

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 Ashiqur Rahman. Venue: Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9.30 am.

Abbas Kiarostami Retrospective: Zahir Rahan 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, Dhanmondi. 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: CIRDP auditorium, 15 Topkhana Road. Time: 5.00 pm.

Procession: Dhupman Bidrohi Sanghatan in association with 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 In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	24.5	72	83
Chittagong	32.9	23.0	74	6
Rajshahi	30.6	24.4	82	85
Khulna	34.7	23.0	81	78
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 are 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 national interest at the face of trade liberalisation at the conference.

Saifur expresses solidarity with new organisation

Former finance minister and central leader of BNP Saifur Rahman MP has expressed his solidarity with a new organisation styled "Movement for Maintaining the Standard of Education and Checking the Unfairness in the Examination" and assured all cooperation to it, reports BSS.

The assurance came when Miah Abdullah Wazed, the convenor of the organisation and former member of the Jatiya Sangsad, met Rahman recently. Saifur Rahman said the initiative is "praiseworthy and time befitting", a press release said.

Quader, Saber visit AL leader, Saba Karim at CMH

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader and Deputy Minister for LGED Saber Hossain Chowdhury visited Publicity Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League M A Mannan at the Combined Military Hospital in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

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.

DU Udichi Shilpi Gosthi

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi (BUSG) brought out a colourful procession on the campus marking its first convention yesterday.

The programme was inaugurated by Syed Hasan Imam, president of BUSG central committee, by hoisting national flag in the morning.

Later, they held a meeting at the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) auditorium with Subrata Sarkar Puru in the chair.

A 33-member BUSG DU unit committee was formed at the meeting with Syeda Feroza Begum and Subrata Sarkar Puru as president and general secretary respectively.

The full fledged committee includes vice president — Shantanu Majumder, Nuruzzaman, Rubaati Ferdous, Israfil Shahin, Chandranath Podder and Mohammad Ali Rumi, assistant general secretary — Mamun Rahman and Sharika Sultana Munni, treasurer — Zaber Hossain, Secretary — Kanok Jhoyti Borma, Abhijit Sarkar, Rana Gafur, Monjur Morshed Sumon, Sudipta Arjun, Monjur-e-Alam Mukul, Shrabani Saha Tusi and Safiul Akber Khan Ziad.

Death anniversary

By DU Correspondent

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

Bangladesh Chhatra Moly (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

From page 1

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."

Bhutto's death

JP alleges negligence in treatment

Jatiya Party (Mizan-Manjul) protested "negligence in treatment of Zulfikar 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 waiting 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.

Counsel 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, 1975 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, 1975, 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 Tahirul Islam, Ashrafuddin Makbul, Ahmed Mian, 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 Shuyun 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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"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.

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

Role of pvt sector in environmental accountability stressed

Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury has stressed the need for ensuring commitment of the private sector in introducing a new culture of environmental accountability, reports UNB.

"Private sector can play a vital role in creating employment opportunities and alleviation of poverty, which is the main hindrance to address the environmental problems," she said at a conference of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum at Scania Conference Hall in Swedish City of Malmo yesterday.

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 Swedish government, according to a message received here.

While addressing on the issues of "Major Environmental Challenges In The New Century" and "Private Sector And Environment" at the conference, the minister emphasized on the political will to make any impact on stemming global environmental crises.

The minister hoped that the

conference would do some soul-searching and stocktaking of the situation and make pragmatic steps to be implemented by the global community.

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.

Withdrawal of case against BNP, JCD leaders demanded

By Staff Correspondent

One hundred eight members of parliament in a joint statement yesterday condemned what they said conspiratorial case against 12 BNP and JCD leaders and workers including Mujibur Rahman Sarwar MP in Barisal town.

They demanded immediate withdrawal of the case filed against the leaders and workers belonging to the opposition political party.

Protesting the case under Public Safety Act (PSA) the members of parliament said Barisal has been turned to a city of fear due to terrorism by ruling party. Many people left their homes due to panic, they said.

