

What's on today....

BIDS roundtable: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies will hold a roundtable discussion on transshipment. Venue: BIDS conference room. Time: 10.00 am.

Seminar: Centre for Development Communication will begin a three-day seminar on "Communication, New Technology and Development." Venue: CIRDAC auditorium, Chameli House, Tophkhana Road. Time: 5.30 pm.

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.

Installation ceremony: The 14th installation ceremony of the Executive Committee of the Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 6.30 pm.

Painting exhibition: An exhibition of paintings by Alka Mathur. Artist Aminul Islam will open the show. Venue: Gallery 21, 765 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00 pm. The exhibition will remain open everyday from 10 am to 8 pm until October 9.

Seminar: A seminar on 'child labour', organised by Resource Bangladesh will be held in observance of the Child Rights Week. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 9 am.

Lecture: Prof Peter J Bertocci of Oakland University, USA, will give a lecture on 'Why Study Popular Islam?' Independent University, Bangladesh has organised the event. Venue: Auditorium of the School of Liberal Arts and Science, House-6, Road-14, Baridhara. Time: 3.00 pm.

Talk: Department of Computer Science of North South University has organised a talk on 'Credit Transfer to US Universities & Job Opportunities in the USA' by Mohammad S Islam, Technical Consultant, JD Edwards World Source Company, USA. Venue: NSU seminar room. Time: 10.30 am.

Photo exhibition: A four-day UN Photo and Poster exhibition will be inaugurated. United Nations Information Centre has organised the show to mark the 25th anniversary of membership of Bangladesh to the UN. Venue: Alliance Francaise. Time: 10 am.

Seminar: IBM and Techno Vista have jointly organised a seminar on 'JBA System 21 - the @ctive Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Solution'. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 3.00 pm.

IEB seminar: Institution of Engineers has organised a seminar on a taskforce report on the city's drainage system. Venue: IEB seminar room. Time: 5.15 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Seminar on AIDS: Lions Club International District 315 B1 has organised a participatory seminar on 'AIDS Prevention: Response by Civil Society'. State Minister for Health Prof M Amanullah will be present as chief guest. Venue: Seminar room, BIC Bhaban, Dilkusha. Time: 4.00 pm.

Weather

Rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Dhaka, Barisal and Sylhet divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports USK. The weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period.

Met office predicted slight rise in day temperature over the country during the same period. Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Barisal and the lowest of 23.8 degrees at Srimangal. The sun sets today at 5:47 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:50 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 (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

HERE and THERE

Chhatra Samity DU Political Science Department

By DU Correspondent The two-day long Seventh National Council of Bangladesh Chhatra Samity began on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

Mojaffar Ahmed, president of National Awami Party (NAP), inaugurated the council held in front of Arts Building (Kala Bhaban) of the university.

