

**What's on today . . .**

**Narigrantha Prabartana:** Narigrantha Prabartana will hold a meeting to exchange views on 'Family planning method and its side-effects'. Venue: 2/8, Sir Syed Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka New City:** The weekly meeting of the Club will be held. Venue: Vintage Restaurant, Sobhanbagh, Mirpur Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka:** The weekly meeting of the Club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Ramna:** The weekly meeting of the Club will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Shahbagh:** The weekly meeting of the Club will be held. Venue: Officers' Club, Baily Road. Time: 6 pm.

**..... and tomorrow**

**USIS lecture:** American Fulbright Research Scholar Randall Kuhn will deliver a lecture on 'Rural-Urban Migration in Bangladesh: Who Moves? And Who Stays?'. Venue: USIS auditorium, House No 110, Road No 27, Banani. Time: 5 pm. Kuhn's lecture will be followed by a discussion.

**Weather**

**Day temperature may fall**

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy to heavy fall at places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country during the period, according to the Met Office.

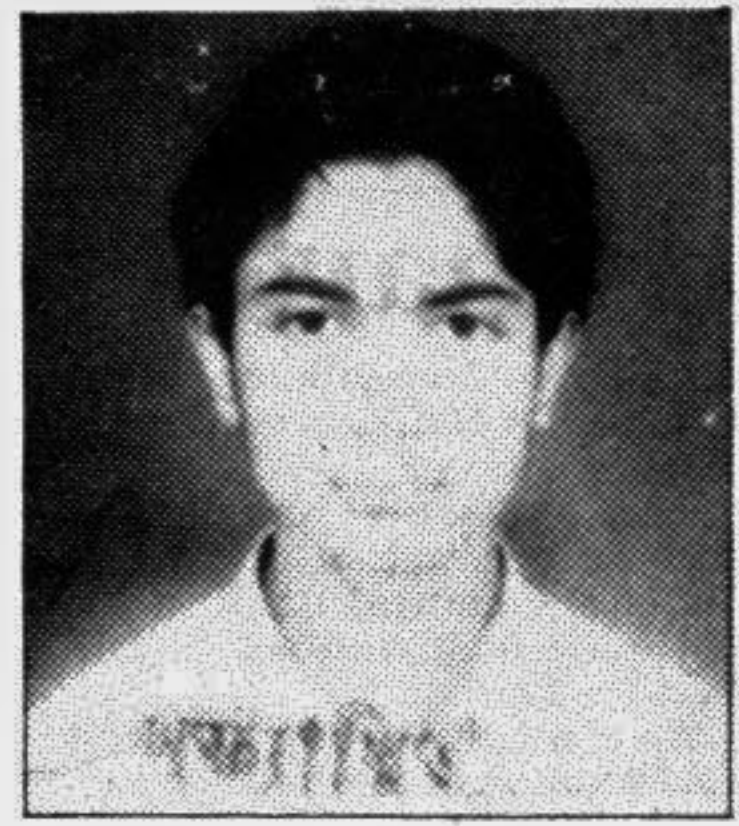
Rainfall activities may increase during the next two days, it added.

Country's highest temperature of 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and the lowest 24.8 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets today at 6:44 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:26 am.

Maximum and minimum 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	32.7	27.8	77	78
Chittagong	32.4	25.7	92	84
Khulna	34.4	28.0	80	74
Rajshahi	34.5	28.4	86	87
Barisal	31.6	26.6	86	84
Sylhet	32.0	24.8	90	82
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.5	96	95



**Attack on Osman condemned**

NARAYANGANJ, July 27: Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League today organised a massive protest rally here against the attack on Shameem Osman, MP, on Saturday night, reports BSS.

Hundreds of protesters took part in the rally and chanted slogans against BNP and its Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, accusing her party's activists of the attack. The protesters also demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the attack.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader attended the rally as the chief and special guests respectively. Former general secretary of the District Awami League Mofizul Islam presided over the function which was also addressed by Shameem Osman and Emdadul Huq Bhuiyan MPs.

Condemning the attack, Prof Abu Sayeed said Awami League believed in the politics of accountability and transparency instead of killing, coup, conspiracy and terrorism.

**Cash, valuables looted from Proshika office**

By Staff Correspondent  
A gang of armed extortionists robbed cash and valuables worth about Tk 47,000 from office of Proshika, an NGO, at Mohammadpur in the city Sunday.

This was the second such incident at the Proshika office at Sir Sayed Road within the last three months. Earlier, a gang of four youngsters robbed Tk 60,000 from the office on May 10 this year.

According to police, a gang of about nine armed men got inside the office and demanded Tk two lakh as toll at about 2:30 pm.

As the office staff refused, the attackers forcibly took the key of an almirah. They took Tk 30,000 in cash from the almirah.

