

What's on today....

FPAB workshop: Family Planning Association of Bangladesh will hold a 6-day long workshop on "Integrated Community-Operated Reproductive Health Programmes focusing on Women's Empowerment beginning today. Venue: BRAC centre, Mohakhali. Time: 9:00 am.

Satyajit Ray Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society presents *Hirak Rajar Deshe* (The Kingdom of Diamonds) on the 3rd day of the retrospective. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Rd no 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Folk theatre festival: Nagri Showkhin Jhumur Shilpi Gosthi will present *Gouri Mala*. Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 7:00 pm.

Pre-opening ceremony: The pre-opening ceremony of Learning and Research Analysis will be held. Venue: Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 7:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Satyajit Ray Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society presents *Gupi Bagha Fire Eto* (The return of Gupi and Bagha) on the 4th day of the retrospective. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:30 pm.

Folk theatre festival: Binodon Jhumur Jatra will present *Sati Keno Kolonkenti* on the 2nd last day of the weeklong folk theatre festival. Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 7:00 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and the lowest 24.2 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

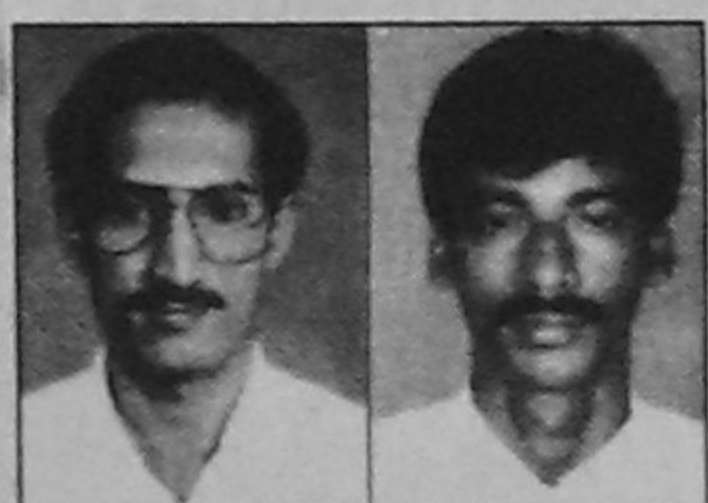
The sun sets in the capital today at 6.46 pm and rises on Monday at 5.10 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	Max 29.7 Min 26.5	Morning 87 Evening 93
Chittagong	31.0 25.0	81 93
Rajshahi	32.7 25.5	86 96
Khulna	32.7 25.8	83 89
Barisal	31.8 26.0	84 100
Sylhet	28.1 24.2	100 86
Cox's Bazar	27.6 26.0	95 92

HERE and THERE

Daily Star Employees Union



By Staff Correspondent

An eight-member new executive body of The Daily Star Employees' Union has been formed with M Nazrul Islam and Altaf Hossain as its president and general secretary respectively.

The committee was formed at the general meeting of the union yesterday with chief of The Daily Star Unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists Biswadip Das in the chair. President of Press Samik Karmachari Union, Daily Star unit Abul Hashem attended the meeting as special guest.

The other office-bearers are M Shahidul Islam Molla, vice-president, Tapan Chandra Das, assistant general secretary, Ayub Khan, treasurer, Ruhul Amin Babu, cultural secretary, Mojibur Rahman Sharif, publicity secretary and Jalal Aka, member.

East West University

The orientation for the freshers of East West University (EWU) was held at its premises in the city yesterday with governor, Bangladesh Bank, Dr. Mohammad Farashuddin in the chair, reports BSS.

11-Party Alliance denounces budget

By Staff Correspondent

The 11-Party Alliance held a rally and brought out a procession in the city's Newmarket, Nilkhet and Hatirpool areas yesterday to protest the proposed budget. They termed it anti-people and a 'rip-off', says a party press release.

The party plans to hold a similar rally and bring out procession from the city's Bahadur Shah Park today at 5 pm.

Obituary

Alhaj S M Shakhawat Hossain, a noted social worker, politician and organiser of the liberation war died yesterday at his Mohammadpur residence. He was 76, family sources said, reports BSS.

Hossain, who hails from Bagerhat district, left behind his wife, a son, three daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

His *qulhwani* will be held after Asr prayers on June 15 at his 14/14 Salmullah Road residence at Mohammadpur.

"The freshers should work hard and maintain academic discipline to build up their professional career for taking up the challenges of leadership in human resource positions," the governor said this while addressing the function.

