare Directorate, told BSS yesterday.

Zahangir, a native from Lalmothan thana under Bhola district, with the assistance from businessman MA Quader returned the phone.

Islam lost his cellular phone on Thursday on the way to his office from Kalabagan residence by Zahangir's rickshaw.



The All Party Action Council brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting unilateral appointment of the new Chief Election Commissioner.

Shipu

From page 1  
as Mozammel Majumder, brother of Kamal Majumder, said no such raid was conducted at the residence of the MP yesterday.

Refusing to give the whereabouts of Jewel, he said, how he could stay in the house when he had been implicated in a murder case.

Jewel has been implicated in the case out of vengeance, Mozammel said without elaborating.

Iftekhar Ahmed Shipu, 38, a cellular phone trader, was gunned down at UAE Market on Wednesday night.

An FIR in this regard registered with Gulshan police accused Naimuzzaman Jubair, son of Asaduzzaman, Director of Civil Aviation of Bangladesh, Saiful Alam, son of Ahmad Hossain and Jewel, son of Kamal Ahmed Majumder MP.

Nor'wester

From page 1  
rive a little early, reaching Teknaf Tuesday, and all over the country by June 5-7. Met office sources said last night.

The Met office forecast little change in the foul weather in 48 hours from 6 p.m. yesterday.

There may be more nor'westers and rains under the influence of the active westerly lows over Gangetic West Bengal and Bihar with its trough extending up to the North Bay, backed by the advancing Monsoon winds, a senior meteorologist said.

He said, in the next five days, the weather will improve except in Chittagong region where the advancing monsoon will cause rainfall.

The nor'wester that hit the city at 4.30 am yesterday gained a speed of 73 kmp in Zia International area and 63 kmp in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, the Met office said.

But confusion remained about the ferocity of the storm that damaged the two huge bamboo-made structures at Rayer Bazar. "It could be that the force of the storm which brushed the area was higher than what we recorded," the meteorologist said.

The city and its suburbs were hit by another storm in the evening at a speed of 53 kmp. There was 118 mm rainfall in the city from 6 pm Friday to 6 pm yesterday.

The inclement weather forced cancellation of two international flights and a number of domestic flights. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina cancelled her flight to Chittagong.

Many areas in the city and different parts of the country were without power for hours. The 33 kv feeder line from Tongi to Savar and power lines from Kabirpur to Nayarhat, Hasanabad to Sringar, Munshiganj to Aricha tripped.

Rains flooded many city streets, creating traffic jam. The fallen trees added to the chaos.

DU expulsion

From page 1  
a final year student of Political Science Department assaulted Mahbub Zaman Nahid of The Daily Star and Tanver Mahmud of The Bangladesh Observer on May 20, accusing them of not giving him way through the crowd that gathered on the campus to hear PCJSS chief Shantul Larma.

The two DU correspondents of two national dailies were busy taking notes of Larma's speech.

Dhaka University Journalist Association (DHJA) has been boycotting BCL programme protesting the incident since May 22.

One killed in road accident

MAGURA, May 27: A middle-aged man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at local bus stand this morning, police said, reports UNB.

Abdul Khaleq, 50, of Borunatol village in Sadar upazila, was hit by a Dhaka-bound truck. He was rushed to Sadar Hospital with severe injuries.

He succumbed to his injuries shortly after admission to the hospital. Police seized the truck but its driver managed to flee. A case was filed.

A day dawned

Many of the inmates including an entire family of six were trapped in the submerged structure. At around 1 pm yesterday, fire brigade personnel and local volunteers led by Haji Moqbul Hossain MP recovered 10 dead bodies from the under-water debris. Thousands of people living in similar structures in the area sadly watched the rescue operation.

"I have lost all my savings. I do not even have a piece of cloth to change my wet clothes," said Hawa, who works at a garments factory at Farm Gate.

Just next door, a similar structure built on the dirty waters in the low lying area inside Dhaka flood protection embankment also gave in to the storm. Both the structures were built about a year ago and rented to 60 families, each living in a small room paying Tk 500 a month.

Sheikh Bachchu, who was yet to trace his son, said so many people were killed due to water logging in the area.

"This area has suddenly gone under water because housing complexes are being set up by filling up the low lying area. There is no outlet for flood water and despite our request to the local Ward Commissioner, nothing was done to pump water outside the embankment," he said.

Local people said one Advocate Iqbal built the structures again after a devastating fire had gutted those last year.

"We told him not to build such two-storied structures but he did not listen. Here none pays taxes but they get electricity and gas and the earnings are quite big," said Abu Sayeed Bepari, a former Ward Commissioner of the area.

"Now these poor people will look for other places to live, the government will give relief and the landlord will benefit from this," Bepari said referring to the situation following the fire that gutted the same slum last year.

Haji Moqbul MP said, "Water logging is a major problem inside the embankment and those who are encroaching upon the canals and other low lying areas are all big shots. So many people would not die today, water logging problem was not there."

Later, leaders and activists of the alliance jointly brought out a procession.