

What's on today

BMA discussion meeting: Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) will hold a discussion on "Limitations and Implementation Problems of Environmental Laws in Bangladesh," to mark World Environment Day. Venue: BMA Bhaban, 15/2, Tophkhana Road. Time: 4.00 pm.

JCD discussion meeting: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) will hold a discussion meeting on "Production-Oriented Education System and Ziaur Rahman" to mark the 19th death anniversary of former president Ziaur Rahman. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 4.00 pm.

Seminar: Iranian Cultural Centre will hold a seminar on "Ideological Islamic Society in View of Imam Khomeini (R)" to mark the 11th death anniversary of Imam Khomeini (R). Chief guest: State Minister for Religious Affairs, Maulana Mohammad Nurul Islam. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium. Time: 5.00 pm.

IFCAB seminar: International Film Critics Association of Bangladesh (IFCAB) will hold a two-day long seminar and film screening session. On the first day it will screen *Jago Huwa Saveri* by A J Kardar. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No-10, Road No-9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5.30 pm.

Cultural programme: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will hold a cultural programme "Oi nutoner keiton ore" which will be participated by leading artists of the country, as part of its programmes to mark the 101st birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Venue: Academy premises. Time: 7.00 pm.

Workshop: Bangladesh livestock research organisation will begin a two-day long "Research Review Workshop 2000." Chief guest: State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir. Venue: The research organisation's premises at Savar.

and tomorrow

FEJB rally: Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) will hold day-long programmes on occasion of World Environment Day. It will bring out a rally in the morning and hold a discussion meeting in the afternoon. Venue: Rally - from Press Club to Osmani Uddan, discussion meet - Osmani Smriti Auditorium. Time: Rally: 9.00 am, discussion: 10.30 am.

IFCAB seminar: International Film Critics Association of Bangladesh (IFCAB) will hold a seminar. Satiyajit Ray's *Ashani Sanket* will be screened at the end of the seminar. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No-10, Rd-No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5.30 pm.

BIBM lecture: Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) will hold the third Nurul Matin Memorial Lecture on "Ethics in Banking." Chief guest: Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria. Venue: BIBM premises. Time: 6.00 pm.

Weather

Temperature may rise

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by tempest gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Dhaka divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over Chittagong division till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Slight rise in day temperature is expected over northern part of the country and may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country during the period. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 36.8 degree Celsius at Bogra and the lowest 23.4 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.44 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	35.2	27.5	76	56
Chittagong	34.3	24.0	84	78
Rajshahi	35.0	25.8	90	80
Khulna	35.6	27.2	73	80
Barisal	34.8	26.5	74	80
Sylhet	34.5	24.2	72	72
Cox's Bazar	34.4	27.0	81	81

HERE and THERE

OJA Bangladesh Principals Parishad

The executive committee of the Old Jubileans Association (OJA), the alumni of KL Jubilee School & College, was elected unanimously at a general meeting recently, says a press release.

KM Zahid Sarwar Kazal, and Bidyut Kumar Saha, have been elected as the president and general secretary, respectively.

The members of the executive committee assumed its office on June 1. The office of the Association has been established in 2/3 Bahadurpur Lane, Faridabad, Dhaka 1204 (Phone: 7411057, e-mail: oldjubileans@yahoo.com).

BHRC National Advisor to Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) Amanullah Khan has said there is no alternative to rule of law in establishing social justice, reports UNB.

"The judiciary must be separated from the executive for ensuring human rights," said Khan, also UNB Chairman, in a discussion meeting at Khilgaon Model College auditorium on Friday.

The discussion titled "Social Responsibility in Protecting Human Rights" was organised by the Khilgaon thana unit of BHRC with its president Advocate Mustafa Ahmed in the chair.

Amanullah Khan suggested constituting a National Human Rights Commission and appointing an Ombudsman for establishing human right at national level.

"As a member state of the United Nations, Bangladesh should comply with the UN Charter of Human Rights," he said and called upon the human rights activists to work for establishing rights for women and children.

General secretaries of Khilgaon and Dhanmondi units of the Commission AKM Saifulah and Advocate Billal Hossain, Shyampr branch president Amir Hossain, acting general secretary of Morigheer thana branch Ziaul Islam, general secretary of Sutrapur branch M Abdul Karim and vice-president of Khilgaon Chidul Huq Suza took part in the discussion.

BFTA Guardians of the students studying in the non-government schools and colleges and the teachers held a joint meeting yesterday throughout the country at thana levels including Dhaka metropolitan city as part of the observance of the 3-day teacher-guardian exchange of views programme under the auspices of Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Associations (BFTA), says a press release.

