

What's on today....

Meeting: Sanghati, a human rights organisation working to guard the rights of sex workers will hold its bi-annual general meeting. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Chameli House, 17 Tophkhana Road. Time: 12.00 noon.

SOS Children's village cultural function: SOS children's village international will hold its prize distribution ceremony and cultural function on occasion of International SOS Children's Village Day 2000. Chief guest: State Minister for Social Welfare. Venue: SOS auditorium, 1 Shyamoli, Mirpur Road. Time: 4.00 pm.

World Music Day: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka celebrates *La fête de la musique* (World Music Day) 2000 with performances by local musicians. Rock bands will perform. Venue: Cafeteria of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 4.00 pm-8.00 pm.

Lecture: Goethe Institut Dhaka (German Cultural Centre) holds a lecture in remembrance at the 100th death anniversary of Max Muller. Venue: Auditorium of Goethe Institut, House No 10, Road No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.00 pm.

Installation ceremony: Apex Club of Jahangirnagar will hold the 27th installation ceremony. Venue: Ramna Chinese and Thai Restaurant. Time: 6.30 pm.

Function: Apex Club of Jahangirnagar will hold a function. Venue: Ramna Chinese and Thai Restaurant. Time: 6.30 pm.

Meeting: The annual general meeting of Vivekananda Shiksha O Sangskriti Parishad will hold its annual general meeting. Venue: DU Jagannath Hall. Time: 9.00 pm.

Lecture: The Department of Economics of North South University (NSU) in association with Bangladesh Economic Association will hold a joint lecture series on "Macro Economic Policies of Bangladesh". Venue: NSU campus.

..... and tomorrow

Bangla Academy workshop: Bangla Academy begins a 3-day long writer and researcher workshop on "The Liberation War of Bangladesh: Documents and History-related Book Publication," project. Venue: Seminar room of the Academy. Time: 9.00 am.

Discussion meeting: Chetana '71 will hold a discussion on Awami's Four Years of Milestone and There is Alternative to the Unity of Nationalist Power to Protect the Sovereignty of the Country. Venue: VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 3.30 pm.

BUP meeting: Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) will hold a meeting. Venue: BUP seminar room, House No 33, Road No 4, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4.00 pm.

Exhibition: The solo photography exhibition of Bayazid Akhter titled "Unity and Diversity" will be inaugurated. Venue: Conference room of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 5.00 pm.

Satyajit Ray retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Ray's *Uttaran* on the 2nd last day of the third session of the retrospective on the late filmmaker. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.15 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi 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 34.0 degree Celsius and the lowest 23.9 degree Celsius were recorded yesterday in Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.49 pm and rises on Friday at 5.12 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	32.4	25.4
Chittagong	34.0	23.9
Rajshahi	33.1	26.6
Khulna	33.7	26.5
Barisal	32.1	24.3
Sylhet	31.5	24.4
Cox's Bazar	32.6	24.5

HERE and THERE

Bangladesh Scouts

A four-day long National Trainers Conference organised by Training Division of Bangladesh Scouts concluded at National Scout Training Centre, Mouchak, Gazipur yesterday, says a press release.

Ninety leader trainer, assistant leader trainer, regional secretary and scouts from all over the country attended the conference.

Saiful Islam Khan, National Commissioner (PR & Publications) inaugurated the opening ceremony on June 18. While Md Shah Alam, Conference Director & National Commissioner (Training) presided over.

Habibul Alam, Bir Pratik, National Commissioner (Programme), Professor Dr Sultana S Zaman, National Commissioner (Girls-In Scouting), Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, National Commissioner (Cub Scouting), Afzal Hossain, National Commissioner (Extension Scouting), Md Rafiqul Islam Khan, Abul Kalam Azad, Mesbahuddin

Bhuiyan, Touhidul Islam, Dr Saydul Islam Mallick, Abul Kalam Chowdhury attended the conference and exchange views with the participants.

FEMA
The Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) has formally handed over its recommendations on parliamentary electoral law reform to Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad, reports UNB.

As part of its ongoing advocacy programme, FEMA held a discussion with the leaders of JP at its Baridhara office yesterday and discussed various points on the issue.

The recommendations formulated by FEMA through a series of consultations at different levels aiming at ensuring free, fair and impartial election were highly appreciated by the JP leaders.

