

## What's on today.....

**Workshop:** Agrobased Industries and Technology Development Project (AITDP), IFDC in association with the Ministry of Agriculture will hold the inauguration ceremony of a workshop on "Establishment of Linkage between grain producers, poultry feed processors, feed traders and poultry farmers". Venue: Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9:30 am.

**Workshop:** Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP) sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will hold an inception workshop on "Community Based Urban Solid Waste Management in Dhaka". Venue: Seminar room (3rd floor), IDB Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9:00 am.

**Film show:** Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Pare* will be screened. Venue: Public Library. Time: 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Bangladesh Peoples League will hold a discussion meeting on "Where the country is heading during AL rule." Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 3:30 pm.

**Memorial lecture:** The 10th Nazma Jesmin Memorial Lecture will be held. The lecture is on "Evolution of Science, Society and Civilisation". Venue: Modern Language Institute of Dhaka University. Time: 4:00 pm.

**Film show:** Zahir Raihan Film Society in collaboration with Goethe Institut will screen 2 movies — *Fire* by Deepa Mehta and *West Beirut* by Ziad Doueiri. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

**Musical recital:** The High Commission of India will hold a musical recital by Indian classical exponent Shanti Sharma. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 7:00 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Seminar:** A seminar on "Integrated Mosquito Management in Dhaka City: Promising Non-chemical Components" will be held. Organisers: CESTI of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka and Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS). Venue: Cafeteria of Alliance Francaise. Time: 10:30 am.

**Film show:** Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Pare* will be screened. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Shishu Academy will hold a discussion meeting on "Media and Child Rights" in observance of the beginning of Child Rights Week. The meeting will be followed by a cultural show. Venue: Shishu Academy premises. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Discussion:** Samajtantrik Buddhijibi Sangha will hold a discussion on "Criminalisation, Politics and Role of State". Venue: TSC seminar room. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Film show:** Zahir Raihan Film Society in collaboration with Goethe Institut will screen 2 movies *Funny Games* by Michael Hareke and *Eyes Wide Shut* by Stanley Kubrick. Venue: Goethe Institut. Time: 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

## Weather

### Moderate rain likely

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

Country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 34.0 degree Celsius at Rangpur and the lowest 21.2 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.49 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.49 am and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town   | Temperature |            | Humidity in |         |
|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|---------|
|             | In Celsius  | Percentage | Morning     | Evening |
| Dhaka       | 32.6        | 25.0       | 65          | 85      |
| Chittagong  | 32.2        | 25.4       | 75          | 78      |
| Rajshahi    | 30.8        | 23.8       | 90          | 89      |
| Khulna      | 33.1        | 24.8       | 81          | 75      |
| Barisal     | 32.3        | 24.8       | 76          | 98      |
| Sylhet      | 32.2        | 23.0       | 82          | 81      |
| Cox's Bazar | 32.6        | 24.6       | 78          | 80      |

## HERE and THERE

### BPC rally

A colourful rally was held to mark the World Tourism Day yesterday organised by Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) with the assistance of Dhaka University Tourist Society, reports UNB.

Led by Civil Aviation, Tourism, Housing and Works Minister Engr Mosharraf Hossain, the rally was also attended, among others, by Civil Aviation and Tourism officials, Bangladesh Youth Tourist Club also took part in the rally.

Starting from National Museum the rally ended at the National Press Club parading along TSC, Bangla Academy, Doel Chatterjee and Curzon Hall of Dhaka University.

Various other organisations also observed the day in a befitting manner.

### NSU

The annual fellowship meeting of board and faculty members of North South University was held yesterday, says a press release.

The Chairman of North South University Foundation, M A Kashem, presided over the meeting. He expressed strong conviction that NSU will continue to march forward and urged NSU faculty members to make constructive suggestions for improvement of academic atmosphere and use their education, acumen and expertise for the upliftment of the country.

The other members of the NSU Foundation present in the meeting were Masihur Rahman, Vice Chairman of the Foundation; M A Awal, the immediate Past Chairman of the Foundation; Md Shahjahan and Prof S A Ahad. Also present at the gathering were core and part-time faculty members and upper echelon NSU administrators.

### Prokrichi-BCS

Coordination Council By Staff Correspondent Prokrichi-BCS Coordination Council, an association of civil servants and professionals, in a meeting on Sunday night requested the parliamentary standing committee on Establishment Ministry to reconsider the pay scale upgrading of 321 posts under BCS (Admn) cadre.

