

## News

## What's on today....

**Discussion meeting:** Dhaka Ahsan Mission will hold a discussion meeting on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Venue: Mission's auditorium, House No 19, Road No 12, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4:00 pm.

**BAF discussion meeting:** Bangladesh Anti-Drug Federation of NGOs (BAF) will hold a discussion meeting on the occasion of "International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking". Chief guest: Minister for Home, Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim. Venue: Hotel Sundarban. Time: 5:00 pm.

**MPCD debate programme:** The ATN School debate competition will be held. Organiser: Multimedia Production Company Ltd (MPCD). Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Road No 7, Dhanmondi R/A.

**UNAB symposium:** United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a symposium. Scientist Prof A M Harun or Rashid will be the keynote speaker at the function. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5:30 pm.

## Weather

## Light rain forecast

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over the country with heavy falls at places over Chittagong, Sylhet and Barisal 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 36.5 degree Celsius at Chuadanga and the lowest 22.1 degree Celsius at Kutubdia.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow 5.13 am.**

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were.

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Max	Min	Humidity in percentage	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.6	24.2	75	81		
Chittagong	29.5	23.0	86	83		
Rajshahi	36.1	24.2	84	83		
Khulna	31.8	22.6	84	90		
Barisal	30.5	24.0	87	98		
Sylhet	28.3	24.2	100	96		
Cox's Bazar	30.0	23.2	97	89		

## HERE and THERE

## East West University

The Environmental Society (ES) of East West University (EWU) organised a certificate giving ceremony at the university premises on Saturday for the students who participated in the International Conference on Bangladesh Environment (ICBEN) as volunteers from December '99 to January '00, says a press release.

The students received their certificates from the pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr Mohammad Musa.

Registrar Firdaus Ali, Joint Registrar Suraiya Ahmad, lecturers of Business Administration, S S M Sadru Huda and Ziaul Hoq and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr Mohammad Musa delivered speeches at the ceremony.

## BUET

A seminar on "Cellular Communication in Bangladesh" was held on Saturday at seminar room of BUET, says a press release.

A R Saber, director and M A Rafiq, manager of Grameen-Phone talked about various technical aspects of mobile communication in the country at the seminar. They stressed on the need for a regulatory commission in the communication sector.

Prof Dr A B M Siddique Hosain of EEE Dept, BUET discussed the latest developments in mobile communication technology.

Prof Dr Shahidul I Khan, Head, EEE Dept, BUET and Chairman, IEEE Bangladesh Section presided over the function. He distributed certificates among the participants of a short course on Computer Net-

working and E-commerce. The short course was jointly organised by SMARTNET, an IT firm and BUET student branch.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Inc, NY is the largest professional organization of electrical engineers in the world. The IEEE Bangladesh section has over 200 members and two student branches in BUET and IIT Gazipur.

## Prabartak Sangha

CHITTAGONG, June 25: Prabartak Sangha, a welfare organisation, has announced a Tk 25.94 lakh budget for fiscal 2000-2001 to implement its education programme for helpless children, reports UNB.

The budget was announced in its annual general meeting on Friday.

Chaired by Advocate Suvash Chandra Nala, the meeting also decided to take legal steps to recover 135 acres land of the organisation which has allegedly been occupied by an "influential" quarter.

A 15-member executive committee of Prabartak was formed at the meeting for a five-year term.

## SCF

A 16-member new central committee of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) has been formed with Nurul Islam as president and Khokan Das as general secretary, reports UNB.

The committee was formed at the 10th Central Council of the SCF, held on June 21-24 at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, a press release said yesterday.



Leader of Opposition in the Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia offering *muna-jat* along with family members of party activists Ismail Hossain Miah at his *qulkhwani* yesterday. Miah died of a cardiac arrest while taking part in a procession in the city.

— Star photo

## Involvement of sex workers in govt, NGO activities demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Sex workers should be involved in all activities taken up either by the government or by the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to address their problems.

A steering committee should be formed by sex workers which will ultimately set a plan of action and implement various programmes of their welfare.

The above recommendations were made on the concluding day of a two-day workshop on "Experience sharing and participatory future programme planning for sex workers" yesterday.

The workshop, organised by Concern Bangladesh at the IDB Bhaban in city's Argaoon, also recommended that sex workers be involved in advocacy programmes and health projects aimed at their welfare. It also said that sex workers should set up their own organisations across the country for their well-being.

The participants also identified some major problems including politicisation of issues concerning sex workers or socially disadvantaged people, their shelter, torture, arrest of floating sex workers and violation of their human rights in general.

"We know about healthcare facilities by NGOs in some brothels but that's not enough for all the sex workers at risk. We call upon the officials concerned in the government to look into the matter immediately," said another sex worker who did not want to be identified.

Two NGO representatives (Durbani) and two sex workers from Indian state of West Bengal also participated at the two-day long workshop. Other participants included members of the UN body, government and non-government officials.

They recommended that

since sex workers' faces are affected by various fatal diseases including HIV/AIDS, appropriate healthcare programmes should be taken up on emergency basis by the government or NGOs.

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BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaking at a discussion meeting titled "Four years of Awami misrule" organised by Jatiyatatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday.

— Star photo

## Court Reporters Assoc executives elected

From page 1

ister Abdulouahed Belkeziz.

Bangladesh has been tight-lipped about its prospects of winning the elections. It was the first country to announce its candidature for the post this time.

Initially, Dhaka was banking on the support of Saudi Arabia for its candidate and Riyadh's support was extended in writing months ago, foreign ministry officials claimed. At that time, the incumbent secretary general was learnt not to be seeking a second term and it did not look that Rabat would field a new one, the said.

Some observers noted that one of the major reasons that prompted Rabat to put up a new candidate is to 'garner Saudi support'. Royal relations between Saudi Arabia and Morocco changed after the death of King Hasan. Rabat fielded a new candidate as Riyadh has reservations about incumbent Azzedine Laraki and in an attempt to improve bilateral ties, they further said.

Considering Saudi support as crucial, Dhaka again sent State Minister Abul Hasan Chowdhury to Riyadh. He was given Riyadh's assurance of 'highest consideration' but not 'unequivocal support,' a highly placed source said.

Turkey's Under Secretary Faruk Logoglu came to Dhaka with its candidate to seek support. Bangladesh pleaded that Turkey instead support its candidature. Till yesterday, nothing more could be known about the two sides' latest stand as well as the Saudi position.

If the ICFM meet fails to arrive at a decision regarding the post of new Secretary General, the issue will be resolved at the next OIC Summit in Doha, Qatar, in November this year.

A public meeting of Zaker Party will be held at Golapbagh Sports Ground today at 3 pm instead of June 24, reports BSS.

The chairman of Zaker Party will attend the meeting as the chief guest, a press release of the party said yesterday.

A discussion meeting was also held on his life and works. The discussion was presided over by Ibrahim Khalil.

**Coffin rally held in Bandarban**

Admission to new session of French Language Course at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka is going on, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by BCL Town Unit President Fapon Barua, vice-president of the Awami League and Freedom Fighter Monir Ahmed Moni was present as the chief guest. AL leader A K M Jahangir, A K M Abbas Uddin and district BCL president Lakshmi Pada Das were present in the meeting.

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