The extortionists also took valuables worth about Tk 17,000 before leaving the office, police added. None, however, was arrested in this connection till filing of this report last night.

When contacted, the officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur thana told The Daily Star last night that some local youths may be involved in the incident.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia exchanging views with the editors and senior journalists of national dailies at her Minto Road official residence in the city yesterday. — Star photo

**ICPD roundtable begins in city**

By Staff Correspondent

A four-day roundtable on "partnership with civil society to implement the Programme of Action" adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) opened in the city yesterday.

The programme of action focuses on four key issues: Adolescent sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights and implementation of reproductive health programmes, women's empowerment, male involvement and human rights and population and macro-economic linkages.

Speakers at the opening session of the roundtable at a city hotel called upon governments and all partners to pledge afresh at the highest political level to achieve the objectives of the Programme of Action.

In her speech, Executive Director of UNFPA Dr Nafis Sadik said, "A key aim of this roundtable is to find ways to bring on board the widest possible range of constituencies to promote the Cairo consensus."

She said, "How can different civil society groups contribute to ICPD implementation? How can we support them in this effort? What barriers to collaboration need to be eliminated?"

Your answers to these questions over the next four days, based on your understandings, should make an worthwhile contribution to our understanding of what needs to be done to move the post-Cairo conference process forward."

Health secretary Mohammed Ali said, "Despite progress in certain areas, Bangladesh is still facing some very formidable challenges. Gender differentials in health remain a major challenge. Maternal malnutrition mortality and morbidity have remained almost unchanged for the past few years."

The roundtable, organised by UNFPA in collaboration with Bangladesh Government which

is the host, is the fourth in a series to be held on selected population and development issues as an integral part of a five-year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of ICPD that emerged at the Cairo conference in 1994.

The recommendations from the roundtable will contribute to the work of an International Forum to be held from 8-12 February 1999 in the Hague, the Netherlands.

Among other guests who were present during the opening session of the roundtable were Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, Health Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf, State Minister for Health Professor M Amanullah and Executive Director of BRAC Fazle Hasan Abed.

**Myanmar business team visits DEPZ**

The visiting Myanmar business delegation yesterday went to see some enterprises in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) at Savar, reports BSS.

The delegation also visited a number of other factories near DEPZ area.

The 30-member business and investment delegation, which arrived in the city Sunday evening, visited a pharmaceutical factory in the afternoon.

The members of the delegation will attend a symposium in the city today on bilateral economic cooperation. The symposium on "Prospects of Bangladesh-Myanmar economic cooperation," is jointly being organised by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Board of Investment.

The Myanmar delegation, before going to Chittagong on Thursday, will call on a number of ministers including Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria.

**Sylhet Medical College reopens tomorrow**

SYLHET, July 27: Classes of Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College will resume on Wednesday, reports UNB.

It was decided at a meeting of the college Academic Council on July 21. It also decided to start classes of 1st year from August 2.

Resident students will be allowed to enter the hostels from Tuesday. And the students of 1st year will be allowed to enter their dormitories from August 1.

**10 injured in Mitford Hospital clash**

By DMCH Correspondent

At least ten people were injured when a section of employee at Mitford Hospital attacked the students of Nursing Training Institute of the hospital yesterday noon.

Three wounded students were identified as Abdul Hannan, 22, ATM Sayedul Huq, 24, and Elias, 25. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The trouble began after a wall of the ladies' hostel of the institute was demolished for carrying materials to an under-construction building site.

A section of class four employees had an altercation with the students who protested demolition of the wall. At one stage, the unruly employees attacked them and started beating them, sources added.

**Killing of Rubel condemned**

The students of the North South University yesterday strongly condemned the killing of Shamim Reza Rubel, a student of the Independent University, in the police custody, reports BSS.

In a statement, they demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the death of Rubel.



Vehicles caught in a traffic jam near Kanchpur bridge yesterday. — Star photo

**Dhaka to take part in Al-Quds committee meet**

Bangladesh will participate in the 17th meeting of the Al-Quds Committee of the OIC to be held in Casablanca, Morocco on July 29, an official handout said Sunday, reports BSS.

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru leaves here tonight leading a two-member delegation to attend the meeting.

An active member of Al-Quds Committee, Bangladesh participated in almost all the meetings of the committee.

**Academic feat**

Mohammad Hedayetullah, 22, is the first Bangladeshi student who has obtained BSc Honours in Leather Technology. He got this degree both from the University of Leicester and British school of Leather Technology, Nene University College, UK in July this year, says a press release.

He is the eldest son of Halima Rahmatullah and A K M Rahmatullah MP, Managing Director of Apex Tannery Group and Director of Pioneer Insurance Company Ltd.

**Govt mobilising resources for industrial funding: Kibria**

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria yesterday said the government is mobilising resources for industrial financing, reports UNB.

