

What's on today

Film show: The British Council will screen *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Anthony and Cleopatra* on the 1st day of its 4-day long screening of Shakespeare's films. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm respectively.

BTV drama awards: Tenashinas, the television drama artists association will hold a programme to announce its *tenashinas padak '95, '96, '97 and '98*. Venue: Mahanagar Natyanancha auditorium. Time: 5:00 pm.

UNAB commemorative function: The United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a commemorative function to mark 25 years of Bangladesh joining the UN. Chief guest: Abdus Samad Azad, Foreign Minister. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Annual general meeting: The AGM of Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association (BPMPPA) will be held. Venue: BPMPPA conference room at 215/A Bara Maghbar. Time: 10:00 am.

Inauguration: The inauguration of the orientation course of The College of General Practitioners of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: BIRDEM auditorium. Time: 3:30 pm.

Silver Jubilee programme: The Silver Jubilee programme of Dhaka University Finance and Banking Department will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Shah AMS Kibria, Minister for Finance. Venue: TSC auditorium. Time: 4:00 pm.

Special meet: A special meet up the Mahanagar Sharbojantin Pujja Committee will be held. Venue: Dhakeshwari Mandir premises at Orphanage Rd. Time: 5:00 pm.

Film show: Three French movies *L'enfer, Max et les ferreillers* and *Elisa* will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm respectively.

Bi-ennial conference: The bi-ennial conference of Kishoreganj Samity will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium at Farmgate. Time: 4 pm.

Weather

Light rain forecast

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

Light fall in day temperature is expected over the country during the period. Mt office said.

The country's highest temperature was recorded 34.4 degree celsius yesterday at Jessore and Khulna the lowest 23.2 degrees at Srirangal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:09 pm and rises on Friday at 5:43 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	31.7	26.6	86	87
Chittagong	34.0	26.2	79	81
Rajshahi	33.7	27.4	77	80
Khulna	34.4	27.0	73	73
Barisal	33.4	26.1	83	78
Sylhet	31.2	26.2	82	88
Cox's Bazar	34.0	25.6	82	80

Businessmen robbed of Tk 1 lakh in city

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman was robbed of Tk one lakh at Malibagh Chowdhuripara in the city's Khilgaon area yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Shajahan, 50, a businessman and resident of Malibagh Chowdhuripara.

Police and hospital sources said that the incident took place at about 3 pm when Shajahan was returning home in an auto-rickshaw. A gang of miscreants stopped autorickshaw at Malibagh Chowdhuripara and asked him to hand over his valuables at gun point.

Shajahan was shot when he refused to hand over the money.

Computer bug: BSS takes precaution

The networks of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) will remain disconnected with the subscribers from 11 pm to 9 am today to prevent the possible attack of Millennium 9 Bug.

The decision was taken last night following the warning of Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC).



Dr Shameem's body to be flown in tomorrow

The mortal remains of Dr Shameem Ahmed, Health Scientist, Operations Research Project of ICDDR,B will arrive from Kathmandu tomorrow, says a press release.

Her *namaz-e-janaza* will be held on Saturday at Dhanmondi Eidgah Masjid after Zohr prayers. She will then be buried at the Banani graveyard.

Dr Shameem died in a plane crash in Nepal on September 5.

Her *qulshuani* will be held at her father's house (House No 40, Rd No 4/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Tel No 505513) on Sunday after Asr prayers.



Bangladeshi photographer wins Int'l award

The Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalist (AFEJ) yesterday announced Bangladeshi photo-journalist Abu Taher Khokon, a staffer of Daily Financial Express, as recipient of the Asia-Pacific Photographer of the year 1998, says a press release.

The Asia-Pacific Environmental Journalist of the Year title went to Philippine reporter Alex Rey V Pal.

The prestigious award by AFEJ with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) include a prize money of US\$ 500, a crest and a certificate. The recipients will receive the award at the inaugural ceremony of the AFEJ-CEJA Joint Congress at BARD, at Comilla on September 14.



Appeal

By Staff Correspondent

Sloki Pradhan, a first year student of Dhaka Dental College sought admission to the Institute with a dream to be a good dental surgeon. But the dream of this devoted worker of the Sandhani is now all shattered. Sloki is suffering from blood cancer. Doctors say Sloki needs immediate bone-marrow transplantation to save her life. The cost of the transplantation is too high for Sloki's family to bear. Family members of this bright student have appealed to all to come forward with help for her treatment and save her life.

