

What's on today . . .

BUP seminar: Bangladesh Ummayan Parishad will hold a seminar on Floods 2000: South-Western Region of Bangladesh. Venue: BUP auditorium, House No 33, Rd No 4, Dhamondi R/A. Time: 9.00 am-1.30 pm.
Painting competition: Kendriyo Kanochi Kanchar Mela will hold a painting competition to mark the 71st birth anniversary of Abdullah Al-Muti. Venue: Mela premises, 37/A, Segunbagicha. Time: 9.30 am.
FEJB AGM and seminar: Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh will hold its 17th annual general conference. It will also hold a seminar on 'Greening National Budget.' Venue: VIP conference room of National Press Club. Time: 10.00 am.

Dialogue: Democracy Watch will hold a dialogue on Problems of Traffic in Dhaka. Chief guest: DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif. Venue: 7, Circuit House Road, Ramna. Time: 10.00 am-1.00 pm.

BUET convocation: The sixth convocation of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will be held. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Venue: BUET premises. Time: 10.30 am.

Open discussion: Transparency International Bangladesh in association with the tri-monthly magazine Bichoyon will hold an open discussion on Discipline in Society and Morality. Venue: Planning and Development Academy auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 3.00 pm.

Open dialogue: The Daily Prothom Alo will hold a roundtable on 'Crisis in the Power Sector: Ways Out.' Venue: Kabi Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 3.00 pm-6.00 pm.

Founding anniversary: Bigyan Chetona Parishad will hold a rally to mark its fifth founding anniversary. Venue: Novera Hall, National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4.00 pm.

Premiere: Step Towards Development will hold the premiere of its documentary film Perception The Other Canvas on six female painters of the country. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 5.00 pm.

Workshop: Centre for Medical Education will begin a 3-day long workshop on Holistic Approach. Venue: Seminar room of the Centre, Janashasthya Protisithan Bhaban (2nd Floor), Mohakhali.

Farewell programme: The students of the MSc final part students of the Geography Department of Eden Women's University College will bring out a farewell procession to mark the end of their course. Venue: From Eden College premises to Jatitya Press Club. Time: 10.00 am.

Workshop: BIDS, PPRC and IDS, Sussex will hold a brainstorming workshop titled 'Making Rights Real: Accountability, Participation and Citizenship Issues in the Context of Bangladesh.' Venue: LGED seminar room (Level 4), Argargaon. Time: 9:30 am-4:00 pm.

and tomorrow

Inauguration: Grameen Software will inaugurate its Novell Education Academic Partner (NEAP) programme. Venue: Grameen Bank auditorium (2nd Floor), Grameen Bank Complex, Mirpur-2. Time: 3.00 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely
Weather is likely to remain dry over the country during the next 12 hours till 6pm today, reports UNB.

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet.

\$151m WB loan for poverty alleviation
WASHINGTON, Jan 19: The World Bank on Thursday approved a 151 million dollar loan for Bangladesh aimed at reducing poverty, Reuters.

BCL armed cadre 'Mota' Selim held in Khulna
From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Jan 19: Mostafizur Rahman alias Mota Selim, an alleged armed cadre of BCL city unit, was arrested on Thursday from Young Boys' Club housed in the KDASA building.

24 kidnapped bawalis, fishermen rescued from Sundarbans
SATKHIRA, Jan 19: Police rescued 24 kidnapped Bawalis (woodcutter) and fishermen from Balabari area of the Sundarbans after a fierce gunfight with the kidnappers on Thursday, reports UNB.

CPB rally at Paltan today
Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will hold a grand rally at Paltan Maidan today, reports UNB.

6 inter-district dacoits held in Gopalganj
From Our Correspondent
GOPALGANJ, Jan 19: Police arrested six inter-district dacoits and recovered a country-made pistol from their possession at village Majeegati under Kashiani upazila of the district at midnight last night.

Varsities
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unfavourable atmosphere on the campus.

Al-haj Abul Hossain, acting chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, speaking at a programme to mark the 4-day long first aid training programme organised by BDRCS recently.



President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed speaking at the 17th Rotary District Conference 2001 held in Hotel Sheraton yesterday. -PID photo

Rajuk flouts its own rules

considering environmental impact and how utility services are equipped in that area to provide those services. A landowner, in no way, should be exempted from the restriction, they said.
The buildings are being constructed in violation of not only the restriction on height, but also of the Building Construction Rules. The law provides for minimum 'clearance distance' of buildings of various heights from public roads. For instance, for a 20-storied building, the adjacent road must be at least 75-feet wide.

authorities who, 'failed to impose the height restriction on privately owned property in the area.' One Rajuk source said the former Authorised Officer, Nurunnabi, now living in the USA permanently, approved so many plans in the area.
Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Professor of Civil Engineering at BUET, told The Daily Star that as per law, approval from all relevant utility companies must be obtained before starting construction of a high-rise building.

