

News

What's on today....

Workshop: Ministry of Environment and Forest under the Sustainable Environment Management Programme supported by UNDP and The World Bank will hold an inception Workshop on "Sectoral Guidelines for Environmental Management". Chief guest: State Minister for Environment and Forest Asifur Rahman. Venue: Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9:30 am.

Abbas Kiarostami Retrospective: Zahir Rahi Film Society will screen three films — *The Chorus, And Life goes on and Through the Olive Trees* on the second day of the retrospective. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Road No 9, Dharmundi. Time: 4:30 pm, 4:47 pm and 6:15 pm.

Discussion: Iranian Cultural Centre will hold a discussion on "Hafiz Shirazi and Nazrul Islam" in association with Nazrul Institute. Venue: Nazrul Institute Auditorium. Time: 5:00 pm.

Consultation meet: INCIDIN Bangladesh will hold a consultation meet "WTO and Bangladesh Agriculture". Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, 15 Topkhana Road. Time: 5:00 pm.

Procession: Dhumpan Birodi Sangathan in association and Health and Family Welfare Ministry will jointly lead a procession on occasion of "World Tobacco-Free Day". Chief guest: State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah. Venue: From National Museum at Shahbagh to Jatiya Press Club. Time: 7:30 am.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

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

Moderately heavy falls is also likely at places over Rajshahi, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 35.5 degree Celsius at Mongla and the lowest 21.8 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.42 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.11 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	24.5	74	88
Chittagong	32.9	23.0	82	85
Rajshahi	30.6	24.4	81	78
Khulna	34.7	23.0	81	80
Barisal	33.5	24.0	81	80
Sylhet	29.7	21.8	97	78
Cox's Bazar	33.7	22.0	74	87

HERE and THERE

NSU

A nine-member student team from Rowan University, New Jersey, USA visited North South University (NSU) on Sunday under the auspices of American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) and Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB), says a press release.

The members of the team led by Prof Edward C Smith, of the dept of Foreign Language and Literature have been studying in Bangladesh and South Asia from May 15.

The team met Prof Hafiz GA Siddiqi, Pro Vice-Chancellor and other faculties of NSU over a working luncheon at the NSU main campus. Dr Siddiqi welcomed the team and narrated the academic programmes that followed at NSU.

INCIDIN

Bangladesh

INCIDIN Bangladesh held a press conference on the forthcoming consultation meet titled "WTO and Bangladesh Agriculture" in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The consultation meet is a part of its programme called "Campaign for poor's right in Trade Liberalisation" (CPRL).

Three of the Executive Directors of INCIDIN Bangladesh; Ratan Sarkar, A K M Mustaque Ali, and AKM Masud Ali explained the need to take a conscious position to protect na-

Death anniversary

By DU Correspondent

The 12th death anniversary of Jamil Akhter Raton, former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Mohila (BCM) Rajshahi Medical College unit will be observed today.

Bangladesh Chhatra Moity (BCM) will hold various programmes to mark the day.

Raton, was killed in broad daylight in 1988 at the medical college premises, allegedly by armed cadres of Jamaat-Shibir.

The left leaning student body will hoist black flag at its party office and place wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar to mark the day.

Shell to sign

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operations in the next two years.

Shell is also keen on conducting 3D seismic in South Sangu with its own technology, which would be at least 15 to 20 per cent cheaper than that of any other company, an official of Shell claimed.

Meanwhile, Shell's schedule for South Sangu drilling is nearing expiry. The company has requested Petrobangla to extend the PSC time frame by at least six months to complete the drilling.

The oil companies' activities in Bangladesh in the recent years had focused more on campaigning for pipeline export of gas, rather than looking positively at the local market, noted a Petrobangla official. "Shell's step now would certainly create a positive impact."

They also visited wicket keeper of the Indian cricket team Syed Saba Karim at the same hospital.

Saba Karim was admitted to the hospital following injuries he sustained in the match against Bangladesh in the Asia Cup cricket tournament today.

Bhutto's death

JP alleges negligence in treatment

Jatiya Party (Mizan-Manju) protested "negligence in treatment of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto MP causing his premature death" and demanded an inquiry, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday by party leaders Monirul Haq Chowdhury and advocate Fazle Rabbi MP said Bhutto was admitted into the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital at 2:25pm, but taken to the CCU at 3 pm.

"Was not wasting 35 minutes a crucial time for a heart patient?" they questioned.

