

What's on today....

Amra Kuri rally: National child and youth organisation "Amra Kuri" will hold a rally to mark World Environment Day 2000. Venue: Shishu Academy. Time: 10:00 am.

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 Udyan, 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. Satyajit Ray's *Ashani Sanket* will be screened at the end of the seminar. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No-10, Rd-No. 9, Dhakamondir 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.

Art competition: The Youth and Social Development Organisation will hold the 'Colgate Bright Smile Art Competition to mark World Environment Day. Chief guest: Minister for Food Amir Hossain Amu. Venue: Shishu Academy premises. Time: 3:30 pm.

Discussion meeting: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will hold a discussion meeting in memory of Shaheed Munir Chowdhury. The meeting will be followed by a cultural programme. Venue: Academy's Gallery Bhaban. Time: 5:00 pm.

Exhibition: The 1st solo painting exhibition of Dr Mahmudul Hasan titled "Places and People of the North and the South" will begin. Chief guest: Commerce Minister M A Jalil. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 6:00 pm.

UNAB symposium: United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a symposium on occasion of World Environment Day. Chief guest: Syed Margub Morshed, Secretary of Ministry of Environment and Forest. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5:30 pm.

Weather

Rain forecast

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna division till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Met office said that moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong division during the period.

Slight fall in day temperature is expected over Sylhet, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

In its outlook for next two days, the office said south-west monsoon is likely to sweep over central part of the country during this period.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 36.8 degree Celsius at Dinajpur and the lowest 26.4 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
Dhaka	35.1	28.7
Chittagong	33.5	27.0
Rajshahi	36.3	26.6
Khulna	34.7	26.5
Barisal	33.4	26.8
Sylhet	35.5	26.6
Cox's Bazar	35.2	26.9

HERE and THERE

BNP, Bogra unit

By Staff Correspondent

Councillors at the Bogra district BNP conference yesterday elected Advocate Mahbubur Rahman as the president of the district unit. Rezaul Karim Badsha was elected uncontested as the general secretary.

Four other office-bearers were also elected uncontested after membership of five candidates were suspended for violating party discipline, said a press release of the BNP yesterday.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, joint secretary general Ashraf Hossain and other central leaders were present during the election held at the Bogra Zila Parishad Auditorium. The other elected office-bearers are: Bhal (organising secretary), Mokhesur Rahman (publicity secretary), Jufiker Ali (Office secretary) and Monjurul Huq Monju (treasurer).

Jatiya Chhatra Dal

A 27-member committee of left-leaning Jatiya Chhatra Dal was formed with Ruhul Kuddus Arif as president and Prokash Dutta as general secretary in its 10th Council on Saturday, reports UNB.

M A Karim, president of Jatiya Ganatantrik Front (JGF) inaugurated the council at the Dhaka University TSC. Later, a discussion meeting was held there with BM Shamimul Huq in the chair, said a press release yesterday.

Naripakkha

By Staff Correspondent

A planning meeting to prevent repression and violence against women held at Naripakkha office Saturday, decided to take number of steps to protect women and their rights.

It called for enforcing provision for taking of testimony and trial in rape cases under women and children repression prevention act, 2000, arrangement of hearing of the victims of sexual repression at closed door, inclusion of forensic medicine in the main curriculum of medical science. It also decided to carry out extensive campaign to encourage women to join the police.

ADAB

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh David Preston visited the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) office in Lalmita on Thursday, says a press release.

He was received by Khushi Kabir, chairperson and Shamul Huda Director of ADAB. Abdul Matin treasurer and other senior officials were also present.

Preston exchanged views with ADAB leaders on developmental issues and various matters of mutual interest. He appreciated ADAB's effective coordination and advocacy role. Khushi Kabir thanked the Canadian High Commissioner for taking interest in ADAB and NGO activities. She also expressed hope that his visit to ADAB will further consolidate their relations.

Fake NSI Dy Director arrested

Police arrested one Nurul Islam yesterday for his alleged attempt to exploit the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Dhaka, identifying himself as a Deputy Director of National Security Intelligence (NSI), reports BSS.

Police sources said, the fake NSI man was taken to the custody and a case was filed against him.

