

What's on today

Musical soiree: Indian High Commission will hold a classical vocal recital by Kalpana Bhattacharya. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, 754, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:30 pm.

Concert: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will hold a live concert by Conopy. Venue: Alliance Francaise premises. Time: 7:00 pm.

AAERSCI seminar: Allergy Asthma Environmental Research & Skin Care Institute will hold a seminar on 'Arsonic mitigation and lead pollution'. Venue: CIRDP auditorium, Chameli House, 17, Tophkhana Road. Time: 11:00 am.

Rally: Amnesty International, Bangladesh will hold a rally and submit a memorandum to the Indonesian embassy to express their concern over the infringement of human rights in East Timor. Venue: The rally will start from Gulshan 1 circle. Time: 11:30 am.

Stipend awarding ceremony: Bangladesh Association of Retired Servicemen of Education Boards will hold the first stipend awarding ceremony under its students welfare programme. Venue: Auditorium of Education Board. Time: 4:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Painting competition: Purbita, a female artists' organisation, will hold a painting competition for children to mark its eighth founding anniversary. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts premises. Time: 3:00 pm.

Exhibition: The 14-day solo painting exhibition of Nadia Andaleeb Preema will be inaugurated. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi. The exhibition will remain open daily from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Due to active monsoon, moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and the lowest of 23 degrees at Sitakunda and Satkhira.

The sun sets today at 5:55 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:48 am.

Table with 5 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius, Humidity in Percentage, Morning, Evening. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

HERE and THERE

CESTI seminar

A seminar on 'Foreign Investment in Pharmaceutical Industry in Bangladesh' organised by Centre for Scientific & Technological Information (CESTI) of the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka...

BAITET

An association for IT education and training industry has been formed in a general meeting held recently at a local restaurant in the city...

Confce on US society

The two-day ninth conference on 'US Society and Culture' began at the Academy of Planning and Development in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Global Village

Global Village, a new NGO, was formally launched yesterday evening with a pledge to help combat arsenic contamination and power shortfall in the country, reports BSS.

Shishu Academy

A juvenile painting and patriotic song competition was held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises yesterday, reports UNB.

AL leader dead

Former legislator Nurul Qadir Junnu died of heart attack at his village home at Suktagram in Kashiani thana yesterday morning. He was 65, family sources said, reports BSS.

32 rounded up in Ctg

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Heavy rainfall during Tuesday night has left the makeshift road on the lake at Dhanmondi Road No 32 on the verge of collapse. Wooden planks have been placed there to ease movement by pedestrians. — Star photo

Incessant rain Makeshift road on Dhanmondi lake damaged

By Staff Correspondent

The incessant rain took the LGED engineers by surprise as the water level of Dhanmondi lake between Road 27 and 32 started to swell, putting huge pressure on the makeshift embankment-cum-road that was damaged partially yesterday.

The water from the swollen stretch of the lake gushed through the six-inch pipe, but the huge pressure of water caused damage to the makeshift road which had been built during the construction of the bridge. The difference of water level of the swollen stretch and the rest of the lake was found at about 15 feet.

LGED engineer Mahbubur Rahman told this correspondent that the unexpected rain had caused a small embankment to cave in early yesterday morning.

As the road — used only by rickshaws and scooters — was cut off, Dhanmondi turned out to be a traffic nightmare during the school hours yesterday. The situation became worse due to an uprooted Krishnachura tree on the road-8 bridge. Huge traffic congestion was built up in the residential area which houses hundreds of schools, offices, clinics, hospitals, and shopping centres.

WARPO for calling 57 transboundary rivers by their original names

By Staff Correspondent

The Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO) adopted a resolution to call 57 transboundary rivers flowing over Bangladesh by their original names rather than local ones at a contract group meeting on the proposed National Water Management Plan in the city yesterday.

Water sector experts discussed by what name the Ganges flowing in the country should be called and what would be an appropriate name for the Brahmaputra flowing over Bangladesh.

After a heated debate over the issue, the resolution was adopted over a strong note of dissent placed by the chairman of Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARSSO) Dr AM Choudhury, who disagreed with the WARPO decision. He was for calling the Ganges as Padma and Brahmaputra as Jamuna as commonly used by the people of lower riparian countries.

Choudhury said that WARPO had no mandate to change the names of rivers and said that such an issue should be resolved in the parliament if major changes in rivers' name be an absolute necessity. However, others present at the meeting agreed to the formulation put forward by Tauhidul Anwar Khan, Director General of WARPO.

