

What's on today

Inauguration: The National Tree Plantation Drive 2000 will be inaugurated. A rally will be held and a procession brought out to mark the occasion. Chief guest: Minister for Environment and Forest Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury. Venue: Manik Miah Avenue. Time: 8:30 am.

CDRB seminar: Centre for Development Research Bangladesh (CDRB) will hold a seminar "Islam, State and Society in Bangladesh." Dr. Montaz Ahmed, Professor of Hampton University (USA) and senior research fellow of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS), which is represented by CDRB in Bangladesh. Venue: Women's Voluntary Association (WVA), House No 20, Rd No 27 (Old), 16 (New). Time: 5:00 pm.

Satyajit Ray Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society presents *Joi Baba Felunath*. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

CRP workshop: Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) will hold a day-long workshop with participants under its micro-credit programme. Chief guest: Canadian High Commissioner Robert Flynn. Time: 10:30 am.

PIB workshop: Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) will hold a planning workshop on Women and Children Issue under its project Communication for Achieving Bangladesh's Goals for Women and Children. Venue: PIB seminar room. Time: 10:30 am.

Exhibition: Bangladesh Sanjukta Tanti Samitee will inaugurate an exhibition of Sonaranga Jamdani sarees. Venue: Training Institute of National Bank Institute, 23/4 Khilji Road (Opposite Shyamoli Shishu Mela). Time: 5:00 pm.

Eid-e-Miladunnabi programme: Islamic Foundation Bangladesh will begin week-long programme on occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Venue: Baital Mukarram National Mosque premises. Time: 5:30 pm.

Inauguration: WebBangladesh.com, an Internet Search Engine will be launched. Venue: Hotel Rendezvous Sundaram, 23 Motijheel C/A. Time: 11:00 am.

Tribute to Great Filmmakers: Chalachitram Film Society presents *Antonio Das Mortes* (Brazil) by Glauber Rocha and *The Mirror* (Russia) by Andrei Tarkovsky as part of its fifth programme of the series "A Tribute to the Great Filmmakers of the Century." Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Road No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Tribute to Great Filmmakers: Chalachitram Film Society presents *Blow Up* (Italy) by Michelangelo Antonioni and *Passion* (France) by Jean-Luc Godard. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Road No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Satyajit Ray Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society presents *Phatikchand* on the concluding day of the second part of the Satyajit Ray Retrospective. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

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

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

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 35.5 degree Celsius at Chuadanga and the lowest 21.4 degree Celsius at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:47 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	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	25.5	79	78
Chittagong	31.5	21.4	82	86
Rajshahi	34.8	26.2	76	74
Khulna	33.7	24.0	83	72
Barisal	32.5	23.2	96	84
Sylhet	26.7	24.2	100	90
Cox's Bazar	31.5	23.0	85	86

HERE and THERE



Manobadhiakar
Bastobayan
Sangstha

By Staff Correspondent

BUET Employees Union

M. Abdur Rabb and M. Nurul Islam have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the 13-member executive committee (2000-2001) of Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET) Employees Union, says a press release.

The election was held at a Dr. MA Rashid Bhaban recently. Other members of the executive committee are: vice-president—Md Anwarul Haque, M. Abdur Hamid, assistant secretary—M. Hossain Ali, organising secretary—M. Abu Hasan Chowdhury, office secretary—M. Shamsul Haque Chowdhury, publicity secretary—M. Salam Ullah and treasurer—M. Abul Kasem Mia, members—M. Ismail, M. Selim Khan, M. Abdur Hamid Miah and M. Monir Hossain. The election was conducted by Prof Dr ASW Kurny as chief election commissioner.

Bangladesh Scouts

A three-day long National Programme Workshop organised by Programme Division, Bangladesh Scouts concluded on Saturday at the National Scout Training Centre at Touchak, Gazipur, says a press release.

The concluding ceremony was addressed by M. Fazlur Rahman, Chief National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Saiful Islam Khan, National Commissioner (PR & Publications) and Abdul Alam, Bir Pratik Workshop Director and National Commissioner (Programme).



Nijera Shikhi, an NGO awarded certificates and stipends to 23 working and rootless children under its non-formal education project No 3, at a function at the WVA auditorium in the city yesterday.