In their recommendations, the FEMA opined that each political party should nominate a reasonable percentage from women community of the total candidates for national elections.

Hotel Lake Castle Limited was formally inaugurated on June 16. Abdullahi Madaki Bage, High Commissioner of the Republic of Nigeria, cutting the inaugural ceremony cake on the occasion. Chairman SM Faruqi Hasan and Director ANM Alamgir are also seen in the picture.



Education Minister A S H K Sadeque presenting a copy of a book written by Jahangirnagar University Vice-Chancellor Abdul Bayes to the writer at a function held yesterday to mark the publication ceremony of the book.

Students of Feni Medical College threatens fast unto death

By DU Correspondent

Students of Feni Medical College yesterday announced that they will begin fast unto death if the concerned authorities do not solve the migration and registration problem of 58 students, within seven days.

The announcement was made at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city. They also demanded chance to sit for the professional examination under Dhaka University.

Addressing the press conference they blamed vice chancellor of Chittagong University (CU) and the university authorities for jeopardising their education as the university authorities 'barred' the 58 students of the third and fourth batches of the private medical college from their registration and migration procedure who were at the FMC with mark ceiling of 1200.

The CU authorities also approved the registration of the students of previous batches but now they are not allowing 58 students even defying the decision of Education Ministry. Sajib Talukder, second year student of MBBS said while reading out the statement.

The students also pointed out that 16 recognised private medical colleges of the country enrolled students having 1200 marks during this period.

They also said that three second year MBBS students — Shah Mohammad Zahurul Karim Chowdhury, Abhijit Roy and Mohammad Rulul Amin — were killed in a road accident on June 7 on their way to CU for solving the problems.

US catalogue show in Khulna June 27

KHULNA, June 21: A catalogue exhibition of US products/services will be held here on June 27, reports BSS.

The show is jointly organised by the US Embassy in Dhaka and the Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The exhibition will commence from 9 am to 4:30 pm in the conference room of Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The catalogue exhibition will feature product/services and videos from over ninety companies in twenty six sectors including air-conditioning and refrigeration, building and construction materials, computers and peripherals, electrical power generation, franchising, medical equipments and supplies and communications.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Syed Zillur Rahman, a pioneer of the country's radio broadcasting, former director general, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and assistant editor of The Bangladesh Observer will be held tomorrow, after Juma prayers at his residence 153/2, Siza Court Apt, Manipurpara, Airport Road in the city (near Balish Sharaf Mosque and opposite Teigan thana), says a press release.

Qulkhwan

The qulkhwan of S M Mowla, a retired Wing Commander and former Director of Bangladesh Met office, will be held at his Uttara residence after Asr prayers tomorrow, reports UNB.

All relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme at House-59, Road-6, Sector-4, said a press release.

S M Mowla died of cardiac arrest at the age of 81 on Monday. He was buried at Banani graveyard.

Qulkhwan of Shahidur Rahman Farhat will be held tomorrow after Asr prayers at his residence at Road No 39, House No 33, Gulshan in the city, says a press release.

Farhat, died on June 17 at the University of Southern California Hospital, Los Angeles in USA while undergoing an open heart surgery. Late Shahid took part in the War of Liberation and was a newscaster in Urdu in the name of Shahidul Haque from the then 'Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra'.

Hartal if budget not made pro-people 11-party alliance warns govt

By Staff Correspondent

The Parliament Bhaban seize programme of the left leaning 11-party alliance ended peacefully yesterday although police intercepted the alliance supporters at least two times during their procession in the city protesting the proposed national budget.

According to witnesses, leaders and activists of the alliance started gathering in front of the National Museum at Shahbag from 3 pm. Before marching towards parliament at 5 pm, they held a rally which was addressed, among others, by Nirmal Sen, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Muzahidul Islam Selim.

About 3:40 pm, police officials intercepted the gathering saying that they had been instructed not to allow any procession on the VIP roads. They informed that the alliance could bring out the procession towards Doel crossing avoiding Shahbag-Bangla Motor road.

On hearing the police statement, the alliance leaders said that they would bring out a peaceful procession but were determined to go upto Bangla Motor crossing.

The police officials said that they would consult their bosses on the matter. The party leaders and activists meanwhile held a rally at the entrance of the National Museum.



BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaking at a press conference in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1).

