

FedEx
Federal Express

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee Of Federal Express Corporation
Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

NEW DOHS

184/A, Eastern Road, Lane # 2
Mohakhali, Dhaka
Tel # 9884851, 603798

GULSHAN
OPEN 24 HOURS

Bilquis Tower
Gulshan Circle-2, Dhaka
Tel # 9883927, 887771

UTTARA

Baly Complex, Sector-3
Airport Road, Uttara, Dhaka
Tel # 894213

Ideal gift for any occasion.

Instalment facility available for purchases above Tk. 7,500

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official license of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.
Dhaka: 815307-10. Ctg.: 716353, 723578. Khulna: 720304. Bogra: 6215
Visit your nearest Philips Display Centre today

Backed by Guarantee

Let's make things better.

PHILIPS

Blender with Chopper & Mill Toaster

'Proposed NIB must have a concrete work-plan'

Star Report
National Institute of Biotechnology (NIB) must have a concrete work-plan and get its priorities set before it undertakes practical research activities, according to experts.

The government recently appointed a project director for the proposed Tk 50 crore institute to be built on 20 acres of land at Savar.

Meanwhile, the proposed NIB is going to hold a seminar on biotechnology on Monday. The seminar on "Research and Application of Biotechnology in Bangladesh" is being jointly organized by NIB and DEBTEC (Development of Biotechnology and Environmental Conservation Centre), a private organisation.

Prof MS Swaminathan, Chairman of Swaminathan Research Foundation of India and a former Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), will deliver the key-note speech at the seminar which is expected to be attended by scores of biotechnology experts from home and abroad.

Talking to the Daily Star yesterday on his arrival in Dhaka, Swaminathan, also the UNESCO Chairperson on ecotechnology, said that the proposed biotechnology institute should set priority areas for its future research activities. Besides, he emphasized opening up of avenues for young scientists to develop their research skills.

Some local experts, academics and researchers told this correspondent that there should be a national convention on biotechnology ensuring participation of both local and expatriate Bangladeshis experts.

"National Institute of Biotechnology should be a specialized one and that's why we want the government to ensure services of all talented people for the research work to be carried out by this institute," said an expert, who teaches biotechnology at a university in Dhaka.

Another expert observed that there should be a process for problem identification for taking up priority research projects. "We are already miserably lagging behind in the prospective field of biotechnology that promises bright future for mankind in the third millennium. Even our next door neighbours, India and Pakistan, have been in biotechnology research for over a decade".

After the Executive Council for National Economic Committee (ECNEC) approved establishment of NIB in May last, the government appointed Prof Naim Chowdhury, a director of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission as project director. But, no other staff has been employed till today, said sources.

Dacoity at jewellery shops in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Aug 21: Armed dacoits looted three jewellery shops at Amirhat under Razzan thana last night, police said.

The dacoits looted 181 tolas of gold ornaments worth about Tk 12 lakh and Tk 80,000 in cash, police added.

A group of armed dacoits stormed into three jewellery shops at Amirhat at midnight and looted the ornaments and the money.

Local people, protesting the dacoity, put up a barricade on the Chittagong-Kaptai road at Amirhat point from 9 am to 12 noon, police and witnesses said.

Traffic movement was disrupted for three hours and barricades were withdrawn after police officials assured the agitators of arresting the dacoits.

4 dacoits held in Chittagong

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Aug 21: Four dacoits were arrested from an under-construction building after a gunfight with police in Cement Crossing area under Bandar thana here early this morning, police said.

The dacoits were rounded up by the detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police while they were preparing to commit a dacoity. They were identified as Habibur Rahman alias Kaliaiya, 28, Kanon Kanti Das, 25, Abdulal Al Mamun, 20, and Enamul Haq, 25.

