

## What's on today....

**British Film Week 2000:** East is East and Beautiful People will be screened on the 2nd last day of the British film festival. Venue: British Council auditorium, Fuller Road. Time: 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm respectively.

**Uttam Kumar Retrospective:** Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Saheb Bibi Golam* starring Uttam Kumar and Sabitri. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No. 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

**Seminar:** The Mechanical Engineering Division of The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) has organised a seminar on "Heat Pump Air Conditioning System by a Geo-Thermal Technology (Environmentally Safe and Energy Saving System for the Air Conditioning Engineering)." Venue: Seminar Room of IEB Headquarters. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Technical talk:** On "Low Emission Two Stroke Engines" organised by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, BUET. Venue: Room No 404, EME Building, BUET. Time: 4:30 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Uttam Kumar Retrospective:** Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Saheb Bibi Golam* starring Uttam Kumar, Anubha and Sumitra. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No. 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

## Weather

### Rain likely

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

Day temperature is expected to rise slightly over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Srimongal and the lowest of 23.6 degree Celsius at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.45 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.26 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  | Morning                | Evening |
| Dhaka       | 31.3                   | 25.8 | 78                     | 78      |
| Chittagong  | 32.2                   | 23.6 | 92                     | 78      |
| Rajshahi    | 32.2                   | 26.5 | 88                     | 80      |
| Khulna      | 31.5                   | 24.0 | 98                     | 87      |
| Barisal     | 30.2                   | 24.3 | 89                     | 90      |
| Sylhet      | 33.0                   | 26.3 | 77                     | 66      |
| Cox's Bazar | 30.5                   | 24.5 | 82                     | 88      |

### Nirmul body meet in Ctg today

CHITTAGONG, July 25: Ghatik Dalai Nirmul Jatiya Samanvay Committee will hold a meeting at the Shaheed Minar premises tomorrow, reports UNB.

The city unit has organised the meeting in commemoration of the killings of eight people at Lalidighi Maidan on July 26, 1994.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Labour and Employment Minister MA Mannan, Convenor of the Committee Syed Hasan Imam and member-secretary Abdul Mannan Chowdhury are expected to address the meeting.

### Kishoreganj Press Club team calls on president

An 11-member delegation of the newly elected executive committee of Kishoreganj Press Club, led by its president Kazi Shahin Khan, made a courtesy call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

The members of the delegation, who represent the national dailies in different capacities, apprised the President of various problems of the local journalists in carrying out their professional duties properly.



Former secretary Dr ATM Shamsul Huda of Ministry of Water Resources was given a farewell at a meeting held at the conference room of the ministry yesterday with Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak in the chair. New secretary A Ruhul Amin was also present on the occasion.



Yan Wei, project manager of Summit-Daqing joint venture, and Yunus Mia, Secretary of Gas Transmission Company Limited, signed an agreement on the Habiganj-Ashuganj 55 Kilometre Loop Line project on behalf of their respective organisations.

### BCL workers to donate blood for dengue patients

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) will voluntarily donate blood for the dengue patients as directed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

The BCL leaders have urged relatives of dengue patients to collect blood, if needed, from its workers through the presidents and general secretaries of its different hall units of Dhaka University.

"All members of BCL are ready to donate blood for dengue patients," said a BCL statement.

### Rivers in SE hill basin mark sharp rise

Due to moderately heavy to heavy rainfall at most places over the southeastern hill basin during the last 24 hours till 9 am yesterday, all the rivers in the basin marked sharp rise, reports UNB.

According to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), the Muhuri rose by 33cm at Parshuram, the Haida by 5cm at Narayanhat and 139cm at Panchpukuria, the Sangu by 160cm at Bandarban, the Matamuhuri by 124 cm at Lama and 53cm at Chiringa and the Feni by 22cm at Ramgarh.

The Haida was flowing 57cm above its danger level at Narayanhat.

## Direct access to information superhighway suggested

Leading academicians and information technology (IT) experts of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday urged the government to boost its IT-friendly image by establishing direct access to information superhighway via fiber-optic links and to refurbish the country's weak telecommunication system, reports BSS.

