

DHAKA
TODAY

Chalachitram Award giving ceremony
The 'Chalachitram Award' giving ceremony will be held. The Chalachitram Film Society has organised the event in association with the Goethe Institut to mark the 25 years of the film 'Surya Dighal Bari'. Venue: German cultural centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

Bertrand Blier retrospective

Zahir Raihan Film society will screen two films by renowned French filmmaker Bertrand Blier. The films are 'Buffet Froid' (Cold Cuts) and 'Beau Pere' (Stepfather). Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

Condolence meeting
Bangladesh Hindu Boudhha Christian Oikya Parishad will hold a condolence meeting in memory of late Justice Debesh Bhattacharya. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen a British film titled 'Women in love'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Certificate award ceremony

The certificate award ceremony of six training courses organised by the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh will be held. Venue: IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail. Time: 4.30pm.

**DHAKA
TOMORROW**
The inaugural ceremony of the Third Science Festival and 15th general knowledge competition, organised by the Notre Dame Science Club, will be held. Venue: Notre Dame College auditorium. Time: 3.30pm.

Dissemination seminar

The Women and Children First (UK) has organised a dissemination seminar 'Baseline survey findings on perinatal health in three rural communities of Bangladesh'. Venue: Birdem auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Rotary Ramna
The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Ramna will be held, with Dr Mohammad Ahsan, a nuclear engineer, as guest speaker. He will give a talk on 'Plasma technology for Bangladesh.'



The Make Trade Fair campaign organised a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Help protect ecosystem of Sundarbans

Minister tells NGOs, environmentalists

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Forest and Environment Jafrul Islam Chowdhury yesterday called upon NGOs, environmentalists and other agencies concerned to work together with the government to protect ecosystem of the Sundarbans.

Addressing a seminar on 'Conservation of tigers in the Sundarbans, Bangladesh', he said, "Conservation of the Royal Bengal Tigers is possible through protecting the ecosystem of the Sundarbans."

Dharrtri Media and Communication Consultants Agency organised the seminar. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui and Canadian High Commissioner Robert Bedel were

present as special guests. added.

Development Communicator of Dharrtri Razia Quadir presented the keynote paper at the seminar while President of Dharrtri Shanaj Ahmed spoke.

Referring to the growing threat to life of tigers in the Sundarbans, Jafrul Islam said everybody should make effort to protect the rare species. Community-based initiatives should be taken to this end, he added.

He said the government has taken various measures to protect the Royal Bengal Tigers and the Sundarbans.

He said dependence of local people on resources of the Sundarbans for maintaining their livelihood should be stopped. Steps have been taken to create alternative jobs for local people to protect ecosystem of the Sundarbans, he

added. The state minister said numeration of tigers in the world largest mangrove is going on and their total number could be ascertained within few days.

Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui said the Sundarbans is our national property.

Car stolen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Actress Ilora Gahor's car Toyota Corolla LX Reg. No. Dhaka GA 14-1803 was stolen from Baridhara in the city on February 6.

Ilora went there to visit the 'Thai Fair' at the Thai Embassy parking the car there at around 6.30 pm.

Ilora lodged a general diary (GD) with the Gulshan thana.

Overcrowded launch escapes disaster

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An overcrowded launch plying Muladi-Dhaka route escaped a disaster on Friday night after its passengers forced its staff to anchor

the vessel at nearby terminal.

Panic-stricken passengers of Avijatri-2 asked the staff to steer the launch towards the bank of the river Meghna immediately when they found that water was leaking into the hull.

They also vandalised the double-decker launch and assaulted the staff as they refused to comply.

In the face of agitation, the staff members finally anchored the launch at Akonder Hat stop where many passengers got off.

The Dhaka-bound Avijatri-2 were carrying more than 1,000 passengers, double of its capacity, when it left Muladi station at 7.00pm on Friday.

On the way, the launch picked

up about 300 more passengers from two stops -- Khejurtala and Akonder Hat. And many of them were forced to sit in the hull.

When the launch reached mid-river, the passengers found that water was leaking into the hull and soaking into their belongings.

After most of the passengers got off the launch at Akonder Hat stop, the vessel resumed its journey towards Dhaka with about 500 passengers abroad at 2.00am and reached Dhaka safely on Saturday afternoon.

Just four days ago, two launches collided head-on on the river Meghna, leaving 12 people dead and 22 missing.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country till 6pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during early morning, said Met Office.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, it added.

Highest temperature 28.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and the lowest 7.1 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:49pm today and rises at 6:35am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town | Temperature | | Humidity in percentage | |
|-------------|-------------|------|------------------------|---------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 25.4 | 14.8 | 65 | 47 |
| Chittagong | 28.5 | 13.5 | 53 | 41 |
| Rajshahi | 24.5 | 11.5 | 75 | 57 |
| Khulna | 25.2 | 12.4 | 78 | 64 |
| Barisal | 25.6 | 12.2 | 83 | 66 |
| Sylhet | 27.4 | 12.1 | 56 | 46 |
| Cox's Bazar | 28.0 | 15.0 | 59 | 58 |



Law Minister Moudud Ahmed speaks at the ceremonial opening of new premises of the MBA Club Limited in the city recently. President of the club and Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment Mahmudur Rahman presided over the ceremony.