

What's on today....

YEP seminar: The Young Entrepreneurs and Professionals (YEP) Forum will hold a seminar on "Employer-Employee Expectations in the New Millennium" in association with The Daily Star. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 5:30 pm.

PIB seminar: A seminar on "Freedom of the Press in Bangladesh" will be held. Chief guest: Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Information. Venue: PIB.

Tagore songs: Artists of Geetanjali will present Tagore songs based on love and nature. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre. Time: 7:15 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi division, many places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions during the period. Met office predicted.

Day temperature may also fall by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country during the period.

Country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 33.8 degree Celsius at Khulna and the lowest 25.0 degrees at Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:23 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38 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	32.2	27.6	79	86
Chittagong	32.3	26.5	72	83
Rajshahi	30.5	25.0	95	93
Khulna	33.8	26.6	84	80
Barisal	32.6	25.4	86	86
Sylhet	28.2	26.2	93	93

PM tells delegation

Factual information on Liberation War essential

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stressed on collection of factual information on the freedom struggle to inspire the new generation with the spirit of Liberation War, reports UNB.

"It is the duty of all citizens to project the true history of the Liberation War, to project it to the new generation," she told a four-member delegation of Liberation War Museum yesterday.

The delegation called on the Prime Minister at her office to apprise her about Mirpur Muslim Bazar mass grave unearthed recently near a mosque.

The Prime Minister said many of the new generation do not know the real history of the Liberation War. "They will be lacking the values and spirit of

Liberation War if they do not know the true facts of it".

Hasina said the government has taken up programme to preserve the symbols and memoirs of the Liberation War, including mass graves and slaughtering places.

She said freedom fighters endure hard struggles during the Liberation War that should be informed to the new generation.

The Prime Minister called upon the people concerned to work with sincerity and dedication in fulfilling the task.

The delegation included Akku Chowdhury, Ali Zaker, Asaduzzaman Noor and Dr Sarwar.

HC issues contempt rule on Home Secy

By SC Correspondent

The High Court Division yesterday directed Saifur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and five police officers to show cause as to why they should not be prosecuted for committing contempt of the Supreme Court and punished in accordance with law for frustrating the judgement and order dated October 28, 1992 passed in writ petition No-101 of 1990.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Kazi Ebadul Hoque and Justice Md Mojamel Hossain also directed the contempters to appear before the court in person on October 27 at 10:30 am.

One Bakht Bibi, a stateless woman origin of Afghanistan as petitioner filed the contempt petition against Saifur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, SM Ataur Rahman, ASP, DSB, Md Azizur Rahman, Inspector, DIO-1, DSB, Kalam, Inspector, DB, Mahiuddin Salim, Inspector, DB and Ruhul Amin, ASP of Chittagong Police as contempters.

The court also directed them not to arrest Bakht Bibi till disposal of the rule.

It was alleged in the petition that in spite of the judgement and order passed by the Supreme Court and release of the property by the Ministry of Works from the list of abandoned buildings and direction to deliver the vacant possession of the property to the petitioner the contempters did not do so, rather they arrested the son of the petitioner to harass him so that the petitioner does not proceed with the cases.

Advocate M I Farooqui with Advocate M Salimullah and Ruhul Qudus Babu moved for the petition.

DU to observe Nazrul's death anniversary tomorrow

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities have drawn up an elaborate programme to mark the 23rd death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam tomorrow, says a press release.

The programmes include a *qualkhuani* at the DU central mosque after Fajr prayers, a parade towards mazar of the poet following a procession led by Vice Chancellor in the morning, placing of floral wreath and offering *fateha* at the mazar and a discussion meeting at the mazar premises.



Angela Gomez, who won the Magsaysay Award recently, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

Two killed in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two people were killed in separate incidents in the city on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The deceased were identified as Ismail Hossain, 45, a residence of Dhanmondi area while the identity of the young girl aged about 18, could not be known immediately.

According to police and hospital sources the body of the young woman was recovered from near WASA pond in Sutrapur on Tuesday afternoon. The body of the woman bore several injuries marks.