They said, Nurul Islam, identifying himself as Deputy Director of NSI went to the office of the Deputy Commissioner and wanted to know his permanent address.

Islam told the staff officer of Deputy Commissioner that he came from the Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad and has been entrusted with the task of preparing the list of freedom fighter officers working at the government level.

The DC then contacted the Chairman of Mukti Joddha Sangsad, Ahad Chowdhury and Vice Chairman, Kabir Chowdhury, to know the identity of Nurul Islam. Both Ahad Chowdhury and Kabir Chowdhury denied the claim of Nurul Islam and said they did not send any such person for preparing list of the government freedom fighters.

At this stage, the DC Abdus Sattar contacted the Director General of NSI to verify the identity of Nurul Islam. After suspecting Nurul Islam, the DG of NSI asked the DC to arrest the fake NSI man and sent two NSI officials to the DC's office.

New Tdh-I chief appointed

Alexander Von Braumuhl has been appointed the new country representative of Terre des hommes Foundation Italy (Tdh-I), says a press release.

Braumuhl has worked in several African countries for United Nations and for a number of European development agencies, prior to his appointment with Tdh-I.



Mahbubul Haq's death anniversary today

The 26th death anniversary of noted parliamentarian and journalist Mahbubul Haq will be observed today, says a press release.

Mahbubul Haq Smriti Sangsad will hold a discussion meeting at the VIP lounge of the Jatiya Press Club tomorrow at 3:00 pm to mark the occasion.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, secretary general of BNP, will be chief guest on the occasion, the release added. Other discussants will include Enayetur Raheem, Rezaul Karim, Khandakar Monirul Alam, Ershad Majumdar and Amanullah Kabir.

A *milad* and *doa mahfil* will be held at his Mohammaddpur residence after Asr prayers today. Besides *Qurankhwani*, *milad* and *doa mahfil*, will also be held at his village home in Feul to mark the occasion.

Obituary

Khondkar Badruddin Ahmed of Haibatnagar in Kishoreganj died of kidney failure and other complications at the BIRDEM Hospital on Saturday evening. He was 77, reports BSS.

He was buried at the Shaheed Mukti Joddha Graveyard at Mirpur on Saturday night.

A devoted educationist Badruddin served as a teacher at Dhaka College and Tejoan Technical College, as principal of Begumganj Technical College and Tejoan Technical College. He retired as Deputy Assistant Director of Public Instruction in 1980.

He left behind three daughters, two sons, and a host of relations and admirers to mourn his death.

His *qulhwani* will be held at his Elephant Road residence today after Asr prayers.

Begum Sufia Huq, wife of late Khan Bahadur A M Shaheedul Huq, former government pleader, Member Constituent Assembly, Bengal Legislative Council and Chairman National Bank of Pakistan, died on Thursday. She was 88, says a press release.

Begum Sufia Huq was associated with many social activities. She was the secretary of All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA), president of Jatiya Mohila Sangstha, Brahmanbaria Mohila Samity, advisor of Brahmanbaria thana, member of Women Rehabilitation and Welfare Foundation, Bangladesh Association of Voluntary Sterilisation (BAVS), Shahar Samaj Unayan Prakashana Parishad, Baria Samaj Kalyan Samity, Kolo Kakoli Day Care Centre, Baria Ideal Girls' School Management Council etc.

She was survived by her sons, daughters and host of relatives to mourn her death. She was buried at her family graveyard at Chaura under Brahmanbaria district.



Anjumane Rahmania Moinia Maizbhandaria (ARMM), a representative organisation of Maizbhandar Darbar Sharif, yesterday brought out a procession in the city in celebration of first day of Rabiul Awal, the month on which Prophet (S M) was born. The procession was led by president of Ahle Sunna Wal Jamaat and chief patron of ARMM Moulana Syed Moinuddin Ahmed Maizbhandari. The procession started from the Engineers' Institute and dispersed at National Press Club.

'We were not able to visit any polluted sites'

Participants disappointed as regional workshop on water management ends

By Staff Correspondent

A South Asian workshop on water concluded in the city yesterday with participants expressing disappointment over not having had any practical exposure to water pollution in Dhaka.

