What's on today

FEJB workshop: Forum of Environment Journalists.
Bangladesh (FEJB) inaugurates a two-day long workshop on Environmental Reporting. Chief guest: Environment Secretary Mahfuzul Islam. Venue: VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time:

FEJB exhibition: Forum of Environment Journalists, Bangladesh (FEJB) begins a two-day long workshop on 'Arsenic Contamination' and 'CHT environment'. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 10.30 am.

Condolence meeting: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB), Dhaka unit will hold a condolence meeting as well as milad mahfil in memory of Aminul Kabir. IDEB Dhaka unit's cultural secretary. Venue: IDEB seminar room, 160/A Kakrail. Time: 5.30 pm.

Andrei Tarkovsky retrospective: On the first day of the 4-day long retrospective of Russian filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky, Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen "Ivan's Childhood" and "Solaris." Venue: Goethe Institut, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00 pm and 6.45 pm respectively.

Iranian film festival at JU: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen "The Apple" by Samira Makhmalbaf and "Gabbeh" by Mohsen Makhmalbaf. Venue: The Muktamancha (Amphitheatre) of Jahangirnagar Varsity. Time: 6,30 pm.

Memorial meeting: Syed Nazamuddin Hashem Shuridmandall will hold a memorial meeting to mark the first death anniversary of Syed Nazmuddin Hashem, a veteran journalist. Venue: Liberation War Museum auditorium, Segunbagicha. Time: 6.00 pm.



Andrei Tarkovsky retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Andrei Rublev on the second day of the Andrei Tarkovsky retrospective. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Road No-7, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5.00 pm.

Iranian film festival at Jahangirnagar Varsity: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two films by celebrated Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami: "Where Is My Friend's House?" and "The Taste of Cherry". Venue: The Muktamancha (Amphitheatre) of Jahangirnagar Varsity. Time:

Weather

Rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna. Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Sylhet, Dhaka and Rajshahi 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 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 24.8 degree Celsius at Teknaf. The sun sets in the capital today at 6.48 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.22 am.

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

| City/Town | Celsius | | percentage | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 32.3 | 26.6 | 80 | 69 |
| Chittagong | 34.8 | 25.2 | 71 | 92 |
| Rajshahi | 32.2 | 26.4 | 91 | 74 |
| Khulna | 33.2 | 25.5 | 90 | 79 |
| Barisal | 32.0 | 26.0 | 95 | 75 |
| Sylhet | 35.5 | 26.9 | 73 | 72 |
| Cox's Pazar | an 129.50 na | 81071 () % | is care but but of the | Sage ioca |

HERE and THERE

Zonta Club II

The office bearers of Zonta Club II for the year 2000-2001 was held recently, says a press

Farhana Ibrahim was elected the president while Zubeida Munawar and Mahbuba Kabir were elected the two vice-presidents of the club.

Other office bearers elected were Shahruk Rahman (secretary, recording) Rukhsana Hasan Isecretary correspondence) and Izzat Shainsuddin (treasurer).

Nazneen Mahbub is the president elect for the term 2002-

Prokrichi-BCS Central Coordination

Prokrichi-BCS Central Coordination Council was held at the Engineers Institution of Bangladesh recently, says a press release.

Enamul Haq presided over the meeting which was also attended by secretary general of the council Chowdhury Khalequzzaman. Prof Mohiuddin Ahmed, Md Nazrul Islam, Prof Kafiluddin and Dr Mustak Ahmed.

Council A meeting of the central executive committee of the

The council's president M

6 killed in separate incidents across the country

country yesterday.

BNP activists brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the ruling party'

'terrorist activities' across the country.

315kg explosives

seized in

Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, July 17:

The Indian army said today it

had seized 315 kilograms of

plastic explosives in Kashmir --

the biggest single seizure since

the start of a Muslim insur-

gency in the troubled northern

A defence spokesman said

"Based on specific informa-

the RDX plastic explosive was

recovered Sunday during an

army raid in the Kashmiri

tion, the army raided the office

of Kashmir Cargo Carrier, a

private transport company, in

Srinagar last night and recov-

ered eight bags of RDX," the offi-

normal life and attack state of-

"It was meant to disrupt

The spokesman said an ad-

He said the cache was most

Meanwhile, seven Muslim

separatist militants died in vio-

lence overnight Sunday across

five civilians were kidnapped

by rebels in the northern

Kashmir district of Udhampur.

probably intended for use

against Hindus travelling by

train to the city for an annual

pilgrimage to a nearby temple.

ditional 20 kilograms of RDX

was recovered from railway

tracks near the state winter

capital Jammu on Sunday.

state in 1989, reports AFP.

summer capital Srinagar.

cial said.

ficials," he said.

