

What's on today

- DRU meeting: Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) will hold a general meeting of crime reporters working in different dailies, newsagencies and bureaus. Venue: DRU office at Segunbaghicha. Time: 10:30 am.
Painting competition: Purbita, a female artists organisation will hold a painting exhibition for children to mark its eighth founding anniversary. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts premises. Time: 3:00 pm.
DAB discussion meeting: Doctor's Association of Bangladesh (DAB) will hold an open discussion on 'Proposed Health Policy and its probable harmful impact on public health'. Venue: DAB office at 2 New Eskaton, Moghbazar. Time: 3:00 pm.
Conference: The 6th annual conference of Bangladesh Jubo Union, Dhaka unit will be held. It will be followed by a cultural programme. Venue: TSC road island on DU campus. Time: 4:30 pm.
Founding anniversary: The 10th founding anniversary of Kalamantha Shishu Kishore Sangathan will be observed by holding a discussion meeting. This will be followed by a cultural programme. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre auditorium. Time: 4:30 pm.
Art exhibition: The 12th art solo exhibition of Mansur-ul-Karim will begin. Venue: Divine Art Gallery, Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 5:00 pm.

and tomorrow

- Roundtable: Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association will hold a roundtable on 'Photojournalism in Bangladesh: Bottlenecks and Challenges in the New Millennium'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:00 am
NSU seminar: The Department of Computer Science North South University (NSU) will hold a seminar on WWW-based Software Systems. Venue: NSU campus. Time: 3:00 pm.
Open discussion: Health For All will hold an open discussion on 'Acid throwing: the current situation in Bangladesh'. Venue: Gonoshasthyo Nagar Bhaban (5th floor), House No 14/E, Road no 6, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm.
NFOWD AGM: The annual general meeting of National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) will be held. Venue: LGED Bhaban seminar room (4th floor).

Weather

Thundershowers likely
Due to active monsoon moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty win is likely at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6 pm yesterday, reports UNB.
Day temperature may rise slightly over the country during the period. Met Office said. Rainfall may decrease gradually in the subsequent two days, of added.
The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 31.0 degree Celsius at Teknaf and the lowest 22.4 degrees at Rangamati, while the highest rainfall 72mm at Comilla.
The sun sets in the capital today at 5.54 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.48 am.
Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius, Humidity in percentage, Rain in 24 hours. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cost's Bazar.

Intra-party

From page 12
leged toll collection and other criminal acts.
Police arrested some of them but they were released on bail.
The insiders said most of the BCL leaders and activists are established supremacy in their respective areas and circles. They often fight over share of toll money.
Mentionably, Chittagong city unit of BCL has been running without any committee for the last five years.
Even president of the previous committee of Chittagong city unit of BCL, Mofizur Rahman, reportedly became almost inactive after being assaulted by some rival activists while general secretary of that committee, Md Rahim, went abroad, sources said.
Now, one faction of BCL is led by a young AL leader, AZM Nasir, who was arrested and freed recently.
Its rival faction based in MES College is controlled by a Juba League leader, Mamunur Rashid Mamun, who was also arrested during the recent police crackdown on the terrorists. He was later released on bail, sources said.
In Agrabad Commerce College area, one faction of BCL is led by one Abdul Kader who deserted Nasir due to rivalry, sources said.
Kader group and Nasir group were locked in a series of gun-fights in the past three days in

SAARC summit

From page 1
benefit of all the members.
It was also learnt that intra-country trade, which was above five per cent before launching the SAARC, has come down to around three per cent now.
The Summit is expected to further intensify efforts for economic liberalization by taking some "definite measures" for promoting regional trade, joint ventures, and creating investment facilities for development of tourism.
The Kathmandu Summit is expected to review the SAARC standpoint on issues related to WTO and the progress made in this regard.
Creation of institutional arrangements and effective linkages for poverty alleviation will also be discussed.
One of the major thrust areas has been to increase people-to-people contact among the SAARC states. Many governments and private organisations feel that the forthcoming summit should also address the problems in implementing a more liberal visa regime to a low increasing movement of people for business, study and travel. Till now, only a limited category of people are allowed

Int'l standard hospital to be built in city

A 500-bed multi-disciplinary hospital will be set up in the city to provide world class medical services and to check outflow of Bangladeshi patients who spend nearly 200 million dollar a year for treatment abroad, reports UNB.
The Tk 1800 million private sector Continental Hospital Limited (CHL) project is likely to start commissioning in 2001 in Gulshan area.
British healthcare company International Hospitals Group (IHG) yesterday signed a contract with CHL of Bangladesh for establishing the country's first private tertiary hospital.
The contract includes the project management, equipping, commissioning, and 10 years' operation and management of the hospital by the reputed British company.
Finance Minister Shah MS Kibria, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf and State Minister for Health Dr M Amanullah witnessed the signing of the contract at Sonargaon Hotel.
CHL chairman Prof Dr M M Hossain and Director Tapan Chowdhury, and IHG vice president Ben King and director of projects Brian McGibbin signed the contract on behalf of their respective sides.

