

## What's on today.....

**Inauguration:** Bangladesh Uddichi Shilpi Gosthi will inaugurate a rehabilitation programme financed by Proshika for the families of those injured in the Uddichi bomb attack incident. Venue: Proshika head office. Time: 4:00 pm.

**Seminar:** Bangladesh Bangabandhu and Bangladesh Research Institute of Jatiya University will hold its 8th seminar on "Bangabandhu's 6 point demand under the federal system of government" Venue: National University premises at House No 113, Road No 9/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Meeting:** An emergency meeting of BCS Coordination Council will be held. Venue: Council premises at 28/D, Tophkhana Road, Segun Bagicha. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Book launching ceremony:** The Bangladesh Geological Society will host the launching ceremony of "Arsenic Poisoning in Bangladesh: End of Civilization?" a book published by Palash Prokashoni. It will also hold a discussion on latest developments of arsenic poisoning in the country. Chief guest: Minister for Science and Technology Lt Gen (ret'd) Noor Uddin Khan. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, 18 Tophkhana Road. Time: 6:00 pm.

**Folk theatre festival:** Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy inaugurates a week long folk theatre festival on the first day today. Kusum Tera by Banshaba Showkhin Natya Dal from Narail will be staged. Venue: Shawkt Osman Memorial auditorium of Begum Sufia Kamal Library Directorate (The Central Public Library). Time: 7:00 pm.

**Signing ceremony:** Proshika and Sonali Bank will sign an agreement for financing of Proshika's poverty alleviation programme. Venue: Proshika Bhaban, 1/1 Ga. Mirpur-2. Time: 7:30 pm.

**Handing over ceremony:** Muktijuddho, Bangabandhu and Bangladesh Research Institute of National University will hold a ceremony to mark the official handing over of a rare collection of books and journals of late writer Nazmuddin Hashem to the Institute. Venue: Institute premises at House No 113, Road No 9/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4:00 pm.

**Band show:** Nirjhor, a new band group, will present a show. Venue: Bangladesh Shilsha Academy auditorium. Time: 6:00 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Recitation:** Gunter Grass presents a recital evening in association with Eternal, an English recitation group. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Road No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:00 pm.

**Theatre festival:** Adanee Kiran Natyagosthi presents *Shabuj Shapan*, a folk drama written by Moniruzzaman Moni on the second day of a week long theatre festival. Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Venue: Shawkt Osman Memorial auditorium of Begum Sufia Kamal Library Directorate (Public Library), Shabbag. Time: 7:00 pm.

## Weather

### Thundershowers likely

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

Southwest monsoon has advanced up to central part of the country and it may sweep over the whole country during next 72 hours. Met office said yesterday.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 36.5 degree Celsius at Mymensingh and the lowest 24.1 degree Celsius also at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.45 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.10 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	25.5	74	85
Chittagong	33.0	25.6	73	66
Rajshahi	30.6	26.2	87	93
Khulna	29.2	24.8	80	93
Barisal	31.0	25.0	85	90
Sylhet	33.5	24.5	78	92
Cox's Bazar	31.6	25.0	71	87

### Govt planning to take action against Taj

The authorities are planning to take action against Aminur Rahman Taj, a senior reporter of Ajker Kagoj, on charge of violating government service rule as he is also a Sub-Assistant Engineer of Public Works Department (PWD), reports UNB.

An official source said the Chief Engineer of PWD had been asked to take "disciplinary actions against him within 24 hours for violation of government service rule."

Taj, said the source, has been working as a Sub-Assistant Engineer of PWD project Div-2, Head Office. He was learnt to have been residing in government quarter No B-71/7 AGB Colony.

Keeping his government job Aminur Rahman Taj has been working for Ajker Kagoj as Crime Reporter, the source said. He was recently arrested following a report on police administration.

When contacted, Taj said he had got "written permission" from his authority that he could write articles in newspapers "without hampering office work."

### Rivals kill BNP leader in Natore

NATORE, June 6: A local BNP leader was reportedly killed by his political rivals in an attack at Ranipara village in Gurudaspur upazila on Monday night, reports UNB.

The dead man was identified as Golam Mostafa, 38, general secretary of Moshinda Union BNP.

Police said that a gang of masked men attacked Mostafa and chopped him to death with lethal weapons on his way home from Ranipara Bazar at about 10 pm and fled the scene. Mostafa died on the spot.

His body was sent to his village home after autopsy at Natore Sadar Hospital today.

Meanwhile, acting president of district BNP Annuil Haque and general secretary Shahidul Islam in a statement today blamed ruling Awami League for the murder.

Awami League dismissed the allegations saying that the BNP leader was killed in an intra-party rivalry.

### Tk 5.44 crore remitted in May

Bangladeshis nationals living abroad have remitted Tk 44,66,656.24 through 6269 foreign money orders during the month of May, reports BSS.

The amounts to a sum of Pound Sterling 3,14,008.09 and US dollars 6,02,223 were paid in local currency to the payees dependents of remitters living in different parts of the country.