DU authorities are trying hard to equip every student with moderate level computer skills along with world class lessons in their respective disciplines. DU Vice Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury said while inaugurating a seminar titled "Role of IT in Resolving Unemployment Problem in Bangladesh" in the TSC auditorium here.

DU students like other educated boys and girls of Bangladesh are blessed with innate intelligence and proficiency in English badly needed for all types of enterprise in the IT field, he said.

Dhaka University Computer Association (DUCA), the IT network run by the university students organised the seminar. Leading IT experts of the country Prof Lutfar Rahman, Prof Farook Ahmed, Provost of Suryasen Hall Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, Provost of FH Hall Dr Shahid Akhter Hossain, Prof Mia M Qudus, President of Bangladesh Chhatra League Bahadur Bepari and DUCA President Kairuzzaman Chowdhury, among others, addressed the seminar.

Prof AK Azad Chowdhury said it is a matter of pride that the DUCA launched its humble journey with only two computers one year back and now it operates 57 computers and taught over 400 students. Highlighting the prospects of the young en-

trepreneurs, he said the young could make many things happen which the elders consider as "Herculean task".

He said soon Dhaka University would construct its own fiber-optic backbone and run independent IT institute. To translate the dreams and aspirations of the country the university would introduce Master's in Computer Application (MCA) courses and students from different disciplines would be able to receive the MCA courses.

Prof Chowdhury lauded Khulna University and Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) authorities for arming their students with the latest IT innovations.

He thanked the two universities for providing IT education to all students on those campuses. He said enrollment figure in Dhaka University fluctuates between 21,000 and 25,000 and ensuring IT education for each member of the DU family is a tough task. The VC sought assistance of the DUCA in this field.

Prof Farook Ahmed said our neighbouring country India has already emerged as a superpower in the information arena. He expressed optimism about DUCA initiatives and said many of our bright boys and girls are working in the prestigious IT labs in the USA, Canada, the UK and other countries.

"We don't lack talents but we should admit that we have deficiency in resources and concerted efforts," he said.

He urged the government to endorse the national IT policy and establish a separate ministry to oversee IT affairs.

Prof Lutfar Rahman said the pace of globalisation is much faster than we perceive. He said

our country lacks many things including national fibre-optic backbone and links with information superhighway badly needed for efficient and cost-effective surfing. He urged the young entrepreneurs to dedicate their efforts to launched small websites.

He appealed to the mainstream political parties to formulate their IT agenda before the next general election and denounced V-SAT up-linking as interim arrangement. Prof Rahman also called on the political parties to launch their campaigns through online homepages.

### Bangabandhu Mahila Parishad condemns attempt on PM's life

A central convening committee of the Bangabandhu Mahila Parishad has been formed recently with Dr Khaleda Begum and Dilwara Islam as its convenor and member-secretary respectively, says a press release.

The leaders and members of the Parishad strongly condemned the attempt on the life of the Prime Minister by planting a bomb at Kotalipara.

The members of the Parishad expressed grave concern at the ill motive of the anti-liberation forces who are out to create an anarchic situation in the country.

They demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those involved in the heinous act.

The Parishad will hold a protest meeting at its office at House-77/A, Road-12/A, Dhanmondi today at 4 pm.



Jamaat activists take shelter inside the Baitul Mukarram Mosque when police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse them. The Jamaat activists were demonstrating yesterday as part of the countrywide mass procession programme.

—Star photo

### Khaleda slates attack on her procession in Mymensingh

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has strongly protested police and Awami terrorists' joint attack on her party procession in Mymensingh yesterday that reportedly left 25 people injured.

In a statement yesterday, she said as part of the countrywide mass procession to protest deterioration of law and order, terrorism, anarchy, corruption and to press for the demand of repeal of the Zilla Parishad Act and resignation of the government the BNP brought out a huge procession in Mymensingh.

She said more than 20 to 25 thousands people brought out procession from local BNP office and proceed towards the Station Road, but police obstructed the marchers near Biddayamoti Girls School.

At this stage, Khaleda Zia alleged that Awami terrorists equipped with fire arms and bombs all on a sudden attacked the procession and fired and exploded bombs on the processionists indiscriminately.