They, however, expressed happiness over the workshop decisions of opening up a web site on water and maintaining contacts among the participants through the internet.

Participants were disappointed as they were taken to a field trip to river Buriganga but were not given a chance to observe the level of pollution in the river water.

Organisers of the two-day 'South Asian Children's workshop on Alternative Water Management', earlier had said that they would take the participants to Buriganga to have a close look at its polluted water.

After two days of lectures on water management, the participants of the workshop were

taken to Merry Anderson floating restaurant on the bank of the river at Pagla where the young participants failed to see any sight of pollution.

Saiful Islam, a participant from Bangladesh, said, 'what's the use of observing the water of Buriganga at Pagla point, where there is minimum pollution?'

Sasanka Perrera, who teaches anthropology at University of Colombo said, expressing his disappointment 'I thought we would be taken to a place where we can have a closer look at water pollution. But this is not the ideal place, I guess.'

A school teacher participating in the retreat pointed out 'this tour at the river has got no conformity with what the children were lectured over the last two days.'

They all pointed out that organisers could have made better use of time if they had taken the participants to Sadarghat or

other nearby points of Buriganga instead of arranging the river-cruise at Pagla.

Earlier, in the morning, the workshop at the BISS auditorium, reiterated its urge for bringing in reforms in educational curricula so that children take lessons on water issues at high school level.

Children from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, teachers, scholars and fellows of the organising institutions took part at the 2-day workshop. Prof Imtiaz Ahmed, Executive Director of Centre for Alternatives, facilitated the last session.

Dr Ashis Nandy from Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, Ajaya Mani Dixit, from Nepal Water Conservation Foundation and Sharmila Murshid, Chief Executive of a local non-government organization called Brotee, also spoke briefly at the concluding session.

JS budget session

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sure from within although they are attending meetings of JS bodies and other activities of parliament.

Nevertheless, speculations are there that the boycotting opposition might stage a symbolic comeback to protect seats of their top leaders.

While Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury's latest move is yet to bear any fruit, the donors community recently become active to make the opposition lawmakers return to parliament.

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia did not reply to the Speaker's letter, sent more than two weeks ago, inviting the Opposition to join the session.

"I am still waiting for the reply from the Leader of the Opposition," the Speaker told newsmen yesterday.

Meanwhile, the ruling party is still hesitant to go formal to invite the Opposition to a fresh round of dialogue now as its previous negotiation bids proved failure.

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party will be held at the Sangsad Bhaban at 10:30 am today.

MPs of BNP, Ershad-led Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami are abstaining from attending JS sessions since July 8 last year on various issues. Finally, they raised the demand for an early general election.

In view of the crucial budget session, dubbed election-friendly, selected leaders in the government were learnt having backstage parleys to end the parliamentary impasse, caused by Opposition's absence. But there was no headway until yesterday, sources said.

Both, the government and the Opposition are under pressure from donors who suggest that the two sides keep the parliament functioning.

However, the chance of Opposition's return to parliament is still slim unless anything dramatic happens, the sources said.

A long budget session may be a trap for the opposition MPs. At least 15 MPs including Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia and Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad are heading towards a 90-day absence which may cost their membership as per the Constitution.

As per official records, Khaleda Zia remained absent for 58 days and Ershad for 54 days till the end of last session.

Environment Day

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addition to the human development programmes of the country. They say they are yet to professionally get their act together to address the problems.

Yet, silently but surely changes are coming. People in bazaar and even in remote villages are already talking about the bad effects of polythene bags, contaminated water and overuse of chemical fertilisers on the lands. Civil societies all over the country have formed groups to disseminate environment-related messages to the people. Government and NGOs are increasingly bound by conditions to assess environmental impact of all their development projects. In the urban areas, it is now even mandatory to obtain an environmental clearance certificate from the Department of Environment for any business venture.

To mark the day, different organisations have taken up elaborate programmes. The Environment Ministry has set a slogan for the day that goes, "2000, The Environment Millennium: Time to Act." The Ministry will organise a rally at Shishu Academy and later a procession at 8:30 a.m. A fair will be held at the Osmani Auditorium from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Revision suit

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Golam Kibria, a Supreme Court lawyer, on April 27 lodged a complain with the Motijheel police against ministers Abdus Samad Azad, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Mohiuddin Nasim, Dr. Moliuddin Khan Alamgir, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, Maya and central Awami League leader Mukul Bose.

