

News

● What's on today . . . ●

Exhibition: Muslim Women's Association of Bangladesh (Fatemia) holds an exhibition of handicrafts and Islamic Hijab. Venue: Iranian Cultural Centre auditorium. Time: 2.00 pm-7.00 pm.

Meeting: A meeting of the Executive Council of the Prokrichi-BCS Coordination Council will be held. Venue: Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) committee room. Time: 7.30 pm.

ASB workshop: The third workshop of the Asiatic Society's Banglapedia project will be held. Venue: ASB auditorium at 15 Old Secretariat Road (Nimtoli), Dhaka.

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WEST workshop: The seventh workshop of the "Workshop on Environment Science and Technology" (WEST) will be held. This session will involve children. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 9.30 am.

Cultural evening: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka presents Nazrul Geeti by Lulu Saeed and Rabindra Sangeet by Pijush. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 7.00 pm.

Weather

Temperature may rise

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

Light rise in day temperature is expected over the country during this period, met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.5 degree Celsius at Chuadanga and the lowest 24 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.15 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature			Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min	Morning	
Dhaka	32.1	25.5	76	69
Chittagong	33.5	24.6	73	80
Rajshahi	33.2	27.4	84	75
Khulna	34.0	26.5	79	92
Barisal	30.8	25.0	89	89
Sylhet	30.7	25.0	98	78
Cox's Bazar	32.5	24.0	86	82

HERE and THERE

Rotary Club of Banani Dhaka

The 3rd Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Banani Dhaka was held recently at 7.30 pm at the Panda Garden auditorium at Mohakhali, says a press release.

Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, professor of Civil Engineering, BUET and former adviser to the caretaker government of 1996, was the chief guest while president Rotarian Engr. Ataur Rahman Chowdhury PHSN, presided over the ceremony.

The elected office-bearers of the club for 2000-2001 were installed with Rtn M Ghazanfar Ali PHSN, Rtn Sheikh Mawla Bakha PHSN, and Rtn Engg. MAA Zakaria PHF as president, president elect and secretary respectively.

A Fellowship dinner and a raffle draw followed the ceremony.

ATSEC

A two-day workshop on "Developing National Agenda and Action Plan for Fighting against Trafficking" was organised by Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC) Bangladesh Chapter at WVA Auditorium at Dhanmondi on Tuesday, says a press release.

It was inaugurated by Matthew S Friedman, Technical Advisor, USAID, in the morning. The main objectives of the workshop were — a) to push for development of a national agenda for combating trafficking of children and women, b) to consolidate the existing actions and take further actions for the fight against trafficking, and c) to draw up an action plan to materialise the national agenda.

Matthew in his inaugural speech laid emphasis on coordination among GO, NGO and Donors who are working to combat the problem of trafficking.

Mizanur Rahman, Coordinator, ATSEC Bangladesh Chapter described the activities of ATSEC and requested all the participants to make the workshop successful with their active participation. Rina Sen Gupta, regional representative of Save the Children, Denmark

SMVD course from today

A three-day long training course on Safety Motivation for Vehicle Drivers (SMVD) for the trainers will be held at the National Scout Training Centre, Mouchak, Gazipur from June 29 to July 1, says a press release.

About one hundred participants including rovers and scouts leaders are expected to attend the course organised by Progaramme Division, Bangladesh Scouts.

400 gm heroin recovered, one arrested

RAJBARI, June 28: A man was arrested along with 400 grams of heroin worth Tk 40 lakh from Daulatdia ferry ghat today, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the ghat and arrested Sajedur Rahman, 22, of Jimirapara village in Mohepura upazila of Jhenaidah district and recovered the drug.

Cheholum

The cheholum of Nooruddin Ahmed, former President of the FBCCI, will be held at his Banani residence after Asr prayers on Saturday, reports UNB.

Nooruddin Ahmed, a businessman, died at a city clinic on May 23. He is survived by one daughter and two sons.

He was the elder brother of Razuddin Ahmed Raju MP and former additional foreign secretary Ambassador Mohiuddin Ahmed.

Death anniversary

The second death anniversary of Abdul Latif, a banker and social worker, will be observed today, says a press release.

Latif was Controller of Publak Bank. He hailed from Buripar village of Debidhara thana under Comilla district.

A freedom fighter, Latif was also a former vice president of Bangladesh Nagork Parishad.

A mild maafil will be held at his Purba Shababio residence in the city today.

Budget has been given 'forward-looking vision'

Finance minister says during JS discussion

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday said the proposed budgeting measures will help the nation achieve economic prosperity, reports BSS.

He was winding up the general discussion on the newly proposed budget at the Jatiya Sangsad.

Kibria reiterated that he has tried to give the budget a forward-looking vision to help make the nation a developed country by 2020.

The finance minister brushed aside the criticism by former finance minister M Saifur Rahman and said that the present government has borrowed far less money from the banks than what had been borrowed by the BNP government in their time.

Kibria quoted in his defence an article by Prof Rehman Sobhan who has argued in favour of bank borrowing as stipulated in the Keynesian School of economics.

The finance minister revised some of the tax proposals in the

budget following requests made by different social groups, members of parliament, and the prime minister.

He said that the present government has given due thrust on developing human resources and the infrastructure as well as keeping in view the future development of the country. He expressed his firm confidence that the last four years' experience will help make Bangladesh a leading economy by the year 2020.

He was highly critical of the absence of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad throughout the entire budget session saying that they have not kept up their own commitment given to the people before the

Giving a comparative documentary evidence on bank borrowings during the past BNP regime and the current regime, Kibria said that Saifur Rahman had borrowed Taka 1,918.6 crore from the banks against a total bank deposit of Taka 25,850 crore during the 1991-92 fiscal year when the total budget was Taka 15,614 crore.

During the first year of the current government in 1996-97, he said, only Taka 254.9 crore was borrowed from banks while the budget was over Taka 25,000 crore. During the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the documents show Taka 2,419.73 crore as bank borrowings by the present government against total bank deposit of Taka 66,453 crore.

The bank borrowings compared to the total deposits of banks each year during the BNP regime were higher than that of the last four years of the current government, the documents show.

The finance minister also said that direct programmes had been undertaken for poverty alleviation along with launching of old age allowances, allowances for distressed and deserted women, allowances for freedom fighters, housing funds, employment banks, residential projects and expanded VGF programme.

"Moreover, budget allocation has been increased significantly in the fields of physical and social infrastructures in the rural areas," he told the Jatiya Sangsad.

Presently, 60 vessels, including 40 waiting at the outer anchorage, fell stranded due to the strike, port sources said.

Chittagong Port saw a 37-hour long strike by dock workers two days ago.

The envoy said that at that time, the US was eager to secure a reliable energy supply, while on the trade front, Canada was experiencing many disputes with it. There were political debates in Canada on how best to deal with the US and whether the gas policy should focus more on market than on surplus.

"We aimed to balance our trade and our energy interests, seeking to maximise both," the high commissioner said. In 1987, Canada moved to a market-based procedure for natural gas and signed fresh deals with

four people along with two sophisticated arms and rescued three abducted people from the city's Jatrabari area on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

The arrested are Asaduzzaman Punom, 30, Delwar Hossain Delu, 22, Shahid, 27, and Rafiqul Islam, 30.

After abducting three people — Senu, Mohiuddin, and Monir — the terrorists had demanded a ransom of Tk 50,000 for their release.

The DBB arrested Punom and Delu with a revolver and five bullet from Sanarpur in Dehra in the evening. Later, acting on their information, police arrested Shahid and Rafiq with an LG.

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