

Matir Moina gets Critics' Prize at Cannes

STAR REPORT

Matir Moina, the Bangladeshi film first ever selected for the Cannes Film Festival, has been awarded the International Critics' Prize.

Directed by Tareque Masud, Matir Moina was selected from over 40 films, which were included in the Directors' Fortnight and International Critics' Week sections of the 55th festival.

Every year, FIPRESCI, an international association of film critics and journalists, gives the prize to the best film from each of the three main categories.

The 11-member jury consisted of members from 11 countries around the world, including Britain, SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



Jayanto Chatterjee and Rokeya Prachi, protagonists, and two tiny tots star in Matir Moina, a film awarded the International Critics' Prize at the 55th Cannes Film Festival.

NATO-Russia Council formed

AP, Rome

NATO, an alliance set up more than a half century ago for the Cold War containment of Moscow, formally accepted its old enemy as a junior partner yesterday.

"Two former foes are now joined as partners," President Bush said as 19 NATO partners and Russian President Vladimir Putin took turns signing an agreement creating a new NATO-Russia Council.

"We have come a long way from confrontation to dialogue, and from confrontation to cooperation," Putin said in accepting the new role.

Under the new arrangement, Russia will have more authority in the new body than in an earlier, less formal arrangement set up several years ago to try to nudge Moscow closer to the West.

DETAILS ON PAGE -- 9

AL meet soon on joining JS

REAZ AHMAD

The Awami League may convene a joint meeting of the party's key policymaking body and lawmakers soon to decide on the crucial issue of joining the parliament that goes into budget session from June 4.

Sources at the AL said the largest opposition party might opt for a joint meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALWC) and AL Parliamentary Party (ALPP) sometimes between June 1 and 4. However, there are possibilities that the meetings may be held separately in quick succession.

The upcoming meeting of the party policy planners and legislators is considered important following repeated offers for dialogue made over telephone by the ruling BNP leaders to take the opposition party to the Jatiya Sangsad.

Fifty-eight MPs elected on the AL tickets in the October 1, 2001 polls stayed away from the first two sessions of the eighth parliament. The AL has skipped 56 days of sittings so far and an absence for 34 more working days would automatically vacate their seats.

Sources said the party would not take the risk of losing memberships of its legislators, particularly if it sees the budget session lingering beyond 34 days.

Meanwhile, the AL is all set to revive its home-cleansing drive stalled for

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Sr lawyers meet President today on judge issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen senior lawyers of the Supreme Court would meet President AQM Badruddoja Chowdhury today and ask for confirmation of three additional judges at the High Court Division.

The judges in question have not been confirmed as permanent judges despite the recommendation of the chief justice. The lawyers Saturday met the Chief Justice Mahmudul Amin Choudhury to discuss the issue.

Meanwhile, former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru yesterday dubbed Law Minister Moudud Ahmed's statement regarding the chief justice's recommendation on the judges' appointments untrue.

In a written statement, Khasru said during the Awami League (AL) rule judges were appointed as per SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



Manavzamin newsman stabbed at Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Syed Nazmul Imam, Kushtia district correspondent of Daily Manavzamin was stabbed by unidentified miscreants in the early hours of yesterday.

A gang of five swooped on Nazmul near Majampur bus stand while he was returning to his Courtpara residence in a rickshaw at about 1-30 am.

They stabbed in different parts of his body and cut thumb of the right hand. They also took away Tk 2000 SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

AI alleges attacks on minorities, custodial torture, violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Amnesty International (AI) has alleged attacks on minority communities, particularly Hindus and custodial torture by police and armed forces in the country.

Atrocities against woman and political violence are widespread, said the AI Country Report 200 simultaneously released here and some other capitals yesterday.

AI Bangladesh chapter Director Golam Mostafa released the report at a press conference here. Its vice-president Nasrin Sultana was also present.

Following the October one general election, won by the BNP-led coalition, BNP supporters reportedly attacked Hindus at many

places because of their perceived support to Awami League during the election.

Several Hindus were reportedly killed and Hindu women were raped and their houses burnt. Hundreds of Hindu families were driven off their homes, the report said.

