

News

ECNEC okays 10 projects

Inauguration: Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi will inaugurate a rehabilitation programme financed by Proshika for the families of those injured in the Udichi 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, Dhamondi R/A. Time: 4.30 pm.

Meeting: An emergency meeting of BCS Coordination Council will be held. Venue: Council premises at 28/D, Topkhana 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 (retd) Noor Uddin Khan. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, 18 Topkhana Road. Time: 6.00 pm.

Folk theatre festival: Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy inaugurates a week long folk theatre festival on the first day today. *Kusum Tara* by Banshikha Showkhin Natya Dal from Narsingdi will be staged. Venue: Shawkat 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, Dhamondi R/A. Time: 4.00 pm.

Band show: *Nirjhor*, a new band group, will present a show. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu 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, Dhamondi R/A. Time: 6.00 pm.

Theatre festival: Adanjee Kiran Natyagosthi presents *Shabu Shapen*, a folk drama written by Moniruzzaman Moni on the second day of a week long theatre festival. Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy. Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial auditorium of Begum Sufia Kamal Library Directorate (Public Library), Shahbag. 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
Dhaka	32.0	87
Chittagong	33.0	66
Rajshahi	30.6	93
Khulna	29.2	93
Barisal	31.0	90
Sylhet	33.5	92
Cox's Bazar	31.6	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's 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 a 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 Aminur 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.

What's on today....



Ex-deputy press secretary 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-janaza* 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 Hanifur-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-janaza* at his ancestral home at Ishwardi.

A *milad maifil* will be held after Asr prayers at BRCs headquarters at Maghbazar tomorrow.



Monowara Zaman, wife of late Moniruzzaman of city's Boro Berayed and sister of drama artiste 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 *qulkuwan* will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at her eldest son Monowar-Uzzaman's new DOHS residence.

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

Her *qulkuwan* will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at her Dhamondi 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.

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 *qulkuwan* will be held after Asr prayers at Dr Hamida Banu's residence on Friday.

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 condoled his death.

Enayetullah Khan, Editor of the weekly *Holiday*, speaking at a discussion meeting on veteran journalists Mahbubul Haq organised by Mahbubul Haq Memorial Council in the city yesterday.

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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 Meghaibazar, Shuvala and Simla of Sirajgonj

district from Erosion of Jamuna river, Strengthening Weed Protection Programme (second revised) and Construction of Bridge Over Shitalakha River on Joydevpur-Devagram-Bhulta-Noyapur-Madanpur Highway.

The ECNEC also approved construction of Kulaura-Pritimpasha-Hajipur-Sharifpur Road, Construction of Molahrhat Bridge over Madhumoti River on Gopalgonj-Mollarhat-Fakirhat Noapara Road, Construction of Marine Drive on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Road and Construction, Extension and Renovation of district Shilpkala 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 Moti Chowdhury, Communications Minister Anwar Hosain 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.

PM tells JS

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date the legislation. "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 cooperation in appointing the Chief Election Commissioner.

Responding to a question from Abdul Latif Mirza (Awami League-Sirajganj) 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.

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

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-

cessity, I took the initiative with only intention to strengthen the democratic culture, set an example for future and put democratic system on strong foundation," she told the House.

In reply to a supplementary from Latif Mirza the Prime Minister said that in the past there was no such initiative for consultation in appointing the CEC.

Citing an example, she said that former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia did not talk to her, nor any opposition parties while nominating Justice AKM Sadeq as CEC in 1996.

NAM Summit

Hasina also disclosed in Parliament that the summit of Non-aligned Movement (NAM) would be held in Dhaka in September next year.

Repling to Mustafizur Rahman (AL), she said the tenure of current NAM chairman South Africa will end in 2001. After South Africa, Bangladesh is going to be elected new chairman of NAM, a rare honour for the country.

NAM troika consisting of past chairman Colombia, current chairman South Africa and next chairman Bangladesh takes all decisions concerning the forum. As new chairman, Bangladesh would get the chance of leading NAM for next seven years, Hasina told the House.

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Pepsi Asia Cup final

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zling 100 against India.

Sri Lanka on the other hand is pacer for an medium batsman. In that case, Indika de Saram is the prime candidate to replace Weeraratne in the final line-up.

But the success of the islanders will largely hinge on the experienced duo of Aravinda de Silva and Sanath Jayasuriya. They will also look forward to their vice-captain Mahela Jayawardena, who is starving for runs, and a compact Mervin Attappattu.

It all seems like a batsman's game but many still feel that the bowlers will have the final say on the fate of the final. The toss is also going to be vital since the wicket tends to favour the bowlers under lights.

SQUADS

Sri Lanka: (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Aravinda de Silva, Marvan Atapattu, Mahela Jayawardena, Russel Arnold, Rumesh Kaluwitharana, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana, Chaminda Vaas, Kaushalya Weeraratne, Nuwan Zoysa, Tilakaratne Dilshan, Sajendra de Silva and Indika de Saram.

Pakistan: (from): Moin Khan (captain), Saeed Anwar, Imran Nazir, Younus Youhana, Inzamamul Haque, Abdur Razzaq, Azhar Mahmood, Wasim Akram, Mohammad Akram, Arshad Khan, Shahid Afridi, Sabir Ahmed, Shoaib Malik and Mohammad Wasim.

Umpires: A. V. Jayaprakash (India), S. K. Bansal (India), Third Umpire: Mahabubullah (Bangladesh)

4 killed in separate incidents in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, June 6: Four persons were killed and more than 55 injured in separate incidents in the district today, reports UNB.

A Dhaka-bound coaster dashed down a motor cycle and then tumbled into roadside ditch resulting in killing cyclist Dr Shishir Chandra Roy, 50