They said Bhutto died of a second heart attack at 6:30 pm, but in the meantime concerned unit chief prof AKM Mohibullah or any other specialists didn't visit him.

The JP leaders said no treatment was also given at the clinic from where Bhutto was taken to the hospital.

They termed the entire negligence as "mysterious" and demanded an inquiry and punishment of those responsible for the lawmaker's sudden death.

Judgement on BSS retirement cases

June 13

The High Court yesterday fixed June 13 for delivering the judgement on the writ petition filed by 10 journalist and non-journalist employees of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) challenging their retirement from the services of the national news agency, reports BSS.

A High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hossain fixed the date of judgement after ending the hearing of the writ petition of Habibullah and nine other similar writ petitions.

Council of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha barrister Amir-ul-Islam submitted his arguments that fixation of retirement age at 60 was made under the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) service rule, 1995.

Islam argued on the concluding day of the hearing that the government has been empowered under section 22 of the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Ordinance, 1979, to make rules (rpt rules) to give effect to the provisions of the said ordinance.

Barrister Islam submitted that the authority, under section 22 of the BSS Ordinance, 1979, framed the service rules in 1995. The employees of the organisation are bound to abide by the rules.

The other writ petitioners are Hasanuzzaman Khan, Mizanur Rahman, Hussainuzzaman Chowdhury, AKM Tabibul Islam, Ashraful Islam, Abdur Rahman, Haroon-or-Rashid Mollah and Serajul Islam. Serajul Islam has already died.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed and Advocate Subrata Chowdhury appeared for the petitioners. Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, Barrister Tania Amir and Shamsuddin Babul appeared for Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha while Deputy Attorney General AFM Shahid appeared for the government.

UNFPA official calls on Selim

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Representative in Bangladesh Shyuren Xu and Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim yesterday discussed arsenic issue which has become a major health problem in the country, reports BSS.

The discussion took place when Mr Xu called on Selim at the latter's office when UNFPA representative apprised the minister of its activities in Bangladesh.

The representative informed the minister that UNFPA has been assisting Bangladesh since 1973. The major areas of its assistance are reproductive health, family planning, programme development strategy and advocacy.

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Obituary

Al-Haj Abdur Razzaq Akan, Director of the Peoples Insurance Company Limited died of a heart attack on Monday evening at the Combined Military Hospital, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, 3 sons, one daughter and many relatives, friends and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Akanda was a former MP of Awami League from Joypurhat-2 constituency and was a former president of Bangladesh Jute Association.

Chhaya Sen, mother of noted plastic surgeon Dr Samanta Sen, died of old age complications early yesterday morning. She was 78, reports BSS.

She is survived by five sons, one daughter, and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

Chhaya Sen was cremated at the Sabujbagh Crematorium.



A discussion meeting was held at the Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy yesterday to mark the 24th death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. Seen in the picture is Dr Syed Azizul Haque addressing the meeting.

Beyond the Boundary

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skills at crisis management may ultimately save the blushes of these wise men of the Asian Cricket Council. But is it fair? Not the buck, but the bucket had to be passed. It is our misfortune that the weakest link in the Asian cricket had to be the one left holding the can.

World cricket is now in a state of turmoil. And, like it or not, this has been in large measure due to the slipshod manner in which the regulatory bodies such as the ACC and the ICC are being run. Wishy-washy decisions, controversial steps when bolder actions were the order of the day, inability to prove their consistency at various times, have all resulted in a free for all scenario, where the rains notwithstanding in Dhaka, everybody who wants to be anybody in world cricket, is hell bent on making tons of hay.

Bangladesh is dearly paying the price for its inability to have a single point in its kitty. Through no fault of its own, mind you, except that it agreed to the playing conditions being tampered with on the eve of the competition. Playing conditions are as much a party of the game as the state of the wickets, errant umpiring and if you would like to be nasty about it, fixing.

There must surely be a consistent policy to be pursued across the cricket world on what should be the status of playing conditions for tournaments. If playing conditions have biblical connotations in some parts of the cricket world like Australia and England, then they must be so for all other areas where international matches are played.

Referring to the adverse effects of polythene on environment, she sought urgent and immediate steps by the international community to ensure use of jute bags instead of polythene bags.

At the conference the minister narrated the environmental challenges faced by Bangladesh and the initiatives undertaken by the Bangladesh government to save the environment.

— Star photo

Role of pvt sector in environmental accountability stressed

Some 600 delegates, including about 100 Environment Ministers, are attending the three-day global conference organised jointly by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank.

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