

What's on today . . .

Roundtable: A roundtable discussion on "Encroachment and Pollution of Rivers Surrounding Dhaka City and its Consequences" will be held. Chief guest: State Minister for Environment and Forest H N Ashequr Rahman. Venue: DCC auditorium, 65-66 Motijheel C/A. Time: 10.00 am.

Launching ceremony: A new website of jobs in Bangladesh titled bdjobs.com will be launched. Venue: British Council auditorium, Fuller Road. Time: 5.30 pm.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Marutiritha Hingla starring Uttam Kumar and Sabitri. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.15 pm.

CD launching ceremony: Bengal Foundation will launch an audio CD of Ghazals by Md Asafuddoula Dilki Gaitya. Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, House No 275/F, Road No 27 (Old) 16 New, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 7.00 pm.

Blood donation: Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North West in association with Library and Information Science Department of Dhaka University will hold a voluntary blood donation programme. Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, VC of Dhaka University will inaugurate the programme arranged with cooperation from Sandhani of Dhaka Medical College. Venue: Battala near Arts Building, DU campus. Time: 10.00 am.

Discussion meeting: Muktijuddho Adarsho Bastobayan Mancha will hold a discussion meeting to protest the killing of journalist Shamsur Rahman. Venue: Shwadinata Udyan (Chhauni). Time: 3.00 pm.

Seminar: Quran Research Institute and Discussion Centre will hold a seminar on "Problems, Prospects and Path of Muslim Unity". Venue: VIP lounge of National Press Club. Time: 3.00 pm.

Memorial meeting: Shiksha Bichitra, a monthly will hold a memorial meeting on journalist Shamsur Rahman who was killed recently. Venue: TSC seminar room, Dhaka University. Time: 4.00 pm.

Shahitya Bashor: Kendriya Kanchi Kanchar Ashor resumes its regular Shahitya Bashor. Venue: Kendriya Kanchi Kanchar Mela auditorium, 37/A Segun Bagicha. Time: 4.30 pm.

Reception: Women's Federation for World Peace will hold a reception for distinguished personalities Dr Maleka-Al-Razi, Dr Malika Khatun, Begum Hosna Banu Khanam and Begum Ruby Rahman on occasion of Parent's Day. Venue: WVA auditorium, House No 405 (old) 20 (new), Rd No 27 (old) 16 (new), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4.30 pm.

ASB meeting: The monthly general meeting of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB) will be held. Prof Yearul Kabir of Dhaka University Biochemistry Dept will deliver a lecture on "Health and Nutritional Status of Adolescent Girls in Bangladesh". Venue: ASB seminar room, 5 Old Secretariat Road, Ramna. Time: 5.00 pm.

and tomorrow

Meeting: An emergency meeting of the Peace Movement Against Terrorism (Soutrash Birodhi Shanti Andolon) will be held. Venue: CIRDAAP auditorium, Chameli House, Tophkhana Road. Time: 4.30 pm.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Khokababur Pratyabartan (starring Uttam Kumar and Sumita Sanyal). Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.15 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna and Syhet divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country during the period. Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 33.6 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Kutubdia.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.43 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.27 am.

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Max Temperature in Celsius, Min Temperature in Celsius, Humidity in percentage. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

HERE and THERE



secretary — HS Sultan Ahmed, literary secretary — Mohammad Shaheen, welfare secretary — SM Mahabubur Rahman, religious secretary — M A Manjan, cultural secretary — Afroza Khandakar, and executive members — Aminul Haq Sardar, Ulfat Ali and Shaifiquil Hasan.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North East

The 14th installation ceremony of Rotary Club of Dhaka North East was held at a city hotel recently, says a press release.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman attended the function as chief guest while Bangladesh Bank Deputy Governor Ibrahim Khaled attended the function as special guest.

Earlier, a 13-member executive committee was formed with Rotarian AZM Saleh and Rtu. Abu Saleh M. Majed as president and secretary respectively.

Rotarian Syed Zafar Sohalil has been elected President for 2001-2002.

Training course for lawyers

A seven-week training course of the new entrants in legal profession began in the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium yesterday, reports BSS.