Man gets life term for killing wife

By Court Correspondent

The Fifth Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday awarded life term rigorous imprisonment to one Khalequul Bashar and acquitted four others accused of killing his wife.

The Judge M. Abdus Salam Sikdar found Khalequul guilty. The four other accused were not charged in the case and they were acquitted of charge.

Khalequul Bashar, a resident of Keraniganj thana killed his wife Taslima on June 27, 1995 for a dowry of Tk 50,000. Kashem Ali, father of the victim filed a murder case accusing five people in Keraniganj thana.

The Judge M. Abdus Salam Sikdar gave the verdict after examining all 13 prosecution witnesses.

Four of a family buried alive in landslide in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 13: Four members of a family were buried alive in a landslide at village Dakshin Para (Nurpara) of Golapganj thana in the early hours today.

The dead were identified as Sajja Begum, 26, her children Juneed, 11, Ruby, 7 and Ruma, 3. Sajja's husband Habib Ali, a rickshawpuller was also injured. All the victims were asleep during the landslide.

The incident occurred when the hillcock type spot called tita attached to the house fell on it during heavy rain at about 1-30 am. Habib woke up immediately and raised a hue and cry. Later he recovered the bodies with the help of neighbours.

Showcause

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The authorities also served showcase notices on Jewel, Mahfuz, Reza, Shawon, Monir, Rafiq, Babla, Pushpa, Pintu and Tuhin asking them why exemplary punishment should not be taken against them. Action will be taken against them if they failed to give reasonable answer within seven days, said a DU press release.

A similar showcase was served on Babul Mia, Mahfuz (residents of AF Rahman Hall), Shipu, Shawon, Pintu and Babla for their involvement in felling some trees of the hall premises recently without permission of the authorities. The meeting also decided to take action against the non-student outsiders involved in the incident.

The same showcase notice was also served on Kamal Hossain, Mahabubul Islam Selim, Pushpa, Shipu, Babla, Rizvi, Mahfuz (AF Rahman Hall), Tuhin, Sagar (2nd year student of Islamic History), Arzu and Asadul Islam for beating up Mohammad Azim Uddin, a final year student of Islamic Studies on February 13.

In connection with a clash on campus on April 13, the authorities served the same notice on Sagar (Accounting Department), Abul Hasan Chowdhury, (Geography and Environment), Jewel (Bangla), Shawon (Law) and Sobel.

The meeting also asked Jewel of Bangla Department to leave the hall immediately.

Police raided the hall and arrested three guests from Room No 143 early yesterday after the incident of beating Ruhul Qudus. But they were released later, hall sources said.

Omar, a third year student of Management Department was beaten up at the hall yesterday noon. Omar belonged to a rival faction of BCL, sources added. Tension prevailed at the Sir Salimullah Hall yesterday following clash between two groups of ruling party backed student organisation.

Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of Prof Mufazzal Huiq, former chairman and professor of Public Administration Deptt., of Dhaka University will be observed today, says a press release.

A *milad mahfil* will be held at 4/9 North Fullar Road to mark the occasion. A discussion meeting will also be held at the Bangladesh Centre for Policy Studies at 5:30 pm today.

Huiq was the founder executive director of Bangladesh Centre for Policy Studies and founder president of Mrochet, an NGO working for Mro and Khumi People of Bandarban Hill district.

HC upholds retirement of BSS journalists

The High Court yesterday upheld the retirement of the journalists and employees of the National News Agency, BSS at the age of 60, reports BSS.

Delivering judgement on writ petitions filed by ten journalists and employees of BSS, challenging their retirement from services, the High Court discharged its earlier rule as to why the retirement order under BSS Service Rule, 1995 shall not be declared ultra vires.

The High Court Bench comprising Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hossain said, "we do not find any illegality in the retirement of the petitioners from service of BSS under Rule 53 of BSS Employees Service Rules, 1995."

The judges observed that the Rule 53 relating to retirement of the BSS employees, has been framed under section 22 (1) of BSS Ordinance, 1979. The law was passed for establishing BSS as a statutory body with powers to frame rule.

"There is no scope in the rule to be considered as has been ultra vires," the Court said.

"So, the Rule issued earlier by the High Court as to why the order of retirement shall not be declared illegal, is discharged without any order to cost."

The BSS Management on May 24, 1997 retired 12 senior journalists and employees, who have crossed 60 years of their age under the Service rules framed in 1995. Of them, three journalists and employees accepted the retirement but remaining nine came back to BSS under High Court stay order.