Responding to the strong objection raised by AM Choudhury, the WARPO DG informed the meeting that if common names of the 57 cross-country rivers are used by all, it would be easy for official documentation. Besides, he argued, local people have the liberty of calling rivers by the names used locally.

Of the 230 rivers in Bangladesh, we have 54 common rivers with India and three others with Myanmar. What we are trying to say is that instead of calling the tributary flowing in from Ganges as Padma, we will keep its original name. Likewise, we will not officially call a river Jamuna, rather call it Brahmaputra, explained Tauhidul Anwar Khan saying that if needed, he would raise the issue at National Water Resources Council which will be headed by the Prime Minister.

The government has entrusted WARPO with the responsibility of preparing a National Water Management Plan by early 2001.

Chaired by Water Resources Ministry additional secretary AQM Quamrul Huda, yesterday's meeting also had detailed discussion on peoples' participation in water management programmes and the latest WARPO activities.

Some of the main water related problems faced by the people such as inadequacy of domestic water supply, inland flooding, poor drainage, waterlogging, siltation of rivers and canals, and shortage of both surface and groundwater for agriculture purposes were highlighted at the meeting for WARPO to take note of while preparing the plan.

Water resources experts, economists and officials representing Water Development Board, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Department of Environment, Local Government and Engineering Department, Surface Water Monitoring Centre, Joint River Commission, and WARPO attended the meeting.

Nepalese Agriculture Minister Chakra Prasad Bastola yesterday expressed keen interest in procuring high yielding seeds of paddy and technology suitable for cultivation in different seasons in Nepal, reports BSS.

Chakra Prasad was visiting the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) at Gazipur. He was visibly impressed over the activities of the BRRI in evolving newer varieties of high yielding paddy seeds and their farming technology.

BRRI Director General Dr Abdul Hamid Miah received the Nepalese Agriculture Minister at the Institute and took him to different HYV research plots. He was also taken to laboratories and research sections of the BRRI.

Ershad to address meeting at Narsingdi Friday

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad will address a public meeting at Pubali Jute Mills Sports ground in Narsingdi on Friday, reports UNB.

JP secretary general Nazur Rahman Manju, party president members and other central leaders will accompany him.

He will also address two wayside rallies at Madhobi Bus Stand and Dangha High School ground, said a JP press release yesterday.

W. Bengal polls

Mukherjee and former Union Minister Debi Pal switched over to TC recently while some more are sitting on the fence. Putting up a brave face, Congress leaders, however, refused to agree that it would affect the party's polls prospect and accused Trinamool Congress leadership of engineering defection in its ranks.

Railway track

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pleted soon. Currently the railway carries freight from India at Darshana where, on an average three trains arrived per day last year. The new head at Benapole would reduce the distance and time for traders using the Darshana point. Traffic would, however, be increased.

But the railway would not carry containers nor link Dhaka. It would not be possible to link the broad gauge lines to Dhaka via Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge before late 2001, knowledgeable sources said.

The other points where trains deliver freight from India are Rohanpur in north west and Birol also in north west which link Radhikapur in India for freight services to Nepal.

The three railheads are used for importing consumer goods, food, boulder, cement and coal from India. Bangladesh have Muga gauge link with Nepal to export Fertiliser and other cargo. Agricultural products like pulse, onion etc., on the other hand, are imported from Nepal.

Importers to bring dolomite, boulders and fruits from Bhutan use another railroad at Burimari which arrive by road from the Bhutanese side.

No decision has yet been taken on passenger train services between Bangladesh and India, the sources added. Only one special train is permitted to carry the border annually to cross pilgrims to Medinipur.

Clinton

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Hasina thanked the US President for his remarks on Bangladesh.

Supporting the three-point agenda of President Clinton, Hasina said it is also her agenda. The agenda is poverty alleviation, international conflict-resolution and disarmament particularly of biological weapons.

The Bangladesh leader said she has been working for peace after nuclear detonation by India and Pakistan. She said that she had visited these countries and tried to defuse the tension.

Hasina said she would continue her peace efforts in the South Asian region. She hoped that the peace effort would further be strengthened during the coming SAARC summit.

The leaders of the countries attended the luncheon.

Hasina

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security to public life and property. It is a public demand since long.

To check terrorism the existing law is not suitable. To combat terrorism and punish the terrorists a stringent law is necessary. So, we approved the proposed law in the Cabinet. It will go to the parliamentary committee concerned and the opposition has the scope to discuss the law.

The Act is aimed to reduce lengthy procedures of justice in order to punish the terrorists speedily and to eliminate repression on women. She said.

Replying to a question, Hasina said: 'We had talked with the Canadian government for extradition of the killers of Bangladesh to Bangladesh, and Canada had assured us of its cooperation.'