None had claimed the body till late yesterday night.

In another incident the body of Ismail Hossain was found at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday morning.

Police quoting the FIR lodged by Jaheda Banu, wife of the victim, said that her husband went out of the house at about 3 pm on Tuesday and he did not come back to his Dhanmondi house.

One Abdur Rauf called her yesterday morning and informed her that her husband was at the DMCH. She rushed to the DMCH and found him dead. Dhanmondi police said that they are waiting for the post mortem reports.

Separate cases were lodged with concerned police stations in connection with the incidents.

President urges historians to present complete history to common people

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed held obliqueness about history partly responsible for the country's present state of socioeconomic and political degeneration, reports UNB.

The President called for the historians to present objective and complete national history to common people.

He said the present generation was confounded for a lack of knowledge and awareness about history.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was speaking at a function of 'Local History Writing Project and Publication Ceremony' organised by the Bangladesh Itihas Samity at a local hotel yesterday afternoon.

Inaugurating the local history writing project, a venture of the samity, the President said the basis of the national history writing would be weak

without the elaborate information of local or regional history.

"It is our responsibility to awaken the younger generation with the values of independence and also to bring them to the path of light from all-pervasive darkness of confusions."

Launching the publication of its project of the local history writing on 'Sylhet: History and Heritage', Justice Shahabuddin said Sylhet has its own culture and heritage. Sylhet, he said, has taken its own place in the history with the arrival of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R) and spread of Islam. World-famous historian Ibn Battuta of Morocco visited Sylhet 650 years ago and his meeting with Hazrat Shah Jalal was also part of history of the area.

Referring to Sylhet's contribution to the national economy, he said Sylhet played a great role in the Liberation War and called upon the historians to take note of everything while writing local history.

The function was presided over by Prof Sirajul Islam, President of the Samity, while Prof K M Mohsin, President of the project, noted historian Prof AFM Salauddin Ahmed and Sharif Uddin Ahmed, General Secretary of the Samity, also spoke.

Pak envoy calls on JS Speaker

Newly appointed Pakistan High Commissioner Iqbal Ahmed Khan called on Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury at his Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday, reports BSS.



Against the backdrop of increasing business between Bangladesh and Singapore, a formal businessmen forum of the two countries will emerge soon. To this end, a formation meeting was convened by Enayetullah Khan, Managing Director of the Cosmos Group, at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday which was attended by Latifur Rahman, Chairman of the Transcom Group, Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, Chairman of the Rangis Group, Manzurul Islam, Chairman, Islam Group, Tapan Chowdhury, Managing Director, Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Ramzul Seraj, Managing Director, Elite Group, Shamsul Arefin, Managing Director, Civic Engineering Co.; AKM Shamsuddin, Managing Director, Rhone-Poulenc Bangladesh, Mr Gaziul Huq, Managing Director of the MGH Group, and Barrister Rokunuddin Mahmud.

Spend more on schools

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ment among children 11-12 years of age increased from 77 per cent in 1993 to 81 per cent in 1998, less than one per cent per year.

Primary cycle dropout rate has been reduced to about 30 per cent but repeater rates are still high (38%), the study said, adding attendance rate is still low at less than 62 per cent.

"Achievement level has improved since 1993 (from 27% to 30%) but at a slow speed (less than one per cent per year)... the gains have mostly been experienced by girls alone... There are variations among different divisions and between urban and rural areas."

The report found that parental background continued to play an important role in enrollment and achievement and that poor and socially backward families tend to send their girls to school more than their boys. "The children who are not enrolled, who drop out or who perform poorly belong mostly to socio-economically disadvantaged groups."

It found improved performances in paternal participation, supervision by higher authorities, timely receipt of textbooks, training of teachers and in other indicators. However, it felt there was still considerable room for improvement in the areas of community participation and management systems.

Key findings

The government-run primary schools are dominant in terms of number of students.

In terms of enrollment and attendance, gender parity has been achieved at the primary level.