Anybody willing to help Sloki can contact: Sandhani, Dhaka Dental Unit, Ph: 9665140 Or Dhaka Dental College Hostel, Sobhanbag, Ph: 915035. Account No: Current-19, Janata Bank, Dhaka Medical College Branch.



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia held talks with the members of city unit of the party when they called at her Minto Road residence yesterday. — Star photo

Motia tells seminar Pvt organisations can help fulfill growing need for quality seeds

By Staff Correspondent

As policy planners welcomed the growing private sector initiatives in fragile seed industry in the country, farmers expressed their objection about exorbitant prices of imported seeds.

They all were participating at a two-day national seminar on 'Seed Industry Development' which began in the city yesterday. Seed Industry Promotion Unit (SIPU) of the Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) organised the seminar at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC).

Apart from the lively debate on private sector's efforts and seed prices, the participants agreed unanimously that the future of Bangladesh's agriculture lies on quality seeds.

A representative speaking on behalf of more than one hundred farmers attending the seminar expressed concern at the exorbitant price of seeds and sought government intervention into the matter. "It costs taka 60 to import one kilogram of hybrid paddy seeds into the country but the seeds are put on sale at Taka 200 per kilogram," Bangabandhu Agriculture Award winning farmer Md Mokbul Hossain told the seminar.

Addressing the seminar as the chief guest, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury assured that "the government has a responsibility to protect farmers from being marginalised by the greed of too much profit making in the private sector."

She, however, encouraged both the private sector and the non-government organisations to come forward in fulfilling the ever-growing need for quality seeds in the country. "BADC can cover only five per cent of cereal crop seeds' requirement while it can hardly meet the 17 per cent needs of jute seeds. There is no reason why private sector should not come into fill the vacuum."

Earlier, presenting the keynote paper at the seminar, Maarten den Hertog, Project Coordinator of SIPU, laid emphasis on quality assurance and marketing of seeds.

Representing the seed merchants of the country, Managing Director of the Supreme Seed Company, Mohammad Masum spoke of the existing ambiguity in seed import policy and criticised the government for the latter's failure to trace fraudulence in a recent consignment of pulses import.

Agriculture Secretary Dr AMM Shawkat Ali, who was presiding over the inaugural session of the seminar, reacted sharply and informed the gathering that government had confiscated the said pulses consignment. "No exception has been made, the importer has to release the consignment after paying the import duty."

Among others, Director General of the Department of Agricultural Extension, M Enamul Hoque, NGO representative Humayun Reza and convener of the seminar Md Enayef Hossain also spoke at the opening session.

'Amendment to fish protection law in the offing'

Government is considering an amendment to the Fish Protection and Preservation Act 1985 to discourage the use of current nets for catching fish, Minister of State for Primary and Mass Education Satish Chandra Roy told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question in the absence of Fisheries and Livestock Minister ASM Abdur Rob, Roy said the use of current nets for catching fish was banned in 1985. But, since the punitive measures for violation of the ban are jail term for one month to six months and a fine of Taka 1,000, unscrupulous fishermen have been using current nets frequently.

The government is seriously considering to enhance the tenure of punishment and the amount of fine money to stop the use of current nets, the minister said.

If we fail to stop the use of current nets, the country will face a crisis of *Hilsha* fish, he warned.

Earlier, Wajuddin Khan (AL-Pabna) wanted to know the steps taken by the government to stop the use of current nets.

Transcom

From page 12

room and other Transcom officials went to the spot and found the gate, grill and glass of the showroom broken. They also found

A case has been lodged with Motijheel thana.

Earlier on June 14, burglars stole cash and electronic goods worth about Tk 4.5 lakh from the same showroom. Although the manager of the showroom filed a case on June 15, none was arrested and no stolen items could be recovered.

2 DU students

From page 12

bing and Liton for beating.

The DU authorities took the decision at a meeting with Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

A three-member probe body headed by Provost Dr A I Mahub Uddin Ahmed was also formed to investigate the incidents.

Sumon, a BCL activist and a resident of the hall, was beaten with iron rods by a group of BCL activists led by Liton Tuesday night.