. Our correspondent from Narayanganj reports: Two people were killed in two different incidents in Shiddhirganj thana at Narayanganj on Mon-

day morning. According to police, a female construction worker Rokeya Begum, 45, was killed after she fell from the third floor of Shukkur market at Shiddhirganj Bridge area on Monday morning. She died after taken to Narayanganj Hospital.

In the other incident, Abul Hossain, 32, was electrocuted while working in ARE Rerolling mill at Hajiganj under the same thana on Monday morning. The victim died on the spot. He was son of one Hayder Ali of Haluaghat in Mymensingh.

Two different cases were filed with Shiddhirganj thana. UNB adds from Tangail: Two unidentified men were killed in separate accidents at Pouli in Kalihati and Ashekpur in the town yesterday.

Police said a pedestrian was the state, police said, while that knocked down by a truck at Pouli on Tangail-Mymensingh road in the morning killing him on the spot while a bicycle

Six people were killed in rider was crushed under the separate incidents across the wheels of a truck at Ashekpur at about 8 pm.

Another report from My mensingh adds: Two people were crushed under the wheels of buses at Kanarampur in Nandail upazila and Beltali in Mymensingh Sadar yesterday.

- Star photo

Witnesses said Abul, 40, injured in the accident at Kanarampur on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road in the morning succumbed to his injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. On the other hand Ripon, 16, died on the spot at Beltali on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway when a speeding bus hit him at about noon.

Separate cases were filed with the respective thanas.

Body recovered in city

Police recovered the body of | terrorists four years back. a young man from his house in the city's Uttara area yesterday,

reports UNB. The victim was identified as Imran Hossain, 30. His body bore several marks of injury.

Police recovered the body from is house at Gaoai at



The 9th installation ceremony of the Board of Directors of Rotary year 2000-2001 of Rotary Club of Jahangirnagar Dhaka was held in Dhaka Club recently. Rtn Dr S I Khan presided while C M Shafi Sami, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affaires was the chief guest. Rotary Dist Governor Rtn Hasan Moniruzzaman and other dist officials also attended the function.

Modern Sylhet rly station clash in starts functioning The modern Sylhet Railway

Station is expected to begin functioning from next fiscal as the implementation of the remodeling and modernisation works are progressing fast with an allocation of Taka 14.60 crore, reports BSS.

A railway release here today said the government had approved it as a priority project as a result of expansion of commercial activities and increase in the number of passengers plying from Sylhet Station.

Bangladesh Railway Director General Mohammad Abdur Rahim inspected the progress of work of the Sylhet Station Remodeling. Other high officials were also present.

The under-construction station will have modern spacious hall, ticket counter, retiring room, rest rooms for VIP, First and Second Class passengers, lockers for tourists and other maat leader Abdul Haq and will be used as goods terminal Abdul Hamid, Abu Sayeed alias after the completion of the work of the new station.

BCL, Shibir Mymensingh: 15 injured

MYMENSINGH, July 17: At least 15 people were injured in a clash between Chhatra League and Chhatra Shibir activists at Fulbaria upazila here Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police said the clash took place at about 8pm when Shibir activists swooped on a BCL stick procession brought out to protest the Wednesday's killing of BCL men by Shibir in Chittagong.

The injured were admitted to local health complex. Of them one was shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Agitated BCL activists ransacked two medicine shops belonging to local Jamaat leaders Police arrested five Jamaat Shibir leaders, including Jafacilities while the old station Shibir leaders Mahbub Rashid. Jahangir and Abdul Majid, in connection with the clash.



Prof M A Hai and Dr Pinaki Bhattacharya seen with Prof A B M F Karim after receiving certificates on becoming members of the world famous European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO)

Sharif accuses military govt of fabricating charges

ATTOCK FORT, Pakistan July 17: Ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif accused the military government today of fabricating charges against him in an attempt to end his political career, reports AP.

On trial on a tax evasion charge in connection with the purchase of a helicopter, Sharif told a special anti-corruption court that the military that overthrew his government last year "only wants to see me disqualified from politics." Sharif's tax evasion hearing

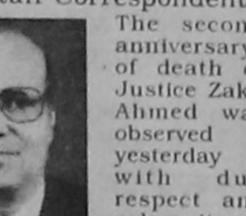
is being held at the 16th century Attock Fort, which the deposed prime minister called horrible.