He accused them of violating the PSA, by bringing out a 'stick procession' which paraded different city streets chanting 'Objectionable slogans or remarks' against judges.

Motijheel police gave the final report on charge saying the complain was not proved and the CMM's disposed of the case in line with the report.

The complainant then sought an order from the Special Judge's Court, constituted for the trial of cases under PSA, to reject the CMM Court decision and reinvestigate the case.

But the Special Court also rejected the case on hearing both sides prompting the complainant to sue in the High Court.

Misappropriation

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secretary and the treasurer and their membership of the Bar.

"Members of the sub-committee, after consultation with the former president and the vice president, became certain that they had not agreed with the former secretary and the treasurer as regards many of their activities," the sub-committee said in its report.

The former secretary refused to cooperate with the sub-committee, it noted.

He should be advised to return the misappropriated money, the report suggested.

In case he fails to do so, the Association or any of its members will have the right to file a civil or a criminal case against him, it said.

When contacted by this correspondent, the former secretary declined to say anything.

Nobel laureate

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said. Miller was the author of eight books and served as a public director on the Chicago Board of Trade from 1983 to 1985 and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange from 1990 until his death.

Born in Boston and educated at Harvard University and at Johns Hopkins University, Miller's first academic appointment was at the London School of Economics in 1952.

From there, and after a stint at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in 1961, he joined University of Chicago's business school. He continued teaching there even after his official retirement in 1993.

Budget balancing

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The taxation system is still full of loopholes and corruption rampant.

At the same time, the net foreign financing has declined over the years, putting more and more pressure on the internal sources of revenue. The share of net foreign financing to total public expenditure has come down from 36 per cent in 1990-91 to 18 per cent.

But when one side of the budget goes awry, the other side of it has to be adjusted accordingly. But this has not been possible for various reasons. While the government's revenue earning fell through, it could not do anything with the expenditure side. In fact, in a counter effective approach, the government hiked its ADP expenditure to gain politically before the election, as many point out.

As dreaded, the crowding out effect on the private sector did not occur, more by default than any deftly maintained monetary expansion policy. While the government was on a borrowing spree, the private did not feel the appetite for various reasons as mentioned earlier.

However, many economists find that there has been a mild recession in the economy despite the high growth rate. The growth is mainly fuelled by agriculture output and other than this, all other fronts, industry and service sector looks subdued. Under such circumstances, they feel that if the government borrows to spend in the social sector, this will accrue long-term benefit.

Question remains, how much of the ADP have been spent on priority sector? A World Bank report prepared ahead of the donor's meeting in April said the development programme outlay should be slashed by ten per cent to reduce low-priority projects and at the same time, to ease the pressure on deficit.

Under such circumstances, it looks that the government has not been able to bridge its revenue expenditures — thanks to the lack of steam in the public administration reforms and privatisation programme.

Till March, the government incurred a revenue expenditure of Tk 10807.70 crore against a total year outlay of Tk 17800 crore. Last year, the figure for the same period was Tk 10,396.67 crore.

But what makes one worry is that the share of unproductive expenditure has increased over the years as percentage of total public expenditure. In 1990-91, such unproductive expenditure which do not contribute to future output was 48 per cent of the total public expenditure while in 1998-99, it stood at 56 per cent.

On the other hand, the government's domestic interest payment liability has been on the increase. In 1990-91, such interest payment accounted for eight per cent of the total public expenditure. But this went up to 13 per cent in 1998-99.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of CPD, has already called the situation as one of 'fiscal dis-equilibrium', adding that the increased borrowing this year could hardly be justified.

He also finds that the government borrowing has already exceeded any safe limit for the country with a hidden inflation time bomb in it. Once, any of the inflation factors make a lunge upwards, it will be highly difficult to control it.

"One of the major challenge for the government in next year's budget will be to accommodate for the huge interest that will be accumulated on the borrowed money," says Dr Omar Haider Chowdhury. "This may lead to further borrowing next year unless something miraculous could be done about revenue increase."