The process to mobilise the fund is at final stage, he said, adding that he could give concrete ideal of the funding after a few days.

Addressing at the discussion meeting on "Economic Priorities of FY '99" organised by the Economic Reporters Forum (ERF) at the National Press Club, the Finance Minister said that the government would provide several facilities to the foreign banks if they participate in the industrial financing.

"These banks who will take part in the economic development by granting industrial financing or medium-term loans will have the facility of opening branches in the country," he said.

"Those who will only give trade financing will not be allowed to open new branches," said Kibria.

However, he said, the policy of the government was to provide long-term loans more carefully.

Referring to the situation of the Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) and the Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS), the Finance Minister said that granting of new loans by these institutions was almost closed.

He said that the government was planning to restructure the specialised banks so that they can again start financing in the industrial sector.

"How can the banks give new loans when the recovery per year was only Tk 80 to 90 crore against an investment of Tk 16 to 17 hundred crores," he said.

However, Kibria said that much progress has been made in the financial sector through reforms.

The Finance Minister said it was true that the banks are more cautious in giving loans but it was not true that banks are not providing loans.

"We are still going through the process and because of that many businessmen are dissatisfied with the government," he said.

"They are indulging in ad-

verse comment as they were denied of fresh loans with the streamlining of the lending system," Kibria added.

"They cannot be happy as they are not getting benefit of the reform process."

Talking about inflation, the Finance Minister said that he was determined to bring down the inflation rate.

"The fiscal and monetary policy of the government will be aimed at bringing down the rate at 5 per cent."

Expressing his dissatisfaction over the export growth, he said although the rate is as high as 17 per cent, "We are not happy about it."

"We think the export sector should be diversified with inventing new items," he said.

"We are going to give more stress on the agro-based export items."

Pointing to some of the press reports that the revenue income of the Financial Year '98 was low, the Finance Minister said that realisation of the revenue income was 11-12 per cent higher than that of the previous year.



Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Coordination Council brought out a procession from the central Shaheed Minar yesterday protesting the killing of Rubel. — Star photo

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Sylhet PWD Division, Sylhet

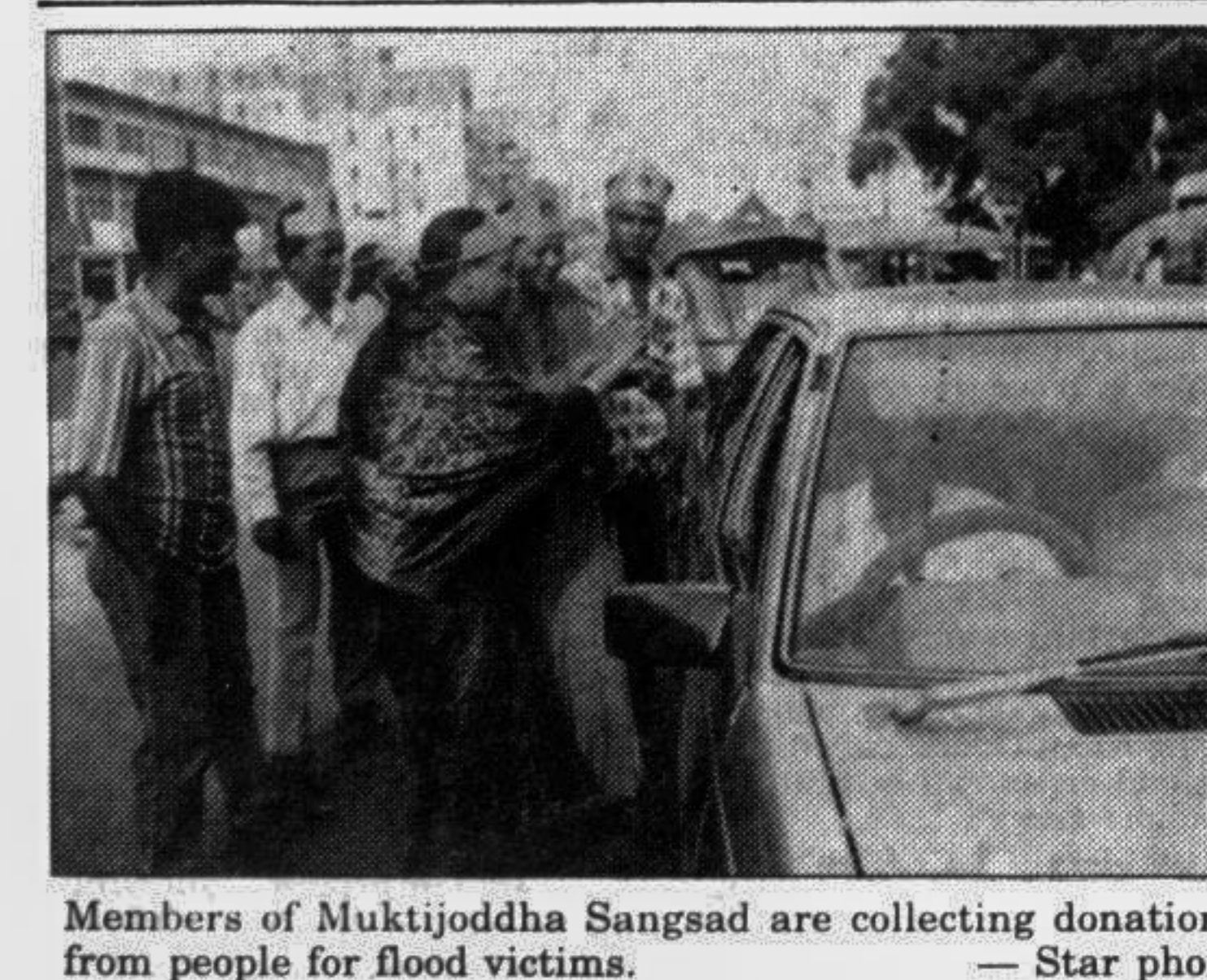
**Notice Inviting Tender**  
No E/M-3/1998-99

