

What's on today....

Fassbinder retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society in association with Short Film Forum will screen a movie by filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder. The film is *Berlin Alexanderplatz I*. Venue: Goethe Institut. Time: 10:00 am.

Photography exhibition: The 2nd solo photography exhibition of Shakur Majid titled "Traveller's Clicks" will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury. Speaker: Jatiya Sangsad. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 5:00 pm. The exhibition will remain open daily from 9:00 am-12:00 noon and 5:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Film show: Two French movies *An Indian in City* and *Summer Light* will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am and 4:00 pm respectively.

Launching ceremony: The launching ceremony of "Select Writings and Speeches of Syed Badrudduza" will be held. Organiser: Syed Badrudduza Charitable Trust. Venue: VIP Lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 4:45 pm.

Classical music: The Information and Cultural Wing of the High Commission of India will hold a presentation of classical music by Dr Harun-Ar-Rashid. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:30 pm.

Musical presentation: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha will begin a two-day long programme on Rabindra Sangeet as part of *Baishe Srabon* celebrations. The Sangstha's Chittagong branch members will present songs today. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 7:00 pm.

Graduation ceremony: The graduation ceremony of the 31st batch of MBA and 3rd batch of BBA of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of the Dhaka University will be held. Venue: TSC auditorium on DU campus. Time: 4:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

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Memorial lecture: Bangladesh Academy of Sciences will hold the 1st Dr MO Ghani Memorial lecture. Chief guest: President Shahabuddin Ahmed, special guest: Lt General Noor Uddin Khan psc (rtd), Minister for Science and Technology. Venue: Islamic Development Bank Bhaban auditorium. Time: 10:00 am.

BCCEMCC meeting: Bangladesh-China Cultural, Economic and Mass Communication Centre BCCEMCC will hold a discussion meeting on "Peaceful Reunification of Taiwan to Motherland." Venue: Banquet Hall of Hotel Abokash, Mohakhali. Time: 5:00 pm.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls over Chittagong and Barisal divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country during the period, said Met office.

Rainfall may increase in the subsequent two days, it added. Country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 33.3 degree Celsius at Sylhet and the lowest 24.4 degrees at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:28 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:36 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	32.2	62
Chittagong	31.2	84
Rajshahi	32.4	84
Khulna	32.6	81
Barisal	31.6	82
Sylhet	33.3	79
Cox's Bazar	30.4	86

Eviction hearing adjourned till Aug 23

The hearing of the writ petition challenging the eviction of the slum dwellers was adjourned till August 23, 1999 following shifting of the case to another bench, reports BSS.

The court directed that the injunction issued earlier by another Division Bench upon the government will remain in force till August 23, 1999.

The case came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justice K M Hasan and Justice Mohammad Abdul Quddus yesterday but the court declined to hear the same as it felt embarrassed. The matter was sent to the Chief Justice to constitute another bench.

The Chief Justice then constituted a bench comprising Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim and Justice Mohammad Ali Azgar Khan to hear the matter. The counsel of the petitioners Dr Kamal Hossain placed the contention of the petition before the newly-constituted court.

Attorney General (AG) Mahmudul Islam was advised to file the affidavit-in-opposition (reply) for the government when the matter will be taken up on Monday next.

Abdur Razzak, a former director general of Primary and Mass Education Directorate, died on Tuesday night at his Tajmahal Road, Mohammadpur, residence due to old-age ailments. He was 75, reports BSS.

He left behind two sons, four daughters, grand-children and admirers to mourn his death.

His Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Mohammadpur Jame Mosque after Zohr prayers yesterday. He was later buried at Mirpur graveyard.

His Qulkhwani will be held at 31/10 Block-D, Tajmahal Road, Mohammadpur, on August 21 after Asr prayers. Friends and relatives have been requested to attend and pray for the peace of the departed soul.

Obituary

Publication cum Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) A H M Saifuddin Ali died of a cardiac arrest at National Heart Foundation Hospital, Mirpur, at 6:05 am. He was 56, says a press release yesterday morning. He left behind his wife, mother, two brothers, three sisters, relatives and host of friends to mourn his death.

His Namaz-e-Janaza was held yesterday at 11:30 am at BIBM mosque. His body was then taken to his ancestral home at Rangpur for burial.