Hasina

From page 1
debt management efforts of Bangladesh should be included in the good debt-management record.
Prime Minister Hasina expressed gratitude to Chirac for his country's help and assistance to Bangladesh and requested an increase in financial protocol.
The French President assured that help would be continued to Bangladesh through the EU. He said the issue of increasing debt-relief to the LDCs, particularly to Bangladesh, would be discussed thoroughly at G-8 meeting in Washington next Sunday.
About the French assistance for Bangladesh J. Chirac pointed out that a large amount of project aid, some 285 million frank, remained unused in water-treatment project.
The Prime Minister said special efforts would be taken to utilise that money and expressed gratitude to France for sending help during the devastating floods last year.
President Chirac offered his government's help in excavation at the archaeological site Mohasrangarh in northern Bogura district and for the light-and-sound project at Lalbagh Fort in capital Dhaka.

DSE

From page 1
preliminary report on about 3,35,000 fake share allotment letters of Sino Bangla.
"Of the allotment letters, a total of 2,02,000 were delivered by T Mashfu & Co. of which the firm had already replaced 1,98,000," according to the report.
Sino Bangla was listed with the DSE on March 6, 1999. On June 24, the company informed the DSE that it was receiving a large number of fake share allotment letters, saying that it was ready to replace the allotment letters with share certificates.
The company also asked the DSE not to allow trading of allotment letters from July 8, 1999.
The DSE acted accordingly and did not allow trading of Sino Bangla allotment letters from July 8. But on September 19 and 20, the DSE clearing house received two scrips identified as fake by company officials present at the clearing house.
The DSE surveillance team later found the brokerage firm - Motiree Biswas - responsible for delivering the fake shares to the clearing house.
When the firm was contacted by the DSE officials, it said that a representative of one of their clients had sold the shares.
Sources said that the Council could not take action earlier against the offenders as a strong lobby was influencing the DSE Council to refrain from taking any punitive steps.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Mukhlesur Rahman, Chairman and Managing Director of Uttara Group of Companies and Industries, will be held at his residence at House-11, Road-8, Gulshan-1, after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Dengue

From page 1
According to doctors, there are no preventive or curative drugs available for Dengue. Getting rid of mosquitoes appears to be the only means to remain safe from Dengue infection.
Dr A K Siddique head of Epidemic Control Preparedness Programme of (ICDDR,B) International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh told The Daily Star "The type of mosquito that causes Dengue - Aedes Aegypti is found plenty in the urban areas. However, the classical Dengue virus does not cause much of a harm but the more lethal one - Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) can be lethal.
He added, "Aedes mosquito can fly a maximum distance of 50 yards. Once it bites human it incubates in blood for about 5-7 days. Typically dengue is characterised by high fever that persists for a couple of days. The infection, particularly in children causes rash in some parts of body."
Earlier, following the public health concern IBDC conducted laboratory tests of blood samples in different areas in the city. They found four people to have been infected with 'classical' Dengue virus in the city.

BNP plans more bite

From page 1
Wednesday, reportedly instructed party leaders and activists at all levels to actively participate in every programme and face the ruling party.
Some top BNP leaders told this correspondent that the party could have taken a decision to participate in the two upcoming local government polls had the government softened its attitude towards the Opposition's four-point demand. But now there is no scope to participate in the polls as the government did not pay any attention to the demands placed on January 6 this year, they observed.
They said the opposition parties had called for boycotting the pourasabha elections held in February. But they are now firm to resist the upazila and city corporation polls at any cost, they said.
Besides, there are a number of important issues including the proposed transit facility to India to carry forward the one-point movement, they said.
A senior BNP leader said the party had earlier decided to launch the one-point movement from a planned 'Dhaka Siege' programme on November 7. But the decision was changed and declaration made one and a half months before schedule because the political situation is changing 'very fast'.
He claimed that the one-point movement was declared at an appropriate time. "We have strongly realised that the Awami League government must be removed through movement. It is the appropriate time to launch a vigorous movement as the government has started a war against BNP," the leader said.
The leader, who is an influential person in BNP's policy-making body, said BNP had no plan to disclose the AL government before completion of its term. The ruling party itself is responsible for pushing the opposition towards a one-point government movement, he alleged.
The AL, from the first day of assumption of power, resorted to all sorts of repression on BNP with a motive to destroy it, he alleged. "We can not sit idle when the government is selling

