

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

**Discussion Meeting:** Jatiya Party will hold a discussion meeting and a *milad mahfil* to observe the Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Venue: Party office at 2, Kalabagan. Time: 4 pm.

**Electro Computer Days:** The inaugural ceremony of a 3-day long Electro Computer Day 2000, organised by Association of Computer and Electrical Students of BUET, will be held. Chief guest: BUET VC Nooruddin Ahmed. Venue: BUET Central Auditorium. Time: 9 am.

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

**Satyajit Ray Retrospective:** Zahir Rathan 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.

**Discussion meet:** Tamaddun Mojib has organised a discussion meeting and *Hamd-Naat Mahfil* to observe the Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Chief guest: Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

**Discussion meet:** Bangla Academy has organised a discussion meeting on 'Relevance of Prophet Mohammad (SM) in Present World' and a *Milad Mahfil* to observe the Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Venue: Academy Seminar Room. Time: 5 pm.

**Discussion:** Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ulama Dal will hold a *milad mahfil* and discussion meeting. Venue: BNP central office. Time: After Asr prayer.

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

**Pottery Exhibition:** The 7th solo studio pottery exhibition by Sayeed Talukder will begin. Prof Anisuzzaman will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Venue: Gallery 21, 765 Sat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm. The exhibition will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm daily till June 25.

**Electro Computer Days:** An open discussion on 'Challenges and Opportunities of Mobile Telecommunication in Bangladesh' and a seminar on 'Computer Education and Training - Present Status and Future Need' will be held on the 2nd day of the Electro Computer Days 2000. Venue: BUET auditorium. Time: 9:30 am and 3 pm respectively.

**Cultural Programme:** The IBA Alumni Association will hold a cultural programme as part of its 'Organising Fortnight 2000' programme. Venue: IBA auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 3 pm to 6:30 pm.

**Open Discussion:** Weekly Ekota has organised an open discussion on 'Local-foreign conspiracies with country's electricity'. Venue: CPB office premises at 21/1, Purana Paltan. Time: 5 pm.

**Film Show:** Two French films - 'Alphaville' and 'Tous les matins du monde' will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 11 am and 4 pm respectively.

**Cultural Evening:** Mofizul Islam will render classical songs while Liza folk songs at a programme organised by Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

**Reception:** Janokantha will accord a reception to eminent personalities and also award Bangladesh Cricket Team for their performance in the World Cup Cricket - 99. Chief guest: Poet Shamsur Rahman. Venue: Dhaka Mahanagar Nathiyamoncha (Near Gulistan Cinema Hall). Time: 5 pm.

**Blood Donation Programme:** Bangladesh Ex-Cadets Association (BECA) has organised a blood donation programme in cooperation with the quantum Blood Centre. Venue: Motijheel Colony Gymnasium. Time 10 am to 4 pm.

**Opening ceremony:** The opening ceremony of 'Hotel Lake Castle Limited' will be held. Venue: Hotel premises at House No: 1A, Road No: 68/A, Gulshan-2. Time: 7 pm.

## Weather

## Moderate rain forecast

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over Sylhet division and slight fall in day temperature is expected elsewhere over the country during the period. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and Chuadanga and the lowest 22.4 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.47 pm and rises on Friday at 5.11 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	32.7	27.4
Chittagong	32.4	26.0
Rajshahi	34.7	26.5
Khulna	36.0	26.0
Barisal	33.5	26.8
Sylhet	25.6	22.4
Cox's Bazar	32.8	24.8

## Ershad: JS membership

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The party argued that Ershad violated Article 70 of the Constitution that bars an MP from keeping off parliament sessions against the decision of the party that nominated him/her to contest the parliamentary election.

The Speaker referred the case to the EC on March 28 and the deadline for settling the issue is July 26. The EC is legally obliged to pass verdict on such a case in 120 days from the date of receipt of it from the Speaker.

On April 27, JP (Monju) filed objection against hearing of the case on two grounds. It argued that the Commission was not properly constituted as there is no provision for acting Chief Election Commissioner. Secondly, it expressed reservation about Moshataque Ahmed Chowdhury who was acting CEC at that time, alleging that he is biased towards Ershad.

Chowdhury, who heard the objections raised by the lawyers of Monju led JP, said that he would pass judgements on the issue later.