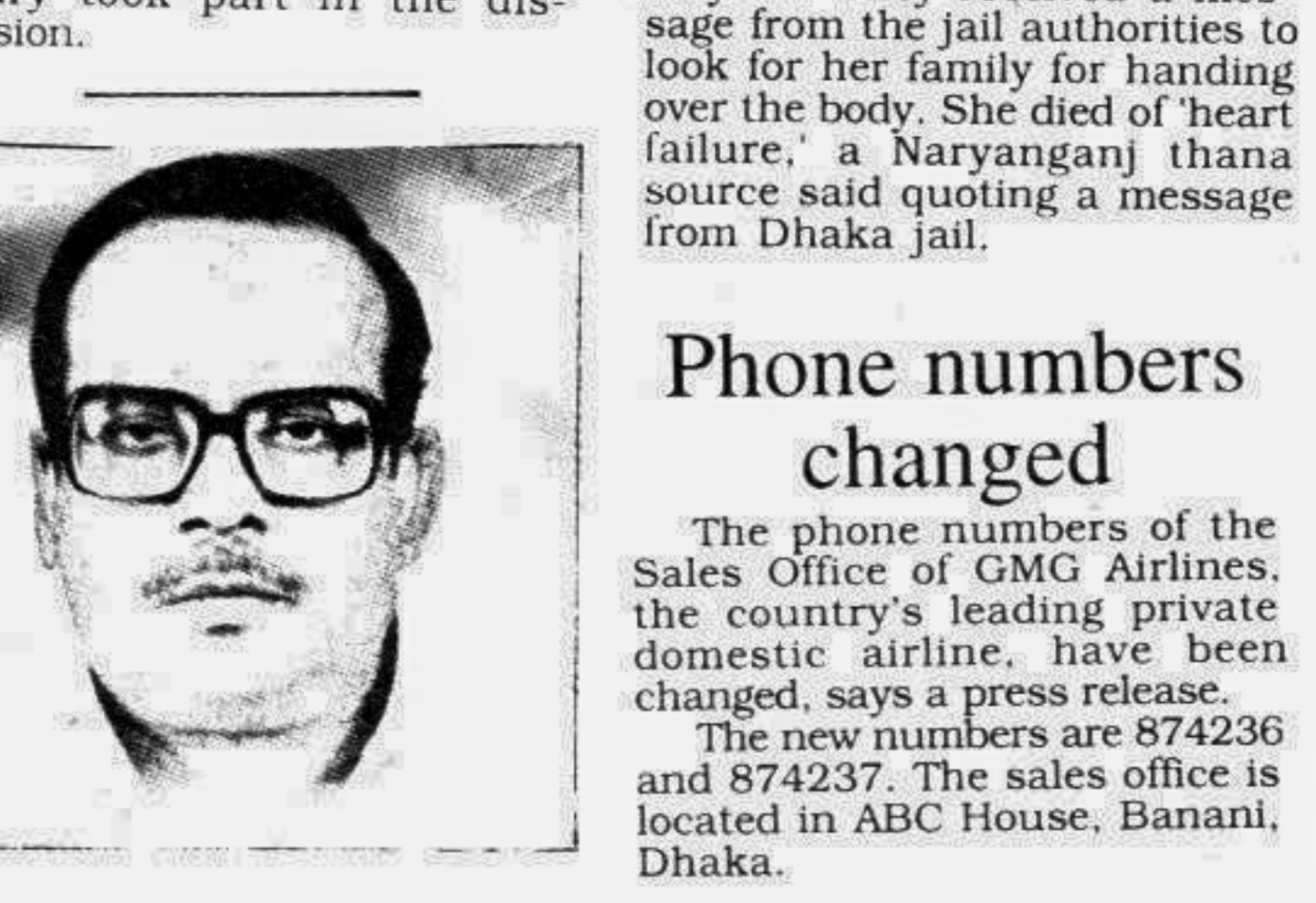
Presided over by Samity president Mohsin Sarker, it was addressed, among others, by Amina Begum. Later, the Samity workers brought out a procession on the campus at noon.

Socialist Intellectuals Group

A section of left-leaning intellectuals at a discussion yesterday urged the people of all walks of life to be united on a platform to remove all sorts of irregularities from society.

Socialist Intellectuals Group, a newly formed body of socialist intellectuals, organised the discussion titled "Terrorism, Politics and Role of the State" at the TSC auditorium with Fayez Ahmed in the chair.

Bashir Al Helal presented the keynote paper in the programme while Badruddin Umar, Nirmal Sen, Tipu Biswas and Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury took part in the discussion.



Death anniversary

The second death anniversary of Sharfuddin Ahmed, founding chairman of Orimpex (Bangladesh), will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 277 New DOHS, Lane-18, Lake Road after Magreb prayers today.

Phone numbers changed

The phone numbers of the Sales Office of GMG Airlines, the country's leading private domestic airline, have been changed, says a press release.

The new numbers are 874236 and 874237. The sales office is located in ABC House, Banani, Dhaka.

Urs

The three-day Urs Mubarak of Shah Suif Moulana Hafez Mohammad Hashmatullah Shah Chisti, Quaderi, Saberi, Iftekhar Jounpuri, Qaddas-lahu Sirrahul Aziz, begins at the Mazar Sharif 94/1, Senpara Parbatia tomorrow, says a press release.

Dhaka-Bhola digital link established

Direct digital telecommunications between Dhaka and Bhola was established yesterday bringing a total of 22 districts under digital network in the country, reports BSS.

DSE councillors

From page 1 Chief Executive Officer G Chowdhury for taking the action against him. Chowdhury later informed the Council of the incident and filed a general dairy with the Motijheel police.

Later on the day, sources said, two councillors were telling the general members that the management did not have the authority to sue members.

The Council on Monday last withdrew suspension from one of the suspended members after an appeal from him.

The meeting also appointed a six-member committee to "evaluate" the activities of the council and to probe the alleged intimidation.

After the meeting, a councillor told the Daily Star that he was not happy with the Council decision as the decision to withdraw the suspension would jeopardise the independence of the management. A management source also called the decision unprofessional.