### Sub-regional

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Latifur Rahman, President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, pointed out that the recent decision of the Indian government

to waive all types of duty and income tax on manufacturing units operating from its North-Eastern states was a matter of concern for Bangladesh as a neighbour. He expressed apprehension that Bangladesh could be the victim of inflow of such totally tax free goods.

The government of India has been looking at the North-west belatedly. Their decision on making a tax-free zone may be right from the Indian perspective, but it may pose a major problem for us," Latifur Rahman pointed out.

Morshed Khan said that there is lack of trust between India and its neighbours which is the main hindrance to regional cooperation. He said Bangladesh lifted lot of tariff barriers but the Indian government never responded. "The attitude and mindset of Indians is the stumbling block in the way of any sort of cooperation."

Farooq Sobhan who is also Co-chairman of Coalition for Action on South Asian Cooperation (CASAC) called for exploring the possibilities of linking South Asian countries through bilateral and sub-regional cooperation with the ultimate objective of enhancing regional cooperation.

He felt that mega projects could be taken up for cooperation among South Asian countries.

Prof Rehman Sobhan felt that leaders of South Asian countries should widen their visions to make cooperation in the regional "meaningful and fruitful."



### Ex-deputy press secty to PM dead

Kamalur Rahman Bhuiyan, a member of BCS information cadre and a former deputy press secretary to the prime minister, died at a city clinic on Sunday morning. He was 64, reports BSS.

He had been suffering from cancer for a long time. The namaz-e-janaja of the deceased was held at Bhutergoli Jame Mosque after Asr prayers and later he was buried at Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur in the city in the afternoon.

President of BCS Information Cadre Association and Principal Information Officer of the Press Information Department Harun-or-Rashid yesterday expressed his deep shock at the death of Kamalur Rahman Bhuiyan.

He also conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

### Obituary



Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, a director of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) died of a brain haemorrhage at his residence on Monday midnight. He was 49, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, parents, brothers sisters and a host of relatives.

Ahmed, who has been working with the BRCS for the last 24 years, was buried after his namaz-e-janaja at his ancestral home at Ishwardi.

A milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at BRCS headquarters at Maghbazar tomorrow.

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Monowara Zaman, wife of late Moniruzzaman of city's Boro Berayed and sister of drama artist Abul Hayat, died at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital yesterday. She was 63, says a press release.

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

Her quikhuani will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at his eldest son Monowar-uz-Zaman's New DOHS residence.

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Begum Asiya Ashraf, a former member of the Darul Ihsan Trust and teacher of Cambridge University School, died at the Jebel-i-Nur Hospital yesterday at 10.00 am. She was 75, says a press release.

Her quikhuani will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at her Dhanmondi residence.

She was the wife of late Prof Syed Ali Ashraf.

Vice-chancellor of Darul Ihsan University Syed Ali Ahsan has expressed shock at her death.

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Begum Jamila Khatun died of old age ailments at Combined Military Hospital in the city yesterday. She was 75, says a press release.

She was the mother of founder of Queens University Dr Hamida Banu.

She is survived by four sons and five daughters.

Jamila's quikhuani will be held after Asr prayers at Dr Hamed Banu's residence on Friday.

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MA Sattar, former chief conservator of forest died of heart ailments at his residence on Sunday, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, 3 daughters and a host of relatives.

Sattar joined the forest department in 1963.

Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of M A Sattar.

Bangladesh Civil Service Forest Association has also consoled his death.

## ECNEC okays 10 projects

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) yesterday approved 10 projects involving Taka 1006 crore 5 lakh 62 thousand, including foreign assistance of Taka 444 crore 16 lakh 67 thousand, reports BSS.

The approval was given at the 81st meeting of the ECNEC (under the present government) held at the NEC conference room with Prime Minister and ECNEC Chairperson Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The approved projects are: Construction of 12 roads in three districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Integrated Sustainable Water Management Planning Scheme, Project for Protecting Meghabazar, Shuvagacha and Simla of Sirajgonj district from Erosion of Jamuna river, Strengthening Weed Protection Programme (second revised) and Construction of Bridge Over Shitalakhyia River on Joydevpur-Devagram-Bhulta-Noyapur-Madanpur Highway.

The ECNEC also approved construction of Kulara-Prithimpasha-Hajipur-Sharifpur Road, Construction of Mollarhat Bridge over Madhumoti River on Gopalganj- Mollarhat-Fakirhat Noapara Road, Construction of Marine Drive on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Road and Construction, Extension and Renovation of district Shilpakala Academies (second phase) and pre-paid metering pilot scheme.

Besides, a number of other

projects approved by State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir involving Taka 45 crore 19 lakh and 17 thousand were also placed at the meeting.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Education Minister ASHK Sadique, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury, Communications Minister Anwar Hossain and State Minister for Power Prof Rafiqul Islam attended the meeting.

Cabinet secretary, planning secretary, members of the Planning Commission, finance secretary, IMED secretary, ERD secretary and other concerned secretaries were present.



Left Democratic Front (LDF) activists on their way to lay siege to the PDB Bhaban in the city yesterday.

### LDF demands scrapping of all PSCs

By Staff Correspondent

Left Democratic Front (LDF) leaders yesterday demanded setting up of more power stations based on gas resources of the country to end existing power crisis.