Need stressed to increase cost effectiveness of small enterprises

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a workshop yesterday underscored the need for increasing cost effectiveness in the small and medium enterprises for sustainable development.

They said that many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) try to create entrepreneurship among their clients but a significant portion of them become unsuccessful due to lack of cost effectiveness.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the two-day long workshop Prof Mohammad Ibrahim of Centre for Mass Education in Science said NGOs should integrate technology with empowerment in implementing development programmes to make it cost-effective and sustainable.

Intermediate Technology Development Group, ITDG-Bangladesh, a Britain-based international NGO is organising the workshop on "Cost-effectiveness beyond credit approaches to small enterprise development" at BRAC Centre, Mohakhali.

The main objective of the

workshop is to identify and develop simple and handy methodology for measuring cost-effectiveness of business development services (BDS). Prof Ibrahim said that there was always an urge to impose practices without taking into account the entrepreneurs perspective. "Unless the BDS services suit the needs of the entrepreneurs, every development efforts would go in vain, he pointed out.

ITDG country director Veena Khaleque said, "We have been constantly striving towards identifying activities and indicators that lead to best practices in cost-effective approaches enhancing development for the people."

Abdur Rob, Mike Albu and Chintia Munasinghe from Sri Lanka also spoke at the workshop.

Results of nine case studies were also presented at the workshop to share experiences in different fields. The studies were conducted in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India.

Nirmul committee city unit confce begins today

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka city unit of the Ekatturer Ghatok Dalol Nirmul Committee will hold its third two-day council at the Teachers Students Centre (TSC) of the Dhaka University, with a view to disseminate anti-fundamentalism and anti-communalism movement to the grassroot level.

Noted poet Shamsur Rahman will inaugurate the programme today at 3:00 pm. After the inauguration the committee will bring out an anti-fundamentalism and anti-communalism procession from the TSC.

Following the procession, a discussion will be held at the TSC auditorium where National Professor Kabir Chowdhury will be present as the chief guest.

The programme will be presided over by Shahriar Kabir while Kalin Sharafi, Advocate Gazul Haq, Syed Hasan Imam, Syed Shamsul Haq, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Artist Hashem Khan, Engineer Rabiul Hussain, Shamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Prof Muntasir Mamun, Maj (retd) Shamsul Arefin, Ayesha Khanom, Golam Quddus, Kazi Mukul, Hasan Arif and Sadique Rahman Porag will address the discussion.

The discussion will be followed by a cultural show. On the second day tomorrow, the 50-unit committees will submit organisational reports at the delegates council and take up programmes for the next two years.

JP: Women's seats

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from falling in the grips of BKSAL.

Refuting an allegation that they went to Parliament to protect their red passport, Manjur said if JP had cared about the red passport, then it would not have resigned from the 5th parliament.

He said Jatiya Party was always ready to go back to parliament, but for that a congenial atmosphere would be required.

To take back the opposition to parliament is the responsibility of the government, but this government has proved its failure in this regard, he told newsmen.

The press conference was attended, among others, by T I M Fazeel Rabbi, G M Kader, N K Alam Chowdhury, Abdur Rashid Sarkar and Lutfur Rahman Chowdhury.

Prisoners

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It is true that many convicts were released on general amnesty in 1991 but the lengthy process of trial is keeping many accused detained in the jails as under trial prisoners, the sources noted.

Normally, two thirds of any jail are earmarked for convicts and one third for under trial prisoners, they said.

Deteriorating law and order and its adverse impact on administration of justice are reflected in the present situation in the jails, some officials said. Less conviction meant investigating agencies are failing to substantiate there cases with enough evidences, said Anisul Haq, a Supreme Court lawyer talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

It does not reflect deteriorating law and order in the country, he said in reply to a question.

Human rights activist and lawyer Alina Khan said the number of under trial prisoners is increasing but that of convicts is decreasing because of the 'lengthy process of our legal system'. Lack of proper investigation and delay in submission of charge sheet are also responsible for the present situation, she added.

Where they

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will be passed in its original form, Nahid told parliament.

Besides the education minister, Mohammad Abdus Shahid, Panchanan Biswas and Razia Moin Chowdhury of the ruling party, Alamgir Kabir and Mashur Rahman of BNP, and Raushan Ershad of Jatiya Party attended the meeting, according to the report Nahid submitted on the bill.