Divided teachers

From page 1
of the decision and the other against it.
The pro-AL teachers' group is justifying the move to confer the degree on the prime minister saying it was unanimously decided in a meeting of the university's Academic Council.
But the pro-BNP group of teachers is calling the decision-making process illegal. This group blamed the Vice-Chancellor for keeping the council members "in the dark" about the matter till he raised it at the end of the Council meeting. They further alleged that the VC also did not allow anybody to discuss the issue that was raised as a supplementary agenda.
The pro-AL teachers, in line with the DU authorities, denied the allegations and said that the decision was taken properly. They argued that any issue could come up for discussion as a supplementary agenda.
They claimed that there should not be any controversy over the issue as Sheikh Hasina already got similar degrees from some of the best universities in the world like Boston University (USA), Yonsei University (Japan), Abarte-Dardy (UK), Viswabarathi (India) and Luven (Belgium). She also got a peace prize from UNESCO and an international award from UNFPA.
The decision to confer honorary doctorate degree on the prime minister was taken at a meeting of the DU Academic Council on September 12 in recognition of her contribution to national, regional and world peace, poverty alleviation, expansion of education, woman empowerment and agricultural development. The degree will be conferred in a special convocation at DU on December 16.
Such a decision was also taken in the last two sessions of DU Senate.
Sources said that out of 533 Council members, 134 were present at the September 12 meeting held at the Conference Room at the Administrative Building. None of the members opposed the decision.
There were 113 items on the agenda of the meeting and the issue of conferring the degree on the prime minister was the 106th, the sources said.
Usually topics are raised in the Academic Council meeting in two forms - 'main' agenda and 'supplementary' agenda. The VC raises the issues on both the agenda. He had raised the issue of conferring the degree on the prime minister at the end of the 'main' agenda, the sources said.
The Daily Star yesterday contacted a number of teachers who were present at the meeting.
"None of the 134 members present in the meeting opposed or protested after the VC raised the issue. Rather the decision was taken amid loud claps," said Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof. M Shahadat Ali.
He did not oppose such a decision taken about Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen, he pointed out. "If there is anything wrong in the decision-making process, they could have raised it instantly. But they started opposing the move only after being instructed by a certain political party," he added.
Prof. Ali accused those teachers of trying to make the issue controversial party on political ground. "But such an issue should be kept above politics," he said.
Jagannath Hall Provost Prof. Durga Das Bhattacharyya claimed that the controversy

Playing prank

From page 1
Chawk is a tangle of narrow alleyways with mostly sari, fabrics and tailoring shops. The centre is most popular among womenfolk of the city and during eid festivals Gausia gets over crowded mostly with women and children in three thousands.
Thousands of over-hung electric wires are coiled together to provide electricity to the shops. A DESA source said electric bills paid by the market was not commensurate with the actual power consumption. About a thousand poor shop assistants cook their meals using electric ovens and sleep inside the market.
The bill is a pre-arranged sum paid to a section of corrupt DESA officials, the source confided in the Daily Star.
A top Rajuk engineer, requesting anonymity said that the building might not fall apart but may eventually cave in. "It has two major problems. It might cave in or if there is a fire from the electric wires many would die in possible standstades as there is no emergency fire exit," he said.

Death anniversary

The fifth death anniversary of Arifa T Murshed (Nupur) will be observed today, says a press release.
On the occasion, a mela and night will be held at Jurain Graveyard Mosque after Asr prayers.
Arifa was studying at Tri-State University in Indiana, USA on a scholarship when she drowned in St James Lake in 1994.

Tangail

From page 12
thinks so, he should refund the allowances he received as MP in the past three years since he has surrendered his parliament membership.
In his long drawn battle with the party hierarchy, Siddiqui was suspended from AL on disciplinary charges late July and was later served with a show-cause notice to explain why he would not be expelled for acting against interests of the party and its discipline.
The defiant leader however refused to give reply to the notice served by what he said the illegal leadership of the AL. He went to the extent of threatening to expel prime minister Sheikh Hasina, the AL president, if he could bag support in a requisition meeting of party councillors. But the planned council is unlikely before the by-election.

