

Shahabuddin, Hasina greet Austrian president, chancellor

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed felicitated Austrian President Dr Thomas Klestil on the occasion of that country's National Day, to be observed today, reports APB.

In a message on Sunday, the President expressed his best wishes for good health, happiness and long life of Dr Klestil and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Austria.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima on the occasion of Austria's National Day.

Sheikh Hasina expressed her confidence that the close and cordial relations between the two countries would further strengthen in the years to come.

She conveyed her best wishes for good health, happiness and long life of Viktor Klima as well as for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Austria.

Imposition of surcharges condemned

Krisak and Khetmajur Sangram Parishad has strongly protested the recent imposition of sur-charges on different products and services and demanded their immediate withdrawal, reports APB.

At a meeting yesterday at the central office of Khetmajur Union in Dhaka, leaders of the organisation condemned the government's policy of imposing extended tax and surcharges and said the measures would hit the flood-affected people.

They suggested that the government mobilise internal resources for post-flood rehabilitation and cut all kinds of government and non-government expenses.

The meeting also called for increasing the number of VGF cards and quantity of food-grains against each card, demanding the continuation of the relief programmes until the next Irrt-Boro season.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over a high powered review meeting on the progress of on-going World Bank and IDA funded projects at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Egyptian envoy calls on PM

Egyptian Ambassador in Dhaka Ossama Mohammed Tawfik called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

The envoy conveyed the Prime Minister the greetings of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

He praised the leadership of Sheikh Hasina in tackling the devastating flood and her deep commitment to the economic emancipation of the people of Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister also conveyed her facilitation to the Egyptian President and thanked the Egyptian government for their sympathy and help for the country's flood-affected people.

Bangladesh lauds PLO, Israel peace accord

Bangladesh yesterday expressed the hope that the peace accord signed on Friday between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel will lead to a solution of the long drawn problem in the Middle East, reports BSS.

The accord will put the stalled peace process back on track, leading to early realisation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and solution to the issues of international concern, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a reaction to the agreement signed in Washington.

While welcoming the PLO-Israel interim peace accord, the government described it as "a step forward in the Middle-East peace process". This is consistent with Bangladesh's principle position, the foreign ministry said.

Bangladesh regards any forward movement in the peace process as an important contribution to a just and comprehensive settlement of the problems.

Draft of nat'l telephone policy discussed

A meeting of parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications on Sunday underscored the need for adopting a national telephone policy in order to provide the subscribers with modern telephone facilities, reports UNB.

The meeting, held at the Sangsad Bhavan with the chairman of the committee Kamal Ahmed Majumder in the chair, elaborately discussed the draft policy prepared by the Post and Telecommunications Ministry.

Recruitment of skilled manpower to improve the standard of telephone service in the country came up for discussion in the meeting. The committee also discussed the issue related to the master roll employees of the ministry, said a press release.

Committee members Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Whip Mizanur Rahman Manu, Mohammad Shahabuddin, Begum Shegufa Yasmin, Sharif Kashruzzaman and Advocate Fazle Rabbi attended the meeting.

What's on today . . .

Discussion: A discussion on "Role of Andaman Prison and State Prisoners on the Liberation Movement Against British Colonial Rule" will be held. Organiser: Muktiyuddha Jadughar. Venue: Muktiyuddha Jadughar auditorium. Time: 5 pm.

Meeting: The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhikusha will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5:30 pm.

Meeting: The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 6 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, according to Met Office. Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong, Khulna and Jessore respectively and the lowest 21.1 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets today at 5:24 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:02 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	33.7	23.8	68	76
Chittagong	34.2	25.0	80	70
Khulna	34.5	23.8	75	71
Rajshahi	33.0	24.3	75	75
Barisal	33.4	23.0	77	78
Sylhet	33.5	32.3	74	78
Cox's Bazar	34.2	25.8	71	77

30 hurt in road accident on Dhaka-Ctg highway

MUNSHIGANJ, Oct 25: About 30 persons were injured, eleven of them seriously, in a road accident near Baluakandi under Gazaria thana today, reports BSS.

The accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound bus collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound truck at around 2 pm today on Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Baluakandi.

According to police sources, the eleven critically wounded passengers were sent to different hospitals in Dhaka immediately after the mishap. The other injured persons were given medical treatment locally.

A case has been filed with the Gazaria thana in this regard, the sources added.

BIBM seminar Wednesday

A seminar on "Restructuring of Commercial Banks in Bangladesh" will be held at the seminar room of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) at 9:30 am on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Lufar Rahman Sarkar will attend the seminar as chief guest at 9:30 am, said a press release yesterday.

Two papers will be presented in the seminar, one jointly by Dr Toufic Ahmad Choudhury and Md Liakat Hossain Moral and another by Abdul Jalil Chaudhury.

Plea to name DU hall after Colonel Taher

By Staff Correspondent

Colonel Taher Sangsad (CTS) has demanded naming of a new residential hall of Dhaka University after Colonel Taher.

Hailing the Prime Minister's announcement to try all the killings including that of Colonel Taher, CTS renewed demand for proper investigation and trial of all the political killings in the last 27 years.

CTS at a meeting with its executive committee member Afroza Haq Rina in the chair on October 17 also demanded that the documents of the Sepoy Mutiny Case be made public.

Among others, Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Dr Anowar Hossain, Mushtaque Hossain, Advocate Ruhul Quddus Babu, Architect Rezaul Karim, Azizur Rahman, Dr S M Kabir, Rokanuzzaman, Bina Sikder, Mohammad Ali and Jahangir Alam Mukul attended the meeting.

Dutch ambassador hosts reception

The Netherlands Ambassador to Bangladesh Dick C B den Haas and his spouse hosted a reception at their residence yesterday evening for the VARA-television team and Dutch NGO NOVIB representatives, reports BSS.

The TV crew and NGO team are here to film the impact of the recent flood. The film is expected to be shown in Netherlands later in the year, it was informed by the ambassador.

Diplomats, representatives of local NGOs and government officials attended the reception.

3 found dead in city

Three unidentified people were found dead, including a woman, in the city areas in the last two days, reports APB.

Ramna police recovered the body of a man, aged about, 45, from a footpath near Central Shaheed Minar at about 10.30 am yesterday and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue, DMCH sources said.

A woman, aged around 30, was found dead on the road island of Doel Chattar early yesterday morning. Police recovered the body at about 7 am and sent it to the DMCH.

On Saturday evening, police recovered the body of a youth from an abandoned house in city's Mirpur Lalkuthi.

The killers dumped the body after slaughtering the young man, wearing a black shirt and lungi. Both his hands were tied behind him.

Teak worth Tk 20 lakh seized in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Oct 25: Officials of Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division (CHTSFD) has recovered about 3,500 cubic feet of costly teak worth about Taka 20 lakh from Kaptal and Kaptal Lake area in the district yesterday conducting a ceaseless drive for about 24 hours and seized four engine-boats in these connections, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the timbers recovered were reportedly extracted illegally from the government reserved forests belonged to CHTSFD and Chittagong hill tracts north forest division and to smuggle outside the district.

Divisional forest officer of CHTSFD, Tapan Kumar Dey conducted the raids. Separate cases were lodged in connection with the recoveries.

Milupa donates 1.5 tons of baby food for diarrhoea affected children

Milupa, a German pharmaceutical and baby food company, has donated one and a half tons of special baby food for diarrhoea affected children of Bangladesh, reports APB.

The consignment worth Tk 2.5 lakh was already sent to Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund on October 21.

Responding to an appeal from Bangladesh Embassy in Bonn, the company donated baby food for the flood-hit children.

A flood relief committee headed by the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Germany was reportedly collecting donations for the Prime Minister's Fund, said a press release on Sunday.

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