It noted that the BCS (Admn) cadre was already enjoying many advantages in the government as officials under this cadre held most of the senior positions comparing to other cadres of BCS.

A press release issued last night said that the meeting had, however, welcomed the stand-

## BCF demands formation of complaint cell at DU

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra Federation (BCF) yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus demanding formation of a complaint cell and a code of conduct regarding sexual harassment at the university.

Following the procession, DU unit of the left-leaning student organisation held a rally in front of the Arts Building (Kala Bhaban) of the university at noon.

Addressing the rally, BCF leaders demanded trial and punishment of the teachers who have been accused of harassing female students of the university including accused Salfuzzaman.

They also demanded a fair probe into the recent allegation of sexual harassment against Kamaluddin of Psychology Department.

Among others, Yasin Mukul, Abeda Gulrukh and Mohiuddin Mohammad Tariq addressed the rally.

Meanwhile, in a statement, issued by DU unit president Abeda Gulrukh and general secretary Iftekhkar Aib, BCF condemned the attack on Chhatra Union leader Kamrul Hasan Kamol at Salmullah Hall of the university recently and demanded trial and exemplary punishment of the attackers.

Blaming the activists of ruling party backed Chhatra League for unleashing terrorist activities on the campus, the statement also urged the university authorities to make a list of the terrorists and take stern action against them.

## Telephone bills for Aug to be paid by Oct 7

Analogue telephone bills for the month of August issued by Bangladesh TST Board are to be paid by October 7, reports UNB.

A TST press release yesterday said subscribers, who have not received the bills yet, sent by post, must collect duplicate ones and make the payment by the stipulated time.

Subscribers may contact Senior Accounts Officer Telephone Revenue (South) over Phone No 9550402 and Senior Accounts Officer Telephone Revenue (North) over Phone No 814802 to collect the duplicate bills.

Payment may be made to the specified branches of Agrani, Krishi, Janata, Rupali, National Credit and Commerce Bank, Bank of Small Industries, Prime Bank, City Bank and United Commercial Bank Ltd, the release added.

## JS clarification on establishment ministry

Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat yesterday gave a clarification on a news item published in a section of newspapers on September 16 about the meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Establishment, reports BSS.

As the newspapers have published partial recommendations of the said meeting, there is scope for confusion, the clarification said and mentioned the following decisions taken at the meeting.

The next meeting of the standing committee should be informed about the steps taken according to the decisions of the committee at a meeting on May 26 about removing the intra-cadre salary discrimination. Proper steps have to be taken to upgrade the provision of promotion up to 12 per cent in the cadre services where its percentage is below 12. The ministry should submit a report to the committee on fixing intra-cadre seniority in case of promotion of secretariat posts.

Steps should be taken for giving promotion on merit basis considering deputy secretary level as the entry point. Ministry of Establishment will take adequate measures after consulting the Public Service Commission. The upgradation of salary scale of deputy secretary post from Taka 7100-8700 (old) will remain suspended. Necessary steps should be taken for giving selection grade in the 50 per cent post (scale Taka 6300-8050/- (old)) of all senior cadres. Necessary steps might be taken for promotion of 267 posts in the administration cadre out of 321 as per approval of the prime minister. Promotion in the core posts, including the posts of district administrators, will be brought under special consideration. The next meeting of the committee should be informed of the progress of making transparent service rule. The ministry of establishment should place a fresh working paper after identifying the remaining problems of other cadres under Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS).

### DU-BCF

Dhaka University unit of Left-leaning Bangladesh Chhatra Federation (BCF) yesterday demanded punishment of those who are involved in sexual harassment of girl students forming code of conduct and allegation cell, reports UNB.

DU BCF unit also brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally in front of Kala Bhaban at 12:30 pm.

Yasin Mukul, Abeda Gulrukh and Mohiuddin Mohammad Tariq addressed the rally. Addressing the rally, the BCF leaders demanded immediate and exemplary punishment of Kamaluddin, a lecturer of Psychology Department along with Prof Shaheeduzzaman of International Relations Department, both accused of sexual harassment of girl students.

### JAHR

In collaboration with Journalist Association for Human Rights and Welfare (JAHR) and Department of Youth Development under Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Ministry, a 15-day long Mobile Boutique Training Course for women began on Sunday at Royer Bazar area under Mohammedpur thana in city, says a press release.

