

## What's on today...

**Discussion on Janmastomi:** Vivekananda Shiksha O Sangskriti Parishad, Dhaka University unit has organised a discussion meeting and baby-food distribution programme to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna (Janmastomi). Chief guest: Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Dr Md Shahadat Ali. Venue: October Smriti Milonayaton, Jagannath Hall, DU. Time: 9 am.

**Janmastomi programme:** Mahanagar Sarbojonin Puja Committee, Dhaka has taken up a two-day programme to mark the Janmastomi festival. A historic Janmastomi procession will be brought out on the occasion. Venue: Dhakeswari National Temple's fair ground. Time: 3 pm.

**Seminar:** Transparency International-Bangladesh will hold a seminar on "Corruption in Public Administration". Chief guest: Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal. Venue: CIRDP auditorium. Time: 9:00 am.

**Film session:** Rainbow Film Society in association with Goethe Institut will screen two movies *A Judgement in Stone* and *Blood of Others* on the concluding day of "Focus on New Wave Film Makers". Venue: Goethe Institut. Time: 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm respectively.

## and tomorrow

**Sandhani Council:** The third central council meeting of the Sandhani National Eye Donation Society will be held. Venue: Radiology Gallery of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Time: 10 am.

**SID roundtable discussion:** The Society for International Development (SID), Bangladesh Chapter has organised a roundtable discussion on WTO and Bangladesh. Chief guest: Minister for Commerce and Industry Tofiqul Ahmed. Venue: BUP auditorium, House No. 33, Road No. 4, Dhanmondi. Time: 9:30 am.

**Seminar:** Bangladesh Fertility Society and the College of General Practitioners of Bangladesh have jointly organised a lecture session under its CME programme. Venue: BCGP auditorium, 215/A, Outer Circular Road, Baramagbazar. Time: 9 am.

**Painting exhibition:** The inaugural ceremony of the 3rd solo painting exhibition by Sunil Rorjan Howlader will be held. The exhibition will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm till September 16. Chief guest: Frederick T Temple, Country Director, World Bank. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 5 pm.

**Janmastomi discussion:** Mahanagar Sarbojonin Puja Committee, Dhaka has organised a discussion meeting to mark the Janmastomi festival of Lord Krishna. Dhruvad Kala Kendra will present a dance programme at 7:30 pm. Venue: Dhakeswari National Temple's fair ground. Time: 5 pm.

**Recitation:** A Muktabuk production *Jetya De Ma Ghurey Ashi* will be staged. It's a recitation form of juvenile statement from Shaheed Janani Jahannara Imam's Novel *Ektatuer Dinguli*. Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial auditorium of Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 7 pm.

## Weather

### Temperature may rise

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

Moderately heavy falls may occur at one or two places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period. Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 33.2 degree Celsius at Sylhet and Srimangal and the lowest 24 degrees at Satkhira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:16 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:41 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
Dhaka	32.4	26.2
Chittagong	31.6	24.8
Rajshahi	32.7	26.8
Khulna	31.0	25.2
Barisal	31.5	25.0
Sylhet	33.2	26.0
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0

## HERE and THERE

### Gregorian Association

The 14th founding anniversary of the Gregorian Association was held recently at the LGED auditorium in the city, says a press release.

A large number of Gregorians along with their families attended the function which included a cultural show and dinner.

The programme also installed the association's executive committee for 1999-2000. Grn Shamsul Azam was elected president of the association while Grn Munadir Islam, general secretary, Grn Faezul Huq, State Minister for Jute and Grn Osman Ali Khan were elected vice presidents.

### FBUTA

The pro-liberation panel supported by Awami League won all the seven seats of the executive committee of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) in the election held on Saturday at Dhaka University Club, says a press release.

Defining the candidates of the combined panel of BNP, Jamaat, those elected in the election are: President - Prof Abdul Awal Khan of Bangladesh Open University,

secretary general Prof Md Jalauddin of Rajshahi University, vice-presidents - Prof Monjur Morshed Mahmud of Chittagong University, Prof Joyntal Abedin of Sylhet Shahjalal University and Prof Md Mesbah Uddin Ahmed of Dhaka University, treasurer - Prof Mohammad Nurul Alam of Jahangirnagar University and joint secretary general - Dr Md Elias Uddin Biswas of Sylhet Shahjalal University.