One change suggests that the government will nominate 10 teachers as members of the Trust in consultation with the Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association (BPTA). But the government's decision shall be final if there are more than one teachers' associations and if those fail to reach consensus on their representation, it said.

Previously, the government used to nominate teachers' representatives from the BPTA only.

Another change provides that the government-nominated members of the Trust will now be four instead of eight. Conflicts among various primary teachers' associations over their representation in the Trust resulted in the suspension of its activities since July 1994.

The proposed changes in the law will help resumption of the Trust activities, the standing committee chairman told the House.

The Trust was established in 1985 to support education, medical and other facilities for the children of primary school teachers.

Meanwhile, the BPTA at a recent news conference protested the bill saying it would divide the government primary school teachers.

Tk 81 cr budget proposed for Dhaka University 2.82 pc rise in expenditure in Tk 6.77 cr deficit budget

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University yesterday proposed a Tk 81.30 crore budget for the fiscal 2000-2001.

DU Treasurer Prof. Abul Hashem placed the budget before the annual Senate session of the university. He also revised the budget of outgoing fiscal.

The two-day long Senate session began at the Senate Hall of the Administrative Building yesterday afternoon with Vice Chancellor Prof. K. Azad Chowdhury in the chair. Out of 84, a total of 64 Senate members attended yesterday's session.

The total income for the year has been estimated at Tk 74.47 crore, of which Tk 67.47 cr is expected from government allocation while Tk seven crore from the internal resources of the university.

The Treasurer said that there was a deficit of Tk 6.83 crore for the new fiscal against Tk 6.77 crore in the revised budget of 1999-2000.

The DU authorities proposed the highest allocation of Tk 67.67 crore for salary and pension for teachers, officials and employees of the university. The amount constitutes 74.63 per cent of the total expenditure — 34.39 per cent for salary of teachers and 32.23 per cent for that of other officials and employees. Pension of teachers, officials and employees accounts 8 per cent of the total expenditure.

The education support sector got the second highest allocation of Tk 10.89 crore which constitutes 13.40 per cent of the total expenditure. This sector also includes assistance for teachers' training.

A total of Tk 9.73 crore or 11.98 per cent has been allocated for general and miscellaneous purposes which include maintenance and repair, taxation, electricity and telephone bills.

Prior to placing the budget, Treasurer Prof. Hashem said that the expenditure of the university was raised by 15.81 per cent in the 1998-99 fiscal, while

11.86 per cent in the revised budget of 1999-2000. It has been increased only by 2.82 per cent in the proposed budget.

He said that 74.62 per cent of the total expenditure has been earmarked for the salary and pension of teachers, officials and employees and 25.38 per cent for the education support sector. The budget was approved by the DU Syndicate on June 18.

Prof Hashem observed that there is a huge financial deficit in the university. To reduce the deficit, he said, "We need to check deficit in the salary and pension sector and increase internal income of the university."

VC Prof A K Azad Chowdhury in his presidential speech expressed satisfaction over the prevailing peaceful atmosphere on the campus.

"Once terrorism was a big problem of the university when gunshots and bomb blasts on the campus were a regular phenomena," Prof Azad said adding, "we have been able to check the situation with direct cooperation of the government."

He, however, admitted that the university authorities have yet to make the campus totally terrorism-free.

Stressing the need for more research activities, Prof. Chowdhury said, "We won't be able to keep pace with the fast changing world if we can't increase our research programmes."

He hoped that the DU would play its due role in the national and international arenas as it had played in the past. "The Dhaka University will continue to contribute in the fields of research, education, science and technology in line with the process of globalisation."

Senators Syed Badruddin Hossain, Ramendu Mazumder, Prof. Mostafa Chowdhury, Prof M Akhteruzzaman, Prof M Hossain Monsur, Habibur Rahman Khan, Prof. Ali Ashraf MP, Akhteruzzaman MP, Prof. Khaleda Khanom and State Minister for Textile K M Jahangir Hossain MP also participated in the discussion.

Gulshan land

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amount paid for a piece of land in the country, said the Rajuk official preferring anonymity. In the early 60s, Rajuk sold a bigha of Gulshan land for around Tk 27,000 after developing the area. It had acquired the low-lying Gulshan area for about Tk 1,000 per bigha.