Mothers' involvement with NGO activities seemed to have positively affected enrollment. Completion rate is 72.7 per cent, repeaters' rate 38.4 per cent.

On an average, one student needs 6.6 years to complete the five-year cycle of primary education.

In terms of learning

achievements, girls do not achieve as much as boys do.

Less than a third of children leave primary school age with some meaningful learning.

The rural children lagged behind their urban counterparts by one academic year.

Over 90 per cent schools have their safe drinking water facilities within their premises or in nearby accessible places.

Women's representation in SMC was the highest in NGO schools and the lowest in madrassahs.

Chaired by Fazle Hasan Abed, CAMPE chairperson and Executive Director of BRAC, the launching ceremony was also addressed by Chairman of Education Watch Advisory Board ANM Eusuf, former adviser to Caretaker Government Kazi Fazlur Rahman, UNICEF country representative Shahida Azfar, UPL Managing Director Mohiuddin Ahmed and CAMPE Director Rasheda K Choudhury.

Minister Sadique contradicted with some of the primary education data used in the report. He said that there was no government goal, as stated in the report, of enrolling 80 per cent of all children by the year 2000.

The education minister quoted the *National Plan of Action for Education for All by 2000* to say that the gross enrollment target was 95 per cent, completion 70 per cent and literacy 62 per cent.

He also pointed out that the study gave some weightage to government-managed primary education as the NGO-run primary education -- the latter being basic education at best but not primary education.

The education minister regretted that the report questioned the accuracy of some official statistics taken from previous records. He also differed with the report on the government allocation of money in the primary education sector and some other issues.

Fazle Hasan Abed said that CAMPE would continue publishing yearly education report.

Road march

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another one-day Dhaka-Aricha march on September 5.

The former prime minister is scheduled to address about eight public meetings at Tarabo under Ruggan thana and Bagbar under Arailaj thana in Narayanganj district. Madhabdi High School playground under Narsingdi sadar, Panchdona under Palash thana, Itakhola under Shibpur thana, Barichabazar under Belabo thana and Nilkuthi under Raipura thana in Narsingdi district; and at Bhairab stadium under Kishoreganj district.

Party sources said the "mini march" is likely to conclude by 8 pm.

Like the previous road marches, BNP has made it mandatory for members of the Standing Committee, Advisory Council and National Executive Committee, vice-chairmen, MPs and presidents and general secretaries of all front organisations to take part in the programme.

The party leaders concerned and others interested in joining the march have been asked to arrange vehicles on their own.

Meanwhile, BNP has taken up necessary preparation for making the "road march" a success. Party sources said the districts and thana units concerned have also taken up massive preparations.

Kafna-1

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cal did not file any routine report to us on the activities concerning Kafna," said a Petrobangla source adding, "that is why we are not so sure about the findings of the field."

Petrobangla had earlier objected to Occidental's Kafna venture saying that it was highly risky and overlapping with Petrobangla's reserved Kailastila gas field. It did not approve the exploratory well. But Occidental took the risk on its own and started drilling.

"Occidental went on with the drilling in order to fulfil its minimum obligations under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) to drill three wells by the end of this year," said a source.

Occidental would soon drill another exploratory well in Ratna and has started drilling the Moulvibazar-2 well in Moulvibazar. Of these, Moulvibazar-2 is situated in the same gas structure as the Magurchara gas field which blew out in mid '97.

EC to hear

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mad Alauddin and deputy minister Hasibur Rahman sought one-month time from the EC on August 16 for preparing legal arguments. The Commission extended the deadline for them to August 24. Accordingly, the MPs submitted their replies on Tuesday. They also maintained their previous position that joining the government was in no way in violation of the constitutional provision in question.

The Commission is legally bound to give its verdict on the controversial case in 120 days from August 8, the day the Speaker had referred the matter to it.

Renowned educationist Waliullah Patwary, who was a byword for discipline and affection for his thousands of students across the country and elsewhere in the world, died yesterday after a prolonged illness. He was 104, reports BSS.

