

DCC to build 37-storey complex with car parking facility

BSS, Dhaka

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will construct a 37-storey Car Parking-cum-Commercial Complex at Motijheel with funds from a Dubai-based company.

Belhasa-Acom Joint Venture, a Dubai-based private company, will provide the entire cost of Tk 67 crore to build the complex that includes a three-storey basement, a DCC press release said yesterday.

DCC's chief executive officer Abu Soliman Chowdhury and chief of Belhasa-Acom Obaidul Karim signed an agreement in this regard.

The complex is expected to be completed within the next three years. It will have a provision of helipad for emergency landing.

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka expressed the hope that after the completion of the construction of this complex, traffic jam would be greatly reduced in the capital city. He asked the contractor to complete the complex within the stipulated period.

"We must work with sincerity and honesty to ensure improved services for the city-dwellers," the mayor said.

National Film Award ceremony Sept 10

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to give away the national film awards at a ceremony at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium on September 10.

The Bangladesh Betar will broadcast the programme live from 5:00pm on the day, a Betar press release said.

Actor Ahmed Sharif joins JP

UNB, Dhaka

Ahmed Sharif, a leading film actor and president of the Film Artists Association, has joined the Jatiya Party.

He met the JP Chairman HM Ershad at his Baridhara office yesterday and announced his joining by offering a bouquet to the former military ruler.

Welcoming Sharif, famous for his villainous roles in the films, Ershad said the nation is passing through a critical time and all patriotic people should get united to get over the situation.

"Ahmed Sharif is not only a famous actor, he is also a conscious social organiser. The entire nation now wants a change. They want to see skilled and tested leadership in state power," said the former president.

Among others present were JP secretary general ABM Ruhul Amin Hawladar and additional secretary general Abdul Awal Mian, said a party press release.

Death anniversary

UNB, Dhaka

The first death anniversary of Azharul Haque Chowdhury, a noted social worker, will be observed today, says a press release.

He was the member of different development organisations including Swarnibhar Bangladesh, and worked for the development of the rural poor.

Swanirbhar Bangladesh has organised a daylong programmes to mark the day. These include Qurankhwani, discussion and milad mahfil.

A milad mahfil will also be held at Shantibagh mosque adjacent to his city residence after Jumma prayers on September 12.



The preliminary winners of the Shapla Kuri 2003 competition pose with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan and State Minister for Finance Shah Mohammad Abul Hossain at the certificate award ceremony at Shishu Academy yesterday. Zia Shishu Academy organised the competition.

Baghabari power plant

Gas, power sale-purchase proposal okayed

UNB, Dhaka

The government purchase committee yesterday approved in principle a gas and electricity sale-purchase proposal for Westmont's 130MW Baghabari power plant.

Following the approval, Westmont authorities expect commissioning of the peaking power plant from the third week of December this year.

Officials said the private-sector power producer's proposal was a favourable one as there is no need of government guarantee, neither any provision for mandatory payments if no purchase of electricity from the company is made.

"Since there is no mandatory provision of purchasing any mini-

mum amount of electricity from the plant, the purchase committee allowed the sale of gas to it at the same tariffs that apply to PDB," a senior official told the UNB.

The power-purchase tariffs of the Baghabari plant will also be less than the rates taken by other independent power producers (IPPs).

The Westmont offer for per unit electricity is Tk 2.79, which is lower than prices offered by other IPPs, industry sources said. The purchase rate is even lower than the price charged by another Westmont plant, which sells electricity at Tk 3.20 per unit.

"All these features encouraged the purchase committee to give the go-ahead, agreeing to sell gas at the same price as Bangladesh Power

Development Board," said the senior official.

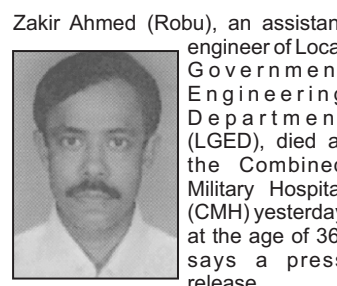
After the endorsement, Westmont management expects to press the plant into operation in the shortest possible time.

"Earlier we had a plan to begin operation within six months of the approval. Now we expect to start operation from December 17 this year," Tazul Islam Faruk of Westmont told the UNB after the approval.

The committee, meanwhile, also approved a procurement proposal for fuel oils worth Tk 414 crore.

The planned imports include 6 lakh barrels of petrol and octane, and 12.6 lakh barrels of diesel, official sources said.

Obituary



Zakir Ahmed (Robu), an assistant engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), died at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) yesterday at the age of 36, says a press release.

He was undergoing treatment at the CMH following a road accident on Bogra-Sherpur highway on July 11.

He left behind his wife and a child of seven months.

Zakir was the son of late Reaz Uddin Ahmed, the founder president of Bogra Press Club.

M Shams-ul-Haque

UNB, Dhaka

M Shams-ul-Haque, father of ASM Nurul Alam, ADAB executive committee member and president of Association of Rural Advancement in Bangladesh (ARAB), died of old-age ailments on September 3.

In a condolence message, ADAB President Dr Quazi Faruque expressed his deep shock at the death of M Shams-ul-Haque and prayed for the salvation for the departed soul.

Qulkhwani

UNB, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Rotarian Syed H Shahabuddin, an eminent social worker, will be held at his residence in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He was the only son of late Zaminder Khan Bahadur Syed Obaidullah of Faizunnessa Waqf Estate of Nawabganj, Dhaka.

Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Nurjahan Khanom

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Nurjahan Khanom, an educationist, will be held at the Working Women Hostel in the city after Asr prayers today.

Nurjahan Khanom, an ardent follower of Begum Rokeya and teacher of Sakhawat Memorial School of Calcutta in pre-partition period, died of old-age complications at Islamia Hospital here on September 5 at the age of 90.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may fall slightly during the period, Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32 degree Celsius was recorded at Sayedpur and the lowest of 24.2 degree at Dhaka.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:10pm today and rises at 5:43am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest 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	31.0	24.2	86	80
Chittagong	30.0	24.8	72	83
Rajshahi	30.4	26.4	83	82
Khulna	28.0	26.0	92	92
Barisal	27.8	25.6	90	92
Sylhet	32.5	24.7	90	93
Cox's Bazar	27.0	25.0	97	96



Sutrapur and Kotowali thana Awami League took out a procession in the city yesterday protesting power tariff hike.



Defence Secretary K M Ehsanul Haq presents a crest of the ministry to Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of Pakistan Armed Forces General Muhammad Aziz Khan during his visit to the Ministry of Defence yesterday.



The Annual Zonta III Autumn Ball, a fundraising event of Zonta Club of Dhaka III, was held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on September 4. The proceeds raised from this event will go to the Zonta III Shishu Bikash Kendra, a school for underprivileged children in Rayerbazar. Photo shows President of the club Shahnaz Ahmed handing over the raffle prize to the winners.