### Manobik Sangha

An exhibition of photographs on the Liberation War and blood donation programme were held at the Notre Dame College in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Father Benjamin Costa CSC, principal of the college, addressed the inaugural function of the programme as the chief guest in the college auditorium.

The programme, organised by the Manobik Sangha, a club for the students of humanities, was followed by cultural function and orientation of the newly-elected office-bearers of the club.

Among others, club moderator Gopinath Karmaker and co-moderator Ranajit Kumar Nath also spoke on the occasion.

### Kader Siddiqui's resignation hailed

The Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Coordination Council leaders at a press statement on Tuesday hailed Kader Siddiqui's resignation from Parliament.

Terming it a brave step they said people of this country will remember it forever. They termed the resignation a 'historic' one and also said through his resignation a new era of movement starts.

Ishtiaq Aziz Ulfat, convenor of the organisation, presided over the emergency meeting.

Among the leaders who spoke on the occasion were Sadek Ahmed Khan, Biswajit Nandi, Nasim Uddin, Ahmed, Habibur Rahman, Abul Kalam Mostafa, Motiur Rahman, Anwar Hossain, Pahari and Shahidul Islam.

The activities of this SKS started in Bangladesh from 1972, with the patronisation of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and was named as Sena Kalyan Sangstha.

## Energy sector

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take decisions on how to utilise best its natural gas.

"When these studies would be completed, we can have dialogues on the potential uses of gas," Humphrey said, adding that the gas utilisation study is expected to be completed by early October and the gas reserve study by the year-end.

The studies, scheduled to have been completed by April-June last, were taking longer time as these were the first such studies in Bangladesh. "The studies are progressing amid mutual cooperation. There are occasional disagreements," he said.

"But as I explained to the Prime Minister and other government and private industry leaders, and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, more needs to be done. Developing Bangladesh's energy sector based on sound economics is good politics by improving the quality of life for all the people of Bangladesh," Humphrey said.

"I wish to commend the government and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the impressive progress made in the seven months since my last visit. The American company AES has made continued progress in developing power plants at Haripur and Meghnaghat, investments worth 500 million dollars which will provide over 800 MW of power, approximately, a 30 percent increase in current power generation. Two more barges, including one by the US-based New England Power Company, have also come on line, and UNOCAL's gas is flowing to your power plants and industries," he said referring to US investments in power projects.

On the controversial Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP) of Unocal, he said a consultant would be appointed with US assistance very soon. "It is being delayed because the consultant contract is being reviewed now".

## Lawmakers' assoc

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would also consider nominations for election to the executive council of the proposed association.

The final plenary session of the conference would consider formation of the association, its name, and charter and rules on the concluding day on September 4, Mowla said briefing newsmen yesterday.

There might be changes in names, and charter and rules at the final plenary session, he added.

According to the conference schedule, the concluding session would also elect the president and others in the executive council of the association, appoint an interim secretary general and select the headquarters of its secretariat.

Heads of delegations of the participating countries are also expected to sign the charter and rules if adopted at the conference.

Meanwhile, yesterday's plenary session unanimously elected Speaker of Bangladesh parliament Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury chairman of the first ever conference of the Asian parliamentarians. It also elected five Speakers of participating countries vice-chairmen. They are Prince Norodom Ranariddh of Cambodia, Tun Mohamed Zahir bin Haji Ismail of Malaysia, Ilahi Bukhsh Soomro of Pakistan, K. B. Ratnayake of Sri Lanka and Abd Razak-Awak of Syria.

Besides, Deputy Speaker of Bangladesh parliament Abdul Hamid was unanimously elected Chief Rapporteur while two other rapporteurs would also be chosen in consultation with Pakistan.

Later, Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury underlined the need for a plan of action to establish peace through cooperation among nations in Asia.

Asked about the absence of representatives from India, the secretary general of the conference said Speaker of Indian parliament and others concerned extended their total support and eagerness to participate in the conference. But they could not come due to preoccupation with the forthcoming national elections in the country.

## Obituary

CHITTAGONG, Sept 1: Jyotishwar Chakrabarti, a noted lawyer and one of the close comrades of revolutionary leader Masterda Surya Sen, at his Cox's Bazar residence today, reports BSS.

He died of old age complications at the age of 93, family sources said here.

Late Chakrabarti, author of many books on law, is survived by his wife, five sons, three daughters and a large number of professional colleagues and relatives to mourn his death.