A total of 272 new lawyers are taking part in the course titled 'Bar Vocational Course' (BVC) which is designed to provide practical professional knowledge to the newcomers in legal profession.

Bangladesh Bar Council has designed the course and already provided training to more than 800 lawyers.

Biman Officers' Assoc executives: Ruhul Amin Tarafdar has been elected president of the 15-member executive committee of Bangladesh Biman Officers' Association (BOA) for the 2000-2003 term, reports BSS.

Other office-bearers are organising secretary — Mohammad Khurshid Alam, office secretary — Shakil Meraj, finance

Chehlum



'Chehlum' of Ejalul Huq (Emran), former secretary of the Industries Ministry, will be held today after Asr prayers at his residence at House No-28, Road No-31, Gulshan-1, says a press release.

Relatives, colleagues, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the chehlum and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Congratulations



Dhaka University has recently conferred M Phil degree on Syed Ashrafur Rahman under its Political Science Department, says a press release.

Syed Ashrafur was awarded the degree for his thesis "two Japan-Bangladesh cooperation: A study of political economy".

He is the only son of late Syed Abdul Gani and Syeda Ruhimunnisa of Moulvi Byad.



Masud Ahmed Sayeed (Shibli), only son of Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmed and Anwara Khatun has obtained the Bar-at-Law degree from Lincoln's Inn, says a press release.

Masud earlier obtained his LLB (Hons) and LLM degree from London University and Wolverhampton University.

Journalist murder

rested from Nirala in the city on charge of killing Rahman and remained for six days.

Police are yet to have any conclusive evidence or clue regarding Rahman's involvement in the murder despite the fact that he had threatened to kill Rahman last year.

Shamsur Rahman was killed by people who had their financial interests hurt by his reports, said the investigating officer of the case.

The CID on Friday sealed the Khulna residence of Musfiqur Rahman Hirok, believed to be one of the killers of Rahman.

Earlier, licence of an SBL gun belonging to Hirok was cancelled.

According to the KMP, there are 17 criminal cases recorded against Hirok with the five police stations of Khulna city.

Shamsur Rahman was gunned down few days after Hirok and another journalist of Khulna went to Rahman's Jessore office and asked him to stop writing against terrorists of south-western zone of the country, police said.

The KMP commissioner has sent names of some top terrorists to authorities concerned, asking for cancellation of the licences of their firearms with immediate effect. They are all activists of Awami League and three of them are ward commissioners of Khulna City Corporation, said a KMP source.

The source said these ward commissioners also rent out their arms, both legal and illegal, to terrorists.

A top KMP official said they have launched a drive to recover arms belonging to about 36 terrorists of the city.

Special prayer offered for saving PM's life

A special prayer was offered at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday to express gratitude to the almighty Allah for saving Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from an attempt on her life, reports BSS.

Bombs were planted near the prime minister's meeting venue at Kotlaipara in an attempt to kill her. Army personnel recovered a bomb on July 21.

Several thousand people joined the prayer held after Juma prayers. Special prayers were also offered in other mosques throughout the country.

Special prayers were also offered in other places of worship including temples.

Meanwhile, Awami League held a milad nabih at its central office after Juma prayers.



Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the attempt on the Prime Minister's life. — Star photo

Digital phone exchanges in 21 districts in 6 months

Digital telephone exchanges will be commissioned in 21 districts of the country within the next six months, enabling 80 thousand seven hundred digital telephone connections, reports BSS.

This was informed Thursday at a review meeting of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) under the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

Chaired by the Minister for Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasim, the meeting discussed the implementation projects of Bangladesh T and T Board and 13 projects of the postal department.

The meeting was informed that commissioning of digital exchanges in eight district towns will be completed within September and October next under the digital telephone exchange installation project.

The districts under the exchange are: Pabna, Faridpur, Comilla, Noakhali, Patuakhali, Rangpur, Dinajpur and Rangamati.

The meeting was also told that the commissioning of digital telephone exchange in 13 more districts with the assistance from China will be completed within the January next.

