

## What's on today....

**Sufia Kamal memorial lecture:** Bangladesh Mohila Parishad has arranged a memorial lecture and a musical programme to mark the 89th birth anniversary of Poet Sufia Kamal. Prof Sardar Fazlul Karim will deliver the lecture. Venue: Teacher-Student Centre, Dhaka University. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Satyajit Ray Retrospective:** Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen a documentary on Rabindranath Tagore, and a film, 'Parash Pathar' (The Philosopher's Stone). Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:15 pm.

**Discussion:** The Cultural Centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran has arranged a discussion meeting on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi and Islamic Unity Week. Venue: The Iranian Cultural Centre auditorium, House-54, Road-8/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 5 pm.

**Film show:** German Cultural Centre will screen two films — 'Comedian Harmonists' and 'Nikolaikirche'. Venue: Goethe Institut, House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Memorial meeting:** Narigrantha Prabartana organises a discussion meeting in memory of Akiunnesa Ahmed, a noted writer and pioneer in progressive women's movement, to mark her 18th death anniversary. Venue: Prabartana auditorium, 2/8, Sir Syed Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 4 pm.

**Satyajit Ray Retrospective:** The music of Satyajit Ray, a documentary by U Chakravarty, and Pikoo, a film by Satyajit Ray, will be screened as part of the session, organised by Zahir Raihan Film Society in association with the High Commission of India. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:15 pm.

**Exhibition of handicrafts:** The three-day exhibition of handicrafts, organised by Anjuman-e-Fatemia, and the Cultural Centre of Iran, will be inaugurated. A discussion meeting has also been arranged on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Venue: Auditorium of the Cultural Centre of Iran, House-54, Road-8/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Film show:** German cultural centre will screen two films — 'Wrong Move' and 'Stella'. Venue: Goethe Institut, House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm.

## Weather

## Rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

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

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and the lowest of 25.0 degree Celsius at Dhaka.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:49 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12 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
Dhaka	31.7	25.0
Chittagong	34.5	26.1
Rajshahi	31.6	25.1
Khulna	31.8	25.2
Barisal	30.0	25.4
Sylhet	33.0	26.6
Cox's Bazar	31.5	25.5

## HERE and THERE

## Bangladesh-India Friendship Society

The general meeting and election of Bangladesh-India Friendship Society was held at the auditorium of Hotel Isha Kha recently, says a press release.

Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak was the chief guest at the event which was presided over by Dr Mazharul Islam.

A 46-member central committee was elected at the meeting with Dr Mazharul Islam as chairman, Ismail Mohammad Udayan as executive chairman and Aminul Haque Faruk as general secretary. Besides, an eight-member advisory committee was also formed at the meeting.

## Ex-Rotacrators' Forum

The Ex-Rotacrators' Forum elected its executive committee at the first general meeting held at RAOVA Club in the city on Saturday, says a press release.

Ex-Rotacrators Maswood, Arif, Rowly and Waseque were elected president, vice-president, general secretary and treasurer respectively.

Interested ex-rotacrators are requested to contact forum secretariat over phone (8111154) to enroll as member of the forum.

## LSE Alumni Association

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) Alumni Association held its first meeting in Bangladesh at Hotel Sonargaon recently, says a press release.

Justice Mustafa Kamal was the chief guest. He spoke about his indebtedness to LSE's intellectual environment, which later fused with his legal training. As a judge he endeavoured to reflect the social and philosophical concerns of the society in his judgements, he said.

Other LSE Alumni including Tobarak Hossain (retired ambassador and foreign secretary), Prof Mosharraf Hossain and Mokammel Hoque (chairman, Board of Investment), spoke about their experience at LSE at the function.

C M Alam, Managing Director of IPDC, presided over the meeting and in his concluding remarks spoke about his desire to develop the association in the ideals of the LSE and to provide a place where social and economic issues could be discussed in the context of Bangladesh.

## Discussion on Akiunnesa Ahmad tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Narigrantha Prabartana will hold a discussion on the life and works of noted litterateur Akiunnesa Ahmad tomorrow to mark her 18th death anniversary.

The discussion meeting will be held at 4 pm at Narigrantha Prabartana auditorium at 2/8 Sir Syed Road, Mohammadpur.

The 18th death anniversary of Akiunnesa was observed on June 17. She was the wife of renowned litterateur, journalist and politician of the sub-continent Abul Mansur Ahmad.

A pioneer in the progressive women's movement, Akiunnesa wrote many books including 'Adhunik Stree' (Modern Wife) and 'Adhunik Swami' (Modern Husband).

