

What's on today....

BHRC discussion: On 'Social Responsibility in Protecting Human Rights', organised by Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC). Venue: Khilgaon Model College. Time: 3:30 pm.

Seminar: On 'Total quality and excellence in Education: Role of students quality control circles', organised by Bangladesh Society for Total Quality Management. Venue: BETS Centre, House 55, Road-4A, Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

View exchanges meet: Students-Youth Movement to Resist Export of Oil-Gas will hold a view exchanges meet. Venue: DUCSU cafeteria, DU campus. Time: 5:00 pm.

Cultural programme: Alliance Française de Dhaka presents a cultural programme featuring Rabindra Sangeet by him and folk songs by Kanak. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 7:00 pm.

Exhibition: Iranian Cultural Centre begins a 3-day long exhibition on Iranian leader Imam Khomeini (R). The exhibition will feature photos, posters, paintings, books, audio, video and CDs on the leader. Venue: Iranian Cultural Centre, Road No 8/A, Dhanmondi, R/A. Time: 9:00 am-12:00 pm, 3:00 pm-7:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

IUB convocation: The Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) will hold its fourth convocation. Chief guest: Education Minister ASHK Sadeque. Venue: Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium, Mirpur. Time: 10:00 am.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka and Chittagong Divisions till 6 pm tomorrow today, reports UNB. No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country during the period. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and Jessore and the lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Rangpur and Khulna.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.43 pm and rises on Saturday at 5.11 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were.

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.8	24.8	82	60
Chittagong	33.6	26.7	82	81
Rajshahi	35.5	25.0	73	78
Khulna	35.6	23.0	76	73
Barisal	34.4	24.5	84	70
Sylhet	30.8	24.9	100	83
Cox's Bazar	34.5	25.2	79	83

HERE and THERE

DEBTEC

By Staff Correspondent

Scientific Secretary of the International Council for Science and Technology in Developing Countries, Dr G Thyagarajan visited country's leading non-government biotechnology research organisation, DEBTEC, on May 30, says a press release.

Secretary of the Science and Technology M Fazlur Rahman was present during the visit. DEBTEC Executive Director Dr Ferdousi Begum explained different research activities of the organisation to the visitor.

DEBTEC has undertaken mass propagation of orchid, banana, potato, bamboo, neem, hijol and many other ornamental and medicinal plants. Dr Thyagarajan praised the organisation's works and assured of his cooperation.

Others present during Dr Thyagarajan's visit included Chairman of BCSIR M Moshazzaman, Member Director of BARC Dr Fariduddin Ahmed and ex-member of Atomic Energy Commission M Serajul Islam.

Prokrichi-BCS Coordination Council

By Staff Correspondent

Prokrichi-BCS Central Coordination Council has reiterated its urge for meeting its eight-point demand and stop the process of mass promotion in the Secretariat.

The Council, a joint body of 26 government cadre services and professionals held a meeting on Wednesday to express its concern about the government's indifference over its demands, says a press release.

It urged all professionals and council members to join the planned protest rally to be organised at the Engineers Institution auditorium on June 12.

BCS (Taxation) Association

By Staff Correspondent

BCS (Taxation) Association has demanded that the govern-

ment refrain from giving any contractual appointment in taxation service.

In a meeting held in the city yesterday the association expressed deep concern and anguish at the news of contractual appointment of a tax commissioner recently.

With association president KM Shakhawat Hossain in the chair, the meeting also reminded the government of such incidents in the past when the association had taken tough line against all contractual appointments and reappointments.

Zonta Club IV

The newly elected executive members of the Zonta Club IV, Dhaka assumed their offices yesterday, says a press release.

The installation ceremony of the new committee was held on May 27. They were elected at the annual general meeting on April 29.

Najma Hasin was elected president of the club with Afroze Hafiz as first Vice-President, Najma Islam as second Vice-President, Dolly Rahman as Treasurer, Munira Nooruddin as Recording Secretary and Saveria Ahmed as Correspondence Secretary.

The installation ceremony of the elected new six directors and selection of the different committee chairperson also took place on the same day.

All members renewed their pledge to uphold the Zonta motto, says a press release.