At the same time, she said that police also fired tear gas shells and gun shots targeting the BNP activists and created a serious tension and local people help protest rallies in the district town.

Khaleda Zia said the local BNP has also called for a half day hartal in Mymensingh town to protest the attack and called upon the local people to observe the shut down spontaneously.

### Humayun Zahir

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case with Dhanmondi police station accusing seven people the same day.

The Investigation Officer of the case submitted a chargesheet against seven people including Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu after a detailed investigation.

Akhteruzzaman Babu and Abdul Matin, who were granted ad-interim bail from the High Court Division in 1997, appeared before the trial court yesterday.

Of the rest Tanmoy, Kaiser and Alam — now in the jail custody — were produced before the court under tight security while Hedavatul Islam Bulu and Touhidul Islam have been absconding since the incident.

District PP Mohammad Ali appeared for the state while Advocate Mahbub Ahmed and Shamim Ahsan for the accused.

### 6 arms allegedly stolen from arms shop of Faridpur

FARIDPUR, July 25: Six firearms — one rifle and five SBBL guns — were allegedly stolen from an arms shop in the town on Monday night, reports UNB.

Owner of Talukdar Arms Company, a dealer of arms and ammunitions at Chowrangli Jame Mosque Market, told police that burglars had stolen the arms by breaking a ventilator of the shop.

Additional SP SM Hafizur Rahman along with other police officials visited the shop and seized 17 firearms from the shop for security reason.

Police sources said six firearms were also stolen from this shop in 1991.

### Biman

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International Airport (ZIA). Addressing rally, CBA leader Mohiuddin Ahmed reiterated that they would continue to oppose the move for conversion into a PLC. But there could be a tie up with an SP retaining the status of Biman as a Corporation, he added.

The employees have called another rally in front of the Administrative building at ZIA at 9 am on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Biman authorities held informal talks with the CBA leaders. A Biman source said there is hope for a resolution of the problem. Further talks are likely, he said.

### Rubel

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arrived 7 pm on July 23, 1998. He told the court that at around 11 am on July 24, 1998 he went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and found Rubel's body lying on the ground floor.

After a while a Magistrate came there to make inquest report and prepare it in front of him, Gazi said.

Gazi further told the court that he found injury marks on the victims body and put his signature on the report proper.

Shamim Reza Rubel, 24, a BBA student of the Independent University was picked up by a team of DB police from his Siddeswari residence and was tortured to death the same day.

All the accused including AC Akram and Mukul Begum, a local Awami League leader were produced before the court yesterday.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam and Advocate appeared for the state while Advocate Mahbub Ahmed, Sharfuddin Mukul, and Shamim Ahsan for the accused.

### 3 get life term for murder in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, July 25: Three people have been awarded life-term vigorous imprisonment for killing a man at village Naobhanga in Mohammadpur upazila of the district.

District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Azizul Huq acquitted nine others of the charge.

The convicts are Amanot Molla, Chand Ali and Zakir Hossain.

According to the prosecution in brief Moslemuddin of village Naobhanga was stabbed on September 30, 1995 at around 10-30 pm and died on the way to hospital.

Razia Khatun, wife of the victim, filed a murder case with Mohammadpur thana accusing Amanot, Chand Ali, Zakir Hossain, Rashid, Afzal, Amjed, Moshir, Adom, Shaheed, Boshart, Nirmol and Zahid.

### Journalist

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observed.

The journalists said all these nefarious conspiracies were designed to foil the spirit of the War of Liberation, democracy and to obstruct the court verdict of the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

They apprehended that if such activities were not curbed, an anarchic situation might create in the country.

The journalists emphasized that those who belong to the spirit of the War of Liberation and have faith in democracy should come forward unitedly to resist the heinous activities of the conspirators.