The meeting was further informed that ground work for the installation of optical fibre cables at Daudkandi, Comilla and Feni region will be completed by June next under the high-powered optical fibre link commissioning project between Dhaka and Chittagong.

Mohammad Nasim directed concerned department to complete the procurement of equipment for commissioning digital telephone exchange in Mujibnagar complex under Meherpur district.

Secretary to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury, Chairman of T and T Board Khandaker Abdul Matin and Director General of postal department Aatur Rahman and other senior officials were present.

BSJ condemns attempt on PM's life

By Staff Correspondent

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote (BSJ) yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally protesting the attempt on the life of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and demanding a ban on politics of Jamaat-Shibir.

The speakers at the rally said the anti-liberation forces want to create anarchy and unrest in the country, but the Mujibsenas would not allow them to do so.

They expressed grave concern over the situation and said that the killers of '71 and '75 have become active again.

Terming BNP an 'isolated' party, they said the people of the country are now united to resist the alliance of BNP and the killers of '71 and '75.

The rally was addressed by Tarana Halim, Falguni Hamid, Arun Sarkar Rana, Siddiq Zaman Nantu, Khairul Alam Sabui, Mumira Yusuf Memi, Shaunt Islam, poet Tridib Dasidhar, poet Rabindra Goap and Dilara Yasmin.



Department of Urban Planning of BUET organised an exhibition of urban planning at the BUET auditorium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

New Legislation in Australia slammed by UN human rights committee

GENEVA, June 28: Legislation in two Australian states leads to disproportionately harsh prison sentences for Aborigines and youths, the UN Human Rights Commission said Friday, reports AFP.

In Western Australia and the Northern Territory, minor offences such as burglary are usually punished with a one-year mandatory prison sentence, legislation which most often affects Aborigines and minors, the commission said.

Mandatory jail "does not give a judge the possibility to study the circumstances" leading up to the crime, it added.

The committee said the punishments seemed "inconsistent with the strategies to reduce the overrepresentation of indigenous persons in the criminal justice system".

A team of UN experts welcomed anti-discrimination legislation that has come into force, but said the Australian government should step up efforts to give indigenous people more power over decisions affecting their lands and natural resources.



A special prayer was offered at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday to express gratitude to Allah for saving the Prime Minister from an attempt on her life. — Star photo

NDI team calls on Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

The outgoing and the newly-appointed country representatives of the Washington-based National Democratic Institute met with Leader of the Opposition in parliament Khaleda Zia on Thursday.

They held discussions on democratic, parliamentary and electoral systems and their functioning in the country.

During the meeting held at 29 Minto Road, outgoing country representative Johan Homels and his successor Jim Oliver told Khaleda Zia that the NDI is working out a set of recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of parliamentary system in Bangladesh.

Besides, the NDI is also reviewing Bangladesh's electoral rules, regulations and procedures.

The NDI representatives said their main objective is to ensure necessary reforms at the Election Commission so that future polls can be free and fair.

Khaleda Zia said it is important to bring about reforms at the EC before the next general polls.

She said various national and international bodies have placed a good number of recommendations regarding the parliament and Election Commission, but those are yet to be implemented due to the opposition from the government.

The BNP chairperson hoped that the NDI would help in bringing about necessary reforms regarding the parliament, EC and electoral rules.

Johan Homels, who has been appointed as the country representative of NDI in Bosnia, said the organisation had sent a powerful delegation led by US Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and ex-Congressman Stephen Solarz to oversee the parliamentary polls held on June 12, 1996.

They said the NDI would also send its team to oversee national polls in future.

BNP Secretary-General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP, M Morshed Khan MP, MK Anwar MP and MM Rezaul Karim were present on the occasion.

Barak hopes UNIFIL will be deployed soon along Lebanese-Israeli border

JERUSALEM, July 28: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said Friday he hoped the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) would be deployed soon along the Israeli-Lebanese border, reports AFP.

"In Lebanon, things are going slowly and it's necessary to wait. First there will be UNIFIL, then the Lebanese security forces," Barak told Israeli radio as he visited northern Israel, including the Misgav Am kibbutz along the border.

