

What's on today....

ASK, BLAST memorial meet: Ain O Salish Kendro and Bangladesh Legal Services Trust have organised a memorial meeting on Dr Neelan Tiruchelvan, a valiant human rights activist who was killed in a suicide bombing in Colombo on July 29. Venue: CIRDAF Centre, Chamelide House, Topkhana Road. Time: 4:30 pm.

SB College orientation programme: The orientation programme of BBA Second Batch of SB College of Business Administration will be held. Chief guest: Abdul Awal Mintoo, President, FBCCI. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Road No. 9, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm.

SSA meet: Sammitia Samajik Andolon has organised a meeting to exchange views with various socio-cultural organisations on human rights situation. Venue: Lounge of National Press Club. Time: 4:30 pm.

Awami Sechhasebak League discussion: A discussion on 'Trial of the Killing of Bangabandhu - Contemporary Politics will be held. Venue: Institute of Engineers. Time: 4 pm.

ADAB workshop: The Department of Environment (DOE) Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) and Coalition of Environmental NGOs (CEN) have jointly organised a national workshop on 'Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project.' Chief guest: Minister for Environment and Forest Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury. Venue: LGED auditorium (Level-2), LGED Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9:30 am.

..... and tomorrow

CDRB Seminar: Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh has organised a seminar on 'Initial Public Offering in the Securities Market of Bangladesh: A critical Analysis.' Key-note speaker: Dr M Mahabub-ul-Islam. Venue: WVA auditorium, Rd No: 27, (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 pm.

Film show: A fortnightly retrospective cum exhibition documenting German film maker, writer and actor Rainer Werner's life and work will begin. Organiser: Bangladesh Short Film Forum, Goethe-Institute Dhaka and Zahir Raihan Film Society. Venue: German Cultural Centre.

NU Discussion: National Professor Kabir Chowdhury will deliver a lecture on 'Bangabandhu and a 5-day book exhibition on Bangabandhu will begin at National University Library. Organiser: National University. Venue: Dormitory Bhaban, NU campus, Gazipur. Time: 11 am.

Spiritual Lecture: Vassula Ryden, an international known speaker, will speak on 'How to Live a True Life in God.' The meeting is open to all. Venue: Bottomley Home High School Ground, Farmgate. Time: 6 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

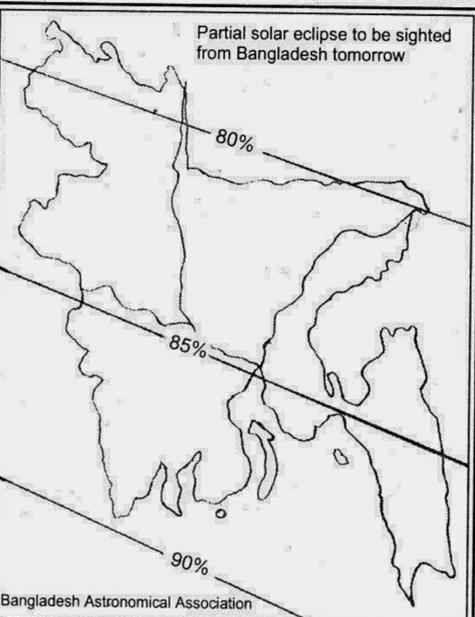
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Moderately heavy to heavy falls may occur at places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period. Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature was recorded 32.5 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and the lowest 23.6 degrees at Hatiya yesterday.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:36 pm and rises on Wednesday at 5:32 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in Percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.



Bangabandhu Fellowship at Heidelberg University. The recipient of the Bangabandhu Fellowship will be accorded suitable administrative recognition by Heidelberg University and the fellow will be able to take part effectively in teaching as well as research.

DU Anthropology deptt students threaten to boycott exams. Third year students of Anthropology Department of Dhaka University yesterday threatened to boycott their rest of the examinations if the authorities failed to hold the examinations under new sets of question paper.

Unauthorised shops and structures in and around city's Sayedabad rail-crossing area demolished by bulldozer yesterday.

Speakers at a discussion Ensure all govt facilities to indigenous people. Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday urged the government to be more conscious in ensuring the rights and various government facilities to the indigenous people of the country.

Upgradation of Haji Danesh Agri College demanded. An eight-member team of the Haji Danesh Agriculture University Implementation Committee called on Dr SA Malek, Political Adviser to the Prime Minister, at his residence Saturday, says a press release.



Movement to Save 11,000 Trees of Osmany Uddyan brought out a procession (Top) and collecting signature in support of their various demands (Above). — Star photo

Movement to Save 11,000 Trees of Osmany Uddyan holds march

The Movement to Save the 11,000 Trees of Osmany Uddyan held another march yesterday and collected mass-signatures, highlighting the demand for shifting the proposed NAM convention centre from the park to another site.

They explained to the people the need for keeping the Osmany Uddyan green as the only open space between the old and the new city.

They also urged the authorities to consider their demand for shifting the NAM convention site from the park to a suitable location in the city.