Another resident student, Saiful, was injured when the same BCL group, led by Panir, stabbed him following a quarrel over gambling Monday night.

WHO plan

From page 12

clude:

"Each country should establish a national working group on HIV estimates, which should review all relevant data annually and prepare an estimate on HIV prevalence.

Surveillance data should be quickly analysed and used for action and epidemiological research should be periodically carried out to evaluate HIV/AIDS surveillance programme.

In her address to the press Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General, WHO, said "In times of many challenges we must all learn to focus on health issues that matter most and we must reach out and convince our partners to do likewise."

Dr Brundtland added, "Reaching out to civil society, NGOs, our UN partners and to the private sector as we do it in this region — increases the impact we can make."

Health Minister Salauddin Yusuf, and State Minister for Health M Amanullah, also addressed the press conference.

Health Secretary M M Reza, WHO regional director Utton Macthon Raffe were also present.

Muhurir Char BDR, BSF flag meeting today

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Sept 8: A flag meeting between BDR and BSF will be held at Mozumderhat BOP under Parshuram Thana of the district tomorrow to resolve dispute over Muhurir Char.

BDR Sector Commander and DIG of BSF will lead their respective sides at the talks.

BDR and BSF clashed on the frontier for three days from August 22 over disputed char.

Both sides stopped border skirmish on August 26 following an agreement to hold a flag meeting.

AL public meet at Postagola today

Demra thana unit of Dhaka city Awami League will hold a public meeting at Postagola at 3 pm today, reports BSS.

Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina will address the meeting as the chief guest.

Dhanmandi thana AL also arranged a public meeting at 3 pm tomorrow at Kalabagan play ground in the city. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend it as the chief guest.

Moin Khan

From page 12

tain Aamir Sohail was recalled but all-rounders Shahid Afridi was dropped.

Sohail last led Pakistan in the defeat by Zimbabwe in November. He was dropped after a clash with board officials and missed visits to India, Sharjah and the World Cup.

Pakistan will play West Indies on September 16, 17 and 19. They were due to face India originally, but the games were cancelled because of tensions over Kashmir.

Bar leaders slam attack

From page 1

Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed, a former attorney general, described the remarks as uncalled for. The Speaker should have taken up the matter. No one should abuse the Rules of Procedure of parliament. The Rules of Procedure are not permissible in the case of the judges," he opined.

The eminent jurist said that Bangladesh Constitution ensures the independence of the judiciary. "The Rules of Procedure clearly provide for responsible statement by MPs or ministers. They have a privilege but they should not abuse it. The Speaker should have ensured it," he observed.

"If anyone feels aggrieved he can appeal to the higher courts. Lawyers on both sides argue their cases and the judges give verdict after hearing both sides. They may be right or wrong but there is a superior court to review it," the barrister said.

"It is not desirable for anyone — the judiciary, the government and all quarters — to drag the judiciary into such a fray," he said.

Barrister Shaifque Ahmed, President of Supreme Court Bar Association, also called the statements "uncalled for." "The Supreme Court is independent and has judicial discretion to grant or reject bail to anyone. So any comment on that is unwarranted."

Dr M. Zahir said the home minister must have made such comments "without giving it much thought."

"If he did think what he was talking about, he would not have said so," said Barrister Zahir.

"I think his statement casts an aspersion on the judiciary. A citizen has a right to obtain bail from the court. For that the judge cannot be blamed."

"When the miscreants obtain bail the judges are blamed for it. But what about the government attorneys? What are they doing to prevent it for which they are appointed? Such a comment would make the judges more defensive as a consequence of which they may not grant bail in genuine cases," Dr Zahir observed.

"The home minister may escape the contempt proceedings by dint of his parliamentary immunity, but he had his statements reached out to the entire nation," he added.

Barrister Nazmul Huda, MP and a former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, commented as a "conscious attempt to malign the judiciary."

"It is very much unprecedented by a government which is always speaking about rule of law, democracy and independence of judiciary to behave in a way they are behaving."

To me, it appears to be a deliberate attempt on the part of the government to destroy a democratic institution which protects the fundamental right of the people. The statement is extremely anti-people, anti-democracy, anti-rule of law and anti-independence of judiciary," he said.

Extensive programme for dredging of rivers taken

The agriculture minister was replying on the behalf of Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak who was not present in the House during the question hour.