Sharif is currently serving two concurrent life sentences on charges of terrorism and kidnapping. He has appealed the charges and sentence.

Sharif, whose statement was recorded today, slammed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) ordinance under which he is being tried. The ordinance gives the anti-corruption bureau sweeping powers of investigation and arrest.

Death anniversary

By Staff Correspondent



The second anniversary of death of Justice Zakir Ahmed was respect and

solemnity. Members of Justice Zakir Ahmed Smrity Sangsad placed wreaths at his grave at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals gravevard.

The Sangsad will publish a souvenir on the life and works of the late justice. A meeting will be held on

July 26 at 4:45 pm at the auditorium of Supreme Court Bar Association to mark his death | planning to hand over nine texanniversary

Jute-textile workers

From page 1 cent increment for the employees, BMRE of age-old factories and payment of gratuity money to the employees after retire-

Bashar said tougher action programmes would be announced after the strike if the government do not meet implement the demands. Trade union leaders

Shahidullah Chowdhury, Iqbal Majumder, Masiud Dowla, Shariat Ullah, Hafizur Rahman, Abdus Sattar and Abdul Khaleq were present at the press conference.

Protesting the government initiative to privatise the Star Jute Mills in Khulna, Abul Bashar alleged that in fact the mill would be closed down in the name of privatisation. "We protest selling out the mill to a private company. The floated

tender should be cancelled." Bashar hoped that the workers and employees of all the 45 state-owned jute and textile mills would observe the strike.

will be held at every mill said. premises and a torch procession would be brought out in Dhaka on July 28 in support of the strike programme.

Bashar told reporters that the government formed a wage commission after a long struggle by the workers but the file is gathering dust at the Prime Minister's Office.

He asked the government to declare and implement the recommendations of the wage commission immediately. The new wage commission fixed Tk 1550 as the minimum basic salary of a worker.

Responding to a question. Bashar said the state-owned mills and factories has been incurring huge losses over the years because of mismanagement by the authorities.

He believes that if the mills and lactories were handed over to the workers, there would not be any loss. The government is tile mills to the workers.

"After getting the responsibility, we would show how the factories can profit," Bashar

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, the labour front of the BNP, expressed solidarity with the programme declared by the council. It would also bring out processions on July 30 demanding implementation of their demands including implementation of the wage commission award, 50 per cent dearness allowance and allowing trade union activities in export processing zones (EPZs). They will also hold a rally at Muktangon on July 31.

'Kala' Ripon From page 12

same fate as that of Sajal, Omar, Shaheb Ali and Rab. police quoted the man who was threatened by Ripon over tele-Ripon murdered at least four

people in last four months and Rallies and demonstrations shot another person, police

Plain-cloths policemen arrested Ripon when the man was handing over the 'ransom' at East Isdair yesterday morning.

Mudslide

From page 12 sides unable to trap rainfall.

The deluge last week knocked out power to 10 towns in Zivang county, wrecked 40 bridges and washed out 350 miles of roads, the state-owned Shanghai newspaper Wenhui Bao reported.

The government spokeswoman had no details on losses, but said the newspaper account should be correct. In another part of Shaanxi. at least eight people were killed

on Friday by a rain-triggered landslide in Huxian county, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. It said four people were missing and presumed | demanding immediate arrest of

Khaleda greets Bashar

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia has greeted Syrian Presi dent Bashar Al-Assad on his assumption of office, reports

"We are confident that under your wise leadership the brotherly people of Syria will continue to achieve all round progress and make substantial contribution to the promotion of peace and stability in the trouble-torn region in Arab world," she said in a message In another message, the BNP

chairperson has felicitated Iraqi president Saddam Hussain on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the 7th-30th July Revolution of Iraq. "The relations between the

two peoples have developed over centuries in the past, as they are bound by strong ties of history culture and religion," she said, adding that "we are confident the relations will continue to flourish in the years to come."

Ban on politics of Jamaat, Shibir demanded

Some 88 members of the Supreme Court Bar Association and Dhaka Bar Association in a joint statement yesterday demanded of the government to ban the politics of Jamaat-Shibir, reports UNB.

They also condemned the killing of eight people, including six Bangladesh Chhatra League activists, by Jamaat-Shibir activists in Chittagong on July 12.

They also called upon the government to set up a special tribunal to try the defeated forces and the war criminals.