On June 7, the lawyers JP (Monju) once again filed objection against Moshataque Ahmed Chowdhury. This time they dropped the other objection as a

new CEC took over by that time. The EC at a meeting on June 7 found the objection against Chowdhury baseless and duly informed the lawyers concerned.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of JP (Ershad) Nazim Rahman Manju told newsmen that their rival faction was destined to lose the case as it had no legal points in its favour. "Besides, a mouse cannot face a lion."

**Tk 2 lakh looted from mosaic shop**  
By Staff Correspondent

A gang of dacoits looted cash Taka 2 lakh in the Broadway light from a mosaic shop at Kazipara on Rokeya Sarani in the city yesterday.

Police said the gang of about 14 entered the shop of one Zahir and started beating him and his employee. At one stage some of the members of the gang took away Taka 2 lakh from the shop at the gunpoint.

The gang immediately left the spot after looting the money from the shop.

Mozaheruddin, owner of the shop filed a case in this regard with Kafrul police but none was arrested.



(From R to L) Sugath Rajapakse, Regional Manager South Asia of Sri Lankan Airlines announced the launching of Dhaka-Colombo flights at a gathering of travel consultants and travel advisors at a city hotel yesterday. Priya Munasinghe, Manager-Bangladesh of the airlines, Rezaur Rahman, Managing Director and Quaiser I Ghani, Director, Planning & Development of Bengal Airline Limited are also seen. — Star photo

## Amendments to Pry School Teacher Welfare Trust Ord 1985

## Govt has placed bill in JS to divide teachers, BPTA alleges

By Staff Correspondent

The government has placed a bill in Parliament seeking amendments to two articles of "Bangladesh Primary School Teacher Welfare Trust Ordinance 1985", to divide the primary school teachers. The amendments will give some but reverts and government agents the opportunity to misappropriate the money of school teachers. It was alleged by leaders of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association (BPTA) at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

Prof Abul Kalam Azad, president of the association, read out written statement. It was also attended by central and district leaders of the association.

The entire primary education system has to be nationalised and teachers should be given job security, least financial support and social dignity in order to eliminate illiteracy from the country, the school teachers said.

Compulsory Primary Education Law was introduced, with a view to eliminating illiteracy, the BPTA leaders said, adding, instead of taking effective steps to make the law effective the government has been passing such orders that are making the primary education system more complicated.

The teachers' leaders dis-

closed yesterday that during their Third National Conference in 1984 the decision of forming "Bangladesh Primary School Teacher Welfare Trust" was taken following which Tk 28 lakh was collected from school teachers and the then president H M Ershad donated Tk 20 lakh as grant.

Later the then president issued Bangladesh Primary School Teacher Welfare Trust Ordinance 1985. As per the ordinance a 21-member trustee board will conduct the activities of the welfare trust.

As per Article 5(1) of the ordinance Education Ministry will directly appoint 11 officials while the ministry will appoint rest of the members of board as per recommendation of BPTA.

The bill placed in the parliament by the government sought amendments in two articles of the ordinance.

The BPTA leaders said that proposal to amend article 5(1) [5] said "But if there are more than one association of teachers and if they could not reach any consensus about nominating ten teachers, the decision of the government will be considered as final."

Besides, the proposal to amend article 5(1)(3) of the ordinance was to give the teachers a lump sum from the fund instead of giving them pension, the BPTA alleged.

BPTA leaders said yesterday that they would not allow to make the conspiracy a success at any cost.

BPTA leaders also alleged that there are eight thousand government primary school teachers who have been in the service for more than twenty years. But in the name of retention, they are not getting their salary often. Some times they are not getting their salary for even two or three months.

Activities under Ideal Project in 19 districts of the country is another example of government's wrong policy that is deteriorating the standard of primary education and increasing harassment of teachers, the primary teachers' leaders said, adding scarcity of specialised teachers, class rooms and furniture are obstacles for implementing the project.

BPTA teachers alleged that a quarter of the government is trying to entirely destroy the primary education system deliberately. The leaders said that they have already submitted their 21-point recommendation before the government to eliminate illiteracy and to improve the standard of primary education.

"But unfortunately the government is taking wrong decisions one after another ignoring the wise recommendations of the BPTA."

## Lankan Airlines to operate 2 flights a week from July 1

By Staff Correspondent

Sri Lankan Airlines yesterday announced the launching of its Dhaka-Colombo flights from July 1.

Sugath Rajapakse Sri Lankan Airlines' Regional Manager, South Asia yesterday disclosed that the airline will operate two flights a week on Saturdays and Mondays.