Begum Motia Chowdhury, described the dredging of the main rivers, the government was contemplating to take up dredging of the smaller important rivers.

She said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been consulting the donor countries for procurement of more dredgers for the purpose.

Begum Motia Chowdhury told the Sangsad that 8.2 kilometres of access road will be constructed by this financial year under ADB assistance on flood protection embankment from Mitford to Mohammadpur.

2 ministers

From page 12

absence had hurt the nation, not the ruling party. Later, he stood by his remark despite severe criticism by the opposition politicians and others.

Commerce and industries minister Tofail blamed the BNP leaders for creating the ground for Lockwood to make such a comment. "The BNP leaders are used to speak against us to the foreign diplomats whenever they get a chance. And now they have come under criticism by those foreigners."

Home minister Mohammad Nasim claimed that BNP had forced the foreign diplomat to criticise its absence in the peace conference. He ridiculed the BNP leaders for criticising a foreign diplomat whom they spoke to against the government over dinners.

Lockwood

From page 12

The UNDP press release also stated that Lockwood expressed his gratitude for Saifur Rahman's and the BNP leadership's past support for the UNDP-assisted project providing support for Jatiya Sangsad, "which will only be truly successful with the full support and involvement of all parties."

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Saifur Rahman said that David Lockwood paid a courtesy call at his office yesterday afternoon. He said the UNDP representative had come and explained his position and that it was a cordial meeting.

PM: ADP

From page 12

size.

Presiding over the NEC meeting at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the afternoon Prime Minister Hasina expressed satisfaction over the overall ADP performance, officials said. At the same time, she directed officials concerned to expedite the work and upgrade their quality for further accomplishments.

The meeting yesterday discussed in detail the impediments to ADP implementation and suggested means of overcoming the problems.

Despite the longest-lasting devastating floods last year, the ADP implementation was better than that of previous years, Planning Secretary Abdul Hamid Chowdhury and IED Secretary AKM Anisur Rahman told newsmen after the meeting.

The meeting was told that Tk 12,509 crore of the revised Tk 14,000 crore ADP had been spent during the year 1998-99, which was Tk 1,472 crore more than the previous years.

"The implementation should be perfect and mainly targeted to poverty alleviation," the Prime Minister told the officials concerned to supervise strictly all the ADP projects.

Official sources said in 1997-98 original ADP was Tk 12,800 crore and revised ADP Tk 12,200 crore while in 1996-97 the original ADP was Tk 12,500 crore and revised Tk 11,700 crore.

A total of 1329 projects under the ADP were approved for year 1998-99, the officials said, adding that in the original ADP the number of projects was 1216.

Total 82 per cent of the projects were approved in the year 1996-97, while 82 per cent in 1997-98 and 84 per cent in 1998-99.

Gunfight

From page 1

and ransacked the administrative section, machine room and employees union office. They also attacked the workers' colony.

Men of Lutfor group resisted them and were locked in a chase and counter chase. Both the groups used firearms.

A bullet hit Salahuddin in the chest. He was rushed to the DMCH in a critical condition where he died at about 11:30 am. Shadidullah came to his uncle's residence at RK Mission Road from Munsiganj two days ago.

Nasir, reportedly a member of Shahadat group, was bullet-hit in the head. He died also at the DMCH.

The clash ended after the Shahadat group left the scene.

Police were deployed at the mill after the clash. None was arrested and no case was filed till filing of this report last night.

JS: Nasim

From page 1

spread falsehood on the streets after taking votes from the people, he added.

Speaking on a motion felicitating Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for being elected Founder-President of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace, Nasim castigated the opposition leader for not attending the Asian Parliamentarians conference for Peace and cooperation held in the city recently and forcing her party lawmakers to do the same.

"They don't want peace and so they refrained from attending the peace conference," he said, accusing BNP of "sheltering and patronising terrorists."

The home minister also alleged that BNP was trying to protect the identified culprits involved in killings at the Udicht programme in Jessore and in the murder of JSD leader Kazi Aref.

Environment confce

From page 12

lla Congress.

UNEP regional director Nirmal Andrews, ADB's Environment Division Chief Dr KF Jalal, ESCAP's environment division chief Dr Rezaul Karim and environment secretary of Bangladesh Syed Marghub Murshed will attend as special guests.