Rotaract club of Wari Dhaka

Rotaract Club of Wari Dhaka and Rotary Club of City Central jointly administered a Polio Vaccination and Vitamin A capsule feeding drive in the city at the Rahmatganj Community Centre to make the second phase of the 7th National Immunisation Day programmes a success, says a press release.

Iftikhar Uddin Naoshad, owner of the Modhumita Cinema Hall, Rtn Sohel Kashem, Rtn Lt Col (Retd) Mahtab Uddin, M Salahuddin, founder of Rahmatganj sports organisation, were present, among others, at the programme.



BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia distributing food among poor and destitutes in city's Nawabpur area yesterday as part of a programme marking former president Ziaur Rahman's 19th death anniversary.

Dev of nation lies with effective use of science and technology

Hasina says at convocation of BIT, Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, June 1: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought full co-operation from all quarters to free all educational institutions of the country from terrorism and bring back a congenial academic atmosphere.

Addressing as the chief guest in the first ever convocation of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Rajshahi this noon, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that a peaceful academic atmosphere has been prevailing in the educational institutions of the country since her govt came into power and the students have gone back to their studies rejecting a path of terrorism and anarchy.

The Prime Minister said, the precondition for development of a nation is education and the pre-condition of education is to retain peace and discipline in educational institutions.

Sheikh Hasina said that the nation has just entered a new millennium and the development and progress of the nation lies with the use of science and technology. She said, the world has become a small place now due to the use of information technology. The invention of new technology is progressing so rapidly that the newer ones being invented today are being overshadowed by newer ones tomorrow. She said, the government is trying its best to harness, master and adopt newer invented technologies to accelerate the process of development of the country.

The prime minister also said, the engineers of our country have been involved with the development of computer technology in the country. She said it is often seen that a Bangladeshi engineer or technician shows a great mastery of skill and intelligence in foreign lands. In this context, she added if those sons of the country get the opportunity and proper environment to work here they will be able to play a

vital role in the development of agriculture, industries and other neglected sectors of the country.

She said, in the present era of information technology, we will have to build up a skilled man-power, and we have the required knowledge, intelligence and a potential manpower to face the challenges of the new millennium. The technological institutes of the country can play a more active role to turn the millions of unskilled man-power of the country into a skilled one.

The prime minister said to increase the opportunity of technical education and to develop it further, the government has decided to open new departments and to enroll increased number of students in the old institutes and has also decided to establish 12 new science and technological Universities.

She said, the government was trying sincerely to bid farewell to hindering problems as session jams and to establish congenial academic atmosphere at all educational institutes of the country. In regard, Sheikh Hasina lauded the role of BIT, Rajshahi for taking appropriate steps to end session jams.

Hasina awarded gold medals to three students of the BIT, Rajshahi, Abdul Razzak of the department of Electrical and Electronics, Rokuzzaman of Mechanical Engineering and Kamruzzaman of Civil Engineering, for their outstanding performance.

Presided over by the Chairman of the Board of Governors of BIT, Rajshahi and Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University Professor Dr S M Nazrul Islam, the convocation was addressed by the Minister for Education ASHK Sadeque, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors Dr Nazrul Islam and Director of the BIT, Rajshahi Professor GM Habibullah while Professor Dr Mosarraf Hossain Khan, Vice-Chancellor of Ahsanullah Uni-

versity of Science and Technology and former Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) was the convocation speaker.

The convocation function was attended among others by the Minister for Commerce M A Jallil, Minister for Health and Family Planning Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Professor MA Qudus.

A total of 1020 graduate engineers of the BIT took part in the convocation.

Does must go wherever they get postings

UNB adds: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked physicians to provide best possible healthcare to all people with the mentality of serving humanity wherever they get postings.

"You will have to go wherever necessary, even to the remote areas to serve the people. Curing people from diseases is the best way to serve humanity," she said inaugurating a two-day reunion of Rajshahi Medical College in Rajshahi in the afternoon.

Addressing the function of the former students of the medical college, she noted that the doctors do not want to go outside the capital, which deprives the rural people of better treatment.

She said the government had taken steps for increased healthcare facilities in the rural areas trying to reach the health services to the doorstep of the people.

Hasina said the government had also taken steps for solving the problems of the doctors and was trying to build an infrastructure to provide medical service every nook and corner of the country.

She said the government had reduced duties on medical equipment and waived on several medical items for the convenience of the people.