At present, Rajuk's official price for one katha of Gulshan residential plot is Tk 7 lakh. But the Ministry of Housing and Public Works has decided to fix the base price for Gulshan residential plots at Tk 15 lakh per katha. However, this price would only be applied for the apartments, which will be sold after the NAM Summit.

Rajuk sources said in a katha of Gulshan residential plot is sold for up to Tk 25 lakh in private deals. Asked why then Rajuk kept its official prices so low, the official said it was probably done to contain prices of land.

After buying the one bigha plot for a record price, the insurance company is reportedly in trouble with the Department of Environment. Rajuk has refused to approve their plan for a multi-storey structure. It said they need to obtain an environmental clearance certificate in the first place. Rajuk has also asked the company to obtain clearance certificates from different service agencies.

Arrested newsman

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rest of the accused who reportedly fled to India, but the Bangladesh mission officials in Calcutta and Delhi said nothing of this sort was channelled through them.

Asked why a journalist who went there for treatment was arrested instead of the accused, a police source in Dhaka said it was probably due to confusion of names. He, however, would not elaborate further.

Deputy High Commissioner Humayun Kabir told the Daily Star over telephone last night that the issue of the arrested journalist could not be resolved due to "procedural problems."

"We are trying to secure his release through informal negotiations," he said without elaborating.

The Detective Branch that took over the case on May 4 could not arrest any of the FIR listed accused yet.

Opposition Chief Whip Khondoker Delwar Hossain, M Shamsur Islam, Mirza Abbas, Hafizuddin Ahmed, Joyanal Abedin Faruque and Ziaul Huq Zia, among others, were present at the briefing.

Hilsa: Drastic fall

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this correspondent that the price of hilsa this year shot up to Tk 5000 per maund as against around Tk 1500 only three years ago.

Regarding daily catch, he said the average is the lowest in five years. The 'worst' trend started last year when the catch fell to 50-60 maunds a day. In 1998, the average catch was 300 maunds, in '97 over 500 maunds and in 1996 around 450 maunds a day, he said.

"You see most of our wholesale shops are shut because of poor catch", a frustrated Shikder said. Over 40 ice factories and hundreds of fishing trawlers are virtually lying idle, he mentioned.

"These fish traders run their business borrowing from money lenders. They are now worried as to 'what to do', Shikder said.

AK Das, a fish exporter, while blaming the authorities for 'inaction', said over four crores of jatka were caught in Barisal region alone in the last couple of years.

According to sources, unscrupulous fishermen catch about 10 lakh hilsa fries a day from the river Meghna. The first quarter of the year is 'the ideal time' for jatka fishing.

Fishermen here claim that the 'safest zones' for fishing jatka are Govindapur of Medhiganj to Bausia under Hizla in Barisal, Haimchar and Udaypur char areas in Chandpur district and Hajimara in Laxmipur district. Informed sources said jatka hunters catch 10-12 crore fries in first 3-4 months from these areas in the Meghna.

"This must be stopped, but who cares?" commented Das looking helpless and grim.

Many fishermen alleged that the officials concerned take bribe from jatka hunters before launching an 'eyewash drive' against them. Besides, they regularly get share in the sale proceeds.

Bangladesh being the source of 70 per cent hilsa in the region can earn around Tk 600 crore annually if catching of jatka could be stopped, according to a recent report of Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI).

It also suggested strict enforcement of ban on jatka fishing.

Opposition BNP

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liament. Even amendment to the bill may be brought in the next parliament, he told newsmen, casting his eyes on the next poll.

Asked how they know about the government's intention to "change the Constitution," Bhuiyan said the sudden "illegal" announcement of the Speaker vacating the seat of Shamsuddin Ahmed Ishaq MP of BNP from Narsingdi was clear indication of conspiracy to change the Constitution.

"The fact that the speaker has not provided the attendance records of BNP MPs to the party as yet also testifies to the conspiracy."

About the prime minister's remarks regarding submission of BNP lawmakers' resignation letters to Khaleda Zia, he said it is none of her business.

"If you (prime minister) have the courage, then resign and hold early general elections," he asked the PM.

The BNP secretary general said when time would come, they would fix the date for tendering resignation. "Then you will not be in a position to protect your power."

Opposition Chief Whip Khondoker Delwar Hossain, M Shamsur Islam, Mirza Abbas, Hafizuddin Ahmed, Joyanal Abedin Faruque and Ziaul Huq Zia, among others, were present at the briefing.