Syed Manzur Elahi, President, Board of Directors of EWU welcomed the new students for selecting the university for higher study and advised them to learn English for becoming a world class citizen.

Among others, Pro-VC Dr. Mohammad Musa, Dean of Faculties Dr Sultan Ahmed and Registrar Firdaus Ali also spoke.

The classes of summer semester will begin today.

HCB, BSCE

Habitat Council Bangladesh (HCB) and Bangladesh Society for Conservation of Environment (BSCE) jointly organised a discussion meeting on 'Urban Environmental Management' on Friday at BSCE conference room, Mohammadpur, in the city, says a press release.

The meeting was presided over by the Prof Abdullah A Haroon, Chairman BSCE. Two papers were presented in the meeting by Prof Khurshid Alam of Dhaka University and MA Gofran, Chairman Habitat Council Bangladesh. SH Loton, Jashim Uddin, Dr. Mosharraf Hossain took part in the discussion. Speakers in their paper stressed the importance of urban issues.

Indian woman along with her Bangladeshi husband held

Police arrested an Indian woman, along with a Bangladeshi citizen claimed to be her husband, following a complaint by an Indian, reports UNB.

The arrested duo is Sumona Sen of West Bengal and Anurup Aich of Chittagong, who have been residing at Mirpur Section-1 for several months as husband and wife.

Sumona Sen reportedly came to Bangladesh from North 24 Parganas of West Bengal on November 6 last year deserting her Indian husband Rupok Sen-Gupta.

Later Sengupta lodged a complaint with Bangladesh police last month stating that Sumona trespassed to Bangladesh after stealing his valuables and cash.

Mirpur police yesterday arrested Sumona and Anurup Aich.

They were placed on one-day police remand after producing before a court, said Nurul Alam, officer-in-Charge of Mirpur Thana.

However, during preliminary interrogation by police Sumona said she had married Anurup divorcing Rupok, but could not show any document.

Sumona, who has an eight-year-old son, said that her ancestral home is in Barisal.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stone of the 5th Bangladesh-China Friendship bridge yesterday. The bridge will be built over River Gabkhan at Jhalakathi. —PID photo

Alleged MPs won't be able to evade police interrogation

Killers to be arrested at any cost: Nasim

Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday said that the persons involved in recent killings in capital Dhaka including the sensational Shipu murder would be arrested at any cost, reports BSS.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and I have directed the law enforcers to arrest the killers," he said.

If the killers could not be found, their guardians would be put under pressure to hand over the killers immediately. Even alleged parliament members would not be able to evade police interrogation, the home minister stressed at a press briefing at his ministry office.

He said the Home Ministry directed the concerned authorities to take measures to evict the illegal occupants from Uttara Market and demolish the Market within 72 hours.

Nasim said the government set an example in curbing terrorism from the trouble-torn south and western regions of the country and rooting out toll collection from highways.

"The anti-toll drive will continue while the existing toll extortion from auto-rickshaws and tempos will be stopped in a couple of days," he said.

"We will not tolerate the culture of toll collection in the country."

Referring to recent deterioration in the city's law and order, the home minister said that the persons involved in recent killings in capital Dhaka including the sensational Shipu murder would be arrested at any cost, reports BSS.

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Air pollution problem must be addressed on priority basis

By Staff Correspondent

City's air pollution problems should be addressed on a priority basis, said environmentalists at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar titled 'Environmental Degradation and Our Responsibilities in the 21st Century' was organised by the Rural Organisation of Health and Environment (ROHE), a non-governmental agency engaged in awareness building on health and environment in the countryside.