The movement is planning a march towards the Prime Minister's Office on August 23 and submit a memorandum to the premier.

Another rally is planned at the Mallabagh on Wednesday to collect mass signatures after a rally at Osmany Uddyan at 5 pm.

Death penalty

years rigorous imprisonment in such cases. Moreover, the custodian might face capital punishment if he is also found involved in raping or repression.

There is a provision in the comprehensive law for stern action also against the investigators if concerned investigation officials show any negligence or try to destroy any documents to save an accused.

However, a clause proposed earlier that investigators from other agencies would investigate a case if the law-enforcers themselves were accused of raping or perpetrating repression has been dropped from the new draft.

Those who are not directly involved in a child or woman repression could be granted bail. But for those involved directly such cases will be non-bailable.

Enactment of the law will restrict publishing pictures of victims. No newspaper can print picture of a repressed woman or child if the court doesn't permit it.

Official sources said the cabinet made some amendments to the draft law, incorporating lifting of newborns from hospitals and damaging limbs for engaging children in begging.

The cabinet also inserted a clause for catching a person who files a false case on charges. However, it has to be proved by the person or persons accused in the case and the punishment will be commensurate to the allegation of offence brought.

Official sources said the cabinet had also discussed the ongoing anti-terrorism drives across the country and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked all concerned not to show any leniency to the terrorists.

She also asked the law-enforcing agencies to destroy all the dens of the terrorists to ensure a peaceful life for commoners, the sources said.

As the issue of eviction of slum-dwellers came up for discussion, the Prime Minister instructed the concerned authorities to consider the matter also on humanitarian ground.

She asked the officials to arrange alternatives for those being evicted from the squallors in Sri Lanka. However, at the same time, she also directed them not to encourage influx of villagers and keep an eye so the slums don't become hideouts of terrorists.

Commerce Bank

The Cabinet further approved a proposal for beginning operations of 'Bangladesh Commerce Bank Ltd' rebuilding the Bangladesh Commerce and Investment Ltd (BCIL) which went bankrupt, in the interest of its depositors and in public interest.

Biotech institute

Another proposal on site selection for setting up of National Institute of Biotechnology was also endorsed. The Cabinet congratulated Prime Minister Hasina on account of a unanimous decision of a UN body, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), to bestow on her a rare honour, the 'Ceres' award.

FAO is awarding the Bangladesh leader for her outstanding contribution to the combat against hunger.

Khatungonj branch of Standard Bank opens today

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: The Khatungonj branch of Standard Bank Ltd will be opened tomorrow. This will be the first branch of Standard Bank Ltd in the port city.

Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan, Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism and Public Works Mosarrat Hossain and Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation Mohiuddin Chowdhury will attend the inaugural function.

Dr Kamal terms present politics 'sick'

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: Dr Kamal Hossain president of the Gano Forum and a renowned constitution expert, termed the country's present politics 'sick' as it is directed by violence, black-money and communalism.

He called upon the countrymen to shun this 'sick politics' and establish a 'fair politics' to bring about a change in the society and to ensure fundamental rights of the people including employment.

Dr Kamal Hossain was addressing a 'Shudhi Shamabesh' (gathering of elite people) at the local press club here this evening.

Dr Kamal said that the present 'sick politics' has snatched away peace, safety and security and rights of the people. This immoral politics had destroyed the academic atmosphere depriving the students of their rights to education and made our youths terrorists and armed cadres, he said adding this politics indulged in black-money making culture by creating opportunities for the loan defaulters and robbers of national resources.

Presided over by Gano Forum Chittagong City unit convenor M Kafi Uddin, the gathering was addressed, among others, by Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Advocate Nurul Islam, Babu Pankaj Bhattacharya.

Mystery shrouds death of worker at Dhanmondi

By Staff Correspondent Mystery shrouded the death of a worker at an under-construction building at Dhanmondi residential area yesterday.

The dead was identified as Akbar, 22, who was working as a day labourer at the under-construction building at Road No. 2 in Dhanmondi area.

Duty Officer at the Dhanmondi Thana said yesterday that Akbar committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling. Police was informed yesterday morning and they recovered the body of Akbar and sent it for autopsy at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Meanwhile, hospital sources suspected that Akbar was killed as the concerned doctors did not find any symptoms of committing suicide on the body by hanging.

Police, however, said that they were waiting for the autopsy report. An internal death case was lodged with Dhanmondi thana in this connection.

JU students

From Page 1 hooliganism; prompt steps against terrorist and repressive activities following students' allegation and formation of a proctorial cell; amendment of a special meeting of the syndicate to discuss the demands.

GSU leader Rezwana Sharmin read out a statement containing the demands at the press conference. Other GSU leaders including Shaikat Aich Mannan, Anisuddha Anjan, Ariful Haq, Afsana Ayub and Marul were present.

Meanwhile, police have been deployed in all the five male students' halls of the university.

In a statement yesterday, Jahangirnagar Sanskritik Jote expressed solidarity with the movement of GSU. It resented 'failure' of the authorities to control the situation.