Fresh voter list

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number of people detained in jails now but said the figure would be more than 50 thousand.

According to a study, the number of people detained in the country's 77 jails in 1995 was 42,768. In 1997, the number was 45,444 while it rose to 51,754 in February 1999.

Meanwhile, the EC still does not know whether it would be able to include people living in most of the enclaves in the electoral roll. Bangladesh has 51 enclaves in Indian territory with human settlements in 14 of those. But the EC has no estimate of the total number of people in the enclaves.

When the electoral roll was updated in 1995, Indian authorities did not allow EC people to enter the enclaves except two — Angorpota and Dahagram. Earlier, Bangladesh had gained the right to use Tin Bigha Corridor to enter these two enclaves. This time also there is also no problem as regards enlistment of voters there, EC sources said.

In 1990, the Indian authorities had allowed EC people to enter 12 enclaves — four under Lalmonirhat and eight under Kurigram district. The enclaves under Lalmonirhat are Naragram, Batrigach, Falmapur and Kismat Batrigach which had 2,325 voters at that time.

The enclaves under Kurigram district are Chit Mashal-danga, Chit Uttar Bansijari, Kachua, Chaitilal, Potarkuti, Bakalir Chara, Chit Karala and

Shubprasad Mostaki. The number of voters in the enclaves was 4000 in 1990.

Ministry's attention to the problem in November last year, it suggested that the ministry should settle the issue with Indian authorities so that Bangladeshis living in all the enclaves could be enlisted as voters. Then it gave a reminder to the ministry next month. "But we have not yet received any communication from the ministry in this regard," Election Commissioner Moshataque Ahmed Chowdhury said yesterday.

Besides, there has so far been no concrete decision on implementation of the Prime Minister's public announcement regarding inclusion of Bangladeshis living abroad in the voter list.

"A committee comprising officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Election Commission is trying to work out a modus operandi for enlistment of non-resident Bangladeshis as voters," EC member Abidur Rahman Chowdhury said on Sunday. "The issue is linked with voting through postal ballots. However, we are optimistic of resolving the issue."

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hassan Chowdhury also sounded optimistic about it. He told BSC on Saturday, "We are actively trying to work out a strategy to include the non-resident Bangladeshis in the electoral roll."

Dress rehearsal today

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nity take heart from the fact that they have won 49 out of the 79 one-day internationals between the two former world-beaters to date. Two matches were abandoned while one was tied.

More encouraging for Pakistan is their recent impressive run — they won the tri-nation Sharjah Cup involving South Africa and India, and then clinched the three-nation tournament in the West Indies, beating the hosts 2-1 in the best-of-three-finals.

The players of the Lankan after practising cooled off in the pool of Hotel Sheraton, before retiring to their rooms.

"Sri Lanka's inspirational coach Dave Whatmore told the Daily Star that they were hardly thinking about today's match."

"It's too early to say what would be our game plan. Let the day come, and then we will think of the match," said Whatmore.

Captain Sanath Jayasuriya would not say much about the game though. "It will just be another match for us and we will go out on the field to win it."

His counterpart Moin Khan, however, sounded pretty confident.

"We are going to take the match very seriously because we don't want to lose any game here. Of course, Sri Lanka is a very good side. So it will be a tough game," said Moin.

"It will be better for us if we could win that match. Because, whatmore."

City AL extended meet tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

A special extended meeting of the Awami League's city unit will be held tomorrow at 6:30 pm at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office in the city.

in that case we will be under less pressure in the final."

About the team, Moin said, "I believe in this combination. They are going great with ball and bat. I hope this continues and we win the Cup."

TEAMS

Sri Lanka (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Mahela Jayawardena (vice-captain), Aravinda de Silva, Ramesh Kaluwitharana, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Russel Arnold, Marvan Atapattu, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kaushal Weeraratne, Nuwan Zoysa, Indika de Saram, Upul Chandana and Sanjeeva de Silva.

Pakistan (from): Moin Khan (captain), Imran Nazir, Saeed Anwar, Younis Youhana, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Abdur Razaq, Azhar Mahmood, Wasim Akram, Mohammad Ak