Headmaster of Matlabganj JB High School in Chandpur district Patwary was a native of West Jaisree village of Faridganj under Chandpur district.

Ctg: Surcharge

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BGMEA, Shippers Council and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries protested the imposition of surcharge and demanded its withdrawal.

Chittagong Port Authority took a tough stand on the CFTC decision taking some counter-measures, including ban on berthing of over 10-year-old ships at the port and withdrawal of 72-hour cutoff facilities after loading.

A dozen more

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official of BSIC.

Industries in the park will not have restrictions like those in EPZs. They will be able to export goods as well as sell those in local markets, he added.

The proposed Garments Pally will be set up at Tetuljhara near Hemayetpur in Savar on 200 acres of land and at a cost of Tk 118.50 crore. It will be established with the help of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

BSIC officials said BGMEA agreed to provide the prices of the land. Around 17.30 acres of land have already been acquired for the project.

There will be 670 plots of 12,000 and 10,000 square feet each.

The industrial estate at Dhamrai will be set up on 50 acres of land at a cost of Tk 25 crore for all kinds of industries. The estate is aimed reducing pressure on the city.

The Hosiery industrial estate at Narayanganj will be expanded by 31.29 acres at an expenditure of Tk 48.50 crore. Bangladesh Hosiery Samity will bear 70 per cent of the expenditure and the government will bear the rest.

The eight other industrial estates in different districts will be completed by 2002 and the estimated cost is around Tk 30 crore. The projects have been included in the Annual Development Programme (ADP), the sources said.

The districts in which these will be set up are Magura, Narail, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Netrokona, Bandarban, Barisal and Dhaka. The estate in Dhaka will be beside Dhaka-Aricha highway at Harindhara in Savar on 50 acres of land and involve an expenditure of Tk 9.51 crore. The estates in other districts will have an area of around 15 acres each.

Besides, BSIC is also setting up a special zone for information technology-based industries -- IT Village -- at Mirpur at a cost of Tk 7.50 crore.

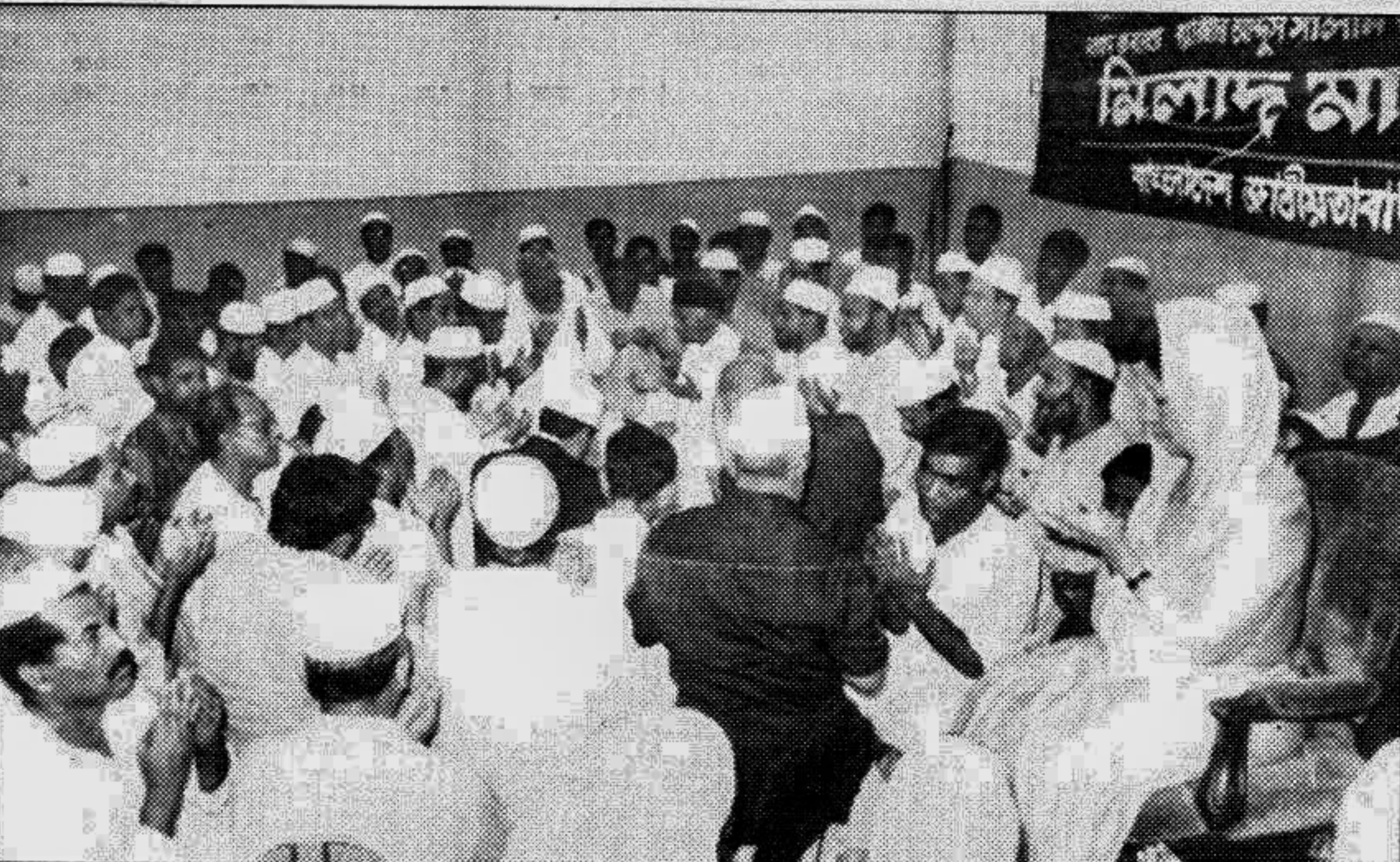
"People of Bangladesh are always suspicious whenever India takes any new initiative, offers any proposal and seeks anything," she added.