Police recovered a rifle, a gun and 20 bullets from their possession. The ring leader, Kaliaiya, is wanted in 15 criminal cases, police said.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4; Daily: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No. 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailynews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net



City BNP chief Sadek Hossain Khoka leads a party procession yesterday to campaign for the opposition-called dawn to dusk hartal today. —Star photo

Rich tribute to Dr MO Ghani
Scientists urged to undertake integrated gene management

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday paid rich tribute to eminent scientist and educationist Dr MO Ghani and called upon the new generation to be imbued with his vision and spirit building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at the first Dr M O Ghani memorial lecture at IDB Bhaban in the city the President said a versatile genius, Dr Ghani was a patriot and philanthropist who selflessly gave his best for the wellbeing of society till the last day of his life.

Agricultural scientist of India's green revolution, Dr Swaminathan delivered the first ever MO Ghani Memorial Lecture on the occasion.

Presided over by the President of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Prof Kamaluddin Ahmed, the function was addressed by Science and Technology Affairs Minister Lt Gen (Retd) M Nooruddin Khan as special guest, former vice-chancellor of Open University Dr Shamsher Ali, and President of Dr MO Ghani Memorial Trust, Dr M O Faruque.

Recalling his personal association with the great scientist, Shahabuddin said Dr Ghani realised the importance of agriculture and brought about revolutionary changes in the sector. Dr Ghani pioneered the use of chemical fertilizers, mechanisation of agriculture and pump irrigation. He suggested setting up Agricultural Univer-

sity in the then East Pakistan and was appointed founder vice chancellor of that university, the President said.

Shahabuddin recalled that as president of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences for long 12 years and as a member of the National Science and Technology Committee of Bangladesh, Dr Ghani emphasised the role of Science and Technology in national development.

Dr Swaminathan called upon the scientists to reach the fruits of their research work to the people to help them meet their basic needs.

He identified food and pure drinking water as the basic needs of the hour and advised the scientists to undertake integrated gene management for sustainable development in the country as well as for the preservation of the traditional varieties of paddy and other crops.

Swaminathan recalled how the great famine of 1942 in the then undivided Bengal had inspired Dr Ghani and himself to take up research activities for the development of agriculture and to bring about the coveted 'green revolution'.

Recalling his personal and academic association with Dr Ghani, Dr Swaminathan said he was an outstanding scientist and 'Encyclopaedia of knowledge'.

He urged all concerned to put in concerted efforts for making the new millennium a 'millennium of hope and prosperity'.

Hartal today

From page 1
The four parties and some smaller ones brought out torch processions and held rallies in the capital yesterday evening to drum up public support for the hartal.

BNP brought out torch processions from 11 points in the city. The party's main torch procession was from its city unit office, at Nawab Yusuf Market and the others were from New Market, Motijheel, Mahakhali, Mirpur, Pallabi, Kafur, Mohammadpur, Tejgaon, Uttara and Shyampur areas.

Jatiya Party brought out a torch procession from Muktangan following a rally there. Jamaat and IOJ held rallies and brought out 'demonstration processions' separately. The Jamaat rally was held at Purana Palton crossing and that of IOJ near Purana Palton Mosque.

Besides, Jajga, Progressive Nationalist Party, Democratic League and Nationalist Democratic Alliance brought out separate torch processions in the city in support of today's hartal.

Addressing the rallies yesterday, leaders of the parties called upon the people to observe the hartal 'spontaneously' and build up strong resistance against the Awami League government's 'misdeeds'. The hartal will be observed peacefully, they said and asked the law enforcing agencies to discharge their duties neutrally.

Hospitals, newspaper offices, food and medicine shops, vehicles carrying newsmen and water-electricity-gas supply offices will not come under the purview of hartal.

Sources said more than 5,000 riot police, battalion police and paramilitary BDR personnel will be deployed at various strategic points and important establishments in the city today.

Human chains at Thakurgaon

From Our Correspondent
THAKURGAON, Aug 21: About 5000 people today formed human chains on different roads in the town demanding establishment of Bagabandhu Science and Technology University at Thakurgaon and union of Dinajpur, Haji Md Danesh Agriculture College to a university.

Leaders and workers of different political parties, including AL and BNP, activists of different socio-cultural organisations, members of Bar council, chairman and commissioners of pourasava, members and chairman of union parishads, members of the trade unions and students and teachers of different schools and colleges joined the programme from 11 am to 12 noon.