## Stringent law

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of them involved young Asian women, although a few men are also compelled to marry.

Although it is against the law to force anyone to marry, in practice official action is rare and prosecutions are few because of the difficulty in persuading terrified young women to make official statements admitting they are marrying against their will.

An 'early warning' system will be introduced for marriage registrars, the police and immigration officials. The police will investigate cases, and if appropriate, the prosecutions of parents will follow.

## Air chief leaves for Kuwait

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed left Dhaka for Kuwait on Sunday evening on a four-day visit at the invitation of the UNIKOM forces commander Major General John A Vize, reports BSS.

He is accompanied by a three-member delegation of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF).



## Obituary

Zainal Abedin, former headmaster of Kalma High School of Birkampur, died of cerebral haemorrhage at BIRDEM hospital on Sunday night. He was 70, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, three daughters, and a host of relatives, students, and admirers to mourn his death.

Abedin was buried at Matuall graveyard.

A doa and milad mahfil will be held at Shani Akhra Masumabad Baganbari Dhaka Jama Masjid after Asr prayers on June 23.

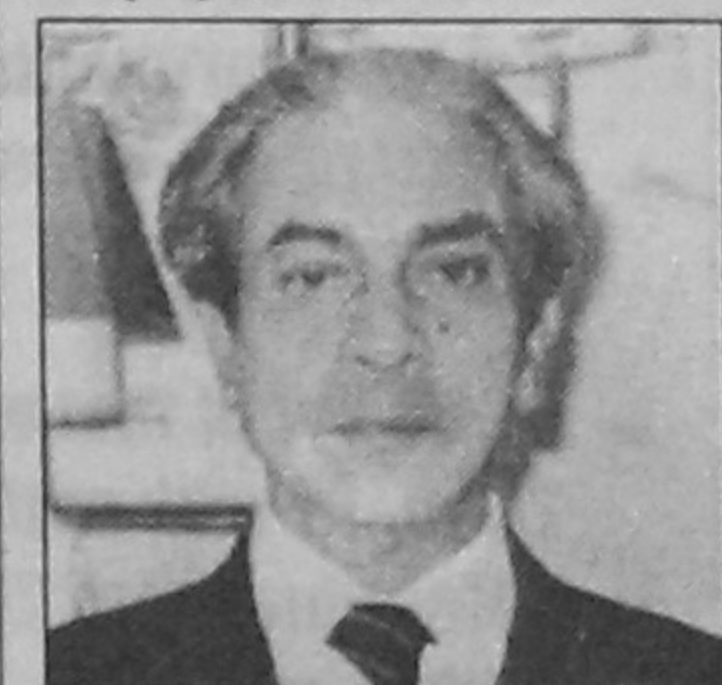


Al-hajj Zahurul Haque, a retired deputy police super, advocate and social worker, died in a city clinic on June 18. He was 81, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, four sons and a host of relatives.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held today in Faridpur after Zohr prayers.

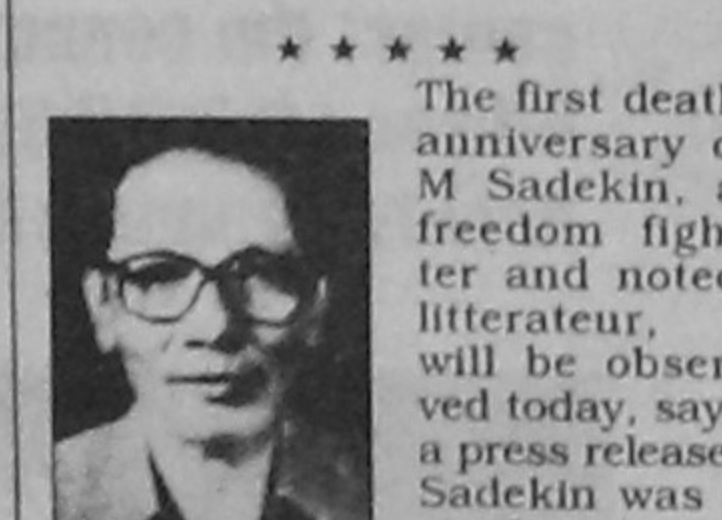
His requiem will be held at his residence at No 2 Habili Gopalpur, Faridpur town, after Asr prayers tomorrow.



## Death anniversary

The 16th death anniversary of Ahmad Sobhan, a renowned lawyer, will be observed today with due solemnity, says a press release.

The Berubari case, which was one of the first public interest litigation, was argued by him. He was Pakistan's delegate to UN in 1967 and elected President of Supreme Court Bar Association twice.