Chakrabarti had been in legal profession over six decades.

## Amanullah visits injured engr of Janakantha

State Minister for Health Prof Dr M Amanullah visited the injured engr of the Daily Janakantha Moteleb Khan at the Chest Diseases Hospital in the city's Mohakhali area yesterday, reports BSS.

Prof Amanullah inquired about the condition of Eng Moteleb who received bullet injury on Monday when some unruly terrorists allegedly from BNP mass procession attacked the newspaper office at Moghbazar.

The state minister asked the director and other doctors of the hospital to ensure the best possible treatment of the injured newspaper employee.



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia placing a wreath on former president Ziaur Rahman's mazaar as part of programmes in observance of the founding anniversary of BNP.



Sylhet Bibhag Unnayan Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the 81st birth anniversary of Bangabir General MAG Osmani.

## Road march

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the members of the party's Standing Committee and Advisory Council, MPs, central leaders, leaders of the front organisations, city convenors and joint convenors in the programme has been made mandatory.

They have been asked to remain with the marchers till the end of the march.

Others interested may join the march with their own arrangements. The participants have been asked to submit their names with designation and collect sticker from the party central office by September 3.

A preparatory meeting of the sub-committee on road march for finalisation of route and meeting venues was held yesterday at Amin Bazar bus stand.

With BNP vice chairman Shahjahan Siraj chief guest the meeting was addressed among others by Major Gen (Retd) ZA Khan, Mirza Abbas, Selima Rahman, Dr Dewan Mohammad Salahuddin MP, Abul Hashem Rana, Mohammad Kafiluddin and Hazi Jamaluddin.

## Salman Shah

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Rezvi Ahmed allegedly trespassed into Salman's parents' house under Cantonment thana area in July 1997.

Later, CID took up the case on July 29, 1997 and submitted its report before the CMM's court on November 3 where they said that Salman committed suicide following a family feud.

Refusing to accept the report of the CID, Kamruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, father of the film star, filed a *narazti* petition before the CMM's court on January 22, 1998.

Six days later the CMM's court rejected Kamruddin's petition. A dissatisfied Kamruddin filed a criminal appeal suit in the court of the Metropolitan Sessions' Judge to set aside the CMM's court decision.

The judge AK Roy in his judgement, yesterday, ordered reinvestigation into the incident of Salman Shah's death and also ordered sending a copy of the judgement to the CMM's court, immediately, both for information and necessary action.

## Janmastami

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the country in the morning. Devotees from different parts of the city will attend the Dhakeshwari Mandir in processions. Later, a procession will be brought out from the Mandir.

Dhaka city Mayor Mohammad Hanif will inaugurate the main procession.

Today is public holiday. President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion.

## BNP founding

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BNP attack on the Daily Janakantha office on Monday. He said their party always stood for freedom of the press and could never do such a heinous act. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said that BNP was born when the country's independence and sovereignty were at stake and there was an urgent need to unite the nation.

BNP still continues its efforts to unite the nation while Awami League is conspiring to destroy the unity built by BNP and divide the nation.

Bhuiyan demanded a judicial inquiry into the attack on Janakantha office and withdrawal of cases against BNP leaders Anwar Zahid, Sadek Hossain Khoka and others. He said Khoka was in the car of Begum Zia during Monday's mass procession but two cases were filed against him on charge of looting of shops.

Besides, Bhuiyan said, Anwar Zahid was far from the Janakantha office when it came under terrorist attack. Arrest of Zahid immediately after filing of the case and the home minister's prompt visit to the office are indicative of something suspicious.

Oli Ahmed said terrorists became "very happy" after Mohammad Nasim took over as Home Minister.

Khandaker Delwar said Awami League is destroying democracy and parliamentary system restored and established by BNP.

Salfur Rahman said founder of BNP Ziaur Rahman was a democrat in the true sense and always took decisions through discussion with party leaders, MPs and others concerned. "Even he didn't make any one minister without discussions with party MPs," he said Zia was nationally and internationally known as a liberal democrat.

## 10 students to study in Wesleyan College

By Staff Correspondent

The first batch of ten Bangladeshi female students admitted to Wesleyan College in America, left Dhaka for Atlanta by British Airways recently, says a press release of Cambridge Foundation.