They also demanded scrapping of all of the production sharing contracts (PSCs) with the foreign companies to tap energy resources.

The demands were made at a rally at the entrance of PDB head office at Motijheel protesting the existing power crisis, conspiracy of locals and foreigners to destroy the PDB.

The LDF leaders also brought out a procession at 12 noon from Muktangan. The procession paraded different thoroughfares of the city.

Addressing the rally, speakers alleged that Occidental Company did not pay Tk 2000 crore as compensation for the Magurchhara gas disaster.

Moreover, a US company is illegally demanding compensation of Tk 20 crore from Meghnath Power Plant as part of their plan to establish monopoly over the power sector, they said.

Presided over by Khalequz-zaman, the rally was addressed, among others, by Abdus Salam, Dilip Barua, AFM Mahbubul Haque, Nirmal Sen, Rashid Khan Menon and Monjurul Ahsan Khan.

### UP chairman held

NARAYANGANJ, June 6: Police arrested a Union Parishad chairman of Bandar thana from Hotel Sheraton on Monday night under the Public Safety Act, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, Bandar thana police with the help of Ranna police raided the hotel and arrested Nazuddin Bhuiyan, Chairman of Mangalpur Union Parishad, along with a damsel, in a drunken condition. The girl was later set free, sources said.

Bhuiyan was wanted in connection with an arson case at Dewanbag on April 21.

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### Widening gap

From page 1

economic developments in the 90s, Mustafa K Mujeri of BIDS said steady growth of the economy is being obstructed due to slow growth and continued failure of the manufacturing sector.

He said growth of the sector sharply decelerated to 4.25 per cent in 1999-2000 from an average 8.2 per cent during the first half of 1990s.

Kazi Iqbal of BIDS said government's heavy borrowing since early 1998 to finance budgetary gap made banks' excess reserves fall by around 98 per cent by end of June 1998. The total reserve declined sharply and so did the reserve ratio.

"Given this tightening monetary situation where excess liquidity with the scheduled banks is about to exhaust, further excessive borrowing from scheduled banks is most likely to cause crowding out, denying access for the private sector," he said.

BIDS Research Director Qazi Shahabuddin and fellows Sajjad Zohir, Rushidun I Rahman, Abul Quasem and M Asaduzzaman also presented papers on agriculture and rural economy.

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### About 400

From page 1

out cooperatives activities. Some other organisations said they obtained registration from the Department of Social Services. However, none could produce any document to substantiate their claims.

Siddiqur Rahman, director of another society at Roybarabar said apart from lending its society has fishery programmes.

Shoyebur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Jhenidah when asked about the money lending business in rural areas said the businesses are as illegal as the Syndicate Bank at Kotchandpur.

The deputy director of the Department of Social Services, Jhenidah when said the societies, which have been doing money lending business in the guise of development activities, would be punished.

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### Rain

From page 1

mm, Chandpur 9 mm, Mymensingh 11 mm, Teknaf 7 mm and Khepupara 12 mm.

The forecast for today said southwestern monsoon has advanced up to central Bangladesh. It may sweep over the entire country during the next 72 hours beginning 6 p.m. yesterday. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers, accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions with moderately heavy fall at places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions. Day temperature may fall by one to two degree Celsius over the country, the met office forecast valid until 6 p.m. today said.

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### Zilla Parishad

From page 1

make any changes in the fundamentals of the bill, nor did it accommodate any of the suggestions made by the opposition members.

The bill provides for an indirect election to the Parishad comprising a chairman and 20 members including five from the reserved quota for women.

According to the bill, a Zilla Parishad will be elected by an exclusive electorate comprising elected representatives in other local government bodies. However, the opposition parties demanded direct election to the Parishad.

A Zilla Parishad will be elected for five years and MPs of the district concerned will be its advisers, says the bill.

Placing the bill after scrutiny in the House, chairman of the committee Abdul Mannan claimed that the bill was moved to meet constitutional requirement for elected local government body at the district level.

In his report on the bill, Mannan also mentioned the note of dissent given by the opposition lawmakers in the parliamentary committee and recommended its passage by the House.

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## PM tells JS

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The law ministry is expected to come up with its recommendations by June 30, 2000."

### CEC issue

UNB adds: Hasina yesterday told Parliament that the Leader of the Opposition did neither respond to her initiative to hold discussion nor extend any co-operation in appointing the Chief Election Commissioner.

Responding to a question from Abdul Latif Mirza (Awami League-Sirajgonj) during the PM's question hour, Hasina said she wrote to opposition leader Khaleda Zia twice and invited her to a discussion on CEC. But Begum Zia rejected talks saying she would discuss the matter with caretaker government.

The Prime Minister referred to the Constitution and said that under the Constitution Prime Minister's recommendation is final in appointing the CEC. The President gives the appointment on the advice of the Prime Minister as per Article 48(3) of the Constitution, she said.

Hasina said since she and her government believed completely in constitutional and democratic process, she wanted to finalise the nomination for the post of CEC on consensus after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition.

"Although there was no constitutional compulsion or ne-