Lawyers greet Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana

Scores of women lawyers of Bangladesh Supreme Court yesterday felicitated Nazmun Ara Sultana as she was appointed the first woman judge in the country's highest-tier of judiciary, reports BSS.

The lawyers called on Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana to convey their greetings and shared some happy moments. Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani was present on the occasion.

The Justice thanked the lawyers and stressed the need for meaningful cooperation between the Bar and the Bench.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Mahila Sangstha has congratulated Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, the first woman judge of the Supreme Court.

In a message, it said that the appointment of Justice Sultana as the judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court is not only matter of pride for the women folk but also for the country and the Bengali nation.

The Sangstha expressed gratefulness to the President, the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice for the appointment of the woman judge in the Supreme Court.

WP urges govt Withdraw false cases against transport workers

Bangladesh Workers' Party has strongly condemned the arrest and filing of false cases against transport workers and leaders, reports UNB.

In a statement WP President Anwar Hossain said, over 100 transport workers and leaders were arrested and cases filed against 300 others centering the transport strike on May 16.

They said police were still searching the residences of the workers' leaders and sometimes they were forced to join the ruling party.

The leftist party leaders demanded immediate release of the leaders and end to the harassment, said a press release.

Khaleda condoles death of JCD leader

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has expressed deep shock at the death of Ekrumulah Pintu, a JCD leader of Feni, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, Begum Zia prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Ekrumulah, sports secretary of Chhagalnaiya thana unit of JCD, died of cardiac arrest.

Canadian envoy meets Mannan

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh David Preston called on BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his office yesterday and discussed the country's current economic and political situation.

The Canadian High Commissioner was accompanied by Don Colier, Political and Economic Adviser of Canadian High Commission in Dhaka.

Begum Zia's adviser M M Rezaul Karim was present on the occasion.

GCHTHSC protests JSS attacks

By DU Correspondent

Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students' Council (GCHTHSC) yesterday brought out a procession in the city protesting attack on the villagers of Shibmandir in Khagrachhari allegedly by 'terrorists' sheltered by Jano Sanghati Samity, which left 3 people with bullet injuries.

Following the procession, GCHTHSC held a rally on the road island of Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University.

Addressing the rally, speakers condemned the attack and said that the "JSS terrorists" were conducting frequent attacks on those who oppose the full autonomy of the area.

The JSS is now indulging in terrorist activities as they have become separate from the mass people and their political ideology," they said.

Art exhibition of folk culture begins

A three week-long art exhibition highlighting the folk culture and natural beauty of Bangladesh was inaugurated in the city yesterday to familiarise the country's rich heritage with the present and future generations, reports BSS.

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman opened the show at the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University amid much fanfare, saying such exhibitions would bridge the gap between painters and art lovers.

The show dubbed as 13th New Artists' Fine Arts Exhibition-2000 is showcasing 227 works of 183 young artists, mostly students of the Institute of Fine Arts.

Inaugurating the exhibition, which will run till June 21, Justice Latifur Rahman said fine arts would not only be described as a mere form of art but be considered as an integral part of the country's rich culture and life.

Beyond the Boundary

From page 1

The Sri Lankans managed only 275 odd was more an aberration than any credit to the bowling faced.

Once again, it was left to Sachin Tendulkar, to be the Dirty Harry for the Indian team. He dismissed the obdurate but classy Atapattu, in what was certainly the turning point of the match at that stage. Then, bowling a totally different type of ball to Russell Arnold, he had the batsman dragged all out of shape before he was made to edge a very good catch to the stand-in keeper. Which really begs the question, why is Nayan Mongia made to spend most of his time in air-planes flying around in style without actually being part of the action? This is the second time such an instance has taken place. Is there a method to this particular form of selectorial madness? For India, insurmountable is the name of the game their selectors play.

Once again, seven bowlers trundled on the day. One by the name of Robin Singh bowled only three throughout the day. He was supposedly expected to play a role while batting. In which case, one could not quite fathom why Sunil Joshi, and not he, was sent in at number three. The Indians were maintaining a run rate of over 5 an over, until the think tank decided on a need for a pinch hitter, who dutifully and manfully died, without his boots on and not troubling the scorers. Then, to further aggravate matters, instead of a Jadeja or an Azhar, Rahul Dravid was sent in. To no-one's surprise, he proceeded to make heavy weather of the goings on, brought the run rate down and sacrilegiously kept Tendulkar away from the strike.