Dulal Biswas, Secretary General of National Federation of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh (NFYO) inaugurated the training course while Hemayet Hossain, Vice-President of JAHR and Chairman of JAHR-Residential Project Affairs Sub-committee attended as chief guest.

## Liberation War documents stolen

A large number of Liberation War documents were stolen from Commander Mohammad Zahur Haque Munshi, Bir Protik, early this morning at Kamalapur Railway Station in the city, reports BSS.

The Liberation War veteran said the documents, in a handbag, were stolen at about 4:30 am while he was waiting to get transport.

He arrived at the station from Jamalpur by a train last night in order to submit the documents and some certificates of freedom fighters to the Mukti Joddha Central Command Council office.

Munshi was one of the key commanders during the Liberation War in his Jamalpur area.

A General Diary (GD) has been lodged with Dhaka Government Railway Police (GRP) thana in this connection.

## CU likely to shorten Durga Puja vacation

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 27: The upcoming Durga Puja vacation at Chittagong University (CU) is likely to be shortened to make up for academic losses caused by unscheduled vacation recently.

The decision may be taken in an academic committee meeting on the first week of next month, said CU Vice-Chancellor Professor Abdul Mannan talking to The Daily Star today. The committee will also decide whether to reduce the vacation of Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha in the meeting, source said.

The vacation of Durga Puja, Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha will be shortened from 14 days to six, 26 to 8 and 14 to nine respectively.

The classes of the university were suspended for 200 days in the last nine months.

## Two rooms of Habibullah Bahar College ransacked

By Staff Correspondent

At least two rooms of city's Habibullah Bahar College at Shantinagar were ransacked following a chase and counter chase between two groups of students on the college premises yesterday afternoon.

According to sources, one Mizan was assaulted by members of Sohul group in the college Sunday. Protesting the incident a group of students yesterday brought out a procession inside the college at about 1:30 pm.

Members of Sohul group then appeared on the scene and both the groups chased each other. The rooms were ransacked during the chase and counter chase.

The incident could neither be confirmed by police nor by college authorities till filing this report.

### Road mishap

## Police constable killed in Jessore

JESSORE, Sept 27: A police constable was killed and three others were injured when their pickup van hit a roadside tree at Ayearpur on Jessore-Narail road this morning, reports UNB.

The Bagerpara patrol police team was returning to the thana after night duty in Khajura and Shinakhali on Jessore-Magura road.

The tragic accident took place at 5:45 am as the driver lost control over the steering.

Constable Abu Hanif (40) died on the spot. Constable Sattar (42), Minhajul (45), constable Sawpan (driver-35) were rushed to Jessore General Hospital.

## Postage stamp on Mojuddin issued

Bangladesh Post Office yesterday issued a commemorative postage stamp valued Tk 2 denomination in memory of Shaheed Mohammad Mojuddin, reports UNB.

A first day cover valued at Tk 6 was issued and a special cancellor was also used on the occasion, said a press release.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim formally released the stamp in a simple ceremony.

The stamp and first day cover will be sold simultaneously from all Head Post Offices including GPOs. The stamp will subsequently be sold from all post offices, including the extra-departmental ones.

## JP to contest Tangail, Faridpur by-polls

Jatiya Party (Mizan-Monju) has decided to contest the forthcoming by-elections to the vacant seats of Jatiya Sangsad under Tangail-8 and Faridpur-4 constituencies, reports BSS.

According to a party press release, persons interested to contest with the party ticket have been requested to apply in a prescribed form to be supplied from the party's central office at 7/10 Block D Lalma-tia.

The last date for submitting the application for nomination has been fixed on September 30 till 9 am. The parliamentary board of the party will interview of the intending candidates on the same day.

## Magurchhara blast MPs demand compensation for losses

Parliament Members from greater Sylhet today demanded speedy measures to realise compensation from the concerned company for the damage caused by the explosion at Magurchhara gas field, reports BSS.

The compensation should be realised without further delay for the huge losses caused due to the fire at Magurchhara gas field, the MPs said at a meeting held here with Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury in the chair.

They also expressed strong indignation over the recent remark of Maulana Delwar Hossain Saidee about the people of Sylhet living in the United Kingdom.

Describing Maulana Saidee's remarks as irrelevant, indecent, insulting and uncalled for, they urged him to refrain from making such remarks.