To answer the query, she said she did not think that the Special Powers Act is a hindrance to democracy. All previous governments had used it. 'AL is a democratic political party and it will not misuse the law.'

About foreign investment, Hasina said the FDI has increased during the last three years. US investors have expressed their eagerness to invest in Bangladesh. US investment has increased to 800 million dollars from a mere 25 million dollars, she added.

'We are always conscious about the interest of the country while making any deals,' the prime minister said.

Smugglers

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eral places before the consignment was brought to the hotel for hand-over. 'We are checking', he said but did not elaborate.

Racketeers in at least five countries were involved in trafficking the heroin. The consignment was brought to Bangladesh from Afghanistan through Pakistan and India in land routes. It was to flow to Birmingham, Britain, they said. 'It is a complicated case. We are proceeding carefully', another source said.

The consignment was kept at the DNC DG's room amid tight security till yesterday noon. It was sent to the treasury at about 1:15 pm, the sources said.

The full consignment was not examined by the DNC. Only 700 grams of it was examined, which was found to be 'pure and high quality heroin,' the sources said.

Earlier, the drug smugglers were produced before the CMM court on Tuesday by Ramna police. The court placed them on five days' remand for interrogation. The DNC is investigating the case under the supervision of the DNC DG.

Geographically, Bangladesh is at the middle of the world's biggest heroin processing areas. So drug tycoons try to route drugs through Bangladesh, they said.

Meanwhile, the DNC in a press release last night said the DG did not tell newsmen that a local businessman was involved in the smuggling.

The DG had told newsmen on Tuesday that it was not possible to bring the consignment 'without any friendly area' and that a 'local frozen food exporter might have been involved in the deal.'

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Have blood test

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happens to be the lone place in the city where people can seek professional advice regarding blood tests and other examinations. For information from IEDCR (which is located next to Mahakhali Green Market) people have been advised to call telephone No. 881237.

For those living outside the city areas have been advised to consult the concerned hospital doctors in their respective areas.

As a precautionary measure, we have already asked the hospitals and health centres to admit patients with complaints of fever on a priority basis. Dr Zakir Hossain, Director of IEDCR told the Daily Star.

An expert said, 'Malaria is a tropical parasitic disease caused by four species of mosquitoes. Of these the genus Plasmodium falciparum is the most dangerous. It causes disease — malaria in the country.'

He said 'Anopheles annularis and vagus parasites carried by the mosquitoes that live in the plain land are the most dangerous that lead to cerebral malaria, coma and death.'

'Cerebral or severe malaria would cause unconsciousness, abnormal behavior, vomiting and diarrhoea and anaemia,' the expert added.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne infection, which in recent years has become a matter of grave concern in the country due to its re-emergence in the region.

Experts say the type of mosquito that causes Dengue — Aedes Egypti is found aplenty in the urban areas. However, the 'classical' Dengue virus does not cause much harm but the more lethal one — Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) can kill its victims.

DHF begins with high fever, bleeding, often characterized by enlargement of liver, and in severe cases, blood circulatory failure. The fever usually persists for 2-7 days.

An expert, who carried out several studies on Dengue attack said, 'Aedes mosquito can fly a maximum distance of 50 yards. Only if it bites human it incites in blood for about 4-7 days. Typically, dengue causes flu-like illness and severe headache, sore throat, fever, and rash in some parts of the body.'

There is no drug treatment for JE. Preventive vaccination is the single most important control measure. Currently, three types of JE vaccines are in use: a mouse-brain-derived inactivated vaccine based on the Nakayama strain is produced in several Asian countries.

A cell culture-derived inactivated vaccine and a cell cultured-derived live attenuated vaccine are produced in China and widely used under the Chinese immunization programme.

Bloodsucking Culexine mosquitoes transfer JE virus to humans through infected animals like pigs and wild birds.

She said that more active prevention would be to control the mosquito population.

Referring to the EC office programme on September 30, the BNP chairperson said, 'Our movement is also against the EC because it has been involved in various misdeeds against the people.'

The man (CEC) who is sitting at the EC has been rigging elections and committing crimes since he took over. He (CEC) has completely turned the EC office into an AL office,' she said. 'We will compel him to resign. His ouster is also part of our one-point out-governance movement.'

She warned against any attack on the BNP programmes by 'the ruling party terrorists.'

She alleged that AL 'terrorists' positioned themselves on the rooftops, threw bombs and fired gunshots on the sit-in-demonstration participants on September 12.

'After the terrorist attack, police fired tear shells and bullets on the BNP leaders and activists.'