Earlier, the varsity implementation committee held a rally in the town which was addressed, among others, by Alhaj Fazlul Karim, Advisor of the committee, Advocate FA Mohammad Hossain and principal Syed Merajul Hossain.

Assam

From page 1
The Welfare officer Subir Deb Roy, and the contractor Prabakar Singh.

In another incident, a group of Bodo militants kidnapped three executives from Fatima tea estate in Barpeta district. The heavily armed militants entered the tea estate last night and kidnapped the executives at gunpoint.

The executives kidnapped are the managers, Bimal Das, Deputy Manager, Nabajyoti Phukan, and Assistant Manager, Priyankar Pujari.

Experts predict another big quake: Istanbul at risk

WASHINGTON, Aug 21: Turkey's massive earthquake this week could be followed by another one just as big, judging from the way the dangerous North Anatolian fault that caused it has behaved this century, US quake experts said, reports Reuters.

More than almost any other geological fault of its kind in the world, the North Anatolian fault line has a way of producing regular series of deadly quakes, they said.

And Tuesday's quake, which killed more than 12,000 people with 35,000 people still missing, could have added to stresses along the fault line.

"This fault is unparalleled in the spectacular nature of its progressive rupture," said Ross Stein, an expert on quakes in the Turkish region at the US Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California.

"It has this regular progressive character... whereas most sites seem to be more random and complex."

Stein described the quakes along the fault as coming in a pattern like falling dominoes. He said 10 quakes with a magnitude of more than 6.7 had been registered along the fault between 1939 and 1992, "providing an unsurpassed opportunity to study how one large shock sets up the next."

Even more frighteningly, the next quake could well strike further to the west — nearer Istanbul, a city of 12 million people that was hit hard in the quake.

"Istanbul is at risk. That's true," Stein said.

The ancient city, which straddles the Strait of Bosphorus that divides the European continent from Asia, lies about 40 km north of where the North Anatolian fault runs.

A report from Istanbul adds: Frightened Turks spent another night under the stars in fear that their homes might not stand up to earthquake aftershocks and Ankara rejected claims it reacted too slowly to this week's catastrophic tremor.

As the death toll climbed stood at 10,204 at 0400 GMT today, and a "horrendous" number were still buried under tonnes of rubble, Turks across the devastated industrial northwest of the country slept anywhere but under bricks and mortar on Friday night.

A Red Cross official said "thousands upon thousands" slept outside rather than under their own roofs in the devastated cities of Izmit and Gokcek. "There were a couple of small tremors, they're not sleeping in their homes again," the official told Reuters in Istanbul.

AP adds: With hope for finding survivors in the rubble all but extinguished, rescue workers fearing the spread of disease began setting up tent cities, hooking up portable toilets and organizing food distribution today for the tens of thousands left homeless by the quake.

Crews, working in the summer heat amid the stench of decaying corpses and rotting garbage, tackled mountains of rubble where possibly tens of thousands of bodies lie buried.

Officials worried about outbreaks of typhoid fever, cholera or dysentery sprayed disinfectants and distributed water purification tablets in hard-hit areas.

In Adapazari province alone, home to 360,000 people, some 70,000 homes have been demolished or rendered uninhabitable by Tuesday's quake, the governor, Yener Rakicioglu, said.

With most of the population sleeping in the streets, authorities have begun setting up tent cities, he said.

Tallies coming in from other areas were staggering as well: 1,815 homes destroyed or uninhabitable on the edges of Istanbul; 1,143 in the resort area of Yalova; 752 in Bolu; about 500 in and around Izmit.

Divide country into 5 provinces, demands Ershad

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad yesterday urged the people to pull down the government from power through movement and save the country, reports UNB.

"This government is ruining the country. Giving more time to this government will be disastrous for the country," he told a public meeting at Mirpur in the city yesterday afternoon.

The sooner this government is ousted, the better for the country," he added while referring to the various "anti-state" agreements signed with India. He also termed CHT accord as contrary to national interest.

