

What's on today . . .

**Scientific session:** ZH Sikder Cardiac Care and Research Centre has organised a scientific session on "Preoperative assessment and preparation of a patient for cardiac anaesthesia and surgery." Sponsors: Jayson's Pharmaceuticals. Key-note speaker: Dr AKM Shahidul Islam. Venue: Conference Hall of the centre (2nd floor), Monica Estate, Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during this period. Met office predicted.

The country's highest temperature was recorded 32.4 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 22.7 degrees at Bogra yesterday.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.33 pm and rises on Sunday at 5.34 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.4	26.0	83	92
Chittagong	30.6	24.0	100	89
Rajshahi	30.0	25.0	96	96
Khulna	30.0	24.0	93	90
Barisal	28.0	25.5	100	100
Sylhet	27.5	24.8	97	98
Cox's Bazar	29.0	24.8	92	92



Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote brought out a mourning procession in the city yesterday to mark National Mourning Day. —Star photo

Transform grief of Bangabandhu killing into strength: Sayeed

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday called upon the pro-liberation forces to move ahead transforming the grief of the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman into strength to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh, reports BSS.

"Being inspired by the ideals of the Bangabandhu, we should go forward to build 'Sonar Bangla' as envisioned by the Bangabandhu, who sacrificed his life for the well-being of the country and its people," he said.

The minister said this in his speech at a remembrance session organised to mark the 24th martyrdom of the Father of the Nation and the National Mourning Day by Bangladesh Television at its auditorium in the city yesterday afternoon.

Presided over by Director General of BTV Sayed Salahuddin Zaki, Deputy Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Sabar Hossain Chowdhury, Shaheen Monwar Huq, MP, educationist Dr. Neelima Ibrahim, Information Secretary Akmal Hossain, Director General of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) Dr. Sheikh Abdus Salam, artist Mostafa Monwar, Syed Siddique Hossain and news caster Nazim Imtiaz Uddin spoke on the occasion.

Paying glowing tribute to the memory of Bangabandhu Prof Sayeed said he (Bangabandhu) was the symbol of independence of Bangladesh. "Nobody can kill him, he will remain with us in his non-communal ideals and pro-independence spirit," he said.

He said: "The reactionary and communal forces who had killed Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975 wanted to erase the true history of the country and the memory of Bangabandhu from books and hearts of people."

"But their sinister stratagem failed miserably as the people of the country heaped disgrace and scorn on the killers," he said.

He said at the beginning of March 1971, the Pakistan administration collapsed in the then East Pakistan and it was virtually ruled by the directives of Bangabandhu.

Referring to the declaration of the country's independence, he said it is Bangabandhu who declared independence soon after the crackdown on March 25.

"So there is no confusion regarding the declaration of the country's independence," he stressed.

Professor Sayeed said a certain quarter is hatching conspiracy to undermine the achievement and greatness of the Bangabandhu in petty party interest.

"Vested groups are triggering debate regarding the Bangabandhu and his recognition as the Father of the Nation," he said, adding that, "He very much deserves the recognition as he liberated the country from the Pakistani Occupation Forces and became the Father of the Bangladeshes."

He said late President Ziaur Rahman, General Ataur Gani Osman and others recognised the Bangabandhu as the Father of the Nation.

"But unfortunately some political leaders are now putting a question mark over his title," he said.

Terming it as a deep-rooted conspiracy against the Bangabandhu and his followers, Prof Sayeed said the conspirators wanted to destroy the spirit of the country's War of Liberation in a number of ways.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury urged the BTV authorities to project the true history to the next generation to help them know the real history of Bangladesh.

"Fifty per cent of the country's total population has been after 1971, so they are not well-informed about the pre-liberation history," he said.

Discussion on transit today

By Staff Correspondent

Zia-Khaleda Research Council will organise a discussion on 'Transit and Bangladesh Perspective' today on the occasion of the 54th birthday of BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia.

Former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will attend the function to be held at Jatiya Press Club at 4 pm as chief guest, said a press release.