The Federation has drawn a series of action programmes for realisation of their 15-point charter of demand which include enhancement of government portion of salary from 80 per cent to 100 per cent as per government commitment and the implementation of the 7-point recommendation for checking malpractices in public examinations through the concerted efforts of the guardians, teachers and members of the administration.

The guardians in the meetings appreciated the role of the Federation for its efforts to check unfairness in examinations and realised the acute financial problems of teachers. They urged the government to implement the commitment given to the teachers in regard to 20 per cent enhancement of their salary without further delay in the greater interest of the students and education sector as well.



Participants at the South Asian children's workshop at BIIS yesterday are seen with Professor A K Azad Chowdhury, (sixth from left) VC, Dhaka University. — Star photo

Eid-e-Miladunnabi on June 15

The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi will be celebrated in the country on June 15 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee held in the conference room of the Islamic Foundation at Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the evening with Director General of the Foundation Moulana Abdul Awal in the chair.

The committee fixed up the date of the day by reviewing various information regarding moon sighting which earlier were collected from district administrations. Islamic Foundation offices across the country and the Directorate of Bangladesh Weather Forecasting.

Two pickpockets held from bus in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, June 3: Police arrested two pickpockets from a bus on Saturday afternoon at Jangalia.

Police arrested Salma Begum, 22, and Parveen Akter, 18, with a stolen gold chain in their possession.

Police said that the two women slipped away the gold chain from a young girl Nasima, 13, a student travelling to Jangalia from Dhaka in the bus.

Other passengers caught the two pickpockets when the young girl cried out after her chain was snatched.

A case was filed with Bandar thana police.

JP liaising with others to field single candidate'

No alternative to face polls unitedly: Ershad

MANIKGANJ, June 3: Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad today said there is no alternative to the Opposition Alliance contesting the election unitedly for win and save the nation, reports UNB.

Addressing a big public meeting at Lembari High School ground in Sadar upazila the former President said the major opposition parties must fight unitedly at any cost the next general election to bring about the fall of the Awami League government.

He said his party was maintaining close liaison with other opposition parties including BNP to field a single candidate in each of the constituencies across the country.

Chaired by former upazila chairman Giasuddin Ahmed the meeting was also addressed by Golam Sarwar Milan, Nurul Amin Khan, Advocate Abdul Aziz, Gazi Khairul Huda Faruq and Ataur Rahman.

The JP chief said so far the present government took Tk 5,500 crore in loans from the banks and members of the public. The entrepreneurs do not get bank loans to operate their mills and factories. No country can prosper without industrialisation, he added.

He said the economy of the country is on the verge of ruination and the ruling party leaders are taking money from the banks. The government has failed totally in running the country.

Ershad called upon the people to rally round the Opposition Alliance in the coming parliamentary election and help install a patriotic national government in the country.

Bangladesh team to attend session of Beijing plus

A delegation from (UNGA) Bangladesh will attend the special session of UN General Assembly on "Women 2000, Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century" which begins tomorrow, according to a message received here, reports BSS.

Prof Zinatunnessa Talukder, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs will lead Bangladesh at the four-day session also known as Beijing plus to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Empowerment of women will be the main thrust of discussion.

Besides delegates from the government, the special session will be attended by representatives of non-governmental organisations. A delegation of NGOs from Bangladesh will also attend the session.

UN sources said the special session will focus on women and poverty, education and training of women. The related topics included women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment, and the girl child.

Dhaka-Shillong direct bus service demanded

Sylhet Division Development Council has demanded direct bus service between Dhaka and Shillong, the capital of Assam State of India, for boosting trade and commerce and facilitating movement of people across the border, reports BSS.

The leaders of the Council in a statement to the press said like the Dhaka-Calcutta-Dhaka direct bus service which received the support of the people in general, Dhaka-Shillong-Dhaka direct bus service will also receive the same popular support and it will fulfil the long-cherished demand of the people of the greater Sylhet region.

They said if introduced, the service will give a boost to the all-round economic activities including tourism.

Besides, hundreds of children of Sylhet region who are studying in Shillong and Shillong will be benefited by direct bus service, they added.

The Parishad leaders congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the construction of Sadipur and Sayestaganj bridges which were inaugurated by her yesterday bringing an end to the sufferings of the people of Sylhet region.