The former president said the only way out to save this country of 12 crore is to divide the country into five to six provinces for better administration.

The meeting at Upashahar Government Primary School ground was presided over by Jahangir Alam Pathan, Convener of Mirpur Thana JP unit. It was addressed by JP leaders Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Kazi Feroz Rashid, Saifur Rahman, Adv Naitai Roy Chowdhury and Abu Hossain Babla.

The meeting was followed by a torch procession in support of today's hartal.

Referring to the cabinet decision to allow 'corridor' to India, Ershad called upon the government to withdraw it and place the issue in parliament for discussion. Otherwise, he said, his party will boycott parliament.

In fact, he said, the government is out to allow India to use Bangladesh as corridor. He said India wants corridor to ferry its goods because different groups fighting for independence in different Indian states are hindering smooth transportation of goods.

The country's independence and sovereignty will be at stake if corridor is provided to India, he said, adding all the industries will be closed down as India will not pay any VAT or tax for marketing its goods in Bangladesh.

Inaction, anarchy

From page 1
be updated and made effective to suit the needs of time and boundary walls should be erected around the campus," he suggested.

About reported involvement of teachers in manipulation of tenders, Prof Bayes said he came across allegations that students, teachers and university officials were involved in such things. "Such allegations demand investigation," he said.

The Pro-VC denied that he has rivalry with Vice-chancellor Alauddin Ahmed.

He denied an allegation that he supports the "rapist group" of Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League and had given them green signal to return to the campus.

"If any Pro-VC intends to do something like that, he has to have control over the Proctor, provosts and also police. But none of the 'P's is under the direct control of the Pro-VC. So how can a Pro-VC provide a safe landing to outsiders and their stay?" Prof Bayes said. "It's a malicious campaign to tarnish my image".

He said the recent incidents of capture and recapture of halls by rival factions of BCL might have taken place because of tender. But he denied the contention that it was a fall-out of the recent Senate election of the university.

Prof Bayes refused to reply a question why police are not arresting the chargesheeted accused of murder case though they are staying at the university halls. "Police on the campus are not under my control," he said.

The Pro-VC feels that anti-liberation forces at the university do not have that much strength to create any turmoil like the recent one.

Stability a must for development, says Anwar

KOWKHALI, Pirojpur, Aug 21: Communications Minister Anwar Hossain has said that socio-political stability is a must for boosting the pace of national development, reports BSS.

The Minister was unveiling foundation stone of Kowkhali Thana Bhaban yesterday.

Referring to massive infrastructure development programme of the government, the Minister said the construction work of Dhaka-Maowa-Bhatiapara-Khulna-Mongla highway is underway to facilitate development process in the South-Western region.

Hossain said we are encountering different types of social problems and it is not possible to resolve all those issues within a given timeframe.

Transport strike in Rajshahi divn till 6 am on Wednesday

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, Aug 21: The on-going transport strike in all 16 districts of Rajshahi Division will continue till 6 am on Wednesday.

It was decided at a meeting of North Bengal Transport Sramik Federation at Rangpur bus terminal today.

The meeting demanded immediate arrest of the killers of Akram Ali and transfer of the murder case to CID.

Akram Ali, a leader of Rangpur Motor Sramik Union was murdered on Sunday at a Dhaka coach counter at GL Roy Road in the town.

Addressing the meeting, the leaders of the Transport Sramik Federation urged the authorities concerned to meet their demands by August 25, otherwise they would call an indefinite transport strike in the northern region.

Buriganga

From page 1
survey at all.

"We have conducted technical studies on the river pollution and encroachment and submitted our reports to the government along with recommendations, but none has ever seen implementation of any of the recommendations," a source at the Department of Environment said.

The DOE source said successive governments conducted expensive technical studies on Hazaribagh tanneries with foreign assistance. All these reports have now been shelved to launch another survey to set up a Tk 3.66 crore Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) with assistance from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

The idea is to recover and commercially use chromium that has been discharged into the river for nearly forty years. According to reports, the project is now progressing at a snail's pace due to bureaucratic tangle.