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Qulkhwani

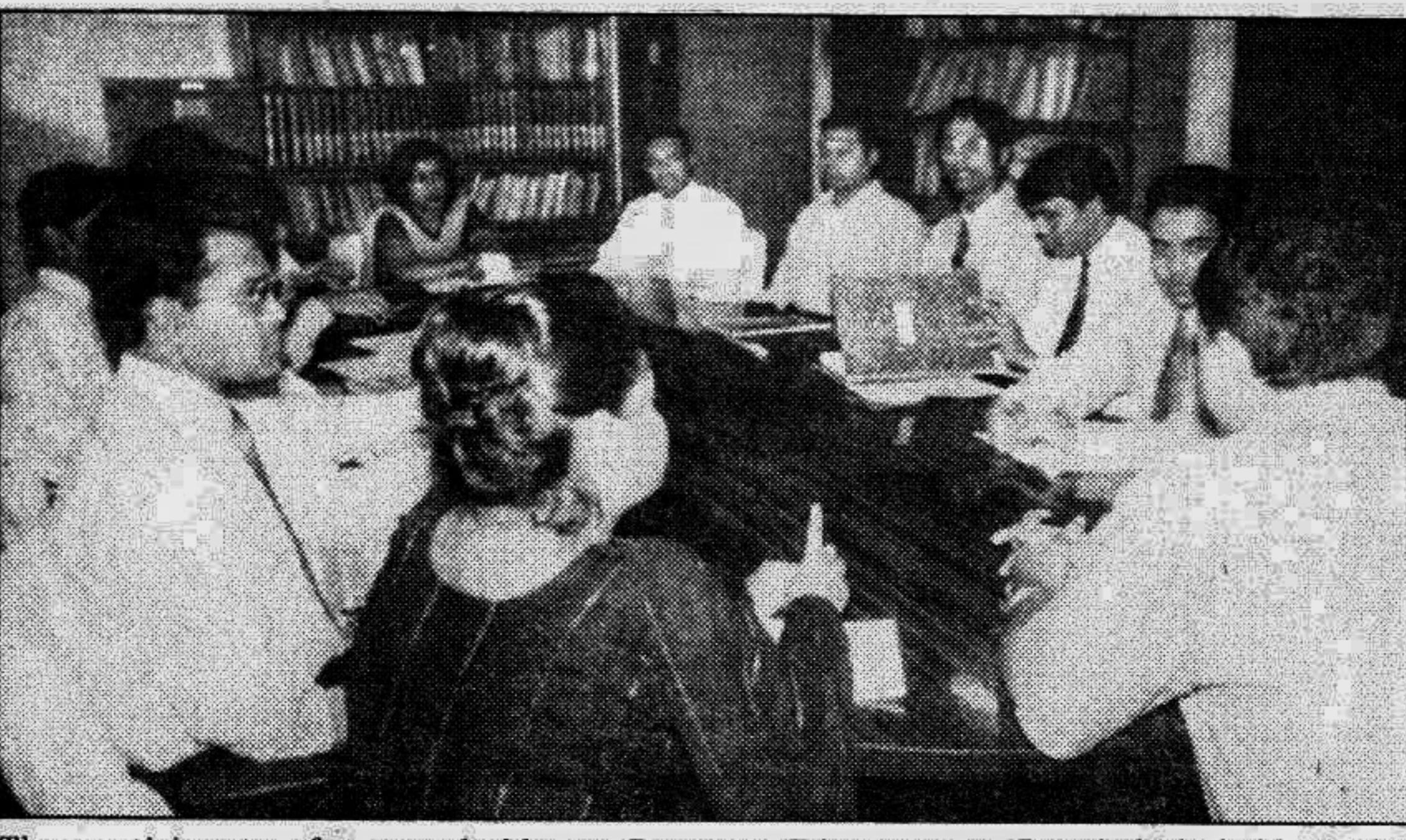
The Qulkhwani of Mukhlesur Rahman, Chairman & Managing Director of Uttara Group of Companies & Industries will be held today, after Magrib prayers at House No. 11, Road No. 8, Gulshan-1, Dhaka, says a press release.

Relatives, well-wishers, colleagues, friends and officers & staffs of Uttara Group of Companies & Industries have been requested to attend the Qulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Milad mahfil and qurankhwanai has also been arranged to mark the day.

Hamid Khan was a renowned social reformer of village Rajpara, PS Nawabganj, Dhaka and founder of M/s. Hamid Motors.

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The participants of a roundtable on Business Education in Bangladesh held at the Conference Room of The Daily Star yesterday. Story on page 12

—Star photo

3 die on Dhaka-Ctg highway

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 19: At least three people were killed and six others injured three of them critically when a truck skidded to a road side ditch on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Sanarpur area in Siddhinganj thana in the early hours today.

Police sources said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound fish-laden truck from Chittagong lost its control and fell into a road side ditch at 1:45 am.

All three died on the spot. The victim could not be identified immediately. All other injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where attending doctors stated the condition of three to be critical.

Local people from surrounding areas rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies aided by police who seized the truck. The driver, however, managed to flee.

The bodies of the dead were sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was registered with Siddhinganj thana in this connection.

JU probe

From page 12

pro-BNP JCD activists. The JCD men were protesting expulsion of their leaders.

A senior teacher and a leader of the JU Teachers' Association (JUTA) told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity that the authorities often suppress the probe body reports when it goes against its interest. "It is not a matter of justice or to unveil the truth, it is a matter of convenience," he said.

Teachers' politics, interest of the teachers in power and of the student body controlling the university determine the decision whether any report can be made public and action can be taken as per the reports, he said. Probe bodies are often formed under compulsion but the authorities "try to forget" about the committee as soon as the situation gets normal, he added.

Demonstration day

From Page 1

National Mosque.