Sri Lanka was able to keep the pressure on continuously, knowing that, with Tendulkar

having to farm the strike, the Indians needed some robust hitting at the other end to overhaul this total. The bowling was sharp, the fielding excellent, something that was non-existent in the earlier part of the day. All the Indian bowlers had suffered at the hands of the later order Sri Lankans. The Indian bowling has to come to terms with the fact that Anil Kumble is now making a tragic transition from being a strike bowler to being a stock bowler. The cricketing equivalent of a combination of middle-age blues and the male menopause. The team suffered and Vaas & Co. made merry. Could the Indian batting match this mayhem of the end overs?

Evidently not on present form. Tendulkar embarked on a monumental journey all by himself. Out of the 220-odd balls bowled when he eventually got out, Tendulkar had managed to face only 97. But, in that time he had scored 93 runs, which under normal circumstances would have been priceless. Yesterday it mattered and meant nothing at all. All the time he was there his partners were neither able to rotate the strike nor hit the odd boundary or two. With his back to the wall he decided to shoot from the hip, but the gun did not blaze one last time and he was picked up on the ropes. Gallant and defiant till the bitter end, but, as so often before, for a lost cause.

It was a hard contest played hard and fair. In the end motivation, commitment and plain talent won out. India already has a lot on its mind but should that be good enough reason for it not to function? Sadly, there is not much time left in this competition for Kapil Dev and his men to find out.

One thing is for sure though. Golf scores are not enough to win cricket matches.

Experts question

From page 1

Boro output corresponds with the rise in GDP growth. Facts and logic negate such possibility.

According to the national income estimate, crop sub-sector accounts for 15 per cent of the GDP. On the other hand, rice constitutes 70 per cent of the crop sub-sector. This actually means that rice alone accounts for 10.5 per cent of GDP.

But rice has three segments - Aman, Boro and Aus. Boro output covers less than 50 per cent of the rice segment.

To make a long story short, Boro production fuels less than five per cent of the GDP growth.

Now, the logic of the situation comes: how much increase in Boro growth will lead to the aggregate GDP growth of 6.23 per cent?

Economists say Boro output has to go up by 15 per cent from the original projection of 9.6 million tons for GDP to rise from 5.47 per cent to 6.23 per cent.

Did a growth from 9.6 million ton to 10.6 million ton reflect a 15 per cent growth? No way. It only comes to a 10.42 per cent increase, leaving a 5 per cent gap.

Paddy price trend also corroborates the above arguments. The national average price of paddy on May 28 was Tk 6.94 a kg while that of coarse rice was Tk 11.68 a kg.

So reliability of data is now important. It should not be the mere objective of the government to hike the growth rate," Dr Zohir said.

Railway goes slow

From page 1

Monju on February 29 this year expressed dissatisfaction at the slow progress in reforms. Requesting immediate reply from the communication minister about progress in reform measures, the finance minister observed that otherwise financial support from Germany and other donors would be uncertain.

During German-Bangladesh talks in February last year, Germany assured a total of \$2 million Deutsche Mark for two projects of the railway. The projects are Rehabilitation of Signalling Technology and Construction of Tongli-Bhairab Bazar Double Line.

German delegation at the talks gave three pre-conditions for the assistance -- a government decision in principle that the railway would be corporatised, a clear understanding between the governments of Bangladesh and India that inter-country traffic is indeed envisaged and a confirmation that the investment cost not financed by financing company will be borne by Bangladesh government.

The ERD pointed out in a summary prepared by it that Asian Development Bank and Canada had also assured financial support to the railway but linked that with structural reform.

It said that organisational reforms in Bangladesh Railway --Phase 1 and Phase 11-- were already completed but Phase 111 was not completed. For this, financial support from ADB became uncertain.

The summary mentioned that ERD had sent two letters to the railway on April 20 and May 5 last year requesting information about progress over corporatisation of the railway. The BR authorities informed ERD that a proposal for turning the railway into a corporation was prepared and it was sent to the roads and railway division of the communication ministry.