The BNP chief said the rebel leaders of the northeastern states of India believe that this transit facility would help India to suppress their independence movement.

That is the reason, why the people of Bangladesh oppose giving "corridor" to India in the name of transshipment," she added.

He thanked Begum Zia for her visit to Italy in 1993 and said that the visit had significantly contributed to development of bilateral ties.

The opposition leader thanked the envoy for his creditable discharge of responsibility during his assignment in Bangladesh and hoped that he would again visit Dhaka, as he would head the Asian Division in the Italian foreign ministry.



Qulhwani of Abdus Salam Talukdar, former Secretary General of BNP, was held at the Minto Road official residence of the opposition leader. BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders seen offering *munajat* after the *milad mahfil*.

Temple says

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"It will depend on the government how quick they finalise those projects," he told the newsmen from BBC, UNB, BSS and Financial Express at a hurriedly called press briefing.

He avoided a direct reply to a question on whether the World Bank refuses press reports published Wednesday, saying, "It is how you look at it."

If Bangladesh continues to qualify as a Base Case, he said, the lending would be around 600 to 650 million US dollar. If it is in the Low Case the lending would be around 400 to 450 million dollar.

He, however, said that Bangladesh's macro-economic performance is good even after a big flood.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Md Nazrul Haque, a distinguished social worker and retired govt. officer, will be held tomorrow at his Faridabad residence at 91, NC Goswami Road, Dhaka after Juma prayers, says a press release.

He died of old age ailment on July 20 at his residence.

Death anniversary

Bangladesh Society of Hypertension will hold a discussion meeting followed by *milad* and *daawa mahfil* in observance of the 3rd death anniversary of its founder president Prof SGM Chowdhury at its office premises at 63/E, Green Road, tomorrow at 10:00 am, says a press release.

Members of the Society, relatives, friends, well-wishers and admirers of late Prof Chowdhury are requested to attend.

Entrepreneur pays

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officers and employees, Fazlur Rahman said.