Contributions of Zia recalled

the occupation forces. He was a valiant freedom fighter and the chief of 'Z' Force in the War of Independence in 1971.
He was awarded the gallantry award 'Bir Uttam' for bravery during the nine-month war.
He was assassinated on May 30, 1981 in an abortive military coup in Chittagong while he was President of Bangladesh.
To celebrate Zia's birth anniversary, the central committees of BNP and its front organisations began an 11-day programme on January 16. The programmes include milad mahfil, discussion meetings, blood donation, cultural programmes and rallies.

Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddique, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Sadeque Hossain Khoka, and R. Khandaker Mosharrat Hossain.
Wreaths were then placed by leaders of city BNP, Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal, Juba Dal, Sramik Dal, Krishak Dal, Mohila Dal, Jassas, Zia Shishu-Kishore Sangathan, Ulema Dal, Sechhashebak Dal and Zia Parishad.
In the afternoon, BNP organised a discussion meeting at the Engineers' Institution with party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair. It was addressed by, among others, Prof AQM Badrudozza Chowdhury, Prof Enajuddin Ahmed, Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Hamidullah Khan and Prof MAM Mazed.

Estrada may flee country

get Estrada his political career ruined by a scandal centring on money, mistresses and mansions to leave immminently.
'A peaceful negotiation is taking place for a quick resignation of the president within the next few hours,' said one of the protest leaders, Gov Jose Lina of Laguna Province.
Another protest leader, Pastor Saycon, said Estrada had been offered a plane to leave and indicated at one point he wanted to go to Australia. The talks broke down when Estrada's foes asked him to sign a letter of resignation, Saycon told local television.

ally possible because the president and vice president had not quit.
'Since I still have the support of a significant segment of our people, I don't think that the present polarization can be healed by a new leader who will take over without an electoral mandate from our people,' Estrada said, clearly intending to shut out Arroyo.
She wasn't buying it, and it was also unclear whether Estrada's partial concession would satisfy the protesters.
The end for Estrada, however it eventually plays out, became inevitable earlier in the day.

24 kidnapped bawalis, fishermen rescued from Sundarbans

SATKHIRA, Jan 19: Police rescued 24 kidnapped Bawalis (woodcutter) and fishermen from Balabari area of the Sundarbans after a fierce gunfight with the kidnappers on Thursday, reports UNB.
Police today said three Bawalis and fishermen were injured during two-hour long gunfight on the bank of Malancha river.
The gunfight took place when police raided the area to rescue the kidnapped people. At one stage, the terrorists released the abducted people and fled to the deep forest.
The injured identified as Abdul Khaleq, 45, Bachha Khokon, 32, and Abdur Razzaq, 40, of Datoneykhali in Shaymnaagar upazila were admitted to Shaymnaagar Hospital.
The 24 Bawalis and fishermen were kidnapped on January 13 for Tk 10 lakh ransom.

9 drown

Ranu, 5; Rahima Khatun, 30 and her mother-in-law Sufia Khatun, 70; Nahida Akhtar, 10—all from Manpura — and Shah Md Babul, 45, a school teacher from Tazumuddin.
Manpura police seized the trawler after it was salvaged Thursday night. Police said owner of the trawler— Shamsuddin Chowdhury—could not be traced.
For about 60,000 people of Manpura in the Bay, there is only one state-run sea-truck, which is out of operation for quite sometime now, official sources there said. People have to take the risk of travelling in overcrowded trawlers to go outside their tiny island.

Take the money

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lem, she should contact the nearest police out-post, the Sub-inspector advised her.
'All of us are in fear. If those people come to kill us, how can I inform police?' she asked.
Exactly at 10-07 am yesterday, in presence of this correspondent, two armed policemen led by two plain-clothed men arrived at Halima Khatun's Mohammadpur residence on foot. The team leader of the policemen identified himself as Havildar Farid.
Farid told Halima Khatun that she should inform the nearby police out-post if she has any problem in her house.
'Just send a small kid to inform us. We are always round the corner,' Havildar Farid told Halima in presence of this correspondent.

Nirmul's fresh vow to try war criminals

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday observed its founding anniversary taking a fresh vow to hold trial of war criminals, reports UNB.
A discussion meeting was held at the TSC of Dhaka University with poet Shamsur Rahman in the chair.
Addressing the meeting, Shamsur Rahman called upon the young to continue their struggle for establishing truth, justice and welfare.
Barrister Shawkat Ali, Syed Hassan Imam, Kazi Mukul, Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Golam Quddus and Afzal Hossain, among others, addressed the function.
Later, a colorful procession was brought out which paraded the streets from Shahbagh to Central Shaheed Minar.