He said that the new destination of Sri Lankan Airlines will increase its presence to 26 countries in 34 destinations. Sugath Rajapakse was addressing a gathering of travel consultants and travel advisors at a dinner at a city hotel.

Speaking on the occasion, Sugath Rajapakse said that on July 13 last year the national carrier Air Lanka was renamed 'Sri Lankan Airlines'.

"And to mark the occasion, a renamed 'Sri Lankan Airlines' Airbus A340 arrived at the Bandarbanke International Airport, sporting a new logo as well, with a peacock symbol retained, but executed on more fluid lines in green, red and orange," Sugath Rajapakse said.

"The newly-christened airline is now in the process of forging its brand-new identity in the 'international skies,'" Sugath Rajapakse said.

## Amnesty report

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Although Bangladesh government is commitment bound to bring about institutional reforms to improve human rights, their implementation was unduly slow. Al pointed out.

The report said despite calls by human rights activists for withdrawal of or amend to the Special Power Act (SPA), the law was still used to detain hundreds of people, who are released after short periods. "Countries as diverse as the USA, China, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, Turkey and Russia continued to disregard and violate human rights," the report said. Around the world, thousands of people were tortured, unjustly detained and deprived of their fundamental rights and they are seeking redress.

The Al report mentioned that in India, hundreds of civilians were killed in armed conflicts in north-eastern states and Jammu and Kashmir and hundreds were displaced.

Attacks on socially and economically weaker sections of society in India, Dalits and tribal people were 'commonplace and often with the apparent connivance of the police and local authorities.' Access to justice remained 'problematic' and women were particularly vulnerable to abuse. Those who sought justice on their behalf also became victims themselves, it noted.

In Pakistan, Al said, the government continued to demonstrate a bias against women by failing to investigate serious human rights abuses.

## Eid-e-Miladunnabi

From page 1

came to this world with the pledge to remove the darkness of the human civilisation," she said.

Islamic Foundation Bangladesh has drawn up a 15-day programme on the occasion.

To observe the day, various social and Islamic organisations have also chalked out programmes, including discussion meetings, milad and seerat mahfils.

There will be a consecutive three-day closure as the holiday for Milad-e-Nabi falls on Thursday leading to weekend on Friday and Saturday.

Anjumani Rahmania Moinia Maizbhandaria (ARMM), a representative organisation of Maizbhandar Darbar Sharif, has chalked out a day-long programme including a grand rally today to celebrate the Eid-e-Miladunnabi.

## Kamal Mojumder

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Stating that he is respectful to law, the AL lawmaker from the city's Mirpur area told the House if his son is found guilty of killing, he must face trial and punishment.

"My wife and I don't know where our son is staying now. If we knew his whereabouts, we would have definitely handed him over to police," he said.

The legislator made a scathing attack on a section of newspapers for what he said publishing fictitious reports about him regarding the Shipu murder case. He named a Bangla daily in particular for its report yesterday that he and his wife were absconding.

"I gave interviews to a television and several newspapers on Tuesday. I was at my residence on the day," said an angry Mojumder, blaming some newspapers for writing 'whatever they like by taking advantage' of the freedom of press.

He further alleged that those newspapers threatened him on telephone and was trying to blackmail him taking advantage of the situation.

When Mojumder's statement ended, Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah whose son was accused of forcibly occupying a rented house in the city recently, was seen reacting to his party colleague and appreciating the statement. Several other Treasury Bench members including Hajj Mohammad Selim did the same.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina too was seen saying something which could not be heard from the press galleries.

## Koreas sign accord

From page 1

South at the end of World War II in 1945. They have never officially ended the Korean War with a peace treaty, leaving the two sides on a virtually continuous war footing ever since.

In one symbolic move today, the North halted its loud-speaker propaganda broadcasts across the De-Militarized Zone, army sources said. The daily insults and speeches were replaced with music.

There were unconfirmed reports the two leaders discussed establishing representative offices in each others' capital, while South Korea confirmed talks were held on a possible telephone hotline.

The hope of millions of people who have lost touch with relatives since the division of the Korean peninsula in 1945 and the 1950-53 Korean War were raised for the first time in the summit.

Kim Dae-Jung highlighted in a speech at a state banquet on Tuesday night that many elderly Koreans were dying without getting news of missing relatives and that "urgent" action must now be taken.

The North's leader gave encouragement before the summit into closed session at the Paekhwon state guest house.

