

## What's on today....

**Drawing competition:** Adhyan Shishu Academy has organised a painting competition for primary school children on the occasion of World Environment Day. Venue: Aliz Super Market (2nd floor), Shahbagh. Time: 10 am.

**Installation ceremony:** Rajbari District Association will hold the installation ceremony of its executive committee. Venue: LGED Bhaban auditorium. Time: 4.30 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Alor Bhutan, an organisation of children and juveniles will hold a discussion meeting followed by a cultural programme. Earlier it will distribute Alor Bhutan Independence Day Crest-2000 and prizes of its recent cultural competition. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Meeting:** Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) will hold a meeting. Venue: BSD office premises, 23/2 Topkhana Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

**IBA Organising Fortnight 2000:** IBA Alumni Association is holding an organising Fortnight. As part of the programmes it will screen *Mukti Gaan* and *Mukti Katha*. Venue: IBA auditorium. Time: 11:00 am 6:30 pm.

**CD launching ceremony:** Bengal Foundation will hold the launching ceremony of Iftat Ara Dewan's collection of old Bangla songs *Hay Amar Chiro Chawa*. Venue: Bengal Shilpalya, House No 275/F, Road No 27 (Old), 16 (New), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 7:00 pm.

**Folk theatre festival:** *Shawkhin Gitinayata* of Gazipur will present *Beimaner Chakranto* written by Harendra Krishna Das on the 3rd day of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organised folk theatre festival. Venue: Shawkat Osman auditorium at Begum Sufia Kamal Library Directorate. Time: 7:00 pm.

**BFTA meeting:** Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Associations (BFTA) will hold a joint meeting with teachers, parents, journalists and different professionals. Venue: Jatiya Press Club Hallroom (upstairs). Time: 5:00 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow .....

**Folk theatre festival:** Akankha Natyadal will present *Bedh Kanya* written by Master Sekandar Ali on the 4th day of Shilpakala Academy organised folk theatre festival. Venue: Shawkat Osman auditorium at Begum Sufia Kamal Library Directorate, Shahbagh. Time: 7:00 pm.

**BIMDT convocation:** The 1st convocation ceremony of Bangladesh Institute of Medical and Dental Technology (BIMDT) will be held. Chief guest: State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof M Amanullah. Venue: IDB auditorium, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Dhaka. Time: 10:00 am.

**Handicrafts show:** The trimonthly handicraft show of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) will begin. Venue: BSCIC Bhaban, Motijheel. Time: 11:00 am.

**Seminar:** IBA Alumni Association will hold a seminar on "Career Opportunities & Prospects in Marketing." Venue: IBA auditorium, DU campus. Time: 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm.

**BAS meeting:** Bangladesh Astronomical Society (BAS) will hold a meeting. Venue: Institute of Childhood Education, House No 19, Rd No 13/A. Time: 4:00 pm.

**Satyajit Ray Retrospective:** Zahir Raihan Film Society will begin the second part of its retrospective on noted film maker Satyajit Ray. On the first day *Gupi Gulyeni Bagha Bayen* will be screened. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

**CD launching ceremony:** Bengal Foundation will hold the launching ceremony of Shohrab Hossain's collection of Nazrul Geeti "Ay Koun Mayay". Venue: Bengal Shilpalya, House No 275/F, Rd No 27 (Old), 16 (New), Dhanmondi R/A Time: 7:00 pm.

**Meeting:** Prokritic BCS Central Coordination Council will hold a meeting. Venue: Engineers Institutions, Seminar Room, Ramma. Time: 7:30 pm.

**Orientation:** The orientation programme of Bar Vocational Course (BVC-II, Batch II) conducted by Legal and Training Institute (LETI) of Bangladesh Bar Association will be held. Venue: Hallroom of Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI), Old High Court Building. Time: 5:00 pm.

## Weather

## Temperature may fall

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

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 33.8 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and the lowest 24.5 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

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	31.7	26.2	78	88
Chittagong	29.5	24.8	85	80
Rajshahi	33.8	26.4	84	92
Khulna	33.0	25.5	87	87
Barisal	29.6	25.2	93	92
Sylhet	31.8	25.3	76	97
Cox's Bazar	27.4	25.3	95	95

Clash between 2 groups in Dental College Hostel: Three injured

By Staff Correspondent

Three people including a man and a girl were injured in a clash between two groups of student at Dental College Hostel at ukraabia in the city yesterday afternoon, hospital sources said.

The injured were identified as Tutul, 23, Tarek, 25, both CL activists and a pedestrian named. They received injuries during chase and counter chase between two groups of the students in front of the college, hospital sources said quoting witnesses.

The incident occurred when BCL activist Sarwar and Hitoi on board a microbus entered the hostel premises and gaged themselves in ransacking sources said. They also fired four rounds of gun shots and created panic in and around the area.

They were chased by other of which continued for some time in the area among the BCL activists.

The injured were sent to the aka Medical College Hospital.

## Obituary

Renowned social worker and former secretary of Greater Noakhali Samity Alhaj Hossain Ahmed Chowdhury died of cardiac arrest at a local clinic in the early hours of yesterday, reports BSS.

Chowdhury, a retired assistant director of Department of Soil Survey, was buried at Martyred Intellectual Graveyard at Mirpur following *namaz-e-janaza* at Awlad Hossain Market premises in the city after Asr prayers.

He was 75 and is survived by his wife, three sons and four daughters.

The *qulhwani* of the deceased will be held on June 10 at 601 West Nakhalpara residence after Asr prayers.

## By Staff Correspondent

Alhaj Abdul Majid, father of Abdus Salam, general secretary of Dhaka City BNP, died yesterday morning due to old age complication. He was 80.