## HC rejects writ of Rangamati pry school teachers

RANGAMATI, Sept 27: The vacation bench of the High Court has rejected a writ petition that challenged recruitment of primary school teachers by the Rangamati District Council, reports UNB.

The verdict of the Court on September 21 cleared the way for appointment of primary school teachers in the hill districts.

Recruitment of teachers was suspended on a court order upon the writ filed by Dr Mrinal Kanti Chakma.

## KU technology school classes begin Sept 30

KHULNA, Sept 27: The 1st year honours class of Science, Engineering and Technology School of the Khulna University (1998-99 session) will begin on September 30, reports UNB.

Orientation of the students of the school covering the disciplines of Architecture, Computer Science, Urban and Rural Planning, Electronics, Communications Engineering and Mathematics will be held on October 4, said a press release.

The students have been asked to complete their registration at the Academic Building No 1 by 10 am on September 30.

## Combing operation 1,52,797 held in five months, huge arms seized

A total of 1,52,797 persons have so far been arrested and 8,332 illegal arms with 8,259 rounds of bullet and 1,271 explosives seized from across the country since the countrywide combing operation by Police, BDR and Ansar began on April 23, reports BSS.

Of the arrest, 23,521 persons including 3,182 warrantees were held from Dhaka metropolis with 377 illegal weapons and 683 rounds of bullet, 9,184 persons from Chittagong metropolis including 852 warrantees with 132 illegal weapons and 249 rounds of bullet, 2,375 persons from Khulna including 431 warrantees with 147 illegal weapons and 148 rounds of bullet, 1,310 persons from Rajshahi including 498 warrantees with six illegal weapons and seven rounds of bullet.

From Dhaka range 30,583 persons including 19,279 wanted accused were arrested with 280 illegal weapons and 1,224 rounds of bullet, in Chittagong range 26,855 including 19,370 wanted persons with 281 illegal weapons, 2,273 rounds of bullet and 74 explosives, in Rajshahi range 26,717 including 16,425 warrantees with 211 illegal weapons and 215 rounds of bullet, in Khulna range 21,059 including 10,556 wanted persons, 1,320 illegal weapons and 3,306 rounds of bullet, in Barisal range 5,958 including 3,329 warrantees with 36 illegal arms and 93 rounds of bullet and in Sylhet range 7,843 persons including 4,899 wanted accused arrested during the period with 42 illegal weapons, 51 rounds of bullet.

## Students clash in Ctg: 1 hurt

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 27: One student was seriously injured in a clash between two groups of students over occupying seats on Chittagong University (CU) shuttle train at around 1:30 pm today.

The injured identified as Jewel, a first year honours student of anthropology department, was admitted to Chittagong University Medical centre.

## Painting competition for children

A painting competition will be held under the auspices of Nipa Shishu Foundation on October 4 at 2 pm at the Shishu Academy to mark the World Child Day '99, reports UNB.

The competition is open to the children below 15 years of age. Interested competitors have been asked to bring with them drawing papers, paint, paintbrush and other necessary appliances, says a press release.

# Billion dollars fly out

From page 1

per cent of the market share, which was the case even a few years back, the country could be retaining at least US\$ 300 million or Tk 1500 crore every year in passenger and cargo revenues paid in foreign exchange. The figure is more than five times Bangladesh's entire tea exports (around US\$ 58 million) and more in value than the country's jute and jute goods exports together.

The difference between the 50-50 market share and the present state means that the number of additional passengers being carried by foreign carriers is as high as 300,000. While the number is increasing, the amount being drained out now is US\$ 150 million only on this account.

The business is there, but we are not allowed entry," laments a local entrepreneur, who thinks Bangladesh is just giving away its own share of the market to foreign companies to its own peril.

"If foreign carriers are allowed to carry more passengers than Biman itself, then why should not Biman and other domestic carriers be part of the same team for Bangladesh and the world? Is the score?" the entrepreneur asks.

In fact, it's the failure of the ministry to distinguish between the role of Biman as an operator and its own role as the regulator of the country's skies that seems to be the major and perhaps the most crucial mental block for which the economy has to pay such a high price in foreign exchange.

Where is the business? The figures again tell the story. (See Graphs and Charts).

For the past 10 years, Biman's performance has been pathetically poor on the regional routes. In 1990-91, Biman flew 195,140 passengers; in 1998-99, the number plummeted to 167,166.