One of the retired employees, however, died in the meantime. Meanwhile, the former Managing Director and Chief Editor, Hussainuzzaman Chowdhury, who passed the retirement orders to 12 journalists and employees, got retired in the same rule.

The High Court took up the cases of retirement for hearing after three years, when one of the retired journalists, A S M Habibullah, filed another writ challenging the appointment of Haroon Habib, one of the senior journalists of BSS, as the new Managing Director and Chief Editor of the national organisation.

As the Court took up the writ challenging the appointment of the new Managing Director and Chief Editor for hearing, counsel of BSS Barrister Amir-ul Islam challenged the *locus standi* of Habibullah to file the writ, since he was retired earlier.

Masaki

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resort of Kuakata on March 19 this year.

Bashar told the Daily Star he is certain that the person whose name he cannot remember properly is the missing brother of Michio. His relations yesterday left for Kuakata to mount a search in the area.

"I went to police so that they take action to find out the missing man, something I did out of sympathy for his sister," Bashir said.

Masudur Rahman, a travel organiser who is acting on behalf of Michio, said since her appeal was launched with handbills containing the last picture of Arayama, there has been a number of claims about finding the missing Japanese.

"I have received calls from 'Lama in Bandarban to Prentali in Rajshahi. There were also calls from Sirajganj, Sherpur and Dhaka, all claiming that Arayama had been found. We are trying to follow the leads including one who claimed that a person is lodged at the prison wing of BBSMR Medical University hospital," Rahman added.

He also said he was trying to look into Bashar's claim corroborated by two youths who told a tabloid daily in Dhaka that they saw a Japanese man in late forties whose description tallies with that of Koga Michio.

The man appeared to be mentally deranged and had changed a dollar from the youths. He was staying at a cheap hotel in Kuakata, Rahman quoted the young men as saying.

He said he would e-mail to Michio today the picture provided by Bashar of the man he claims to be Arayama. He also sought help of the public and police to locate the missing person.

Michio in her appeal earlier, said Arayama had disappeared after trips to Rangamati and Kapatai and that she does not know whether her brother was alive or not. Anyone finding him should dial her on 814-224-64389 in Japan or inform the Japanese Embassy in Dhaka.

CEPZ

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A meeting attended by workers' leaders, police officials, CEPZ officials and representatives from Qualitex Group, was held at CEPZ office this afternoon to resolve the crisis.

The meeting decided to reinstate the terminated workers after seven days, but the agitating workers rejected the decision demanding immediate reinstatement meeting sources said.

However the agitating workers left the premises of GM's office at 7 pm.

Furore over 'fix'

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inquiry commission and the Pakistan Cricket Board had to say on this matter.

His view was supported by batsman Mehrab Hossain, who insisted that nothing happened during the game to suggest to him that the outcome had been fixed.

"I can never believe this allegation and rather feel it is a conspiracy from some quarter. Cricket is an uncertain game and thus Bangladesh winning that match with Pakistan was a result of our efforts. We put in the best."

India's 47-run victory at Old Trafford was their only success in the Super Six phase of the competition. They scored 227 for six in their 50 overs and then bowled Pakistan out for 180, with Venkatesh Prasad taking five for 27.

But Indian Cricket Board secretary Jayawant Lele said: "How can a match between India and Pakistan be fixed when both teams are out to get one another?"

"Pakistan were keen on beating India because they had never beaten us in the World Cup."

Anshuman Gaekwad, Indian coach during the tournament, described the match as "very competitive."

He added: "Pakistan fought very hard before going down. I went into the Pakistan dressing room after the match and the players were very depressed by the defeat."

"The match took place at the

Korean summit begins

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waves and sat side by side in armchairs. Kim Dae-jung told Kim Jong Il that he hoped the two Koreas will end hostility and open a new era of reconciliation and cooperation," according to South Korean pool reports. Kim Jong Il said his goal was the same.

Kim Dae-jung later met North Korea's ceremonial head of state, Kim Yong Nam, watched an arts performance and was scheduled to attend a state dinner before holding more talks with Kim Jong Il tomorrow.