Non-govt teachers demand 100 pc salary from govt exchequer

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh College-University Teachers' Association (BCUTA) yesterday demanded of the government to meet their 11-point demand including 100 per cent salary for non-government teachers.

"We demand 100 per cent salary from government exchequer," said BCUTA President Dr M Akhtaruzzaman while addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

BCUTA Vice-President Prof Shaiful Mawla, Prof M A Bari, and Principal Dilwara Islam addressed the press conference while General Secretary Principal M Shahjahan read out the written statement.

The BCUTA leaders demanded formation of an independent college service commission to stop corruption in appointing teachers in non-government colleges.

Other demands of the association are two festival bonuses, increase in house rent, cancellation of workforce structure introduced during the previous government, introduction of employment rules according to UNESCO and ILO recommendations, repeal of quota system in appointment of assistant professor and fixation of retirement age for teachers and employees of non-government colleges at 65.

The BCUTA leaders announced a series of programmes to press home their demands. The programmes include, mass contacts and exchange of views from June 13 to 20 at divisional level, organisational tour and work stoppage at all non-government colleges on July 1.

11 more rebels killed in Philippines

COTABATO, Philippines, June 3: Eleven rebels from the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were killed as security forces pressed an offensive to capture another guerrilla base in the southern Philippines, military officials said today, reports AFP.

The new fatalities, which occurred in clashes on Friday, raised the death toll in the mission to capture Camp Usman in the province of Maguindanao near the city of Cotabato to 43 over the past three days.

Military officials said 32 rebels were killed during fighting outside the camp in Limbalod village on Thursday.

BNP protests removal of plaque of Sadipur bridge

SYLHET, June 3: The BNP brought out a procession in the town today to protest removal of a plaque for Sadipur Bridge laid by former BNP minister Saifur Rahman and corruption in connection with construction of the bridge, reports UNB.

Earlier, the district BNP leaders at a press conference demanded restoration of the plaque laid by Saifur Rahman and repair the fault developed in the bridge within a week of construction.

The leaders said, they would lay siege to the offices of DC and Roads and Highway Department and even call hartal if the demands are not met.

BNP leaders said former Finance Minister Saifur Rahman laid the foundation stone of the bridge and started construction, but the foundation stone was removed secretly by the ruling party.

They said the government is now opening the incomplete bridge only to take credit. Most of the work was done during BNP rule, they added.

District BNP president M A Huq, general secretary Ariful Huq Chowdhury, former MP Fatema Chowdhury and Illyas Ali were present at the press conference.

Principal Jafar Ali Sarkar dead

Jafar Ali Sarkar, former principal and founder of the Gayeshpur High School and college in Gaogaon died of old age complications at a clinic in the city Friday night. He was 70, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

The body of late Sarkar was taken to his hometown Mymensingh yesterday morning where he will be buried at the Gulkbart graveyard after *namaz-e-ajanaza*.

The *qulqhawani* of the deceased will be held at his residence at No 32 Brahmapoll Road tomorrow after *Asr* prayers.

Meanwhile, President of the Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) Prof. M A Hadi in a condolence message expressed deep shock at the death of Principal Jafar Ali Sarkar who was the father of Dr A Z M Zahid Hossain, member secretary of the organisation.

In a message he also expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed to the Almighty Allah for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Painting exhibition by 52 couples begins in city

A 15-day painting exhibition, first of its kind in Bangladesh, was opened at the "Ariah" Gallery in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

A total of 104 paintings are on display in the show that attracted a large number of people at the Gallery at House No 15, Road No 7, Dhanmondi residential area.

Veteran cultural activists couple Ramendu Majumder and Ferdousi Majumder inaugurated the exhibition before a select audience that included persons from different professional groups.

Obituary

Begum Saleha Sultanuddin Ahmed, wife of ex-governor of erstwhile East Pakistan and the ex-vice-chancellor of Dhaka University late Sultanuddin Ahmed died yesterday, says a press release.

She left behind 3 sons, 5 daughters, relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Her *namaz-e-ajanaza* will be held today at 8:30 am at her residence at 3/5, Tophkhana Road, Sector Bagicha. Her *qulqhawani* will be held on June 6 after *Asr* prayers, the release added.

Khaleda protests filing of 'false cases' against Barisal BNP men

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a statement yesterday strongly protested filing of 'false cases' against Mojibur Rahman Sarwar MP, Barisal district JCD president Aktar Hossain and ten other BNP leaders and activists of the district under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

In her statement the former prime minister also said filing of 'false case' against the BNP lawmaker has again proved that the government has introduced the 'black law' to suppress the opposition, said a press release last night.