Rob asks employees

Make BFDC a profitable concern

CHITTAGONG, Aug 13: Fisheries and Livestock Minister ASM Abdur Rob today asked Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC) officials and employees to make the organisation a profitable concern by infusing dynamism, efficiency and far-sightedness into it, reports BSS.

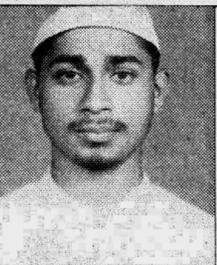
He was visiting BFDC Chittagong fish port at Ichanganor on the opposite bank of the river Karnaphuli here. BFDC chairman Shah Alam, Joint Secretary D K Chowdhury were also present.

The minister said it is not possible on the part of the government to run a losing concern for a long time by providing subsidy.

He said people should not pay for irregularities, inefficiency and corruption in the management.

Rob said enterprises like BFDC would not have turned into a losing concern if it could be run properly, efficiently and skillfully in a planned way.

Congratulations



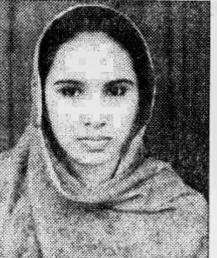
From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 13: Md Maksudur Rahman stood first class first in the combined merit list of BA examination held under National University from Chittagong Govt. City College this year.

He obtained distinction marks in English and Arabic.

Maksud also stood first in the merit list of Fazil examination held in '93 and secured 2nd position in the combined merit list of Alim examination in '91 under Madrasa Education Board. He also secured 8th place in the combined merit list of Kamil examination in '95.

Maksud is the eldest son of Sajjada Nashin of Satkania in Chittagong.



Safura Akhter, has stood first class first in combined merit list of the BCom (Pass) examination, 1998 under the National University, says a press release.

Safura, a student of Mohammadpur Women's University College wants to study MBA in future. She also secured star marks both SSC and HSC examinations.



From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 13: Monowara Begum secured first position in BSc and second position in the combined merit list of the degree examination held under the National University from Hathazari College.

Monowara, an orphan girl of a poor family, had achieved this success despite severe financial crisis and hardship.

She also secured fifth position in HSC examination in '95. Monowara and her elder sister Hasina Akter, an MBBS final year student of Dinajpur Medical College, were struggling to provide some money for their 6-member family's survival through private tuitions.

Monowara remained grateful to her teachers and Hathazari College authority for their generous help in providing educational expenses at degree level.

Monowara, daughter of late Md Yunus and Morium Khatun, hails from Dewan Nagar of Hathazari thana in Chittagong.



DUTIFUL TRAFFIC POLICE: With drizzling the whole day and less number of vehicles moving on city roads, a traffic police performing his duties with utmost sincerity yesterday. —Star photo

People of Tungipara evaluate their 'Mozibor' above politics

TUNGIPARA, Gopalganj, Aug 13: When the world eulogised him as one of the greatest leaders of the century as historical course of politics made him the founding Father of Bangladesh, people of Tungipara, his birthplace, evaluate their "Mozibor" above all politics, reports BSS.

"Not many people here are political activists, but 99.99 per cent of the population of Tungipara have kept a corner of their heart for Mozibor," said octogenarian Nurul Haq Gedu Mia, a childhood playmate of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He added "so many people I have seen in this long life, but found none of them as great or as appealing who could be compared with him."

Haq, one of the few people who took part in the burial of Bangabandhu, could never think in his childhood days that his playmate would one day become the founder of an independent nation, but had seen all the qualities of a great man in him.

"He was not born in a political family nor did he belong to the elite society. His only capital was deep love for men and the capability to win their heart at a first sight," he said, adding "this was due to blessings on him of the almighty Allah and the people as well."

After he became the national leader, he used to meet

Ahmed Ali Sheikh, 75, another early age friend of Bangabandhu, recalled that even after becoming the head of the state, he never forgot his fellow villagers and old associates due to his enduring love for them.