Vice President of Engineering University Central Students Union Hasib Sayeed Ahmed Chowdhury, in a statement, urged the government to take effective steps to restore a congenial academic atmosphere on the JU campus.

Buriganga

From Page 1 Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka MA Mubarek said as per the 'existing water policy', responsibility of the river also lies with the WDB and the Ministry of Water Resources. When asked where would people lodge complaints about any encroachment or pollution of the river, he replied that his office would receive such complaints.

Asked why then they failed to protect the river from encroachment and pollution, the DC said it is not possible to deploy guards everywhere to check such crimes. 'We carry out evictions time to time but the pressure of population is so high that it is difficult to check.' To some extent, it is the responsibility of the people to protect the lifeline, he added.

The DC however admitted that it was not the poor but influential and rich people who were involved in encroachment and pollution. 'There must be a firm political commitment to clear the river,' he said.

'We have two conditions before going for any eviction drive. Firstly, the law must be blind and secondly, prior to eviction, we must decide what we should do on the site that has been cleared, we cannot leave the cleared spots only to be encroached again,' Mubarek went on.

The DC mentioned that his office has proposed to the higher authorities to build a 'circular road around the river and restrict the population inside the embankment'.

A top official of WDB noted that the district administration represents the government. Everything that belongs to the state has to be protected by the government. But to protect a river, the district administration is neither equipped with skilled manpower nor any other resources, he added.

FBCCI demands

From Page 1 At a meeting of the FBCCI executive committee the members publicly debated the transshipment issue. Of the 25 directors present two opposed transshipment, while the others welcomed the move.

The two directors who opposed the transshipment said that India had earlier taken various facility from Bangladesh unilaterally. They did not even remove the tariff anomaly from Bangladeshi products as per agreement, the two argued.

While speaking to journalists at the end of the meeting FBCCI President Abdul Awal Mintoo said that Bangladesh will benefit from the transshipment deal.

Regarding oppositions stand on the transshipment issue Mintoo said that the country was suffering from political unrest and that Bangladesh should not delay economic decisions for it.

He also said that Pakistan and India began bus service within six months while it took five years for Bangladesh to do the same.

'We can not keep our economy isolated while the globalisation process is going on all around us. From now on FBCCI will support every positive move and suggest whatever is good. FBCCI will not consider whether any political party supports the issue or not,' Mintoo said.

Shahabuddin

From Page 1 The Turkish President extended invitations to President Shahabuddin four times including on all three occasions when Demeril visited Bangladesh in the last three years.

Former South African President Nelson Mandela also invited the Bangladesh President twice while Iranian President Mohammad Khatami invited him once.

A foreign ministry official said that the presidential visit to Turkey will contribute to boosting the image of the country as it will attract media attention in the host country, which was the prime initiator of D-8 group and the only Muslim member of NATO.

Osman Siddique

From Page 1 Executive Officer of ITI/Travelogue Inc, a corporate travel management company he founded in 1976. Presently, ITI/Travelogue is one of the top minority-owned businesses in the metropolitan Washington D.C area and one of the largest travel management companies in US.

Siddique was named finalist for Inc magazine's Entrepreneur of the Year Award by Ernst & Young.

He has also been very active in community work. He served in several Presidential delegations, including the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism and the first Hemispheric Trade and Commerce Forum. He was a member of the National Democratic Institute's International Observer Delegation to Bangladesh during the parliamentary elections in 1996.

Siddique was born in Dhaka. He received his MBA from Indiana University in 1974. He and his wife Catherine Mary have four children. He is the son of Dr Osman Ghani, former ambassador and Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University.

Khaleda

From Page 1 tronsiation of rapists and killers. She also asked the government to immediately stop repression on officials and employees at Bangladesh Secretariat and warms of dire consequence for raiding Secretariat by dogs.

The opposition leader said the government cannot implement pay-scale and give wages to its employees and workers, but it is constructing memorial at a cost of Tk 500 crore for 'one's brother and family'.

Khaleda called upon the people to make the August 30 mass procession and September 12 sit-in demonstrations in front of Secretariat a complete success.

Presided over by city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka, it was addressed, among others, by BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Shahjahan Sarraf, Selima Rahman, Mirza Abbas, Kurshid Jahan Haq MP, Fazul Rahman Patal MP, Amanullah Aman MP, Nazimuddin Alam MP and city BNP joint convenor Abdus Salam.

DEPZ

From Page 1 tile, as there were inflammable wool and chemicals on the ground floor caught fire.

More firefighters from the headquarters, Tongi, Mohamudpur, and Mirpur stations were called out to join the combat, but by then the fire had spread to the upper floors, he said.

He also told the agency that the factory also lacked a fire safety system.

Fire Brigade sources said the cause of the fire could be detected after proper investigation, as there were no clear signs of electric short-circuit.

Senior Manager of the industrial unit M Mohsin, however, said the fire might have originated from an electric short-circuit. 'The fire could be brought under control if there had been adequate equipment at the DEPZ,' he said.