The signatories to the statement included Santosh Gupta, Rahat Khan, Haroon Habib, Habibur Rahman Milani, Baby Moudud, Mohadeb Saha, Fakir Abdur Razzak, Wahidur Rashid Murad, Shafiqur Rahman, Zahiduzzaman Faruk, Delwar Hossain, Subash Chandra Boral, Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul, Solrab Hasan, Akram Hossain Khan, Shafiqur Karim Sabu, Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Shah Alamgir, GM Yakub, Akhtar Ahmed Khan, Swapan Kumar Saha, Kazi Maksudul Hasan, Shuva Rahman, Ataur Rahman, Shilbrata Barua, Arun Dey, Shamim Ahmed, Altaf Mahmud, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Ataur Rahman, Amirul Moamen, Shahed Chowdhury, Shyamol Dutta, Maniruzzaman, Zakaria Milani, Saiful Alam, Bibhu Anjan Sarkar, Swapan Das Gupta, Ashrafur Islam, Manoj Roy, Basudeb, Ajit Sarkar, Aml Ilyas, Omar Faruque and Rafiquzzaman.

### Ershad

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arms, given free ration and everything else they need to prepare themselves to combat terrorism," he told a public rally at Kalabagan in the city.

The JP demanded scrapping of the existing electoral laws and the Public Safety Act, resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner and dissolution of the municipalities and the Chittagong City Corporation to make the next general elections free and fair.

He also urged the JP workers to take to the streets in larger number to force the AL government to quit.

Chaired by city JP chief Saifur Rahman, the rally was also addressed by party's Secretary General Nazimul Rahman Manzur, and other central leaders including Kazi Firoz Rashid, Ruhul Amin Howladar, Shah Md Abu Zafar, Mostafa Jamal Haider and Matlur Rahman.

JP Secretary General Nazimul Rahman Manzur announced a dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country on July 6 protesting deterioration of law and order and increased rates of water, gas and power.

### 2 more bombs

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unit. Hannan came back from Afghanistan two years ago. During his stay in Afghanistan, Hannan actively took part in guerrilla war.

After returning home, Hannan used to train mardassah students on use of firearms and making bombs. Motlur told police, the sources said.

Hannan is the nephew of former chairman of Kotalipara Upazilla Parishad Munshi Sher Ali. Freedom fighters killed his father after liberation for his involvement with *Rajakars* and *Albadars*.

### Mosquito

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Dr Yasmin Jahan, a microbiologist who worked with IEDCR was transferred to NIP-SOM after she studied in this field in UK for three years.

Dr Shirin Akhtar, an entomologist, who did her M Sc from London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, was also transferred to NIP-SOM.

Against the backdrop of spread of dengue infection in the city, IEDCR should have sent blood samples abroad for test to determine which of the four types of virus is found here. This is vital, he observed.

### Tea-export

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of law order in different valleys in Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts where tea grows in plenty.

They alleged that miscreants have made their lives insecure. Illegal cutting of shade trees (big trees which give shade to tea plants) is going on unabated.

"My daughter and son-in-law were robbed at Alnagar Tea Estate in Kamolganj the day before yesterday," said M Quasim, General Manager of James Finlay PLC.

Manager of Phulchhari Tea Garden owned by Duncan tea company Ali Ahmed, said, "We have to remain indoors after sunset."

On Monday evening, some miscreants waylaid the General Manager of Noorjahan Tea Estate, Intiaz Ahmed, when he was on his way to the BTRI to have talks with the newsmen.

"The gang boarding a white car asked me in commanding voice that wherever I go, I should get back home before 10 pm," Intiaz said.

Both BTB and BCS sources said that the tea industry's plea for setting up at least six police outposts to curb terrorist activities in gardens was ignored so long.

Director of BTRI AFM Badrul Alam said that with a poor national average of producing 1150 kg of tea per hectare, it would be difficult for Bangladesh to compete in world tea market.

M Quasim of James Finlay PLC said, "We have to achieve at least 2000 kg per hectare yield in the first phase if we want to compete in world tea market. This is a question of cost effectiveness. South Indian tea is not better than ours but they (India) can offer lesser price because of higher productivity."

Bangladesh is in 8th position now as a tea exporting country. Other major exporters are Sri Lanka, Kenya, China, India, Indonesia, Argentina and Malawi.



### Obituary

Md Mafizul Islam, former Deputy General Manager of Bangladesh Bank, died of a cardiac arrest at a city clinic on Sunday. He was 62, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter, and a host of relatives and admirers.