Opposition siege

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rao Sishu Mela crossing to Rokeya Sarani connecting point, Rokeya Sarani-Arargaon connecting point to old Nine Division crossing (Aeroplan crossing) to Barisan crossing at Bhoj Sarani and western part of Indira Road to western part of Manik Mia Avenue.

The of Sangsad Bhaban areas Chandrima Udyan and all roads, lanes and by lanes around the EC Secretariat will also be under the purview of the law.

The BNP, Jatiya Party (JP), Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) and some other right wing political parties will simultaneously lay siege to the EC Secretariat in Dhaka and EC offices in district headquarters.

BNP leaders and activists will assemble at Ramna Restaurant from where they will head for the EC secretariat at 11 pm through Shahbagh. JP will start from its Kalabagan office after holding a rally at 10 am there while Jamaat will start from its Mogbaraz office at 11:30 am and IOJ from Purana Paltan.

High-rises

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But Rajuk is not against high-rise, we have to spread the city and build outside the crowded places."

Dr M Shaheedul Ameen of BUET said that in reality only about 100 square miles of the city are constantly coming under pressure. "High-rise is the only answer to our problems of housing and commercial space as Dhaka is crippled for horizontal expansion because in all directions except north, there is nothing but low-lying areas."

Housing and Public Works Secretary Sohail Ahmed said nothing has been done so far as regards future planning of the Dhaka city of 2020. Only the World Bank has a project to construct the Eastern Bypass which, when completed, would ensue a 124-square km flood free zone.

About the impact of high-rise buildings on traffic jam, speakers said that a mass transit system should be launched to solve the problem. A study was conducted to see feasibility of underground railway in the city. The results were good and the soil of Dhaka was found 'very good' for use of the technology to construct the railway.

Prof Nazrul Islam said 27 per cent of the country's land is used for human settlement and this will rise to about 40 per cent in 2020.

"Whereas about 1,800 people live in one square kilometre of the rural areas, Dhaka city is accommodating about 23,000 people in the same area. Planned urbanisation could save land and save our agricultural space," he said.

Environment and Forest Secretary Marghub Murshed said the high-rise building policy should be devised with anti-poverty and conservation programmes. High-rise should not be an enemy of environment.

REHAB President Dr Toufiq M Seraj said they have been urging the government to make it mandatory for all developers to register with REHAB. This would enhance accountability and help curtail irregularities in the sector. Mohammad Jahangir moderated the Roundtable.

2 gunned down

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day noon.

She was working as a maid at the residence of one Javed Hasan Siddique, hospital sources said.

Her body was sent to the DMCH but none claimed it till last night.

Ministry

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for necessary amendments. Petrobangla observed that Niko should first sign a joint venture agreement with BAPEX and then pursue signing of a PSC with Petrobangla.

But Niko was unwilling to sign any joint venture agreement with BAPEX and was insisting on signing of a PSC as quickly as possible.

Niko's proposal also seeks investment by BAPEX, which is financially weak.

"Basically, if the government is serious about signing a PSC with an oil company for abandoned gas field, there should be open bidding to allow all other companies to participate. The government can get a lot of lucrative offers," said a highly placed source. "There is nothing for us in Niko's offer."

Though BAPEX and Petrobangla think Niko's offer not beneficial, the Energy Ministry thinks the deal can energise BAPEX and is pressing for it, the sources said.

Ershad to consult with allies issue of 90 days' absence from parliament

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad said yesterday his party would consult with its allies the question of 90-day absence that may strip opposition MPs of their membership.

"We will discuss it and take a common decision," he told UNB.

Parliamentary secretariat sources said some 15 MPs including Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia and Jatiya Party chief Ershad, are crawling towards the red mark of 90 days' absence from parliament.

Asked whether they would join parliament symbolically to avoid losing parliamentary seats, Ershad said: "We will look into it."

In reply to a question, he said, without elaborating, "Membership will not go." Asked what options, he is contemplating at the moment, Ershad refrained from making any comment.

Sutrapur

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one of the most densely populated areas in the world, he said.

"The growth of the city is restricted within about 100 square kilometres and there is no alternative to a planned high-rise structures with a developed transit system," Ameen said.

Professor of Dhaka University and Chairman of WASA Nazrul Islam said every year, about four lakh people -equal to the size of population of Barisal or Sylhet -- are added to the city. Ninety-seven per cent of these new settlers are extremely poor.

"Are we thinking about them while planning for the city?" asked Islam at the Roundtable organised by REHAB.