Kim Jong-il said he had seen South Korean television reports on the elderly people who have had their hopes boosted by Kim Dae-Jung's landmark three-day visit.

The most impressive news was about separated families and escapes from the North, expressing their anxiety and hopes of hearing news from their home towns and families in the North," the North's leader was seen telling Kim Dae-Jung.

"I actually saw some of them burst into tears on the television," he said.

In South Korea, pictures of the two Kims greeting each other at Pyongyang airport

were splashed across every newspaper Wednesday boosting hopes that a new era in relations will lead to family reunions.

"I never thought I would see anything like this," said Choi In-Young, a 58-year-old from Seoul who fled the North when she was five.

"There has been so much hatred spoken over the years, but now I really believe that one day I will be able to go back and see if there is anyone who remembers me."

At the latest summit, Kim Jong-il wore a grey Mao suit and a pin badge depicting his father Kim Il-Sung, the North's founding leader. Kim Dae-Jung stuck to his formal blue business suit.

The North's leader broke the ice as they sat down at the negotiating table, questioning why he was known as a recluse in the West.

"I don't understand why Europeans call me a recluse. I have been to China, Indonesia and made many other unofficial visits abroad. But people still think I am a recluse," he said with a smile.

"And now they say that Mr President's visit has freed me from my hermit's life," he added to laughter from Kim Dae-Jung and others at the meeting.

There has already been international praise for the gestures of friendship shown when Kim Jong-il greeted Kim Dae-Jung at Pyongyang airport on Tuesday.

But the lavish state welcome given to Kim Dae-Jung on Tuesday dominated international headlines and encouraged hopes the two sides may be on the path to a new and more stable relationship.

The United States, which has 37,000 troops in South Korea, expressed hope the Kims could now reduce regional tensions. Russia also welcomed the summit as did the United Nations and China.

## Petrobangla's surprise

From page 1

go for an exclusive hush-hush deal with Unocal in early '97 by signing a letter of intent. As a result of the LOI, Unocal had submitted the WRIP proposals outlining development of the gasfield, setting up of gas pipeline and four power plants," the source pointed out.

Although it was an attractive proposal, WRIP could never move fast due to its cost and pricing components and its complicated proposal design. Petrobangla experts had been arguing about its "harmful" implications. They said it would lead to heavy losses for Bangladesh. Besides, Unocal did not submit any feasibility study to back up the economics of the project, the experts argued.

Later, with the assistance of the US government Bangladesh sought the help of US consultant Parsons to scrutinise WRIP components. Parsons submitted its report a couple of months ago where it found innumerable loopholes.

"Apparently the prospect of WRIP is not very bright unless Unocal revises it drastically. That's why the government was continuing negotiations," the

## Newspapermen

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pression of workers, denying them the right to trade unions. Even they are denying the journalists, workers and employees the existing holidays by unilateral decision," the statement added.

It further pointed out that "we would like to point out the directives of the government policy that those owners who have ignored the Wage Board Award violating the law of the land, do not pay salaries and allowances regularly they have no right to enjoy the government benefits. We hope that the government would consider how far its own policies have been implemented before providing any benefits to the owners."

The meeting was attended by BFUJ leaders Amanullah Kabir, Akhtar Ahmed Khan and M A Aziz. DUJ leaders Altaf Mahmud, Abu Saleh and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Bangladesh Press Sramik Federation President Alhaj Mosharraf Hossain and Secretary General Moshammel Haque, Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Karmachari Federation Vice-President Anwarul Haq and Secretary General Matur Rahman Talukder.

Earlier, spirulina has been cultivated, harvested and dried in edible form at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) laboratory for the first time in Bangladesh under the supervision of a French consultant named M. George Bonnin, who had transferred the technique of growing spirulina in artificial ponds with special cultivating condition.

A team of scientist at the Applied Botany section of the Biology Division of BCSIR led by Dr Flora Majid conducted this pioneering work.

According to a recent survey, about 7000 people in 200 villages were identified to have developed severe forms of arsenicosis while over eight crore people in the affected areas are at risk of drinking arsenic contaminated water, perhaps the biggest mass poisoning in history.

Further screening is in progress in 300 villages to identify arsenicosis patients and contaminated tubewells across the country.

According to the World Bank and Dhaka Community Hospital, the pioneer body in detecting first arsenic patients in the country, more than 18 million people have died by arsenic poisoning that causes liver, lung, intestinal, stomach and kidney cancer.