"He loved all with a belief that none will do harm to him. He breathed his last with this belief," he added.

Sheikh Shahabuddin, a fellow villager said, "Bangabandhu was the king without crown."

"He is great despite his humble family background, nothing more is needed to project his greatness," he said.

Shahabuddin added, "he was not born with golden spoon in his mouth, he earned his position with his inborn qualities."

Abdul Jabbar, 70, recalled his school boy Bangabandhu's speeches in the local GT School Ground, when he used to convene his rallies saying, "Ei Chhemrara Amar Katha Shono (hallo boys, listen to me)."

"Not only the spellbound school boys, elderly villagers and his teachers used to listen to him with eagerness," he said.

Ahmed Ali Sheikh was a neighbour and also Bangabandhu's contemporary in age, recalled how open hearted Bangabandhu was.

"Even after he became the national leader, he used to meet

with villagers in his usual manner. Hallo! How are you this was his type," he said.

Sheikh Ashraf Haq is the only living uncle of Bangabandhu who is related with the leader from his mother's side.

"We used to call him (Bangabandhu) by his nick name-Khoka. He was nearly 10 years junior to me," Haq said while recollecting the memories.

"From his very boyhood, Khoka was a bit restless, used to roam around the village like a 'sardar' (leader) extending his free service to all."

"I needed for his yeomen's service, he used to snatch my pocket without hesitation caring a little," a proud uncle, Haq, said recalling the childhood days of his great nephew.

Mohammad Yusuf Ali, a primary school teacher, was a young man when Bangabandhu was assassinated 24 years ago.

"I did not have much opportunity to come to a close proximity of Bangabandhu like many others. But still I can visualise his movements in the village when all people looked like liliputs around the man with a huge figure and personality," he said.

He added: "I have seen how very common men and women used to block his way during his visits to Tungipara, how affectionately he dealt with them."

Field level test of arsenic removing filter successful

KISHOREGANJ, Aug 13: The field level test of a low cost and handy arsenic removing disposable filter, developed recently to supply contamination-free safe drinking water, was found successful here today, reports BSS.

The test of the "Arsen: X Filter" was done with the water of a hand tube-well of a village of the sadar thana, which contains more than 1 and less than 5 milligram arsenic per litre, and after the test it was found 0.01 milligram or undetectable in the water.

"This new found device will be low cost affordable and cost-effective one. I believe that this is the best option considering its merit," Dr AZM Iftekhar Hossain, who carried out the test, said.

Chief of "Bangladesh Water For All" Tanzim Ahmed, son of Bangladesh's first Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed, earlier placed this sophisticated but very simple technology developed by a US company, before the LGRD Ministry for removing arsenic from drinking water of thousands of tube-wells across the country.

The ministry, which installed most of the tubewells of the country, asked Tanzim to conduct a field level test of the filter that became very successful in the laboratory tests.

Deputy Programme Manager of Emergency Arsenic Contamination Mitigation Project of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Dr AZM Iftekhar Hossain and his research associate Dr Hasina Momotaz today conducted the successful test at Vadrapara village of Mahinanda union under the Sadar thana in presence of the local UNDP officials, TNO.

The long forgotten sin!

An Islamic group says writing Rx at the beginning of a medical prescription is a serious sin for a Muslim, reports UNB.

"Babylonian physicians used to mention the word Rx in attribution to their god for treatment," says Tahj-e-Haramine Parishad, Bangladesh.

Its president Maolana Sadek Ahmed Siddiqui in a statement yesterday said all the allopathic doctors use the word, and most of them unaware of the meaning.

He called upon all physicians to write the word Bs for Bismillahur Rahmanur Rahim in prefix to a prescription and thus avoid a sin and seek divine blessing of the Almighty Allah.

Teak worth Tk 12 lakh recovered in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Aug 13: Officials of Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division (CHTSFD) has recovered about 2,500 cubic feet of costly teak worth over Taka 12 lakh from different places of the district during a fortnight till August 11, reports BSS.

The recovery of teak was made conducting continuous raids with the help of army personnel.