The two men, described to be in their thirties, were known to have had close contacts with local MP, Maj Gen (ret'd) K M Shafiqullah of Awami League. The two are local leaders of the ruling party. The MP said he knew these two men but would never back them in such activity.

"The terrorists have stopped all activity in the factories after causing heavy damages. They are also obstructing my officers/employees trying to go to the local police station or even to hospital," Rahman said.

"The five are now in hospital, but we had to travel by boat to take them to hospital in Dhaka."

Rahman called Mayor Mohammad Hanif of Dhaka, the Narayanganj SP and others for help. Later in the day, a five-man police squad came to guard the factories but Rahman feared that the terrorised employees and workers would not come to work anytime soon.

He also feared supply from his warehouse at the site capable of storing goods worth Tk 100-150 crore would be disrupted if the terrorists could not be kept at bay. "My dealers wouldn't come. The lorries would not go there," Rahman said.

"We try to be lenient to these troublemakers because we don't want any disruption to our business. But these people have crossed all limits," said an outraged Rahman who employs about 2500 people in his 14 factories, mostly producing various edible items such as vegetable oil, mustard oil, flour etc.

"I am a humble man and haven't had much education. But I have worked hard all my life... even sleeping in the back of lorries in my early days... I import edible oil crude worth

Tk 600-700 crore a year, pay duties worth Tk 500-600 crore every year... why should I suffer? Why should my men be assaulted by goons I have been forced to support for many years?" said Rahman, on verge of breaking down at The Daily Star office yesterday.

"I don't have a posh office in Moulvibazar which I could well afford. How much money does a man need to survive? I don't need all these factories for myself. I support a number of social organisations, orphanages. Why should I be penalised this way?"

Rahman said he had sought help from the local MP but "these *maastans*" eventually prevailed. "Gen Shafiqullah asked me to give them contracts which I thought would hurt my interests. Instead, I proposed to give them goods worth a few lakh on credit. But they wouldn't take it. What did it mean?"

Reached by phone last night, the MP said he knew of the problem between "these boys" and the factory owners but was not aware of yesterday's incident. "These boys want some work. But the mill owners for some reason wouldn't let them in. Now these boys contend that if outsiders can come and work here, why not the locals like us? Maybe the owners have their own good reasons," Shafiqullah said.

"But I don't support any such people... I didn't give shelter to these boys earlier when Fazlur Rahman came to me complaining."

BMA seminar

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 25: The Eighteenth Scientific seminar of serial education of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) on "Acute abdomen" will be held at the local BMA building in Chittagong on August 27.

The state minister said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had already expressed her firm commitment to rehabilitate the slum dwellers.

BDRCS appeals for assistance to help erosion, flood victims

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) yesterday requested the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to enhance its support to the society's programmes for the erosion and flood victims, IFRC officials said, reports BSS.

"Our office in Dhaka has received the request and already sent it to Geneva for further action," Media and information officer of the IFRC Teresita P. Usapdin told yesterday afternoon.

An IFRC release quoting A S M Akram, the Acting Secretary General of BDRCS, said "his (BDRCS) request for more assistance was prompted by latest report received from Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) and other concerned weather agencies as well as from its own

(Society's) field offices that river position in six areas were above danger level due to very active monsoon particularly over the northern part of the country and continuous fall at the upstream."

"This could threaten anew the life of the thousands of people who are still suffering from the recent floods that hit the country and caused extensive damage to crops and property," Mr Akram in his letter said.

The IFRC release said BDRCS expressed the hope that the Federation, through help of other sister societies abroad could earmark additional relief supplies for 30,000 more families still suffering from floods and many more might suffer in case the situation worsens.

The BDRCS also urged the Federation to help the society

in arranging buffer stocks of relief goods for at least 20,000 families in preparation for disasters in future.

The BDRCS stressed the importance of pre-positioning buffer relief goods to enable the society to respond effectively in case needs arise.

Meanwhile, Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) of Bangladesh Water Development Board today cautioned that "the Brahmaputra-Jamuna system is rising alarmingly and likely to rise further."