To date there is no known cure to chronic arsenic poisoning that has caused many a death, but spirulina could be an answer to saving millions of lives at stake.

## PIB workshop held

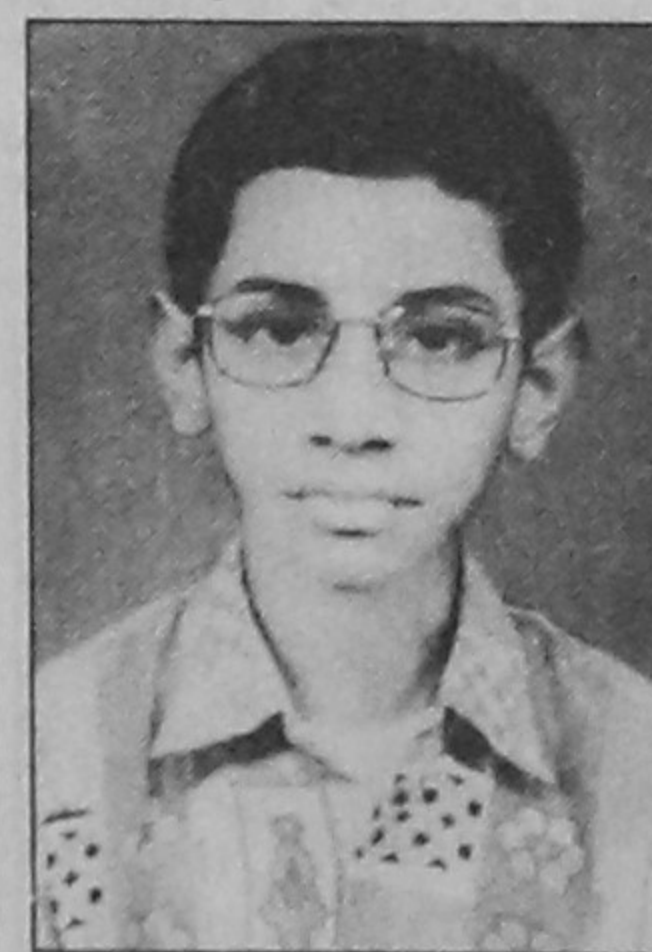
By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a workshop on Tuesday on 'Feature Planning and Training on Woman and Child Related Matters' urged the journalists and media men to focus on woman and child related issue with due importance.

Prof Sheikh Abdus Salam Director General of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) inaugurated the workshop organised under the auspices of Information Ministry's Communication Activities Project aimed at attaining the development of women and children with the monetary assistance of UNICEF in collaboration with PIB.

Shah Nur Mohammad, Director of Publication and Feature Department of PIB gave the welcome address and Kazi Shafiqur Rahman, Instructor of PIB thanked all the participants.

A total of 30 participants including senior journalists of various newspapers, mass media experts, representatives participants of various organisations under the Ministry of Information took part in the workshop.



## Missing

Fiaz Mokbul alias Mukto, a student of Class IX, Residential Model College, has been missing since June 12, 6 pm from T/25, Noorjahan Road, Mohammadpur, in the city, says a press release.

He is thin and tall with fair skin colour and longish hair. He wore a T-shirt, jeans trousers and spectacles.

If anybody finds his whereabouts is requested to inform over telephone No. 9129044, 8117292 or send him to the above address.

Father: Md Mokbul Hossain Mondal  
Vice-President  
BCSIR Scientist Association  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka  
Ph: 8617620 (Off.)



Director General of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam delivering presidential address at the inaugural session of PIB arranged workshop on 'Woman and Child Related Training and Feature Planning', Tuesday. Shah Nur Mohammad, Director of Publication and Feature Department and Seema Moslem, Acting Director of Research and Information Preservation Department on his right while Nur Mohammad, Director of Administration and Instructor Kazi Shafiqur Rahman on his left.



A milad and doa mahfil was held by Far East Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd at its premises at Motijheel C/A yesterday to mark the launching of its Islami Life Insurance scheme.



Dr A M Hasan Rashid Khan (L), Project Director, Improved Stove, BCSIR and Md Shafiqur Rahman (Middle), Deputy Director (Extension), BRDB signed an MOU for dissemination of improved stove technology yesterday at the conference room of BCSIR. Dr M Moshazzaman (R), Chairman, BCSIR was also present on this occasion.