About 150 people were killed in political violence before the election, it said.

The AI called upon the government to bring to justice the perpetrators of these attacks.

As a signatory to the International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the government is required to take steps to eliminate discrimination against women, it said.

Hindus came under attacks by members of the BNP-led alliance before the election also, since it was perceived that they would vote for Awami League.

The backlash after the elections was "systematic and severe". Most of the attacks took place in Barisal, Bhola and parts of Pirojpur, Khulna, Satkhira, Gopalganj, Bagerhat, Jessore, Comilla and Narsingdi, the report said.

But police failed to take effective measures to protect them. Though some arrests were made but most of the perpetrators were not brought to justice.

In response to a petition in November by legal aid organisation Ain-o-Shalish Kendra, the High SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

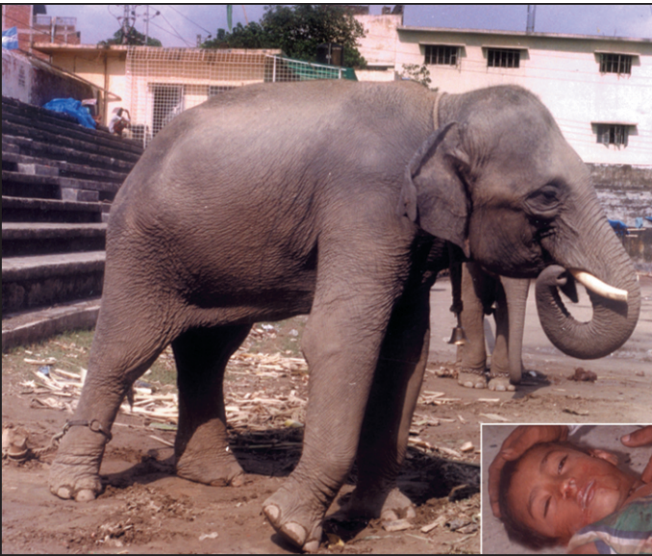


PHOTO: STAR

This elephant of a circus trampled to death Jewell, a child, (inset) yesterday at the Bangladesh Maath in Old Dhaka.

Deadly frolicking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A frolic with a circus elephant ended in death for a 10-year-old school-boy in the city yesterday.

In a sudden spurt of rage, the elephant trampled Mohammad Jewel of class five of Agamas Lane Primary School on the Bangla Math in the old city. Jewel and his friends were there to watch the elephant brought to the city by a circus party.

The elephant was quite friendly and the boys played with it, touching its trunk and legs. At about 11:30am, the animal suddenly ensnared the boy with its trunk and stamped him to death. Jewel was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, but by that time, his body had gone cold.

Sources said BNP ward commissioner Mohammad Mohan and some other local BNP leaders hired the circus party named "Seven Star" from Brahmanbari for 15 days. But the party overstayed by another fortnight.

Police picked up three circus people and detained them. They are gate man Shahabuddin, food supplier Ferdous and employee Shaheen.

Bali meet on sustainable dev

North-South rift lingers

REZAUL KARIM, from Bali, Indonesia

The two-week talks on sustainable development started off yesterday in Bali, with countries from North and South dividing over who should implement what and when.

Non-governmental organisations characterised the meeting as paying little more than lip service to the governments.

Nearly 6,000 delegates from around the world assembled in the Indonesian tourist resort, Bali, to draft an action plan, known as the chairman's statement that seeks to curb the overexploitation of natural resources.

The Bali meeting is the fourth and last round of talks prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to be held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4.

A five-member Bangladesh delegation led by Environment Secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed is

participating in the fourth meeting. The Bangladesh delegates are playing a vital role alongside G-77 countries on different issues. The state minister for environment and forest will attend a high-level segment from June 5 to 7.

Delegates must finish revising the chairman's statement on Friday ahead of talks at the ministerial level. However, some have expressed pessimism about the

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PHOTO: AFP

ARE YOU OK? Spanish ace Raul (R) inquires about strike-partner Fernando Morientes' (C) ankle during practice at Ulsan yesterday.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
May 29		6-40pm
May 30	5-5.11 am	

Prayer Timings		
May 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-42	6-47
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		