They also called upon the countrymen, including the professionals, to launch a united movement against the killers. said a press release.

The signatories to the statement included Abu Sayeed. Delwar Hossain, Abdul Quader, R N Sarkar, Shambhu Nath Shaha, Khizir Hayat M Lizu, S M Kamal Hossain and Abdur Rahman.

Protest rally

From page 1

They demanded exemplary punishment to the killers of Rahman and security of the working journalists. They also expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved fam-

BFUJ President Amanullah whir. Acting President G M ikub. Secretary Generals Akhter Ahmed Khan and M A Aziz, DUJ President Altaf Mahmud, Acting President Abu Saleh and General Secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan attended the meeting.

Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) leaders expressing their deep concern and grievance demanded immediate arrest of the killers of Shamsur Rahman.

In a statement, DRU President M Anwarul Haque and Acting General Secretary Saleh Shibli said, "It is really a matter of great concern for common people including the journalist community as Shamsur Rahman was killed inside his office at a time when the government is talking about strict steps against the terror ists at public meetings." They said there is also con

fusion among the people about the law and order situation in the country. They added that the killing should be treated as a serious threat to freedom of the press as the whole journal ist community has been suffering from insecurity. Condoling the premature

death of Rahman. Committee to Protect Journalists. Bangladesh (CPJB) urged the government to ensure the security and freedom of the journal ists and to immediately bring the killers to book. CPJB Acting Convenor

Golam Tahaboor and Member Secretary Shaukat Mahmood in a statement said that the outrageous killing was not only endangering the freedom of the press and right to expression but also challenging the growth of democracy in Bangladesh.

"The CPJB had repeatedly been stressing that the journal ists are increasingly exposed to murder, intimidation and other physical and mental threats while discharging their professional duties," the statement

2 Baluch cabinet ministers resign QUETTA, Pakistan, July 17:

Two ministers in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan provincial Cabinet resigned today for "personal reasons, government officials said, reports AP.

Razia Babar, education minister and the only woman in the provincial Cabinet, as well as Agriculture Minister Wasir Ahmed Chakazai resigned.

The five-member Baluchistan Cabinet was established after the military seized power. It's not clear what was behind the resignations.

Micro-bus owner From page 1

more suspects including some Jamaat-Shibir activists from their strongholds.

With today's arrests, the total number of arrested persons over the last six days rose to 59. However, police failed to arrest any of the accused mentioned in the FIR.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League as part of its weeklong programme today submitted a memorandum to the CMP commissioner. the killers.



Pepsi has started distributing prizes among the winners of its Scratch and Win promotional campaign. Pepsi officials yesterday distributed radios and electric irons among winners. The company will gradually distribute other prizes among winners. The offer will remain valid until the stock ends.

Biman TUs boycott

From page I the government plan to turn the airline into a Private Limited Company (PLC) and their

blueprint for that. fload Biman's 49 per cent shares, giving 40 per cent to a 'strategic partner' and nine per jobs in a better environment. cent to Biman employees. The "The fear of job cut is baseless Biman is being privatised under and untrue, if the airline is a World Bank aided project.

On Sunday, the consultants briefed State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and high officials of the ministry on their blueprint. Biman management scheduled a the briefing session, sources briefing vesterday for the airline's executives and leaders of trades unions and the CBA (collective bargaining agent).

After yesterday's briefing. Anwar Hossain Khan, Biman's General Manager, Corporate Affairs, told The Daily Star that it was attended by Directors, General Managers, Deputy General Managers and other executives of the airline. Uli Baur, leader of the consultant team told the meeting that the Srilankan Airlines be-

restructuring and privatisation as per their plan.

came profitable and increased

its number of employees after

identity while finding a 'strategic partner'

Speaking at the briefing session, Civil Aviation Secretary Chowdhury Mohamamd The government plans to of- Mohsin gave an assurance that restructuring and commerciali sation would help create more

> converted into a PLC", he said. "We are implementing this programme as per a government decision and our role here is only to implement it". Biman Managing Director Air Commodore Rafigul Islam told

The Biman executives raised a number of questions on the proposed conversion of the airline into a PLC. The discussions concentrated on the consultants' recommendations, the sources said.

CBA General Secretary Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star last night that the steering committee was formed to lead the agitation programme. The steering committee is headed by CBA President Mohiuddin Ahmed. Leaders of CBA. Biman Sramik Union, Biman Employees Union, Biman Engi-Baur said, Biman itself neering Association and Biman should work out the privatisa- Cabin Crew Association tion programme, retaining its attended the meeting, he said.