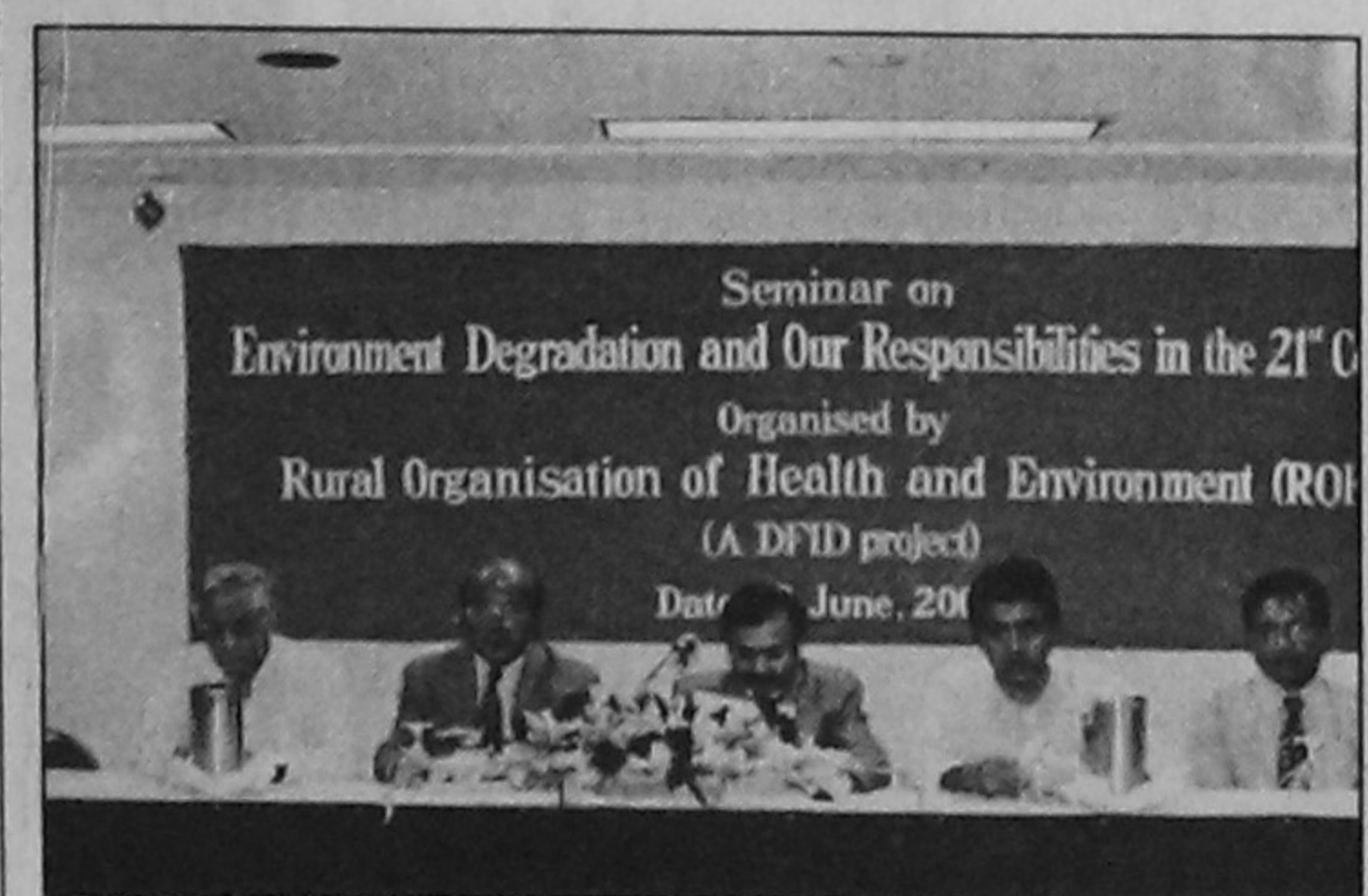
State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury addressed the seminar as the chief guest. Secretary Syed Margoub Morshed, Ministry of Environment and Forest, former secretary and legal adviser, ministry of foreign affairs A. K. H. Morshed, also spoke at the seminar, which was chaired by Ruhul Amin Mazumder, adviser ROHE. Dr. Reaz Mobarak, developmental paediatrician and epidemiologist, and Prof. Feroz Ahmed presented their respective papers — *Children: Victims of Air Pollution and Air Pollution in Dhaka city* — while making suggestions for pollution-free air in the city.

Revealing the horrendous magnitude of air pollutants and their effects on dwellers, especially on children, the experts sought government policy guidelines. "If two-stroke engine three-wheelers are taken off the roads, it won't make any significant improvement. Private cars, polluting the air, are much greater in number. Only by using pollutant-free fuel in vehicles we will get clean air," said Prof. Feroz Ahmed, citing the examples of Tokyo and Delhi. He, however, welcomed the government's decision in the just-proposed budget to ban two-stroke engine vehicles.

"We need to start daily forecasting, similar to that of weather forecasts, after measuring exhausts like lead, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, benzene, toluene etc., in different parts of the city, Prof Feroz suggested."

