



PHOTO: STAR
A huge marquee was erected at Paltan Maidan in the city for the public meeting of the ruling four-party alliance which was scheduled for yesterday, but the programme has been postponed due to inclement weather

Govt, UNDP to assess police needs

BSS, Dhaka

Ministry of Home Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have jointly begun a comprehensive programme to assess police needs for improving law and order on a long-term basis.

A high-level mission comprising specialists from home and abroad has been formed in this regard, Home Ministry and UNDP sources said yesterday.

The three-member mission is carrying out the assessment, which is expected to provide the basis to make the police more effective as well as implementing strategies for better law and order.

Dr Rowan Barnsley, former director of programmes at the Australian Institute of Police has been made the team leader of the mission, while A S

M Shahjahan, former IGP, secretary and advisor to caretaker government, is the deputy team leader.

Glenn Crannage having international policing experience from Australia who is currently serving as the major police and justice sector improvement in Cambodia and Fiji, is the third member of the mission.

The mission will place specific emphasis on rule of law, access to justice and human security. The role of police will be considered in the context of broader criminal justice system, a UNDP press release said.

"Improvement of police efficiency and effectiveness is a priority of the government," Home Secretary Muhammad Omar Farooq said.

He said the government has already approved in principle a preparatory assistance project styled "Strengthening Human Security in Bangladesh" to support the mission.

A key task of the mission will be to hold widespread consultation with key stakeholders including home ministry, police force, concerned national institutions and agencies, NGOs and civil societies, community and business representatives.



PHOTO: STAR
Members of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and the Dhaka Union of Journalists march towards the Prime Minister's Office yesterday to submit a memorandum.

DHAKA TODAY

Fair
The inaugural ceremony of a four-day Thailand Grand Fair will be held with Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Udhayan Thai, Baridhara. Time: 9.00am.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'Asoka' and 'Legally Blonde'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Cultural evening
On the occasion of World Children's Day, Amra Kuri organises a cultural evening with State Minister for Jute Lutfor Rahman Khan as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5.00pm.

Discussion
On the occasion of Probarana Purnima, Bangladesh Buddhist Federation organises a discussion on the role of Buddhism in maintaining world peace. Venue: International Buddhist Monastery, Merul Badda. Time: 4.00pm.

Seminar
A seminar on the review of progress of development activities in primary and mass education sector will be held with Prof Jahanaara Begum, prime minister's advisor on primary and mass education, as chief guest. Venue: LGED Bhaban Agargaon. Time: 10.30am.

Closing ceremony
The closing ceremony of World Space Week will be held with Science and Information and Communication Technology Secretary as chief guest. Venue: Mirpur Bangla High School auditorium, Section-2. Time: 5.00pm.

Reception
Jatiyatabadi Peshajibi Parishad will hold a reception for the newly elected leaders of FBCCI with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 4.00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places till 6pm today.

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

Highest temperature 29.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and the lowest 20.8 degree Celsius at Barisal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:38pm today and rises at 5:53am tomorrow.

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	25.2	24.0	97	96
Chittagong	28.0	25.0	75	90
Rajshahi	25.0	22.8	98	100
Khulna	25.5	24.0	98	100
Barisal	25.6	20.8	--	100
Sylhet	27.5	23.8	82	94
Cox's Bazar	27.2	24.8	92	100

Sex education Pro-active role of parents, teachers underscored

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a function here yesterday emphasised pro-active role of the parents and teachers in ensuring sex education to the adolescents to save them from reproductive health-related problems.

They felt that the parents and teachers should be the best sources of appropriate information for their adolescent children rather than their friends.

Their remarks came from a dialogue titled "Adolescents, Health and Rights", organised by UN Population Fund (UNFPA) at the city's IDB Bhaban.

More than 36 adolescent boys and girls from all walks of life attended the dialogue and put forward recommendations what type of information they need and why.

Their recommendations included easy access to information, motivating parents and teachers to play pro-active in disseminating correct messages, including RH information in academic curricula, making community-based adolescent leadership and proper use of all possible channels to reach information to the adolescents.

UNFPA Assistant Representative Md Nurul Ameen, its project consultants Noor Mohammad and Mozaharur Islam Khan addressed the function.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

Former vice-president of city Awami League Hemayet Uddin Ahmed died of a cardiac arrest at Suhrawardy Hospital yesterday at the age of 70.

He was buried at Azimpur graveyard.

In a message, city AL President Mohammad Hanif and General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya condoled the death of Hemayet Uddin and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

KA Mannan
KA Mannan, a retired audit officer of Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, died of a cardiac arrest at a city hospital on Tuesday at the age of 87, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, six sons, one daughter and a number of grandchildren.

He was buried at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard.

His qulhwani will be held at his Mirpur residence after Asr prayers on Friday.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the qul.

Azizul Haque
Azizul Haque, former general manager of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), died of a cardiac arrest at the

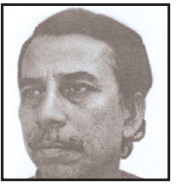
Bangladesh Medical College Hospital on Sunday at the age of 68, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, one daughter and a number of grandchildren.

He was buried at his home town in Faridpur.

A milad mahfil will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at his house at Nahar Villa, House No. 1, Road No. 10, Sector-1, Uttara.

Comrade Farhad's death anniversary today



The 16th death anniversary of former general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh and veteran politician Comrade Mohammad Farhad will be observed today, says a press release.

Leaders and workers of CPB and other organisations will place wreaths at his grave at Banani graveyard in the morning.

A milad mahfil will be held at the residence of his wife at 94/F Azimpur Colony after Asr prayers.

Party colleagues, politicians, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.