The first death anniversary of M Sadekin, a freedom fighter and noted litterateur, will be observed today, says a press release. Sadekin was a regular programme presenter on radio and television. He worked with Voice of America's Bangla Service for 15 years. He was also involved with different newspapers as Danik Bangla, Danik Ittefaq, Danik Azad, Morning News and Danik Janakantha at different periods of his long career in journalism.



Proshika President Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed and ALTECH representatives Jean Minet and Serge Aulotte signed an agreement on the joint venture at a simple ceremony at Proshika Bhaban yesterday.

## Proshika to produce water treatment plants

Country's leading NGO Proshika in collaboration with a Belgium company will set up a factory to produce surface water treatment plants to ensure supply of arsenic-free water, reports BSS.

Proshika President Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed and representatives from the Belgian company, Altech, yesterday signed an agreement at Proshika Bhaban on the joint venture, a press release said.

The plant is capable of purifying surface water of river, canal, pond, beel, and other water bodies to the extent of 1500 litres per hour that can meet water requirements of at least 3 hundred families.

## Newsmen

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at-arms to sit with the SSF to find out what security hazard the mobile phone creates.

"Parliament's own security force is the sole authority to maintain security in parliament, none else," the Speaker said.

The quarrel started at around 9:30 am when an SSF member prevented reporters from entering the parliament building with mobile phone.

The reporters argued that they used to come to parliament everyday with their mobile sets, but keep them off in the press gallery as per earlier instructions from the Speaker.

But the SSF member insisted on not allowing the reporters to get in with mobile phones, an order unknown to the newsmen.

During exchange of words, the SSF member allegedly behaved roughly and uttered some words that enraged the journalists. At one stage, the SSF member asked two reporters to hold back at the entrance. The reporters wanted to see the Speaker and lodge a complaint.

The deputy sergeant-at-arms appeared on the scene, talked to the SSF member and furnished him with the rule.

The tension calmed down when the deputy sergeant said the reporters are allowed to get in with mobile phones, and requested them to keep those off in the press gallery.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Reporters' Union has condemned obstruction and 'misdeemeanour' by Special Security Force (SSF) to journalists in performing professional duties in Parliament yesterday.

SSF is an elite force meant for security of the president and the prime minister.

In a joint statement yesterday DRU president M Anwarul Haque and General Secretary Monwarul Islam said SSF obstructed entry and misbehaved with journalists while they were entering the Parliament Bhaban to cover its session in the morning.

Expressing concern over the incident they said SSF often harassed journalists when they go for covering prime minister's functions.

"We are seeking intervention of the prime minister in stopping such harassment of journalists by SSF while performing their professional duties," the statement said.

## 58 bodies recovered

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Government leaders pledged new attempts to crack down on international crime gangs who traffic in illegal immigrants, charging up to 20,000 pounds (30,000 dollar) per person.

The survivors, both men, were hospitalised and were expected to recover, but were too traumatised by their horrific experience to be questioned immediately.

"They are very, very important to the inquiry," said Kent county police spokesman Mark Pughwash.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said the grim discovery demonstrated the importance of getting to grips with the "evil trade" in would-be asylum-seekers.

"What is important is to try and stamp out what is an evil trade in bringing people into this country," he told Sky News in Portugal at a European Union summit, adding that his government had put measures in place "to try to ensure people cannot bring people clandestinely into this country."

British Home Secretary Jack Straw said he was 'appalled' by the discovery and vowed to press on with a government crackdown on the trade in people "whose perpetrators have no regard for human life."

"This is a most terrible event. I am appalled by this loss of human life," Straw said, just hours after the grisly discovery.

## Former Japanese PM Takeshita passes away

TOKYO, June 19: Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who reigned as one of the top kingmakers of Japanese politics long after he was driven from office by scandal in 1989, died today after a lengthy illness. He was 76, reports AP.

Takeshita, who served as premier from 1987 to 1989, announced his retirement from politics last month after more than a year in the hospital. He was hospitalised in April 1999, complaining of lower back pain.

Takeshita was long regarded as one of the "shadow shoguns" — behind-the-scenes fixers — in Japanese politics. The two prime ministers who succeeded him, Sosuke Uno and Toshiki Kaifu, were seen as handpicked by Takeshita. He was also the mentor of Keizo Obuchi, who was prime minister for almost two years until suffering a stroke in April. Obuchi died May 14.

"There was no other politician who has trained so many people in the political world," Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said.

## Dhaka joins Ikebana confce

Delegates of Ikebana International Club of Dhaka left for Kuala Lumpur yesterday to join the 7th regional conference of Ikebana International, the pioneer and the largest organisation for the art of 'Flower Arrangement' in the world, says a press release.