"Ironically, it is the period when better service operation has escalated the demand for both trade and tourist traffic. The only conclusion one can draw from decline in regional traffic over the past 10 years is the lack of adequate capacity on the Bangladesh side."

On the international routes, Biman has grown steadily in numbers — from 18,961 passengers 28 years ago to 699,277 in 1998-99, but its share of the market has nose-dived in a growing air travel business (two million passengers now).

Despite the growth in numbers, the national carrier loses heavily on many routes such as Dhaka-New York-Dhaka, but continues to operate them for reasons not explained by any commercial logic.

The minister in charge, Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, admits that extra-commercial interests have dictated Biman's decision to keep operating New York.

But Biman, as the designated airline of Bangladesh, has had a much greater share granted by the bilateral air services agreements (ASAs). Inefficiency, corruption and lack of resources may have handicapped the national airline, but industry sources say private operators can come in to take care of the rest.

"Multi-carrier ASAs are now very common world-wide and many destinations such as Sharjah have declared 'open sky' policies which private operators can take advantage of," reasons the CEO of a private airline.

In one glaring example, Biman cannot operate 30 flights a week granted to it by air services agreement with India on two routes. The national carrier does not have enough aircraft to make so many flights.

"Out of the 30 frequencies a week to India permitted in the ASA, Biman seems to be utilising less than 50 per cent. The balance could easily be assigned to private sector operators to meet the unfulfilled demand," argues the CEO.

Even more frequencies and destinations such as Gauhati and Madras could be negotiated as the original ASA was negotiated more than 20 years ago.

## Passenger Traffic to and from Bangladesh

| SL. NO. | DESCRIPTION   | ASIA    | MIDDLE EAST | EUROPE  | AMERICA                | TOTAL PASSENGERS |
|---------|---|---------|-------------|---------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1.      | Biman (passengers carried)  | 367,901 | 358,678     | 114,855 | 24,727                 | 866,155          |
| 2.      | Foreign airlines (passengers)   | 412,080 | 648,447     | 66,622  | -                      | 1,127,149        |
| 3.      | Total in bound pax carried by Biman   | 173,131 | 113,962     | 52,933  | 11,643                 | 351,669          |
| 4.      | Total in bound pax carried by others  | 220,288 | 274,142     | 22,788  | -                      | 517,218          |
| 5.      | Total out bound pax carried by Biman  | 148,554 | 188,457     | 57,171  | 13,084                 | 407,266          |
| 6.      | Total out bound pax carried by others   | 197,522 | 374,276     | 28,874  | -                      | 600,672          |
| 7.      | Total in bound pax carried by Biman & others                                    | 393,419 | 388,104     | 75,721  | 11,643                 | 868,887          |
| 8.      | Total out bound pax carried by Biman & others                                   | 346,076 | 562,733     | 86,045  | 13,084                 | 1,007,938        |
| 9.      | Per cent of Biman pax with respect to total pax (in bound & out bound)          | 47.2%   | 35.5%       | 62.6%   | 100%                   | 43.4%            |
| 10.     | Per cent of other Airlines pax with respect to total pax (in bound & out bound) | 52.8%   | 64.5%       | 37.4%   | Via other destinations | 57.6%            |

(July 1998-June 1999) Source: Biman

## CPB leader's death condoled

Leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday condoled the death of Mustafa Golam Farooq Bacchu, President of Matbaria Thana unit of the party and renowned journalist of the area, reports BSS.

Manzurul Ahsan Khan and Mujahidul Islam Selim, President and General Secretary respectively of CPB, in a message condoling the death of Bacchu expressed their sympathy to the members of the bereaved family, a press release said.

Mostafa Golam Farooq died at his residence at Matbaria. He was 48.

## Milad mahfil

A milad mahfil was held in observance of the 15th death anniversary of convener of Agartala Conspiracy Case Conducting Committee and former vice chairman of Red Crescent Society Shaheed Mohammad Mojuddin at his Siddheshwari residence after magrib prayers yesterday, reports BSS.

Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, State Minister for Education Satish Chandra Roy, Women and Children Affairs Minister Prof Ziaunnnessa Talukdar, State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and members of parliament, central leaders of Awami League,

## Life-term for killing

BARISAL, Sept 27: The Additional District and Sessions Judge today convicted a man and sentenced him to life for killing a minor girl, reports UNB.

The court also sentenced him to additional rigorous imprisonment for one year for concealing the evidence. According to the prosecution, the convict, Moazzem Hoss