The Cambridge Foundation which processed the admission also organised a farewell reception to the batch at Hotel Sonargaon. The president of the foundation T Chowdhury in a speech hoped that talented Bangladeshi students would uphold the glory and image of the country abroad.

The admission of more Bangladeshi students to that prestigious American college in the future would depend on their performance, he said.

## 'Srikrishna a source of inspiration for all'

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said the philosophy of Lord Srikrishna and his message of love incorporated in the holy Geeta help bind all with the bonds of fraternity and friendship, reports BSS.

The struggle of Lord Srikrishna was to establish justice, ideology and a peaceful society against injustice and untruth," he said in a message on the birthday (Janmastami) of Lord Srikrishna.

Justice Shahabuddin said Srikrishna's love for humanity is a source of inspiration for all. There exist the bonds of amity and brotherhood among the people of all faiths in Bangladesh, "the traditional home of Sri Chaitanya's love for humanity and religious harmony."

Expressing his greetings to the country's Hindu community, the President stressed the need for strengthening the bonds of fraternity to improve the socio-economic well-being of people.

He hoped that everyone would make united efforts to establish and protect the constitutional rights of every citizen.

## Two shot in the city

Two young men with bullet injury were admitted to DMCH yesterday, reports UNB.

Kuddus Bepari, 35, an employee of Mamoon Mike Service at Kaliganj said he was shot on the back by terrorists on refusal to pay toll to them yesterday afternoon.

Mustafa, 32, a baby taxi driver from Agargaon, said terrorists robbed him of Tk 200 after shooting on his abdomen when he was returning home at 11 pm Tuesday night.

## Death anniversary

The death anniversary of noted social worker Al-hajj Sheikh Hafez Uddin will be observed on September 4, says a press release.

Late Sheikh Hafiz, father of Sheikh Abdul Aziz, minister in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's cabinet and one of the founders of Bangladesh Awami League was a close associate of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haque and Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy.

A Quankhwarani, discussion on the life of late Hafiz and a *milad mahfil* at 5 pm have been arranged at the residence of Sheikh Aziz at House No 5, Road No 7 in Gulshan I on Friday, September 3, the press release added.

## Confce of Asian MPs

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parliament Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury chaired the inaugural session. David E Lockwood of the UNDP also spoke on the occasion.

### Zeng Jianhui

While addressing the conference, Zeng Jianhui underlined the need for united efforts to establish and sustain peace in the region and the world over. "As parliamentarians, we have the responsibility to reflect the voices of the people and pursue peace and happiness for our peoples. We should join hands in exploring effective ways and means to maintain peace in Asia and the world."

Jianhui spoke about the positive aspects of the present trend of globalisation, but cautioned about its negative implications as well. "Though globalisation may promote economic growth, we must not neglect the fact that economic globalisation process dominated by developed countries has intensified unfair international competition and brought enormous financial and economic risks to the developing countries."

Stressing on mutual co-operation among the countries concerned, the Chinese representative said: "Enhancing co-operation among nations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit is extremely essential to maintenance and promotion of regional and world peace, stability and development."

### Elahi Bakhsh

Speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly Elahi Bakhsh was 'confident' of the success of the conference held to uphold peace and facilitate co-operation. "My confidence stems from the fact that our countries share similar problems as well as similar aspirations."

Stressing on the need of re-ordering 'our priorities', the Speaker of Pakistan said: "It is ironic that human beings have developed technological capability for the annihilation of the entire human race, but have failed to use their mental and material capabilities for feeding thousands of hungry children in the world." In this regard, he spoke for "complete and universal nuclear disarmament" and "diversion of global resources to combat hunger and disease."

He also emphasised on removing the 'underlying causes of conflict' to establish, preserve and promote peace in the region.

Claiming that the Asian people are ingenious, hard working and disciplined, the Speaker of Pakistan said that Asia consisted of countries that provide the driving force for the international economic system.

Predicting that the 'coming century will be the century of Asia', he also said that the Asian contribution to peace in the next millennium will, therefore, be of critical importance.

### I K Gujral

I K Gujral found the colonial hangover in the system of governance as the main impediment.

## Hatem Ali dead

Former Chief engineer of erstwhile East Pakistan Roads and Highways Hatem Ali died yesterday at the age of 89, reports BSS.

A founder member of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Hatem Ali left behind his wife and two sons.