Civil society

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for the benefit of garment employees, ninety per cent of whom are women.
Rotary International President's personal representative, Jocelyn 'Joc-Joc' I Bolante, Rotarian District Governor Hasan Maniruzzaman, past District Governor Ittefakur Alam and conference chairman A K M Shamsuddin also spoke on the occasion.
Rotary representative teams from Canada and Japan are attending.
Timber seized
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The recovered logs were being taken to Dangmari Forest Office, UNB Bagerhat correspondent added.
The operation will continue for another two days, sources said.
Meanwhile, Mongla Port security patrol team caught two alleged pirates with a shutter gun and four bullets while they were roaming around suspiciously in a trawler in the river Poshur Thursday night.
The arrested identified as Enayet Khan, 35, of Morelganj upazila and Mostafa of Bagerhat sadar were handed over to Mongla police.
Police said the arrested persons were involved in piracy in different areas adjoining the port. A case was filed with local police against them.

PM opens DITF

Prime Minister herself, to resolve any problems relating to export.
Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Commerce Minister M A Jalli, Commerce Secretary Ghulam Rahman, FICCI President Yusuf Abdullal Harun and EPB Vice-Chairman A B Chowdhury also spoke at the opening function of the month-long exhibition of domestic and foreign products.
Products of some 431 companies are being put on display in 40 pavilions, 62 mini-pavilions and 329 stalls at the designated Sher-e-Bangladesh fair ground for DITF-2001 that has a greater participation than last year.
More than 63 firms and organisations from 22 foreign countries and as many as 383 local business houses and organisations are participating in the international trade fair.
The Prime Minister said some 6,328 projects worth \$12,290 million are registered with the Board of Investment during her rule since July 1996.
Besides, 89,557 big, medium and small industries have so far been set up generating employment for several lakh people. She said GDP marked a growth of 5.92 per cent, per-capita income stood at \$886 and inflation rate was contained at 2.28 per cent.

Middle East peace hopes hanging in balance

JERUSALEM, Jan 19: Peace prospects were in the balance today, with Israel delaying its response to a Palestinian proposal for 10 days of marathon talks, but with Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben Ami saying the two sides have never been closer to peace, reports AFP.
'We have never been so close to peace,' Ben Ami was quoted by the Turkish news agency Anatolia as saying on his arrival in Ankara for meetings with Turkish officials.
Later, after talks with Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, he said that, 'on the basis of the parameters of (US) President Bill Clinton ... we have come very, very close (to peace)'.
'The gaps are there, they need to be bridged, but we are very close,' he added.
Ben Ami said he had received from the Turkish leadership a commitment to try to bring the two parties closer.
A meeting of Israel's 'peace cabinet,' which was to decide on a response to a Palestinian proposal to hold marathon talks in Taba, Egypt, was postponed until Saturday evening, an Israeli official told AFP without going into detail.
The official said only that '(Prime Minister Ehud) Barak needs to think about it over the weekend. He supports the contacts with Palestinians reducing violence.'
Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the Palestinians had not been formally informed of Israel's decision regarding the negotiations.
'They (the Israelis) have not responded to us at this point,' Erekat told AFP. 'It was expected that they would today but they have not yet.'

Centres for Hons exams to remain unchanged: NU

National University authorities have said its decision to continue holding honours examinations in the previous centres has not been changed, reports UNB.
'The centres of 1999 will remain valid this year also. There is no confusion about this,' said a university press release yesterday.
The NU authorities called upon all concerned not to be misguided by the rumours about changes of honours examination centres.
Those hospitalised are Zohri, 45; Ramij, 50; Kamola, 40; Noori, 40; Nurunnusa, 40; Imran, 6, and two unidentified persons aged about 44 and 30 respectively.

15 hurt in road mishap in city

By Staff Correspondent
At least 15 people were injured, eight of them seriously, when a minibus and a 'human hauler' collided head on near the Nagar Bhaban in the city yesterday.

PM opens DITF

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Bush for fresh start

Bush, who takes office tomorrow after winning a bitter legal battle with outgoing Vice-President Al Gore over disputed presidential ballots in the state of Florida, promised, despite the political discord, his administration would serve all Americans.
'I will treat the office with care, never take it for granted, and always remember to whom it really belongs,' said Bush in the familiar veiled language in which he refers to the scandals that dogged the administration of his predecessor, Bill Clinton.
'The presidency does not belong to any one person, but to all of us. It belongs to the American people.'
Bush, who styles himself as a unifier of races and political persuasions, gave his short address from near the spot at the memorial where civil rights leader Martin Luther King delivered his famed 'I have a dream' speech in 1963.
The rally was brought to a crescendo with a huge fireworks display lasting about 10 minutes. In a twist of irony, the thunderous din was likely audible to Clinton as he tolled in the White House on the televised farewell address he delivered Americans later that night.
'I am profoundly grateful to you for twice giving me the honour to serve,' Clinton said from the Oval Office, calling his time at the nation's helm 'an era of great American renewal.'
'In the years ahead, I will never hold a position higher of a covenant more sacred than that of president. But there is no title I will wear more proudly than that of citizen,' he said.
Clinton wished Bush well and emphasised that the incoming administration must not pare down Washington's global role, declaring 'in our times, America cannot and must not disentangle itself from the world.'
He did not mention the Monica Lewinsky affair which led to his impeachment by the House of Representatives in 1998 and his acquittal in the Senate the following year.