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia expressed profound shock at the death of Majid. She prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

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## Accent on industries

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buoyant agriculture sector will keep the inflation low and push the GDP up. Kibria also extended government support to subsidise the sector in the form of Tk 100 crore for fertiliser subsidy, which he vowed to increase further if fertiliser price goes up in the international market. Agriculture also received a nine per cent higher allocation in the proposed ADP for FY2001 than last year's.

Kibria's proposed budget, the fourth of the ruling Awami League, has a total outlay of Tk 42,859 crore, showing an overall deficit of Tk 18,661 crore. The national fiscal plan does not directly speak of any additional tax burden, but of rationalisation of VAT net and other reforms.

The spending includes Tk 19,633 crore in revenue expenditure and Tk 17,500 crore in ADP.

At the same time, the budget proposes to net Tk 24,198 crore in revenue earnings - Tk 19,277 crore in tax revenue and Tk 4,921 crore in non-tax revenue.

The deficit between revenue income and total expenditure would be met by Tk 9,421 crore from external sources, Tk 5,726 crore from domestic sources and Tk 3,514 crore from borrowing from the banking system.

For the first time in history, the budget has clearly stated how much the government wants to borrow from the banking system.

However, the finance minister has fallen ruthlessly short of a firm strategy to cut the losses of SOEs or to divest those.

In an effort to make public savings coming to the banks and the capital market, he also proposed drastic reduction of interest rates on all types of savings instruments.

## Boost to capital market

To boost the country's ailing capital market, Kibria proposed at least four types of tax incentives.

He offered tax rebate at the rate of 10 per cent to listed companies which declare dividends of at least 25 per cent. Exemption limit of dividend income has also been proposed to be raised from Tk 30,000 to Tk 40,000.

He also made investment in secondary market shares eligible for tax credit and raised investment allowance up to Tk 225,000 instead of Tk 200,000 for investment in IPOs.

## Tax measures

Other than the autonomous growth of revenue, Kibria hopes to net in Tk 800 crore through reforms and improvement of tax structure and collection process.

Because of adjustment of personal income tax rates and slabs, and various measures to support health service, industry, export and capital market, there will be a revenue loss of Tk 21 crore. On the other hand, due to expansion of tax base, there will be a revenue gain of Tk 112 crore. Consequently, there will be a net increase of Tk 91 crore under this head.

Implementation of proposals for reduction of customs duty is expected to result in a revenue loss of Tk 80 crore and there would be a gain of Tk 15 crore for increase in duty rates. Consequently, there would be a net loss of Tk 65 crore.

Expansion of VAT and supplementary duty would raise an additional revenue of Tk 245 crore. Proposed tax exemptions would result in a loss of Tk five crore.

Hence, net increase in revenue under this head due to expansion of tax base would be Tk 240 crore, he said.

Kibria defends borrowing

In defending the record Tk 3934 crore government borrowing from the banking system for this fiscal year, Kibria found it conducive to growth. In the original budget of FY2000, the government did not keep any provision for such money sources.

## Tk 17,500 cr proposed for ADP

Allocation for Tk 1,221 cr proposed for water sector

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday proposed Tk 17,500 crore for the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the fiscal year 2000-2001, laying the highest priority to poverty alleviation, reports BSS.

The size of the ADP for FY 2000-2001 is 13 per cent higher compared to ADP for FY 1999-2000, said Kibria while presenting the proposed national budget for the fiscal year 2000-2001.

Elaborating on the proposed ADP for the next FY, the Finance Minister said the domestic resources contribution to the ADP will be about 50.2 per cent while foreign sources will contribute the rest 49.8 per cent.

However, domestic resources for ADP cannot be provided from revenue surplus alone, the Minister said.

Kibria said bank borrowing to the tune of taka 3,514 crore will be required to finance the proposed ADP. However, the overall fiscal deficit would stand at about 5.9 per cent of GDP, he added.

Giving highest priority to the poverty alleviation a taka 6,006.10 crore has been proposed as allocation in the FY 2000-2001 as against taka 5,913.42 crore in 1999-2000, he said.

Referring to the allocation of Tk 3,439.17 crore for poverty alleviation activities in the revenue budget for FY 1999-2000, the Finance Minister proposed raising of this allocation to taka 3,892 crore in FY 2000-2001.

The combined allocation in development and revenue budget for poverty alleviation in FY 1999-2000 was taka 8,752 crore, he said proposing taka 8,989.1 crore for FY 2000-2001.

On the imports of Lead Acid Battery, 15 per cent supplementary duty has been proposed.

There will be a 30 per cent supplementary on import of mineral water and aerated wa-

ter supply

The experience of financial management in Bangladesh during the last two years suggests that harmful effects of bank borrowing are limited, he said. "There is no direct correlation between government borrowing and inflation in Bangladesh."

He also found that there had been no crowding out effect on private sector credit due to such borrowing. In support of this, he said the commercial banks had excess liquidity of 6.3 per cent of their deposits in mid-April despite an increase in government borrowing. Furthermore, credit to private sector increased by 11.5 per cent during the first nine months of this fiscal year.

If bank borrowing is used for financing ADP, such borrowing is likely to be conducive to growth in Bangladesh," he said.

## Industrial performance

Kibria termed the industrial investment highly satisfactory.

"According to estimates, total disbursement of industrial credit in the first six months of FY1999-2000 is about Tk 5,856 crore which is 38.8 per cent higher than that of the corresponding period of the previous year," Kibria said.

Tk 5,158 crore was disbursed for working capital and Tk 6,974 crore as term-lending - which grew by 42.7 per cent and 15.4 per cent respectively over the corresponding period of last fiscal year.

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