A study conducted by the Surface Water Modeling Centre (SWMC) says that pollution level is so high that oxygen is almost non-existent in Buriganga water. No aquatic creature can survive in such water. Even as source of recreational, fishing and irrigation water, the river does not satisfy the Environmental Quality Standards (EQS), the report compiled by SWMC specialists Mir Mostafa Kamal and Fazle Rabbi said.

Engineers, planners and environmentalists suggest that all the major pollution sources such as Hazaribagh tanneries, Dholaikhal and Tejgaon Industrial Area, should be capped with some sort of pollutant retention points on an urgent basis. A centralised effluent treatment plant can be installed in future when the government can afford, they suggested.

DOE stresses the urgent need for increasing the capacity of Pagla sewage treatment plant which is covering less than 30 percent of the city's total sewage.

Dredging of the river bed is also essential as it would not only remove the huge deposit of solid waste from the river bed but also make the illegal structures along the river vulnerable. Dredging will be 'very effective' in discouraging encroachment on the river, experts said.

The Water Development Board (WDB), the DOE and Rajuk agree that a circular road along the river could deter both pollution and encroachment.

Discussion on transshipment

From page 1
stipulated time but, he said, the BNP at a later stage signed a fresh bilateral trade agreement in 1980 where both the countries agreed on transit.

He said that the BNP government renewed the agreement in 1992 and 1995. The minister also said that the 1980 agreement by BNP is being mentioned because of opposition by the BNP to the latest move.

Regarding the Opposition's statement that India could not be trusted, Toifail said: "If so then the Opposition should not have signed any treaty with India at all."

About poor infrastructure, the minister said that government will not go for any deal without getting the opinion of experts on economic benefits, infrastructure facilities and other relevant issues.

Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Abdul Awal Minto, criticising Saifur's remark that agreements were not honoured, said that it was surprising to know that agreements were signed but their sanctity was not maintained.

"If the agreements are signed not for implementation then why go for signing these agreements," Minto asked.

Minto also said that the region had 20 per cent of the total population of the world with only less than three per cent trade among themselves whereas it was many times more in cases of ASEAN and

European Union.

Commerce Secretary Alamgir Farouk Chowdhury said that the government did not approve any transit and that only approval was given in principle to discuss the issue.

"If scope for discussion was not given then the viability or the economic benefits could not be assessed," Chowdhury said.

State minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury said that both Bhutan and Nepal were sovereign states and that they could negotiate for themselves and that Bangladesh had no reason to negotiate on their behalf.

Hafizuddin Ahmed, a BNP MP, said that the government should address the issue on a priority basis.

Raising questions about MIG purchase, he said that the government should try to solve the power problem first.

He said that transshipment was not a priority and that it was a need of India for defence purposes and that Bangladesh should not get involved in any such controversy.

He also called for getting approval of two-thirds majority in parliament before going for signing such agreements.

Brigadier (Retired) Hafiz opposing the transshipment said that the country failed to recover crores of taka stuck up with a few defaulters while it was hoping to earn Tk 2000 crore per year through the deal.

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud spoke on the timing of the transshipment issue. The is-

sue will widen the gap between the government and opposition, he said.

He also said that if the government has to take any critical decision at the end of its tenure then it should not pick up politically contentious issue. It should rather try to solve politically acceptable problems like the port problem, terrorism and illegal toll collection in port areas, he said.

President of International Chamber of Commerce Mahabubur Rahman said that newspapers gave rise to controversy as it reported that the government had agreed to give transit.

He said that politics or economy could not progress without having discussion and there should not be problems in talking about the issue.

President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) H H Rahman said that it would have been better if the issue was raised after the expert committee had given its opinion.

He said that everybody was guessing wildly and criticising. "There would not have been any guess work had the government taken the view of experts and proceeded."

He said that Bangladesh could go ahead with the treaty if it was economically advantageous for Bangladesh and that it was also important for Bangladesh to enter the Indian market, with a population of more than 100 crore.



Evicted slum-dwellers have occupied the sidewalk in front of Dr Kamal Hossain's house at Bailey Road with hastily-built makeshift shelters. —Star photo