The five-day conference will begin at the Kuala Lumpur Hilton Hotel today.

Headed by Professor Monowara Islam, vice-president of the club (Chapter 245), other two members of the delegation are Rina Rahman, and Razia Sultana.

## Report on campus

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with necessary funds to prepare a report on campus atmosphere.

Thereafter, he said, Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad has been assigned to conduct a broad-based research on education atmosphere on campus.

"The FREPD report is positive and steps have been taken in accordance with the recommendations for ensuring peaceful academic atmosphere in higher educational institutions," he told the President.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed showed his keen interest to see positive steps taken for ensuring peaceful academic atmosphere in higher seats of learning.

He thanked FREPD and Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad for taking interest in the country's educational system and deteriorating academic atmosphere saying that "their fruitful exercise would help streamlining the campus atmosphere as peaceful and conducive to education."

Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Dr A K Azad Chowdhury, Chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Dr Kholluzzaman Ahmed and President of FREPD National Professor Mohammad Shamsul Huq were present on the occasion.

## Three policemen sued in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, June 19: A petition case was lodged with a magistrate's court here today accusing the former Officer-in-Charge of Sreepur thana and a Sub-Inspector and a constable of beating a young man without any offence and taking bribe.

First Class Magistrate Mokhesur Rahman directed Magistrate Tahabul Alam for a judicial enquiry into the incident.

The victim is Nazrul Islam of Sreepur village and the accused are former OC Ali Azom Khan, SI Lufur Rahman and constable Akram.

## Chetia

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ates — Babul Sharma and Laxmi Prasad Goswami — were arrested from a residence at Adabar under Mohammadpur thana on December 21, 1997 for illegally possessing currency of 16 countries. Police also recovered a satellite telephone set from them.

All the accused were produced before the court yesterday.

Chetia was awarded six years rigorous imprisonment by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on October 25, 1998 for his illegal stay in Bangladesh.

## Teachers' strike

From page 1

for 100 per cent government grants, creation of posts for associate professors and professors, curbing adoption of unfair means and corruption in public examinations.

Principal Mezbaur Alam and Prof Fauzul Kabir were, among others attended the press conference, jointly organised by Bangladesh College Teachers Association and Bangladesh Teachers Association Federation.

They said if their demands are not met tougher programme will be announced from a grand rally of the teachers to be held in Dhaka on July 3.

The central leaders of the association and federation who are already in the port city to muster support for their movement also convened a teachers' rally at Anderkilla square tomorrow.

## Nasim

From page 12

brought to book, the image of police would be tarnished. Common people will raise the question about the ability and skill of policemen."

During the soul-searching the home minister sought 100 per cent effort and sincerity from the policemen in dealing with terrorism in the capital.

Mentioning the murder of Shipu, that caused public outrage, he said: "Sending the MP to the DRC office for the sake of fair investigation was an instance of transparency and sincerity of the government. The policemen should also show the same sincerity to catch the killers."

About the illegal toll collection at different city points, Nasim assured the police that they (extortionists) would not get political shelter and that "you (police) should not give them shelter."

"If they (toll collectors) don't get help from the police, toll collection would definitely stop."

He asked for stern action against toll collection on roads and highways. "If there are any police man at the grassroots level involved in toll collection, take action against them."

## Food-gap zero

From page 1

wheat 1.7 lakh MT.

Officials and experts attributed the 'zero' food-gap to expansion of modern varieties, technologies, research advancement and good government policies. "Most importantly, farmers are very laborious. Credit goes to them. Weather behaved favourably as well," explained one source.

They also pointed out that rapid expansion of irrigated rice, boro, is one of the main factors behind the phenomenal growth in agricultural production. The sixth five-year plan sets out to attain food self-sufficiency by growing 250 lakh MT food by year 2002.

Agriculture Minister Mottia Chowdhury told the Daily Star: "There is no point for complacency. Sustainability is the main thing. Before we declare ourselves food self-sufficient, we would have to carefully observe the sustenance of the growth."

Dr Kazi Shahabuddin, research director of local think-tank Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies (BIDS) also expressed similar view saying that if the growth in agriculture is not a short-lived one, then the country is definitely heading towards food self-sufficiency.

"We should start thinking of exporting rice. If Vietnam can, why can't Bangladesh?"

## Khaleda

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poverty alleviation and human resources development, Aftab said in a written memorandum submitted to the former prime minister at her Minto Road official residence.

He criticised the opposition leader for restraining from haral and thus demonstrating political wisdom and responsiveness to the needs of national economy.