His quikhuant will be held at his residence at House-92, Sector-7, Lake Drive Road, Uttara, today.

## Thackeray freed

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bers also forced abrupt adjournment of the national parliament by marching to the front of the Lower House and shouting demands for dismissal of the state government in Maharashtra state, which brought the charges against Thackeray.

Thackeray was accused of ordering his supporters through articles in his party newspaper, *Sanna*, or *Confront*, to attack Muslims to avenge the killings of Hindus in 1993.

More than 2,000 people were killed in nationwide violence in 1992-93, more than one-third in Bombay alone, after the ancient Babri Mosque was razed by Hindu fundamentalists in Ayodhya in northern India in December 1992. Hindus said the mosque had been built hundreds of years ago on a sacred Hindu site, the traditional birthplace of one of Hinduism's chief deities, Ram.

The two charges Thackeray faced — of promoting enmity between groups on grounds of religion, race or place of birth — carried a possible penalty of up to three years in prison or an unspecified fine.

"There is a limit permissible for the prosecution," Judge Kamde said. "I am also considering what the Bombay public is facing, at whose instance and at what cost."

More than 60,000 police and paramilitary troops had been placed on alert in Bombay and throughout Maharashtra state. Before the court appearance, businesses in downtown Bombay closed, shops pulled down

metal shutters to protect their windows, schools let children go home, and phone lines were jammed to prevent people from spreading rumors and panic.

Thackeray's supporters jostled police, knocking their hats and helmets askew, when he was escorted from his home in the morning. Police beat back the supporters when they tried to stop the arrest proceedings at the mayor's house in the Darda district of the capital, a Shiv Sena stronghold.

The supporters erupted in screams and shouts of jubilation around the courthouse after the case was dismissed, then set off fireworks.

At a news conference later Thackeray said the state official who ordered police to charge him should resign and "there will be stepped up action to get this government dismissed."

The state government, run by Sonia Gandhi's Congress and a breakaway faction of her party, had been pursuing Thackeray's prosecution since they came to power last October.

Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, the state's highest elected official, said, "We will appeal to the High Court. This is not a setback."

Two years ago a judicial inquiry, the Srikrishna Commission, blamed Thackeray for inciting the 1992-93 Bombay riots and Deshmukh said the government was "firm on implementing the Srikrishna recommendations."

Thackeray's attorney, Adhik Shirodkar, said, "This is a legal and moral victory. An appeal will be a suicidal path."

arms looted from Dattapara police box were recovered from the house of an AL leader, she also claimed.

The AL government has created anarchy in the country and destroyed all democratic institutions. It is now trying to curb freedom of press and independence of the judiciary, she alleged.

"How people will live in the country if ministers lead stick procession and threaten to attack judges of Supreme Court?"

She said the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) is killing innocent Bangladeshis and BDR personnel because of the government's "subservient foreign policy."

About the 4-party alliance, she said the government is trying to create a rift in it. "Unity in the alliance will be maintained at any cost. The alliance will continue the on-going movement together; contest next general election and form government."

Awami League has no way to return through election because it has been completely isolated from the people, she claimed and called upon the people to expedite the movement to dislodge the government soon.

She also demanded of the government immediate steps to check spread of dengue fever.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan expressed deep concern at the spread of dengue fever because of "government's failure". He urged the government, donors and voluntary organisations to come forward to save the people from the killer disease.

### Al-Mujadded newsmen demand payment of salaries

The leaders of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday demanded that the authority of the daily Al-Mujadded pay the salary of the journalists for the month of June by today, reports BSS.

The demand was raised at a meeting of the DUJ unit of Al-Mujadded. Unit chief Montaz Ahmed presided over the meeting held at the newspaper office.

The leaders also demanded payment of three months' arrears salaries of the newsmen and employees of the newspaper by August 3 and payment of the rest 13 months' salaries by August 4 as promised by the owner and the editor.

The meeting resolved that movement under the aegis of BFUJ and DUJ would continue till all arrears were realised.

### Gas pipeline

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national bidding, closed in early April. Two of those were disqualified on