UCBL

From page 12
Babu also alleged that a former employee of the bank who had been at the UCBL entrance to inform newsmen about the change of venue was beaten up severely by Zaffar's men.
The incident on August 26 was pre-arranged and they (Zaffar and his men) had a plan to do the same yesterday if I had not changed the venue of the press conference," Babu said.
Babu alleged that the central bank and its governor "played a dirty role" in this matter as they did not communicate the bank after Babu replied to Bangladesh Bank's show cause notice.
Babu also said that Zaffar Ahmed Chowdhury, Zahangir Alam and Hashem had secured several crores worth of fictitious loan from the bank and that many of the directors were illegally on the board of UCBL as they were not even qualified to be on the board.
Handing over photocopies of 10 UCBL share certificates, each script of 500 shares, bearing name of a director Monoara Begum, Babu said that these five thousand shares were sold to one Warisuzzaman Chowdhury.
Warisuzzaman was his nephew, Babu said. The certificates bore names of Chowdhury which were transferred to him on August 2, 1999.
Babu said that many other directors had sold their shares to members of his family and were not eligible to be on the board of the bank.
Babu said that while he was "abroad" these directors issued bonus and rights shares in favour of original directors and illegally got them elected.
Asked why he fled the country jumping bail in 1993, Babu said that he had been made an accused in the murder case of Humayun Zahir, the then chairman of UCBL, and had to leave the country and that he was made an accused as a result of a conspiracy.
He also said that he was forced to resort to seclusion to protect himself from the conspirators.
At his press conference Zaffar demanded arrest of Akteruzzaman Babu who, he claimed, led gangsters to force Zaffar and others to resign at gun point.
Zaffar Ahmed Chowdhury said that he was the legal chairman of the bank as recognised by the central bank letter of September 9, 1999.
Zaffar Chowdhury said that if he had continued office of chairman and director defying High Court verdict that it would have been tantamount to contempt of court and the High Court would have summoned them.
He also denied Babu's allegation of beating up one of his men.

Sex workers

From page 1
Pathan, asked about the dialogue he initiated with the NGOs on August 4, said he would resume the dialogue in a fortnight. The dialogue is aimed to involve the NGOs in the rehabilitation process.
Meanwhile, half of the 267 sex workers had been released from the Gazipur vagrant centres. It is alleged that most of them were handed over to the pimps who pushed them back to sex business.
There are only 133 sex workers awaiting rehabilitation at the vagrant homes. But the rest of the 3,000 either took refuge in other brothels or were continuing the business in different places under the eviction.
A large number of the floating sex workers at Narayanganj reportedly made two abortive attempts during last one month to return to the Tanbazaar brothel, prompting construction of walls on both the entries by local people under the banner of Toudhi Janata.
Police and a group of local youths are keeping a close eye on the abandoned brothel.

Unesco prize prompts CHT protests

From Our Correspondent
CHITAGONG, Sept 23: Parbatya Sarbadaliya Oikya Parishad, an all party alliance in the CHT, has decided to put up road barricades in three hill districts - Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari - tomorrow and termed the day (Sept 24) as 'Black Day' for the hill region protesting the Unesco Peace Award to be given to Prime Minister for signing CHT Peace Accord.
The Parishad at a press conference at the local press club here today alleged that the peace accord for which the Prime Minister is going to be awarded had snatched all civic rights of Bangalees living in the region, instead of bringing peace.
Khaleda
From page 1
cost of blood are ready to shed blood again to protect it.
The opposition leader asked India to stop its aggression, give compensation to those killed or injured in BSF attacks and withdraw its troops from 'occupied lands' of Bangladesh.
She also urged the government to take initiative to realise those demands.

DCC drive

From page 1
added.
Despite drizzles in the morning, DCC workers used their fogger machines to kill mosquitoes in the area.
But the DCC drive across the city could not get into full swing due to bad weather.
Only garbage and water hyacinths were removed from some wetlands and ditches. There are some 2100 acres of such mosquito breeding grounds in the city.
Rains prevented use of Malaria-B oil, which destroys larvae. It is expected to be sprayed on Sunday if good weather prevails.
Dr Ashraf said mere cleaning of the wetlands would not help unless citizens too join the drive by cleaning their own household.

Advertisement for Advanced Development Technologies. Text: "Don't go for LOOKS! We don't have TWINS! Sometimes two things looks like the same. And sometimes one thing might look similar to another. Well we are neither. We don't have any twin organisations neither have any sister concerns. So, be careful when you see an Ad or logo very similar to us. Remember, only Advanced Development Technologies Ltd, is the maker of the finest apartments in Dhaka city. Other company logos might look the same as printed on the lower right of this ad, but does not necessarily possess the same quality and expertise we have. So if you're not careful enough while choosing the Best, it might not fulfill your desired expectations." Includes image of a person's face.