They alleged that a number of terrorist groups were launching on the houses belonging to BNP leaders and workers frequently ignoring their democratic right to support opposition political party.

Phensidyl seized

The Detective Branch of police in Barisal seized phensidyl in bottles and containers from the Barisal Medical College Hospital Sunday.

A squad of Barisal DB led by Sheikh Jahid raided the nurses' dormitory quarter and pump house and recovered 180 bottled phensidyl from the terrace of the dormitory.

The batsmen stroking the ball well and the fielders sweating around to stem the flow of runs.

The wicket was absolutely in superb condition for stroke play, in fact better than Monday. Agarkar and Kumar made the best use of available condition with the new ball and once again the Bangladesh batsmen — Javed Omar, the hero of Monday and Sharier Hossain — fell to ambitious shots quite early in the innings, putting the whole team under pressure. They must learn to curb their over-enthusiasm and wait for the late deliveries to punish. Skipper Aminul Islam and Habibul Bashar engaged themselves in a damage-repair work and stayed together until the rain came into play. These two were in great nick which was unfortunately disrupted by weather. It will be interesting to watch if they can carry on their good works from where they had left off on Tuesday. The outfield will definitely not be the same but anything around 250 will be a fighting total against a strong Indian batting line-up provided the bowlers rise to the occasion.

Gully

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Following the police prevention, the students took position near the High Court and stayed there for about 30 minutes. Police again forced them to leave the High Court area.

Later, the students rushed to the altar of Shaheed Minar and stayed there till 3 pm to observe programme.

Earlier on Monday, some students went on rampage in different colleges including Eden College, Titumir College and Jagannath College for the same reason.

It may be mentioned that the authorities of NU expressed their firm determination to go ahead with the schedule of examinations that has already been announced.

Tax evasion

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the Dhaka Customs Commission Office.

The BPC can not take any action as the Customs Commissioner has not yet given the verdict in the case, said another BPC official.

Operators at the duty free shop denied their involvement in the forgery. They said they can not sell goods without prior approval of the customs department.

"Custom officials are posted here and they always supervise our activities. Before selling any goods they had to approve it. So if such type of forgery happened then it might be done by the custom official," said an official at the Mohakhali duty free shop.

He further said that the Paragana officials even can not deliver any good without custom clearance.

Mujibur Rahman blamed private ware house operators for conspiring against warehouses conducted by the government organisations. He said that through this they want to undermine government agencies and want to control the whole business.

NU Hons part III students prevented from staging hunger strike

By Staff Correspondent

Police prevented a section of Honours part-III students of National University (NU) yesterday from staging token hunger strike in front of the National Press Club demanding rescheduling of the examination dates.

According to the students and witnesses, the students assembled in front of the Press Club at 10.15 am to observe the programme and stayed there until police forced them leave the spot.

Following the police prevention, the students took position near the High Court and stayed there for about 30 minutes. Police again forced them to leave the High Court area.

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Beyond the Boundary

From page 1

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. Surely, it is the same game that is played, or isn't it?

The most premier competition of the continent of Asia, which has presented the international cricket community with three world champions, must be taken seriously by ACC. The Cricket is the only game in the world which is governed by laws, not rules. Enough amendments have been done to them at various times, to the extent that sometimes it does not appear to be cricket anymore. Why again should the parent bodies feel the need for more test tube babies? It is because as recent events suggest these bodies are gradually running the risk of becoming impotent.

As far as the Bangladesh experiment indicates the role of match referees need to be reviewed as well. So far as the general impression goes, these gentlemen are required to enforce the laws of the game as are conventionally accepted as well as to ensure that the relevant playing conditions are complied with. There must be a standard code of activities for such individuals, applicable on a consistent basis for all tournaments and matches. The moment their decision-making powers are left to their discretion, the whole Pandora's box of competence, integrity and strength of personality spill out into the open. Why expose such frailties of such personalities? Either choose them on merit or provide them with protection from such situations. Cricket as a game is still greater than the individuals who attempt to run it. Present day administrators are embarking on two convenient paths towards petty glory, playing god to this great and magnificent game as well as trying to bastardise it further.