This price looks to be quite high and denies the possibility of a fantastic Boro production of 10.6 million output.

"I am doubtful about a 10.6 million ton Boro production," said Dr Sajjad Zohir of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, who specialises on agriculture. "Paddy price in the market would have been much lower in case of such a fantastic production."

He says breeding over-optimism may lead to wrong decisions in other sectors. "For example, the government may go for procurement drive because of a perceived over-production. This will then lead to inflation and extra expenditure for the government."

A recent seminar by Bangladesh Economic Association and IFPRI also pointed to an important aspect of food production. It said that the government estimates of production and grain import by public and private parties show per capita availability of food grain to be much higher than the figure that one historically observes. This indicates that there are some over-estimation in either import or production figures or even in both.

"So reliability of data is now important. It should not be the mere objective of the government to hike the growth rate," Dr Zohir said.

Khasru to attend confce in US

A three-day conference on 'Comprehensive Legal and Judicial Development Towards an Agenda for a Just and Equitable Society in the 21st Century' will begin in Washington, DC on June 5, reports BSS.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru will leave the country today for the USA to attend the conference.

The conference is jointly organised by African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Reunion and Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Chief Justice, judges, members of the parliament (MPs), high officials, representatives from donor countries, social and political scientists and legal experts of different countries will attend the conference.

The minister will visit different courts in Washington to see for himself the functioning of the modern court, trial management and administrative system.

Mother of Prof Kabir Chy dead

Ummu Kabir Afia Begum, mother of National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and widow of late Khan Bahadur Abdul Halim Chowdhury, died in the city yesterday afternoon at her 20 Circular Road residence at age 94, reports BSS.

She left behind six sons, five daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Following her *namaz-e-janaza* after Esha prayers last night, she will be buried at the old Azampur Graveyard, family sources said.

Among her sons and daughters Shaheed Professor Munir Chowdhury, Professor Nadera Begum, Principal Nasir Chowdhury, Ferdoushi Majumder and Professor Rahela Bannu are well known figures in their respective fields.

PM condoles death

Prime Minister Hasina yesterday deeply condoled the death of Ummu Kabir Afia Begum, mother of National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and widow of late Khan Bahadur Abdul Halim Chowdhury who died in the city last afternoon.

The Prime Minister expressed her heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

BWPA delegation to attend spl UNGA session

A three-member delegation of Bangladesh Women Police Association (BWPA) will leave the city today for New York to attend the special session of General Assembly of United Nations on June 5, reports UNB.

The delegation members are BWPA Chairperson Rehana Siddiqui, General Secretary Masuda Khan and Cultural Secretary Mitali Haq, according to BWPA press release.

Death anniversary

The fourth anniversary of death of former MP and eminent Awami League leader Advocate Dabir Uddin Ahmed will be observed today, reports UNB.

A *milad mahfil* and *Qurankhwan* will be held at late Ahmed's residence at Suhrawardi Sarak in Sirajganj and at 192-B, Khilgaon Chowdhury in the city.

The third death anniversary of former MP and freedom fighter Advocate Sirajul Islam will be observed today, reports UNB.

He was elected Member of Parliament for four times in 1970, 1973, 1979 and 1986 from Panchagarh and Thakurgaon.

Marking the day, Advocate Sirajul Islam *Smriti Sangsad* will arrange *milad mahfil* at his Maidan village, Panchagarh.

Panchagarhi Awami League will hold a memorial meeting on the occasion.

Girl rescued from slum

By Staff Correspondent

Keraniganj thana police yesterday rescued a girl from a slum at Charkalganj Boubazar.

The girl identified as Rashida, 15, had fled away from a residence at CDA under Doublenagar, thana in Chittagong about six months back. Abdur Razzag, father of Rashida, filed a petition at special court for Women and Children Repression Prevention, Perojpur accusing her master Aminul Hasan.

Rashida hailed from village Dumuria, thana Nazirpur in Perojpur district married a man named Ibrahim and had been living at Charkalganj Boubazar under the thana. Sub-inspector Abdul Gaunim led the rescue operation.

Labour and Manpower Minister M. A. Mannan handed over the commissioning foreman of newly acquired Patrol Board of the Bangladesh Navy at the BNS Issa Khan in Chittagong recently. Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral A Taher also seen.