Dr. Reaz Mobarak expressed his discontent saying that 'measures to address air pollution have not been covered in the national health policy'. He emphasised on the need for clear guidelines for screening high-risk population like traffic police, regular long-distance travellers, street urchins, slum children, people living within 50-100 yards of pitched roads and recycled industries, recycle workers and vendors, and then take necessary measures.

"If we can combat disasters like '98 flood', we definitely can make sure pollutant-free air for the citizens," said Abul Hasan Chowdhury, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, in his speech.



ROHE held a seminar on environment degradation in the city yesterday. Seen in the picture are (from L to R) AKH Morshed, former foreign secretary and legal adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ruhul Amin Mazumder, Adviser ROHE, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Syed Margoub Morshed, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest and Dr. Reaz Mobarak, developmental paediatrician and epidemiologist at Dhaka Shishu Hospital, who participated in the seminar.

NU VC: Exams

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Majority of the students are willing to sit for the examinations as scheduled while a small number of them are involved in a movement for shifting the date, he said.

The VC pointed out that no college authorities have recommended shifting of the examination date.

"Now they are involved in an evil attempt to stop academic and administrative activities at various colleges through campaigns in many ways," he said. They are creating problems not only for themselves but also for other students of the colleges, he noted.

Our efforts would not succeed if examination dates are frequently shifted," the VC said.

The press conference was also attended by, among others, pro vice chancellors Prof B K Jahangir and Prof Lutful Rahman, Registrar Firoz Ahmad Akhter and Controller of Examinations Binoy Ratan Barua.

Miss Photogenic

From page 1

Following advertisement, about 1300 candidates sent their photographs to participate in the competition. Initially, 300 photos were selected from the 1300.

Judges of Anandadhara made a list of one hundred participants from the 300.

The Editorial section of Anandadhara took close-up snaps of 30 competitors from different angles and exhibited the photographs at a gallery.

From these, a team comprising eleven judges selected the Miss Photogenic 2000. The result of the competition was kept secret till it was announced at the crowning ceremony.

Just before starting the programme, popular television artiste and dramatist Asaduzzaman Noor greeted the participants and the audience on behalf of the organisers and requested Arif Hossain for presenting the ceremony.

The top ten among the contestants were introduced during yesterday's programme.

They are: Naila Ahsan, Najma Hasan, Fawzia Afsen, Fatema Sahab Ruma, Mila Hossain, Sharmeen Rahman, Meherunnesa Bristi, Shanarai Devi Shana, Ishrat Haidar Isha and Shabrina Islam Shami.

Budget Power!

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government, over the last four years (power generation) capacity has risen to 2700 megawatt. This is an increase in power generation by 595 mw over that in fiscal 1995-96, he added.

"The 476 megawatt being produced by captive generators is indeed a significant quantum of power, when compared with the increase in power production achieved through government efforts. Production by the captive generators represents nearly one fifth of the usual power generation in the country," an expert noted.

In this connection, an observer said, "Consider the huge leap in power production by captive generators against the very slow production increase by the government which has an infrastructure and production base of over 50 years."

Amu to contest by-polls in Jhalakathi-2

JHALAKATHI, June 10: Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu will contest by-election in Jhalakathi-2 Constituency, reports UNB.

The JS seat fell vacant following the death of Julfikar Ali Bhutto of Jatiya Party.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today introduced Amu as the Awami League candidate for by-election to the vacant seat.

"Amir Hossain Amu will be our candidate for by-election," she told a public meeting at the local stadium.

Arrest identified terrorists soon, IGP asks DMP officers

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mohammad Nurul Huda directed the field level officers of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday to arrest the identified terrorists immediately, reports BSS.

He gave the directive while addressing the officials of the Detective Branch of DMP and other police stations at Rajbargh Police Lines Auditorium in the city.

The IGP instructed the field level police personnel to perform their duties with their utmost sincerity and honesty to maintain peace in the metropolis.

He urged the police personnel to ensure security of the people living in the metropolitan areas.

DMP Commissioner Motiur Rahman, Additional Commissioner Muzammel Haque and officials concerned were present at the meeting.

BIMDT convocation ceremony held

By Staff Correspondent

The first ever batch of 25 diploma health technologists graduated from a private institute recently.

Bangladesh Institute of Medical and Dental Technology (BIMDT) held its first convocation ceremony yesterday at IDB Bhawan, Agargaon.

Thirteen graduates from the dental section and 12 graduates from laboratory section received their certificates.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof M Amanullah distributed the certificates among the graduates.