Politburo member of the Workers Party of Bangladesh Haider Akbar Khan Rano and former student leader and eminent freedom fighter Haider Anwar Khan Juno are the sons of the deceased.

His *namaz-e-janaza* was held at Dhanmondi and he was buried at Banani graveyard in the afternoon. His *gulkhuan* will be held on Saturday at his Dhanmondi residence.

A host of other senior political leaders and professionals rushed to the residence of Hatem Ali to pay their last respects to the deceased.

President of the Workers Party Amol Sen and General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon expressed deep shock at the death of Engr Hatem Ali.

In a statement, Communist Party of Bangladesh president Monjurul Ahsan Khan and general secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim also condoled the death of Hatem Ali.

The leaders expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

### PM condoles

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed profound shock at the death of former Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Division Hatem Ali and said in his death the nation has lost a skilled engineer, reports BSS.

In a message of condolence Sheikh Hasina prayed for peace of the departed soul.

### Khaleda condoles

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has expressed profound shock at the death of Hatem Ali Khan, father of Workers' Party leader Haider Akbar Khan Rano.

In a message of condolence yesterday, she recalled the contribution of late Khan and said he had earned fame for his honesty, sincerity and dedication in his professional career. He was also a dedicated social worker.

In separate messages, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain have also expressed shock at the death of Hatem Ali Khan.

ment to the establishment of peace and justice in the Asian region. "Why is there so much poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, infant mortality, homelessness and joblessness in our societies? Is it because we mostly continue with the colonial system of governance left behind by the colonial masters?"

He advocated for change and indicated the ways of bringing in the change. "The real change in society, both at the national and the international levels, will take place only if the citizens agree on the need and the means for change."

Gujral, therefore, finds challenge in creating 'this social transformation, enabling people to actively participate in the reform process that will replace force with dialogue, arrogance with sympathy, isolation with co-operation and ignorance with knowledge'.

Here he finds the importance of an effective civil society. "Governments alone can not, and need not, run human societies nor build nations without a great deal of active and conscious help from citizens," said the Indian leader. "Without actively functioning civil societies there can be no good governance."

But civil society does not emerge automatically. According to Gujral, 'some basic' requirements for the creation of civil societies include, a legal foundation of the state from top to bottom ensuring that the laws of the land are universally and impartially enforced; an independent, efficient and honest judiciary; a greatly decentralised government with the people having opportunities to govern themselves and taking charge of their own affairs.

### David Lockwood

United Nations' Resident Coordinator in Dhaka David E Lockwood blasted the bureaucratic approach towards development. "Development cannot blossom with orders from the top; it thrives on the participation of each and every household, with every man, woman and child in each household owning the process and benefiting from it."

He told the gathering that it was already over fifty years since the nations in Asia began to throw off the shackles of colonialism, yet some of the most manifestations were still there. "By that I mean the bureaucratic legacy, designed to control rather than respond to people's need," the UNDP representative said, adding: "Here in Bangladesh, parliament is still struggling to control a lethargic, unresponsive bureaucracy which has hardly changed for a century."

Observing that promoting a culture of peace and tolerance is a fundamental issue in Asia, Lockwood said: "Peace in this huge region has many meanings. It means harmony and accommodation with neighbours, between local political groups, national political parties, ethnic groups and nations."

Lockwood also expressed 'disappointment' over the Bangladesh opposition's absence from the conference. "Their absence here, as in parliament, hurts the nation, not the ruling party."

He, however, hoped that the conference would identify specific ways of establishing peace in all its meanings in the region.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury who chaired the inaugural session said that he was optimistic of peaceful revolutions in the region - "the revolutions that put an end to poverty, illiteracy, exploitation and discrimination."

Earlier, he defined peace by quoting a former American diplomat and historian James Shotwell. "Peace is not merely a vacuum left by the ending of wars. It is the creation of two eternal principles: Justice and freedom."

## Flood

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dam in Gobindaganj thana collapsed at Bochadaha point yesterday.

Earlier on Monday, a portion of the dam collapsed near Chandpur Khalsi area inundating a vast area.

In Bogra, Fulbari, Chaplora, Maltingar and Chaklokman areas of the town were flooded.

Nearly half of the areas of Madla, Khottapara, Chupinagar and Amrul unions in Sadar thana also went under water.

Road communication on Shariakandi-Dhunot is yet to be restored.