Neither of which is acceptable to the average cricket lover.

Tribute to Zia

From page 12

They recalled contributions of the valiant freedom fighter who introduced Bangladeshi nationalism, restored multi-party democracy, established friendly relations with the Islamic world and played a vital role in regional and global peace.

On this day in 1981, Zia was assassinated a Chittagong Circuit House by a group of disgruntled army men. People of the country actively participated in the nation-building activities at the call of Zia and his 19-point programmes got tremendous support.

To mark the day, BNP and various socio-cultural organisations chalked out elaborate programmes. The BNP took up a 10-day programmes in observance of the death anniversary. The programmes included *Quran Khuan*, *milled mahfil*, offering of *fateha* and placing of wreaths, hoisting of black and party flags, feeding the destitute, discussion meeting, photo exhibition etc.

Different national dailies published special supplements on the life and works of President Ziaur Rahman. Recorded speeches of Zia were played in many parts of the city.

The day's programmes began with hoisting of black flag and lowering of party flag at half-mast at BNP central office at Naya Paltan early in the morning to mark the mourning City, district, thana and ward unit offices across the country followed the programmes.

Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal or

ganzir Qurankhwan on the mazar premises in the early morning. It also arranged a mild mahfil, which was attended by BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia and top-ranking party leaders.

Khaleida Zia also inaugurated a blood donation programme organised by the Shaheed Zia Adarsha Bastabayan Parishad on the mazar premises.

Mazar programmes over, Khaleida Zia, along with some party leaders, including city BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, distributed destitutes at 40 places in the capital. BNP organised such food among destitute-feeding programme at about 100 places, sources said.

Khaleida

From page 1

of an MP who killed a businessman in the city, she alleged. Khaleida said the Nagar Bhaban is now occupied by the so-called five-star and seven-star gangs and reports appeared in newspapers that influential men of the government are involved in double and triple murders in the city.

The BNP chairperson said the patriotic officials and employees are now scared of losing their jobs as government ministers, MPs and leaders are forcing them to help AL men in their corrupt activities.

As a result, the government officials and employees are now living in a total insecurity, she said.

Khaleida said the government has resorted to repression on journalists who are publishing news on corruption and misdeeds of the AL government, she said.

Khaleida thanked the journalists and the newspapers who have taken bold and courageous steps against corruption, misdeeds, grabbing of people's wealth, occupation of lands, terrorism and extortion by the ruling party.

She said the corrupt government and its ministers, MPs will have to be accountable to 'people's court' soon.

Pakistan

From page 1

tenant General Tauqir Zia told this news agency.

"Once they get the full Test status from ICC we would like them to play us either in Dhaka or in our country," Zia said.

Bangladesh is bidding to become the 10th Test-playing country when the ICC discusses the South Asian country's application at its annual meeting in London from June 21-24.

Earlier in the month, the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), Saber Hossain Chowdhury, proclaimed that Bangladesh was almost certain to be welcomed into the Test arena at the forthcoming ICC meet.

Bangladesh Sports Minister Obaidul Quader and BCB secretary Syed Ashraful Huq visited Pakistan last week. Zia said the delegation was assured of Pakistan's support.

India, Australia and South Africa have also backed Bangladesh's claim.

"We have warm brotherly relations with Bangladesh and will go all out to help and boost their cricket," said Zia adding their Pakistan had doubled its Asia Cup participation fee to help Bangladesh in hosting the event.

Zia will leave for Dhaka to witness the on-going Asia Cup and chair the coming Asian Cricket Council meeting.

Bangladesh beat Pakistan in the 1999 World Cup held in England which boosted their chances of gaining full membership.

They attained one-day international status in 1998 after winning the ICC Trophy, a qualifying event for the World Cup.

Ties with Dhaka excellent: Hungarian envoy

Hungarian envoy</