UNIFIL began to deploy Friday in two sectors of the former Israeli-occupied zone of south Lebanon, despite Beirut's continued allegations that Israel is making incursions onto Lebanese territory.

"I hope the noticeable calm at the border continues. I remember the fire that ravaged this region, where our soldiers perished," Barak said.

Israeli troops entered Lebanon in 1978 following a Palestinian commando raid near Tel Aviv and in 1982 launched a full-scale invasion. The last Israeli troops left Lebanon on May 24.

The tragedy lasted 18 years and we must draw lessons from it. When things must be settled we must not hesitate, even if it appears dangerous," Barak said.

Barak drew a parallel to the controversial compromise over Jerusalem that he proposed to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat last week at Camp David.

"We must not hesitate to end our domination over the Palestinians, which has gone on for 33 years," Barak said.

But Barak stressed that at the Camp David summit Israel "did not sign any binding text."

Barak told the radio he regretted that Foreign Minister David Levy, who threatened to resign, opposed his policy toward the Palestinians, but said the disagreement would "not affect our friendly relations."

Israel has complained to the United Nations of incidents along its border with Lebanon since the withdrawal.

On Friday, an Israeli soldier at the Fatima Gate border crossing was slightly injured when his hand was hit by shards of glass from bottles thrown by the Lebanese, an AFP reporter observed.

"Space Cowboys" to open 57th Venice film festival

ROME, July 28: Clint Eastwood's latest film "Space Cowboys" will start the 57th Venice film festival on August 30, which will feature 153 other movies, reports AFP.

Eastwood, who celebrated his 70th birthday this year, will also receive the Mostra's Golden Lion for lifetime achievement.

"Space Cowboys" he plays a retired US Air Force pilot sent into space to repair a damaged Russian satellite launched in the 1950s.

Nine other Eastwood films will be shown at the Venice Lido, before the presentation of the festival awards on September 9.

This year's Mostra award jury will be presided by Czech-born director Milos Forman.

Italy will enter the competition for the coveted Golden Lion award with four films after being conspicuously absent from the Cannes festival in May.

Among the films are "I cento passi" by Marco Tullio Giordana and "Denti" by Gabriele Salvatores, who won an Academy award in 1992 for best foreign film for "Mediterraneo".

According to a still incomplete list made public by festival organizers Friday, 12 films competing for the Golden Lion will be European. So far 19 films have been named. A 20th is to be announced later.

France will be represented by Woody Allen who will show his latest film in Venice, this year "Small Time Crooks" with Hugh Grant.

Six other films will also be shown outside the main competition including Claude Chabrol's "Merci pour le chocolat" with Isabelle Huppert, and "Brother" by Japan's Takeshi Kitano whose "Hana Bi" won the Golden Lion in 1997.

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Indian Army

jabedeen for its cease-fire announcement.

Also, the All Party Hurriyat Conference, an umbrella group of separatist organisations in Kashmir, said this week the cease-fire was "hasty."

Hurriyat and other groups have insisted that there should be no independent talks without Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Pakistani-based Kashmir militants rejected an Indian peace overture promising today to fight on until Indian-ruled Kashmir is independent or aligned with Islamic Pakistan.

A spokesman for Hezb-ul Mujahideen in Pakistan Omar Muslim welcomed the state chief announcement, but said his group also wants a promise from India to stop attacks against civilians.

So far no other guerrilla group has joined Hezb-ul Mujahideen's cease-fire offer and an umbrella organisation, representing 14 Pakistani-based rebel groups, called the offer a sell out and promised to continue their secessionist war.

Basu's illness comes at a time when the CPI (M) is facing a tough political challenge from the Trinamool Congress, a breakaway group of the Congress party, led by Sonia Gandhi.

The CPI (M) suffered a major defeat at the hands of the Trinamool Congress in the local elections held earlier this month in Calcutta, the capital of West Bengal state. The state elections are scheduled to be held early next year.

In 1996, the CPI (M) refused Basu to become the consensus prime minister of leftist and socialist groups because it felt that the federal coalition would be shaky and may not last long.

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