Turning to forthcoming Upazila polls, the opposition leader said the government was conspiring to keep BNP out of the local elections through 'intensified repression' on the opposition.

'I want to declare that the Upazila elections would not be held under the Awami League government. Now there is no scope to hold the Upazila polls and any efforts to hold the election would be resisted.'

'There is no reason to hold polls under AL and the present CEC because they failed to ensure free, fair and neutral polls in the past.'

'She also said the ID cards and the voters' lists were not acceptable either. There is too many irregularities and incidents of manipulation in the process to prepare the ID cards and election cannot be held with voters using this ID card.'

Khaleda accused the government of failing to deal with India which she said had been 'continuing attacks on Bangladesh at the borders, killing people and BDR personnel as well as looting our wealth.'

She claimed as many as 40 Bangladeshis, including BDR men, were killed in Indian attacks at the borders in the last one year.

Khaleda said that India had already occupied 171 acres of land and Billonia's char at Fenil. 'In this way, the AL is handing over Bangladesh's land to India. So this weak and subservient government has no right to stay in power.'

She reiterated her determination not to let the government grant corridor facility to India. 'We will not give transit or transshipment to India and resist all such ill-effects at any cost,' she added.

The opposition leader also alleged that the government was trying to reintroduce the one-party BKSAL system and curb the independence of judiciary and the press.

On the so-called public security act, she said the post-independence AL government had concentrated all powers in the hands of one person in the name of democracy and accountability, introducing the Special Power Act. 'The new black law is also aimed at doing the same thing.'

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Sayedee's punishment demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of Sylhet Division Development Council (SDDC) in a statement yesterday demanded exemplary punishment of Delwar Hossain Sayeedee for his comment on expatriate Sylhetees living in London.

Nasrin Rashid Karim and Wayfar Rahman, Acting President and General Secretary respectively of the SDDC, also expressed solidarity with the decision of citizens' rally of Sylhetees for building a united movement against Sayeedee.

The citizens' rally was held on Tuesday at Sylhet municipal auditorium with municipal Chairman Badoruddin Kamran in the chair.

The SDCC leaders said Sayeedee has to seek apology through a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club for his comments which has tremendously hurt the sentiments of the inhabitants of Sylhet.

The leaders called upon all Sylhetees living at home and abroad to build up unified movement against Sayeedee.

Top AL leaders

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tional image had been boosted. 'People will judge our performance in the next general election.'

AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta called Khaleda's plan to topple the government 'undemocratic, unconstitutional and unethical' and said 'her plan would never come true.'

'She is yet to gain support even from her party workers, not to speak of the common people. It's going to be another case of futile exercise,' he said, referring to 'the recent programmes which ended in futility.'

Growth zones

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sation of policies and tariff structure and dismantling of non-tariff barriers,' he added.

Madhukar Rana, former economic advisor of Foreign Ministry of Nepal, said subregionalism was a unique Asia-Pacific innovation in international development.

'Its success in East and South East Asia is now being replicated in South Asia. It appears that sub-regionalism is here to stay as effective instruments of multilateral co-operation.'

U San Tun Hla, Executive Committee Member of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), said setting up of growth zone covering Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India and Myanmar would play an important role in international trade.

Tshering Dorji, General Secretary of Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Badri P. Ohja, Secretary General of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also took part in the discus-

One killed in road accident

GAZIPUR, Sept 22: An unidentified young man was killed in a road accident today at village Gazipoura on Dhaka-Gazipur Road under Tongi Poursabha, reports BSS.

Police said, the accident occurred when a Kaliakoir-bound minibus ran over an unidentified young man on Dhaka-Gazipur Road at village Gazipoura. The victim died on the spot.

Rubel murder

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The ten of the 14 chargesheeted accused, including AC Akram and Mukuli Begum, were produced before the court yesterday at about 2 pm.

The rest four — SI Nurul Alam, constables — Mong She Oen, Abul Kalam Azad and Zakir Hossain — have been absconding since the killing of Rubel.

During yesterday's proceedings, lawyer for the arrested sub-inspector — Haiyatul Islam Thakur — cross-examined the Nirala Begum Shilpi.

The lawyer for the accused AC Akram Hossain, submitted a bail prayer but the judge did not pass any order in this connection.

According to a CID investigation, Shamim Reza Rubel, 24, a BBA student of the Independent University, was picked up by a team of Detective Branch of Police from near his residence on July 23 last year and was tortured to death in custody the same day.

The judge Molla Mustafa Kamal yesterday fixed October 11 and 12 for cross examination of sister-in-law of Rubel.