## Opposition may enter

From page 1

those by bringing its people through rigged by-elections and change the Constitution, scrapping the provision of caretaker government," said Professor Chowdhury.

"For the same purpose, the ruling party has filed a case, through its own man, challenging the constitutional provision."

"We were supposed to enter the House today, but the Speaker abruptly adjourned the House only 40 minutes after it had resumed business," Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad told reporters at his parliament chamber yesterday. "We're returning to the House tomorrow (Tuesday)."

Reacting to the ruling party observation that the opposition is returning to the House to "protect salary, allowances and red-passport," the JP chief said, "We are instead returning to the House to foil Awami League conspiracy to amend the Constitution by scrapping the provision for general election under caretaker government and the status of Islam as state religion."

"If our seats fall vacant due to absence from the House for 90 consecutive sittings, Awami League, taking advantage of the situation, would secure two-thirds seats of the 330-member House through a rigged by-elections to the vacant seats. Then the government would implement its blueprint to change the Constitution," explained the former president.

Ershad also accused the ruling party of 'conspiring to hand over power to a third force'. He, however, refused to specify who the third force is.

Meanwhile, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury told reporters that he was ready to welcome the Opposition. "They are welcome, most welcome," the Speaker said, after hearing from the reporters that the opposition would return to parliament today (Tuesday).

Asked to comment on the

## Blocks 19 &amp; 20

From page 1

officially suggested that none of the involved companies should be the operator in the block. Instead, the Joint Review Committee (JRC) comprising representatives from Petrobangla and the oil companies concerned which is formed after a PSC is signed would act as the operator.

"It seems negotiations on block 9 has reached a dead-end, one source said, adding that such a proposal was unlikely to be accepted by the government or even Chevron-Texaco."

## SKOP

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The demand includes implementation of the recommendations of National Wages Commission, implementation of Democratic Labour Act and solution to the problems prevailing in the country's jute, yarn, textiles and transport sectors.

The SKOP has also urged the government to implement the agreement signed on January 20, 1998.

The leaders urged the people from all walks of life to make the strike a success.

## Dollar, Jewel

From page 1

provost of the Salimullah Hall, told the Daily Star yesterday both of them will face "dire consequences" for defying the order.

The BCL supporters were also threatening their party rivals and other hall residents for protesting against the crime and demanding punishment to them.

"Two residents left the dormitory on Thursday following repeated threats by Dollar and his associates," said a resident adding, "There are continuing threats to the other protesters."

A group of students of Salimullah Hall demonstrated in front of the office of the vice-chancellor on Wednesday protesting the "unruly" activities of BCL activists, including beating and misconducting the innocent residents, felling hall trees, harassing women visitors and extorting money from the market at Palashi.

Dollar who felled and sold at least five trees of the hall several months ago is no longer a student of the university as he did his masters in geography and environment. Jewel is studying Bengali literature.

## Shipu murder

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Ahmad Hossain, Naimuzzaman Jubair, son of Asaduzzaman, Director, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, and Jewel, son of ruling party MP Kamal Majumder — are still at large.

Ittefakur Ahmed Shipu, 38, a cellular phone trader was gunned down by three gunmen at UAE market in the city's Banani area on May 24.

In another development, sources at Bangladesh Deputy High Commission office in Calcutta, told The Daily Star that the arrested Bangladeshi citizen was placed in judicial custody till June 23.

The Calcutta police also could not confirm his identity as yet, the sources said.

There were 14 JP lawmakers, present at Ershad's parliament chamber. "Two of our MPs are sick while two others are abroad at the moment," said an official of the Ershad's faction of the JP. According to him, Communication Minister of Sheikh Hasina's cabinet Anwar Hossain Monju commands the rest of the 32 party MPs.

Replying to another query, he said that the Opposition did not inform him of their return to the House. "I came to know about it from newspaper reports today."

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## Suppl. budget

From page 1

M S Kibria 70 minutes only to have the additional expenditures on as many as 69 heads approved by the Treasury Bench members and lawmakers of the pro-government faction of Jatiya Party.

Usually, such an exercise takes a fine time minister several hours as opposition MPs move motions seeking reduction of extra expenditures.

Earlier on the day, the finance minister moved a bill in the House seeking the additional allocation.

Of the total additional allocation, Tk 2,543.39 crore was earmarked for non-development expenditure and Tk 1,946.68 crore for development budget.

The highest amount of additional allocation — Tk 504.55 crore — is for the disaster management and relief ministry's development expenditure.

Under the development budget, the additional allocation for the Prime Minister's Office is