According to a press release of CHTSFD issued yesterday, 16 persons were rounded up and 11 trawlers were seized during number of raids conducted for the recovery of teak at different places of Kaptai Lake.

The recovered timbers were reportedly extracted illegally from different government-owned reserved forests, the press release said.



Nibedon Sangeet Biddalaya held a musical soiree on rainy season at Kachi Kancha auditorium in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Big queue for ATOL

From Page 1  
It borrowed another AN-12 from a Cambodian company recently. It still operates cargo service twice weekly or more, depending on demand.

Bismillah's effort to make sorties to the Gulf was thwarted by Indian authorities who declined to permit transports to unload cargo.

As the Best Aviation is finding it difficult to get ATOL with a leased Boeing 707, it is now approaching Bismillah for a merger, the sources said.

Another company, IPSSL, had started charter services with a AN-12, carrying shrimp fries for sometime until May. But its licence is not going to be renewed as it has failed to qualify on a number of counts, CAAB sources said.

Recently, Air Maximus, owned by ruling party MP Ashkur Rahman, applied for ATOL for regular cargo service to Europe and the Far East. It will run the service with a B-747 freighter, to be leased from a Luxembourg company.

But CAAB wants more information on its proposal as the company is eyeing Bangladesh's garments cargo to North America.

The company has written a letter to the Civil Aviation ministry, seeking an early decision on its proposal, saying that the contract would 'shy away the contracting party'.

Ashkur Rahman told The Daily Star that he is not giving pressure. He said he is hopeful of getting clearance as CAAB has already sent four of its inspectors to New York and Luxembourg.

The only trouble is about the lease agreement between the Fast Air of Luxembourg and the Tower Air of USA which operates 18 such aircraft, leased from the First Security Bank of New York, he added.

The Korean Air had been carrying mainly garments to North America from Dhaka via Ershad to again work for Islam

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said if he gets chance he would again work for the cause of Islam, reports UNB.

The former president was addressing the 'musallis' at the Baro Dayra Sharif Mosque at Azimpur after Zuma prayers.

The former president said during his tenure, he declared Friday as weekly holiday and Islam as the state religion. The Islamic education had been made compulsory and the Dakhl and Aleem were made equivalent to SSC and HSC, Ershad added.

He told the government employees present there that if Jatiya Party regains power, they would be given retirement allowance equivalent to their present salary.

Ctg to turn into a mega city: Mayor

CHITTAGONG, Aug 13: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) has undertaken a "master plan" with special emphasis on port-based infrastructural development for turning into a mega city to meet the increased needs of the next millennium.

The master plan of the city, which has the principal sea port, is aimed at developing it (city) into a focal point of all economic activities and turning it into the commercial capital of the country.

Mayor of Chittagong City Alhaj ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury told BSS yesterday in an exclusive interview coinciding the completion of his five-year tenure.

The mayor said the master plan has been designed with the basic objective of developing infrastructural facilities of the Chittagong City as its importance is growing to the overseas investors for its geo-strategic location.

Describing Chittagong as an economic lifeline of the country as it provides bulk of the national revenue, Chowdhury made a fervent appeal to all to make integrated development endeavours for implementing the master plan over a period of five to 25 years.

Dwelling on the success and failure during his five-year term, he said "As an elected mayor I am accountable to the people who voted me to office and they are the best judges to evaluate my performance."

The first elected Mayor of Chittagong, Mahiuddin Chowdhury, who took over the charge of the City Corporation on March 11, 1994 said from 1994-95 to 1998-99 fiscal years the City Corporation implemented different development projects and schemes with a cost of around Taka 257.59 crore.

"As the basic objective of my politics is doing something for the well-being of the toiling masses, my attitude towards discharging responsibility is never like a watertight compartment," the Mayor said during his long interview at his office.

Referring to his pre-election pledges about civic amenities for the city dwellers, the mayor said from the very beginning of taking charge "I have attached the highest importance to the education sector especially to the spread of female education."