The summit offers the great hope for peace on the divided Korean peninsula in more than 50 years. Leaders of South Korea and North Korea have never met since the two countries were founded in 1948 in the Cold War's infancy, and the conflict between two populations that speak the same language and share the same ethnic

roots has been bitter and bloody.

During the summit, Kim Dae-jung is expected to ask Kim Jong Il to agree to reunions of separated families, a summit sequel in Seoul and other conciliatory gestures in exchange for economic resources from the South. Though endowed with long-range missile capabilities, North Korea was unable to feed its own people in the late 1990s and today is reliant on food aid from its traditional foes: South Korea, Japan and the United States.

Before leaving Seoul, Kim Dae-jung said he planned to talk candidly with Kim Jong Il and hoped to learn about the thinking of the reclusive head of the totalitarian regime. He warned that the reconciliation process will be lengthy.

Reunification—the stated goal of both nations—also is likely to be a lengthy and difficult process. The first summit between leaders of East Ger-

many and West Germany was held in 1970, two decades before the dismantling of the Berlin Wall.

Animosity and suspicion remain fresh in the Koreas a half-century after the communist North, backed by the Soviet Union and joined by Chinese troops, fought the pro-Western South and its US-led allies.

Yet driven partly by desperation for economic aid to rebuild its dilapidated economy, the North embarked on a new course over the last year, seeking diplomatic contacts with the outside world that culminated in the decision to host an inter-Korean summit.

The celebratory mood now is such that The Korea Times, an English-language daily, compared the summit to the 1969 landing of a man on the moon. "One small step for reconciliation, one giant leap for reunification," the newspaper declared.

Rubel murder

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office. He also told the court that he watched Rubel being tortured by sub-inspector Hattul Islam Thakur with a stick. At about 12 pm he came to know that the boy (Rubel) died.

Shamim Reza Rubel, 24, a BBA student of the Independent University was picked up from his Siddeswar residence by a team of DB police on July 23, 1998 and tortured to death in the custody the same day.

Corruption

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attempts in poverty reduction, noting that "the tendency in Bangladesh is positive. More and more democratization is going on, a number of local government polls were held while more are in line, and there are numerous attempts on community empowerment."

Presenting a slideshow on the poverty report, *Overcoming Human Poverty*, UNDP programme officer Shams Muztaba, however, concluded that most of the 140 countries that the report covered could achieve little progress in the fight against poverty since the 1995 social development summit.

South Asian countries including Bangladesh were lagging far behind in achieving ambitious poverty reduction targets that they had set back in 1993 in Dhaka Declaration, said the UNDP official.

As per their plan the South Asian countries are supposed to completely eradicate the "extreme poverty" of 1990, the overall poverty, by year 2002. But as per current status Bangladesh would still have 32 per cent of its people under the poverty line in 2002, he said. Currently, Bangladesh have one quarter of its population at the level of ultra-poor, often dubbed as hardcore poor.

According to the UNDP report, number of poor people rose in all South Asian countries except Sri Lanka in mid '90s in comparison to mid '80s. It depicted success of social mobilisation in Kishoreganj district of Bangladesh where villagers mobilised Tk 45.6 million from their own savings.

"If corruption were cleaned up at the same time that the poor organized themselves, many national poverty programmes would have immediately ratchet up their success."

Road accidents

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night. Another unidentified young man aged about 20 was injured in an accident near Bijoy Sarani at about 1 am. He succumbed to injuries at DMCH in the early hours of yesterday.

Kamruzzaman, 32, a maxi-driver was killed on the spot at Khilkhet at 1 pm when the maxi overturned there.

Shameem Khan aged about 23 was seriously injured at Kanchpur area at about 3 pm yesterday when a minibus hit him from behind. He was taken to DMCH where the attending doctor declared him dead.

At least two people were killed and ten others injured in a road accident at Putiya under Daudkandi Upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday morning, police said.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound bus from Comilla collided head-on with a pick-up van coming from the opposite direction. The dead are pick-up van driver and its passenger.

The injured were admitted to the local hospital.

Hasina attends

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utes. The Prime Minister personally conveyed her deep sympathy and condolences to the deceased's son Dr Bashir.

She termed President Asad as a great leader of the Muslim Ummah, who had always soft corner for Bangladesh and its people.

While condoling Dr Bashir, the Prime Minister hoped that the new president would be able to play a vital role in bringing peace in this trouble-torn region.