Kabir was confined

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duced in the CMM's Court, the Saugata leaders said.

Earlier on December 14 last year, Gulshan police had asked the authorities concerned to hand over Maj Haider to them for questioning, but it was not done.

Ruma's brother Maniruzzaman, who was also present at the press conference, said, "We want to know whether my sister committed suicide or she was killed."

Meanwhile, the autopsy report of Ruma said her body bore marks of injury and it was a case of suicide.

The Sangstha leaders urged the higher authorities to ensure that the minor boy is released and handed over to his family.

Sigma Huda, Alena Khan, Masuda Gaus and Maniruzzaman addressed the press conference.

Beyond the Boundary

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ment against the likes of Pakistan and Sri Lanka with three-and-a-half bowlers. Like trying to comprehend what actually lies beyond outer space, the mind boggled somewhat when it became clear that one of the specialist bowlers India had for their cause was none other than the best batsman in the world.

Once again the new ball bowlers made a mockery of their opening spell. More than seven runs an over seemed par for the course at one stage. It was only the advent of spin in the form of Anil Kumble's peculiar brand of leg-breaks and Sachin Tendulkar's concept of diversity that the bleeding was stemmed to an extent. But by then, Saied Anwar and his young protégé Imran Nazir had pummeled the Indian attack to submission. To India's eternal credit, these two bowlers brought some form of sanity back into the proceedings. Anwar and Nazir perished in one single over from Kumble while Tendulkar kept the batsmen confused with his mixture of off-breaks and prodigious wrist spinners. In the general turmoil Agarkar managed to squeeze one past Inzamam to hit the stumps. Against the run of play, you say? You could say it again.

However, the stage was set for the skipper, one of the most competitive and combative batsmen in the world today, to pair up with the most correct and orthodox of Pakistani batsmen, to take the game away from India's fleeting and temporary control. Yousuf Youhana proceeded to play a classic innings of immaculate defence married to controlled belligerence. Fittingly, off the last ball of a protracted innings, he smote the sweetest of sixes to compile the most richly deserved of centuries. All this time Moin Khan indulged in aggressive running between the wickets, and deft placements that thoroughly distracted India from any game plan that it might have had. While at one stage 300-plus had seemed the most logical of outcomes, India did well to restrict the score to 295. In the process they took too long to bowl their overs and were left to get this formidable total in 48 overs. Basically therefore, India really did not do anything right.

At the moment India is a hit-and-hope team. Devoid of any quality bowlers, errant selection criteria, lack of commitment and application from its batsmen, a general air of despondency, and a hangdog attitude is all too evident when they take to the field. Simply put, the Indians go around wearing their trauma like a badge. This is a team of which a sizeable percentage has been spending more time in CBI offices and in front of cameras for TV commercials than in the nets and in front of the wickets. No matter what the team management may want to explain to the contrary, this team is not focussed on the job at hand. More charitably, if the truth is likely to hurt some individuals, this team is not good enough to rough it out with more determined opponents with no sense of humour.

The finger that was only poised tentatively on the Esc button has to come down firmly to erase this team from this competition. There was indeed a lot of support for India being garnered by Adnan and a few others. The moment however Musa decided to fix a snooker best of five, Adnan decided there was more to gain than rooting for a lost cause.

And with that ended what- ever chances India might have had.

Hasina

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winning the next general elections, Hasina said BNP and its allies had to steal votes to be in power, but Awami League will never do that, as it has got its bases among the people.

"People will not vote for the trio and they don't want to see their faces again. They have already been exposed to the people as vote thieves," she told the rally.

Earlier, the Prime Minister visited the 162.5-metre long Sedipur Bridge on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway, which has been damaged partially following plying of an overloaded truck.

She directed the authorities to repair the bridge and open it for heavy traffic soon. Light vehicles and pedestrians should be allowed to cross the bridge, she said.

Referring to the development programmes of her government in greater Sylhet, Hasina said Tk 2,000 crore has been allocated for construction and development of roads in the districts.

She mentioned construction of Sylhet-Tamabil-Jaflong road and Bhairab Bridge named after late leader Syed Nazrul Islam.

Biman's flight from London is now landing at Sylhet, she said and mentioned her government's effort to further develop the Sylhet Osmani International Airport.

The Prime Minister said steps have been taken to open a visa office of the British High Commission at Sylhet so that the people of this region can easily collect visas from there.

About remittance of money by the expatriate Bangladeshis, she recalled their contribution in the country's economy with deep gratitude.