"With the addition of new 15 schools by the City Corporation during my tenure, the number of the schools run by (CCC) now stands at 36 and seven secondary schools were upgraded to colleges including five for the girls," he said.

The number of Forkania Madrassah was increased to 410 from 250, six Kindergarten Schools incorporating Oxford quality educational standard

Seoul on a 50-50 partnership with Biman. But the partnership faltered following the crash of a Korean MD-11 freighter.

The vacuum created by the departure of the Koreans attracted many airlines including the Saudia, Emirates and British Airways and Aeritalia. But talks with none of those produced any result for Biman so far.

Shamsur Rahman takes over CMM of Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Aug 13: Mohammad Shamsur Rahman Khan took over as Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) of Chittagong yesterday, reports BSS.

Prior to his new assignment, Khan was secretary to Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), Court and Chittagong District Bar Association sources said.

He succeeded A K M Manirul Islam who was made OSD in the Ministry of Establishment, the sources said.

861 held on 113rd day of combing operation

A total of 861 persons were arrested and 11 illegal arms with 11 bullets and five explosives were seized during the 113rd day of the countrywide combing operation by Police, Bangladesh Rifles and Ansar yesterday, reports BSS.

The combing force arrested 342 accused from across the country including four metropolitan areas and seized the arms, ammunition and explosives. They also arrested 517 wanted accused and two listed criminals during the operation.

Of them, 101 persons including 26 warrantees were arrested from Dhaka Metropolitan area and seized two illegal weapons and six explosives, 27 including five warrantees from Chittagong Metropolitan area, 10 including two warrantees from Khulna Metropolitan area with one weapon and 13 including seven wanted accused from Rajshahi Metropolitan area.

A total of 211 persons including 152 wanted accused were arrested from Dhaka range with one illegal weapon, 162 including 112 wanted persons with one weapon and three bullets from Chittagong range, 168 persons including 115 warrantees with one weapon and six bullets from Rajshahi range, 86 persons including 54 wanted persons with two arms from Khulna range, 21 including 12 warrantees from Barisal range and 62 including 31 wanted accused from Sylhet range.

He said set up, five night shift mass education centres were opened, in addition to the establishment of another high school for the members of the Harijan community and one computer college having Internet facility during the period, the Mayor said.

Turning to various development activities in the current fiscal year the Mayor said a second diplomatic zone will be established at Jalalabad and a garment village on 1,000 acres of land at Fatehabad. He said a project for generating ten megawatt power has been undertaken at Narsirabad under private sector initiative.

A Taka 15 crore project for the Chaktai Canal, which is the sorrow of the people of Chittagong City, and a Taka 37 crore project for widening the road from Alankar Cinema to Naval Academy have also been sent to the ministry for approval, Chowdhury said.

The Mayor said carpeting work of around 20 roads were already completed by the asphalt plant, with an estimated cost of Taka 40.37 crore while a memorandum of understanding between the government of the Netherlands and the City Corporation to establish Solid Waste Management Plant at Halishahar was signed in the first week of the current month. Experts opined that the plant, to be built at a cost of around Taka one hundred crore, could be able to produce bio-gas and fertilisers.

Chowdhury said as part of "my election pledge — a ten storied press club building at a cost of Taka four crore has been completed. A culvert at Sheikh Mujib Road was constructed to remove water stagnation in the city at a cost of Taka 30 crore, he added.

The Mayor, who is also a general secretary of the Chittagong chapter of Awami League, touched almost all aspects of his performance during the last five years.

The City Corporation area has been expanded to 120 square miles from 60 square miles which now resulted in the increase of the total population of the City Corporation to seven lakh.

The Mayor, however, expressed dismay at a little success in combating terrorism and said a broad based Citizens Terrorism Resistance Committee has been constituted with him as its chairman and a permanent office was also set up for the purpose in the Press Club Bhaban.

The Mayor, who has built up strong resistance against terrorism and extortion, said as part of the anti-terrorism measures Jamal Khan ward has been designed as a pilot project in this regard.