Among those present were BIMDT's Principal Prof AJM Mijanur Rahman, Dhaka University Medical Faculty Dean Prof M A Majid, Director of Medical Education of Health Directorate Prof Shah Muir Hussain, Managing Director of Lab Aid Group Dr Alam Shamin.



The first batch of graduates from BIMDT seen at the institute's 1st convocation ceremony held at the IDB Bhawan auditorium at Sher-e-Banglanagar in the city yesterday.

Degree (Pass) results

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examinations as regular students. Of them, 30,183 passed the examination. The percentage of pass was 43.45.

In BCom (Pass) examination, a total of 34,050 regular students sat for the examination. Of them, 16,573 passed the examination. The percentage of pass was 48.67.

A total of 40,286 candidates who failed in one subject in 1998 sat for examinations in 1999. Of them 29,971 passed the examinations. The percentage of pass was 74.30.

In the combined merit list, Kawsar Ahmed, a BSc student of Tejaogon College, topped the list securing 746 marks.

Sukesh Kumar Roy, a BSc examinee from Ullahpara Government All Akber College, obtained the second position in combined merit list securing 723 marks.

Mafizul Islam, a BA examinee from Sathkira Day-Night College, got the third position in combined merit list securing 720 marks.

In the merit list of BA examinations, Mafizul Islam of Sathkira Day-Night College stood first while Nargis Parveen of Juranpur Adarsha College and Abdul Momin of Manikganj Govt Debendra College got second and third positions respectively.

In BSc examinations, Kawsar Ahmed of Tejaogon College, Sukesh Kumar Roy of Ullahpara Govt All Akber College and Kawsar Ali of Rajshahi Taherpur College obtained first, second and third positions respectively.

Rejwana Arefin Khan of Dhaka City College, Suman Kanti Nath of Chittagong Bariarhat College and Farjana Hossain Sumi of Chittagong Islamia College stood first, second and third respectively in B Com examination.

Anima Roy of Dhaka Sangeet College obtained first position in music department.

The university authorities said they have already sent results to all colleges and centres through the district administration. The tabulation books would be sent to the colleges within two weeks of publishing results.

"Over the past seven years, I have met him many times and gotten to know him very well," Clinton said.

"We had our differences, but I always respected him ... Throughout my contacts with him, including our last meeting, he made clear Syria's continued commitment to the path of peace," said Clinton, who was expected to make further public remarks on the subject later today.

Arafat declares three days of mourning

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said in a statement today he mourns the death of Assad and had declared three days of official mourning in Palestinian-run areas.

"President Yasser Arafat mourns in the name of the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Palestinian National Authority the loss to the Syrian people and the Arab nation in the death of President Hafez al-Assad," said an official statement on voice of Palestine radio.

Relations between Arafat and Assad had long been strained and Damascus is the headquarters for factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation opposed to the PLO chairman's peacemaking with Israel.

"The president shares with the family of the great Assad their sorrows at these difficult moments. The president confirms that the Palestinian people will stand beside their brothers, the people of Syria."

It added that Arafat had ordered three days of official mourning in Palestinian areas.

BNP procession

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measures proved the government's bankruptcy.

"The budget is a document of government's failure and mismanagement. It clearly shows that the government is inept, isolated from the people and has failed to run the country," the resolution of the meeting said.

The meeting also urged the members of different professional groups to support tomorrow's hartal.

Tullow

From page 1

cost of 56 million US dollars in the first three years of exploration. However, experts termed this proposal "unrealistic" saying that track records show that oil companies are hardly able to drill more than two exploratory wells in three years.

Finally in February-March, the government itself allowed relaxation of Tullow's work programme when it came up with a new proposal that three wells, not 10, would be drilled in the first three years.

Partnership talks between Tullow and Chevron-Texaco were initiated back in December '97. However the talks always ended in disagreements.

This time the government decided to resolve the matter by putting forward BAPEx as the operator. "Since the original proposal of drilling 10 wells is not discussed now, we see nothing wrong in putting BAPEx on the front line," a highly placed official source said. "After all this has become a national demand now."

Block 9 was originally reserved for BAPEx before the second round bidding. It was included in the second round block bidding as a strategy to attract foreign oil companies.

Clinton mourns

US President Bill Clinton mourned the passing of Hafez al-Assad today and said despite his differences with the late leader, he "always respected him."

"I am saddened by the news of President Assad's death and want to offer my condolences to his family and the Syrian people," Clinton said in a statement from Minnesota, USA where he was travelling.