Expressing his deep satisfaction over the existing friendly relations between Syria and Bangladesh, Dr Bashir said, "our relations are based on cultural and religious bonds."

The Syrian President-nominate was extended an invitation by Sheikh Hasina to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.

Assad laid to rest

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bore the body of President Assad through streets thronged with weeping, chanting mourners today.

In dark suits or flowing Arab robes, world leaders and other dignitaries paid tribute at the flag-draped casket of Assad as his body lay in state in the elaborate white-marble People's Palace, set on a Damascus hillside.

His son and designated heir, Bashar Assad, was flanked in the funeral procession by Syria's defense minister, a symbol of the key support Syria's powerful military has thrown behind him. Young and politically untested, the 34-year-old Bashar was meeting for the first time some of those leaders paying homage to his father, who had ruled Syria with an iron fist for three decades.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright bowed her head briefly before the basket and then spoke privately with Bashar for about 20 minutes. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who had quarreled bitterly with the elder Assad, saluted before the coffin, then kissed Bashar, clasping his hand and speaking intently for a few moments.

The US Security Council observed a minute of silence and the UN flag flew at half staff today as signs of mourning for President Assad.

Although Syria's official hierarchy has given Bashar Assad its blessing, it remained to be seen whether he could hold his own in the unifying political milieu of Syria and the Middle East—and how the leadership change in hard-line, isolated Syria might affect prospects for a comprehensive peace.

Even amid the mourning, regional politics took center stage. Syria used the occasion to trumpet the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon three weeks ago after a long campaign by the Shiite Muslim guerrillas of Hezbollah to drive them out, and to underscore its hopes of regaining the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East War.

When Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah arrived at the palace where Assad lay in state, the announcer on Syria's state-

run TV said, "Thank God you saw the south (of Lebanon) liberated... We will liberate our Golan. God willing, because... the banner has been transferred to the faithful young man"—referring to Bashar Assad.

On the streets of Damascus, tens of thousands of mourners surged along the beige route, waving portraits of both Assads, some fainting in the scorching heat. Soldiers handed out water to spectators, while ambulances stood by along the procession route.

Today, the nation bids farewell to its leader, the Tishreen newspaper said in a headline. The front page of the Al-Thawra newspaper was filled by a huge black-bordered portrait of Assad. Syrian television carried the daylong spectacle live.

For ordinary Syrians, the loss of the only president many had ever known sparked a remarkable outpouring of grief that at times seemed staged, at other times almost unbearably heartfelt. They took to the streets of cities and villages, chanting praise for Assad and Bashar.

"I would rather died and the president was still alive," said 67-year-old Mohammed al-Rifa'i al Masri. Young men bared their chests and in a gesture characteristic of Shiite Islam, ripped at their flesh with knives.

"You see all these people because Assad was a good man," said Hosam Chalabi, a 17-year-old student. "We have to come to say goodbye. It is the one small thing we can do."

Some Syrians spent the night along the route. Others, headed out early in the morning, dressed in black, walking in groups, silent except for the padding of their feet. The wail of Koranic verses from mosque speakers filled the streets.

The late president was known as the "Lion of Damascus"—the word "assad" means lion in Arabic. He rose to power through the ranks of the military and the all-powerful Baath Party. His autocratic rule trampled democratic rights, but brought Syrians a sense of stability in the wake of one coup after another following independence from France in 1946.

Budget discussion

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porting potatoes for the first time and vegetables are being exported to European market in addition to the Asian countries.

Blasting BNP for its criticism of the budget, the minister wondered why the opposition party leaders gave reactions separately. It appears that former finance minister Saifur Rahman and former state minister for planning Dr. Moyeen Khan have distanced themselves from the exercise by others, she said.

Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir termed the proposed budget a very positive financial adjustment with specific guidelines for speedy poverty alleviation in the country.

Calling the new budget a pro-people fiscal document, he said it was framed in the light of the ongoing Fifth Five Year Plan to bring down the country's poverty level to 32 per cent the next year.

He said the BNP leaders' "hollow remarks" about the budget outside the parliament count for nothing.

The planning minister blasted Saifur Rahman for his comment on the proposed budget. He said Saifur is a mere accountant and questioned his knowledge of economics.

"An accountant can never be an economist and if it happens so, then we must say that a little learning is a dangerous thing," he said.