1. Tenders in sealed cover in the BD Form No 2911 are hereby invited from the approved and eligible (those who are registered under VAT Regulation Act, 1991. Special Class-I, Class-I & Class-II Electrical/Mechanical contractor of PWD (Special Class-I, & Class-I, holding ABC & Supervisory Licence & Class-II holding BC & Supervisory Licence, contractors under PWD). Tender will be received by the undersigned as well as the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sunamgonj/Moulvibazar/Habigonj under PWD Circle, Sylhet on 13-8-98 up to 12:00 Noon and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of the tenderers who like to remain present at the time of opening.

Name of work	Estimated cost in taka	Earnest money in taka	Time allowed
Construction of Training and Rehabilitation Centre for socially impaired women under Social Welfare Department during the year 1998-99 one at Sylhet. Sub-Head-Providing internal electrification in/c supplying & fixing of ceiling fan in the dormitory building.	4,73,936/-	9,485/-	90 (ninety) days.

2. Contract documents, consisting BD Form No 2911, schedule of items, additional terms & condition etc. can be seen & purchase from the office of the undersigned & Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sunamgonj/Moulvibazar/Habigonj under PWD Circle, Sylhet & Sub-Divisional Engineer, I/II/III/E/M of Sylhet PWD Division on payment of usual charges of Tk 425/- (Tk four hundred twenty-five) only (non refundable), per set of schedule, terms & condition & per copy of BD Form No 2911. Tender form may be purchased by the intending contractor himself or by his authorised representative on production of up-to-date renewed book of representative & other requisite papers of his eligibility with signature of the representative duly attested by the contractor on any day during the office hours up to 12-8-98.

Executive Engineer  
Sylhet PWD Division, Sylhet.



Members of Muktiyoddha Sangsad are collecting donations from people for flood victims. — Star photo

**Government of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Patuakhali

**Tender Notice**

Notice inviting tender with sealed cover on Bangladesh Form No. 2908. Tender No. PRD 02/1998-99

Gr. no.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Eligibility of contractors of RHD	Time allowed from the date of work order	Last date & time of dropping/receiving of tenders (with sealed cover)	Date and time of filing up the tenders (with sealed cover)	Date & time of opening tenders	Date & time of lottery (if applicable)	Name of offices from where the tender documents will be available.	The officers who will receive the tenders (with sealed cover)
1	Supplying of 2nd class bats, pea gravel, stone chips, local sand (EM 0.50/0.80) at different location for emergency repair of different roads & ferry ghats of Patuakhali Road Sub-Division-2 under Patuakhali Road Division the year 1998-99.	Tk. 611175/=	Tk. 12225/=	'A' to 'E' (general) category	25 days	10.8.98/26.4.1 405 up to 12.30 PM	10.8.98/26.4.1 405 at 12.45 PM	16.8.98/ 15.1405 at 11.00 AM	18.8.98/ 3.5.1405 at 12.30 PM	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division Jhalakati, Barisal/Bhola/Perojpur/Barguna/Planning Division, Dhaka the undersigned and all Sub-Divisional Engineers, RHD, Road Division, Patuakhali during office hours on all working days up to 9.8.98.	1. Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Barisal Zone, Barisal. 2. Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Barisal. 3. Superintending Engineer, RHD, Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Dhaka. 4. The Executive Engineer RHD, Road Division Barisal/Bhola/Perojpur/Barguna/Jhalakati. 5. The undersigned.
2	Supplying wire rope for use in different ferry ghat of Patuakhali Road Sub-Division-2 under Patuakhali Road Division during the year 1998-99.	229900/=	Tk. 4600/=	-do-	15 days	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-

Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Patuakhali.