Obaidul Haq Babul
The seventh death anniversary of Obaidul Haq Babul, a freedom fighter and Awami League leader, will be observed

tomorrow, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at the Ananya Apparels Ltd. after Asr prayers today.

A doa mahfil will be held at his graveyard at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard after Juma prayers and a milad mahfil at his Uttara residence after Maghrib prayers tomorrow.

Another milad mahfil will be held at his residence in Bhola after Asr prayers tomorrow.



PHOTO: STAR
The six-point Demand Implementation Committee of the lawyers held a meeting at the Supreme Court Bar Association Hall yesterday to press for their demands.

Dengue spreading alarmingly in Delhi

BSS, New Delhi

The number of reported dengue in the city rose sharply to 568 from 377 within a day, The Times of India reported yesterday.

Authorities, said the daily, have finally woken up to the menace to order a series of 'face saving measures.'

A large number of medical practitioners at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have been dengue stricken, said The Times of India report.

The sudden increase in the number of suspected dengue cases, said a report in The Hindustan Times (HT) quoting doctors, was a cause for "worry and indicated an outbreak."

At least 15 patients with dengue symptoms were admitted by Lok Nayak Jaiprakash (LNJP) Hospital Tuesday alone, while the day before it was getting one or two patients, said the HT report.

Travel agencies observe strike in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The travel agencies in Sylhet kept their shutters down for eight hours till 2.00pm yesterday to protest the killing of Mokhlesur Rahman, a travel agent.

The businessmen hoisted black flags atop the commercial establishments and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

Mokhlesur Rahman was gunned down at his office in broad daylight on October 6.

On Tuesday, the businessmen under the banner of Sylhet Zila Baybasayee Oikya O Kalyan Parishad also observed an eight-hour strike on Tuesday.

The Sylhet district Awami League at its executive committee meeting on Tuesday night protested the killing of the elderly businessman.

Meanwhile, police released Saki and Sadi, sons of contractor Abdul Matin Chowdhury, and Liton Chandra Paul and Ali Amzad, the travel agency staff, on Tuesday night.

They had been taken into custody for interrogation following the murder on Monday.

Police have so far arrested two suspects in the murder of Mokhlesur Rahman. The two -- Mainuddin Dudu alias Lipon and travel agency manager Sudhir Devnath -- were taken on a three-day remand which ends tomorrow.

BFUJ, DUJ submit memo to PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The journalists' unions submitted a memorandum to the prime minister yesterday to press for their various demands, including immediate formation of the sixth wage board for the newspapermen.

The other demands include formulation of a national policy for newspaper industry, 60 percent dearness allowance, reinstatement of journalists of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha and reopening of ETV.

Before submitting the memorandum, the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Secretary General Akhter Ahmed Khan, DUJ President Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and General Secretary Omar Faruk spoke at the rally.

After the rally, the journalists marched towards the PM's Office in a procession to submit the memorandum, but police intercepted them twice - in front of the Engineers' Institute and near the Shishu Park.

Later, five union leaders went to the PM's Office and handed over the memorandum to PM's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury.

Power supply restored in Ctg city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Power supply was restored in Chittagong city after mending the transformer at Khulshi Grid Substation at around 5.30pm yesterday.

It took nearly 24 hours to mend the technical faults at the substation.

Due to unprecedented power outage, about 40 per cent of the entire city plunged into darkness at around 6.20pm on Tuesday.

Sources said most of the grid substations in Chittagong are running by run-down and age-old transformers resulting in frequent power outage in the port city.

Poor maintenance and lack of initiatives to modernise the substations and replace the older transformers are also responsible for this.

Sources said at least four such incidents of major power failure deriving from technical glitches occurred in past four months.

On October 4, the Shikalbaha grid substation having 60-MW capacity tripped at around 4.00pm leaving the entire south Chittagong region including Cox's Bazar and Bandarban without power for nearly four hours, sources said.

Earlier on August 22, another technical malfunction occurred at Chittagong stadium substation killing three power development board (PDB) staff afterwards.

British MPs visit UK High Commission

Two members of the UK delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference visited the immigration section of the British High Commission in Dhaka earlier this week, says a press release.

During the visit, parliamentarians Harry Cohen and Brian Jenkins saw the improvement the British High Commission has introduced over the past year to its visa issuing section.

Lawson Ross, head of the immigration section, explained to them that the number of Bangladeshi applicants for British visas has risen by 28 percent compared to the previous year, with 68 percent rise in student visa alone.

Despite the increasing number of applicants, the streamlined service at the immigration section has helped the British High Commission maintain its target, he said.

The MPs were also shown the new service for students, introduced earlier this year in association with the British Council. The E.DoCs service speeds up the processing for their UK visa applications.

The MPs also saw the Visa Express facility in action. Under the scheme, frequent travellers to the UK do not have to come to the high commission in person but can submit their applications through a courier or representative.

The British High Commission website (<http://w-ww.ukin-bangladesh.org>) contains further details on criteria that must be fulfilled to benefit from the Visa Express facility. Under normal circumstances, this facility also provides for a same day service.

Chehlum



Chehlum of Syed H Shahabuddin, founder-president of Dhaka Shahabagh Rotary Club, will be held at his village

home at Bakhtiamagar, Nawabganj, after Zohr prayers today, says a press release.

Son of late Zaminder Khan Bahadur Syed Obaidullah, he died on September 4 at the age of 71.



PHOTO: STAR
Harry Cohen MP (left) and Brian Jenkins MP (right), members of the UK delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference, visited the immigration section of the British High Commission in Dhaka recently. In the middle is Lawson Ross, head of the immigration section.