Border confce

From page 1 Khan are taking part in talks

from Bangladesh side IG V S Shirohi is leading the Indian delegation that includes V K Gour, DIG Ashoke Kumar, DIG Brigadier I J Singh. DIG S Bashumatri, DIG R P Debes, DIG Raghuraj Singh, Addl. IG M C Mahapatra, Ajit Singh and PS

Our Staff Correspondent adds from Chittagong: After vesterday's talks, the Indian team left for Cox's Bazar to pass time in the tourist resort, BDR sources said.

The talks will resume on Wednesday.

BDR officials from Khagrachhari, Rangamati, Sylhet, Comilla and Mymensingh sectors attended the talks.

Indian Boeing

From page 1

was on fire before it hit the

Another, Anil Kumar, said. "The plane was on fire. Then it

"I saw the aircraft wrapped in smoke, wobbling in the sky at a low altitude for a few seconds before its left wing was torn off after grazing a neem tree," the United News of India quoted witness Ullas Mandal as

Jung said there was ideal visibility, but a little haze, when the plane approached Patna at 4,000 meters and crashed at 7:30 am. The pilot asked to go around again, which is not unusual, Jung said. When he came in for a second landing. the plane crashed two kilometers southwest of the airport,

hitting two houses, Jung said. He said the plane was in "perfect condition" and had received all its normal checks. Capt Pal had 4.300 flying hours,

Jamaat

From page 1 cial inquiry. He also warned the government against dire consequences if it tries to cash in on

Jamaat representatives at the meeting argued that the killing in Chittagong is the result of factional clashes in Chhatra League. They said it was part of a government strategy to keep pressure on the opthe Jamaat.

being a responsible and the main opposition party BNP cannot take a bold stand in favour of the Jamaat right now. They assured that they would issue more statements protesting the government "atrocities" on leaders and activists of Jamaat and Shibir across the country following the Chit-

The meeting, however, was unanimous that it was a government strategy to accuse Jamaat of the killing and by so doing keep the opposition under

The meeting decided that the

Hartal

From page 1

State Minister for Energy Prof Rafigul Islam and IGP Nurul Huda were among hundreds of people who attended the second Janaja held at dessore Town Hall Maidan after Zohr prayers. From there, the coffin was taken to his village home at Shalkona in Sharsha upazila where the third Janaja was

Home Minister Mohammod Nasim accompanied by IGP Nurul Huda arrived in Jessore this morning and went straight to the residence of Shamsur Rahman who had never compromised on matters of professional ethics in waging a relentless war against terrorists through his write-ups. He escaped two attempts on his life

Despite frequent requests verbally and in writing, police officials never bothered to ensure his security, said family sources. Terrorists also threatened to kill him few days before he was gunned down, sources

The Home Minister asked police officials to nab killers of Shamsur Rahman within the shortest possible time or to face punishment.

He expressed his annovance

at their failure in ensuring se-

curity to Shamsur Rahman. Speaking high of his bold journalism despite death threats. the Home Minister said the brutal murder of Shamsur Rahman will not go unpunished. According to a senior police

official in Jessore. Shamsur Rahman was a target of terrorists since Mahmud Hasan Shimul was arrested. Wide coverage of his stories

on Shimul and Laltu of Chuadanga and other terrorists in Jhenaidah- Magura area made him a target, the police official said.

His wife, a school teacher, has files a case with Jessore Kotwali thana.

Atlanta

The West Nile virus killed seven people and sickened 62 others in New York late last summer. The virus, which causes brain inflammation, has been found in birds and necticut and New Jersey. Researchers are unsure how it migrated to the Western Hemi-

Health officials are tracking

other emerging diseases, such

as Lyme disease and hantavirus

pulmonary syndrome, and monitoring drug-resistant forms of diseases including malaria, tuberculosis and bacterial pneumonias. "We continue to be reminded that we are going to be challenged by the microbial world

in ways that we may not be able

to totally anticipate." Hughes The CDC said population growth, behaviour changes, travel, the worldwide transport of animals and foods, and human encroachment on wilderness habitats have contributed

to the emergence and re-emergence of infectious diseases.

the incident. From page 12

position by launching attack on mosquitoes in New York, Con-However, BNP leaders said

tagong killing.

pressure.

alliance partners will react against the "repression" on Jamaat by issuing separate press statements and will think of taking a united stance later