Addressing the rally, the BNP leaders called upon the people to join the current oust-government movement and vowed to topple the "autocratic and anti-state" Awami League government soon.

Presided over by city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka, it was addressed by Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Tariqul Islam, Shahjahan Siraj and Major Gen (Retd) Z A Khan.

The BNP leaders asked government officials and employees especially police to discharge their duties neutrally and not to carry out any illegal order of the government.

Abdul Matin Chowdhury said the government is conspiring to push the administration into a state of confrontation with the people to stay in power and asked all concerned to remain alert against government's "evil" design.

Tariqul Islam said BNP while in power never obstructed the opposition parties to carry on with their political activities but the Awami League is killing hundreds of BNP leaders and activists.

Shahjahan Siraj said it has now become mandatory for all citizens of the country to build up a united resistance against the misdeeds of the AL government. "The nation will identify us as betrayers if we fail to resist the AL government," he added.

BNP leaders called upon the people to observe Sunday's countrywide hartal and join other programmes announced by the opposition.

The meeting over, BNP and its front organisations brought out a procession that ended at the central office of the party at Naya Paltan.

Nepali student stabbed

RMC foreign students fear for their safety

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 19: Panic-stricken foreign students of Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) have demanded authorities ensure their safety following stabbing of a Nepali student inside the Foreigner's Block of the college.

Some unidentified miscreants snatched away a gold-chair he was wearing and stabbed him. Another student discovered him in the toilet some two hours after stabbing. He was rushed to Rajshahi Medical Hospital (RMCH) where he was operated upon. His condition is stated to be critical.

A case was filed in this connection in Rajpara thana.

The foreign students of RMC brought out a procession in the college campus demanding their security and immediate arrest of the miscreants.

RMC principal-in-charge Prof A B Siddique and Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner Khondoker Shahab Ali met the foreign students and assured them of taking necessary measures in this regard.

Army withdrawn from Ctg Port

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 19: Army personnel deployed at Chittagong port 11 months ago under a food cell for supervising the discharge of food cargo have been withdrawn today, port and security sources said.

The food cell was set up at Chittagong port after the flood last year.

About 500 army and navy personnel were deployed at Chittagong port in two phases.

Sporadic clashes mark JP-called hartal in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 19: Sporadic clashes marked the half-day hartal in the district today. Khulna district and city units of the Jatiya Party jointly enforced the hartal protesting the murder of their party leader Abul Hossain Howlader.

Howlader was gunned down by unidentified assailants on Monday night.

At least six people were injured in clashes between the activists of Awami League and Jatiya Party during hartal hours at Palarhat, Srifalata and Naithati under Rupsha thana.

All shops, business establishments and educational institutions remained closed and vehicles were off the roads in the city and Rupsha thana headquarters during hartal.

Evicted squatters

From Page 1

slum dwellers.

The Registrar declined to elaborate further except saying that he would write a letter to the IG of Police. The Ramma thana at 9:45 p.m. said they were aware of the situation in the Supreme Court but were not moving in without receiving orders.

Earlier as the court was pondering the matter, the squatters camping under a huge rain tree adjacent to the Supreme Court Bar Association, held a noisy rally, raising slogans against eviction and demanding rehabilitation.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Lutfar Rahman, Zahida Sultana Jolly and Manman who said the squatters want resettlement with dignity and criticised both the government and the opposition for showing apathy to slum dwellers.

Earlier the squatters were asked by their leaders to wind up their occupation of the Osman Udayan as the press photographers had taken their pictures. They forced their way into the Court and also beat a driver and a guard, leaving the driver badly wounded, court sources said.

But Asma and Rasheed who were too tired and clutching their children said they do not know what would be their future. They are worrying about a tomorrow without any food or money to care for their children.

Clutching plastic sheets and their little earthly possessions, the women had been wearily looking for a suitable, dry place to bivouac for the night with their children in tow.

The prime minister was critical of the use of the term "sex-workers" and said it was not in conformity with the values of our society. "I cannot understand the movement of some women activists who demand that the prostitutes should continue this profession," she said.

"Why these activists do not come forward to give a decent life for these unfortunate women," she added.

The prime minister said her government is pledge-bound to stop women trafficking. But how shall we implement the plans if there are brothels in the country, she said, adding her country was worried about the deadly disease AIDS which is spread through prostitution.

Relatives, well-wishers, colleagues, friends and officers & staffs of Uttara Group of Companies & Industries have been requested to attend the Qulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Bapex eyes

From Page 1 blocks and offered BAPEX 20 per cent carried over interest, the highest profit offered to it in the Second Round Bidding. However, Petronas is still pursuing the proposal regarding the two blocks.

Chevron-Texaco, which had jointly proposed to develop Block 9, retaining the risk of oil and gas marketing, has also withdrawn from the bidding.

Only three companies — Shell, Unocal and Maersk — are now holding negotiations with the government. "But signing of any final agreement is still a far cry. There are many vital issues which need to be addressed first," commented a source. "The government has proposed some amendments to the model Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and the oil companies have many things to say about those amendments," he said.

In such a situation, BAPEX has formally requested the government to