Journalist AZM Enayetullah Khan will deliver the lecture at the inaugural session, which will also be addressed by AFEJ chairman Dr. Dharman Wickramaratne, CEJA Secretary General Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, UNDP's Shireen Kamal Sayeed and FEJB member Khondokar Monirul Alam.

FEJB is hosting the congress in cooperation with the sustainable environment management programme (SEMP) of the Environment Ministry, UNDP, UNEP, ADB, World Bank, USAID, Friends of the Earth and the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands.

The Forum of Environment Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) is the host organisation.



Employees of the Public Works Department held a meeting in the city yesterday to press home their various demands. — Star photo

HERE and THERE

BCS (Foreign Affairs)

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday asked newly recruited foreign service officials to learn intricacies of practice of diplomacy to face challenges of the new world order, reports UNB.

He was addressing the passing out ceremony of the trainee officers of the BCS (Foreign Affairs) Cadre of 1998 batch held at Foreign Service Academy here.

Explaining the importance of establishment of the Academy, Azad hoped that it would enable our diplomatic officers to attain a high moral and professional standard to uphold vital national interest.

"The government is continuing its endeavours in right earnest for brightening Bangladesh's image abroad as a peace loving and justice upholding country as well as socio-

Notre Dame College

economic well-being of the people through Economic Diplomacy," the FM said.

He hoped that the officers who have just passed out would make their own contributions towards the realisation of our foreign policy.

A reception was accorded to the students of Notre Dame College who got place in the merit list in the HSC examinations '99 held under the Dhaka Board in the auditorium of the college yesterday, reports BSS.

Editor of the Daily Prothom Alo Mattur Rahman and Chief Editor and Managing Director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Haroon Habib spoke at the reception as the guest of honours while Principal of the college Father Benjamin D Costa was in the chair.

The college authorities honoured their eleven best students who got place in the HSC merit list including first, second and third positions in the merit list of the Science Group of Dhaka Board.

Moderator of all the Clubs of the college Prof Gazi Ajmol delivered the welcome speech, moderator of the host Manobik Sangha (humanitarian club) Prof Gopinath Karmoker gave the vote of thanks.

Obituary

AKM Fazlur Rahim, a retired senior official of Uttara Bank Limited died on Monday at his residence at Kalabagan in the city. He was 61, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter. His *qulshuani* will be held tomorrow after Asr prayers at the residence of the deceased.

NSU

The orientation programme of MBA students of North South University was held on Tuesday, says a press release.

Professor Hafiz GS Siddiqi at the orientation programme said, "It has been our continued mission at NSU to develop and deliver quality business education to high potential individuals. MBA programme of NSU is aimed to groom skilled managers to face the challenges of the new millennium. He hoped that the programme would help fill the void that exists in the trained management level positions in the country."

Professor Siddiqi also said that MBA is the star programme of NSU and it is committed to make it one of the best programmes in the South East Asia region.

Syedra Rawshan Ara

Syedra Rawshan Ara, a retired journalist Syed Jafar, died of old-age complications at a city hospital yesterday. She was 85, reports BSS.

She left behind three sons, grandchildren and relatives to mourn her death.

Her *namaz-e-janaza* will be held at Mirpur Sangbadik Palli after Zohr prayers today.

Death anniversary

The 27th death anniversary of AKM Fazlur Kabir Chowdhury will be observed at Gohira under Raozan Thana in Chittagong today, says a press release.

Milad mahfil, *Qurankhari* and feeding of the destitutes will be held.

Zahirul Islam

Zahirul Islam, an official of the audit section of Jatiya Sangsad, died of cardiac arrest Tuesday night at the age of 48 at his Agargaon residence in the city, reports BSS.

Islam left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Mirpur graveyard after *namaz-e-janaza* at Agargaon Mosque after Zohr prayers yesterday.

Dinner for WHO delegates cancelled

The dinner scheduled to be held tomorrow in honour of the delegates attending the 52nd session of the Regional Committee of the World Health Organisation has been cancelled, a FID handout said last night, reports BSS.

It said the programme which was to have been held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel was cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances, the handout added.

Asheke rasul

The weekly *asheke rasul* (SM) mahfil will be held at the central office of the Dewanbagh Sharif at 147, Arambagh in the city, says a press release.

It will begin after Asr prayers.