Meanwhile, according to sources, some of the senior DSE members were allegedly involved in the scam as they operated as a syndicate to sell their pre-IPO placement shares by gradually increasing their prices.

They said that the DSE management was also aware of the incident but could not go for action as they did not have sufficient evidence.

In order to deal with the forged share certificates, the DSE management had also proposed a number of steps including tightened security for the brokers' offices.

Sources said many of these suggestions were turned down by the DSE members who thought such initiatives would restrict their business of injecting forged scrips into the market.

Double planning

From page 1 But architects and other professionals involved in building construction differ with Rajuk officials. They say Rajuk with 60 inspectors and 24 engineers enjoys the authority to check building construction in the city, so it should be their responsibility to see if a building has deviated from its original plan.

Rajuk Chairman M Azizul Haque compared Rajuk with Delhi Improvement Trust and said with a 588-square km area, Delhi Improvement Trust has 25,000 people working for it while with a 590-square km area, Rajuk has only 750 people. With this small manpower it is difficult to keep a watch on one of the largest sectors in the city, he added.

But architects, engineers, contractors and developers disagreed. They said during any construction which takes one to three years or more to complete, Rajuk inspectors visit the sites at times.

"But the inspectors do not come to check anything. They come to collect their fees and disappear for one or two months," said an architect requesting anonymity. Unless someone lodges a specific complaint with Rajuk, the offender is safe. Such complaints are also rare because people fear bureaucratic and even physical harassment, he said.

When contacted, officials of the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh (IAB), the largest professional body of architects, said in the past they had warned some of their members after complaints of deviation were received.

"If there is any specific complaint against any member, IAB would definitely take action against him if found guilty. The architect will face action under our constitution," said A S M Ismail, secretary of IAB.

Imam shot dead

From page 1 Police suspect involvement of Faizur in the murder. Police also suspect involvement of some local terrorists who were scolded by Imamuddin a few days back.

Family members of Imamuddin however denied any rivalry with anyone. The body of Imamuddin was handed over to his family after autopsy at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue yesterday.

Ismail, eldest son of the victim, filed a case with Tejgaon police. None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report last night.

CU strike

From page 1 The agitated students held separate rallies in front of the VC's office during the siege programme. Speakers blamed BCL leaders for backing the authorities against the interest of students.

Earlier, three security personnel including Deputy Registrar (Security) Maj (Rtd) Golam Kibria were assaulted by some unruly JD workers at the main gate of the university when they (security personnel) tried to refrain them from entering the campus with microphone. Use of mike is banned on CU campus.

IMM programmes must to contain Dengue: Experts

Scientists and academicians yesterday urged the government to immediately launch environment-friendly integrated mosquito management (IMM) programmes here as elsewhere across the country to contain outbreak of Dengue and other mosquito borne diseases, reports BSS.

Expressing note of warning they said, the first reported Dengue epidemic in Dhaka, popularly known as 'Dhaka Fever', occurred in 1964 and in Bangladesh there are 113 species of mosquitoes, including 34 anophelene and 79 culicines.

The experts took part in a seminar titled Integrated Mosquito Management in Dhaka city: Promising Non-chemical Components, jointly organized by CESTI of Alliance Francaise De Dhaka and Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) at Dhanmondi yesterday.

President of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences Professor Kamaluddin Ahmed chaired the function while Professor Mahmudul Ameen on Dhaka University, presented the key note paper.

French Embassy official Owen Beuchet, Director of the Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (CESTI) Masih-ul Alam, Dr Ismail Husain of Dhaka University, former researcher on Medical Entomology of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control

and Research (IEDCR), Dhaka, Towheed Hussain, and Professor Nurul Huda of Chittagong University, among others took part in the discussion. Professor Mahmudul Ameen quoting a study on biological control methods of mosquito said, harmless biological techniques including Duckweed (khudipana) cover, cultivation of mosquito predators like Guppy fish, frogs, taki and habitat manipulation could drastically reduce the mosquito population in the mega cities like Dhaka.

He said apart from nearly one million US dollar spent by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) for mosquito control projects every year, the citizens of Dhaka buy aerosols worth over 14.2 million US dollar and mosquito coils amounting over 79.6 million dollars.

A six-week programme of clearing drains, seeding them with Guppy and other natural predators and use of Malariol oil B proved to be effective in mosquito control programme for three month period," the Professor said.

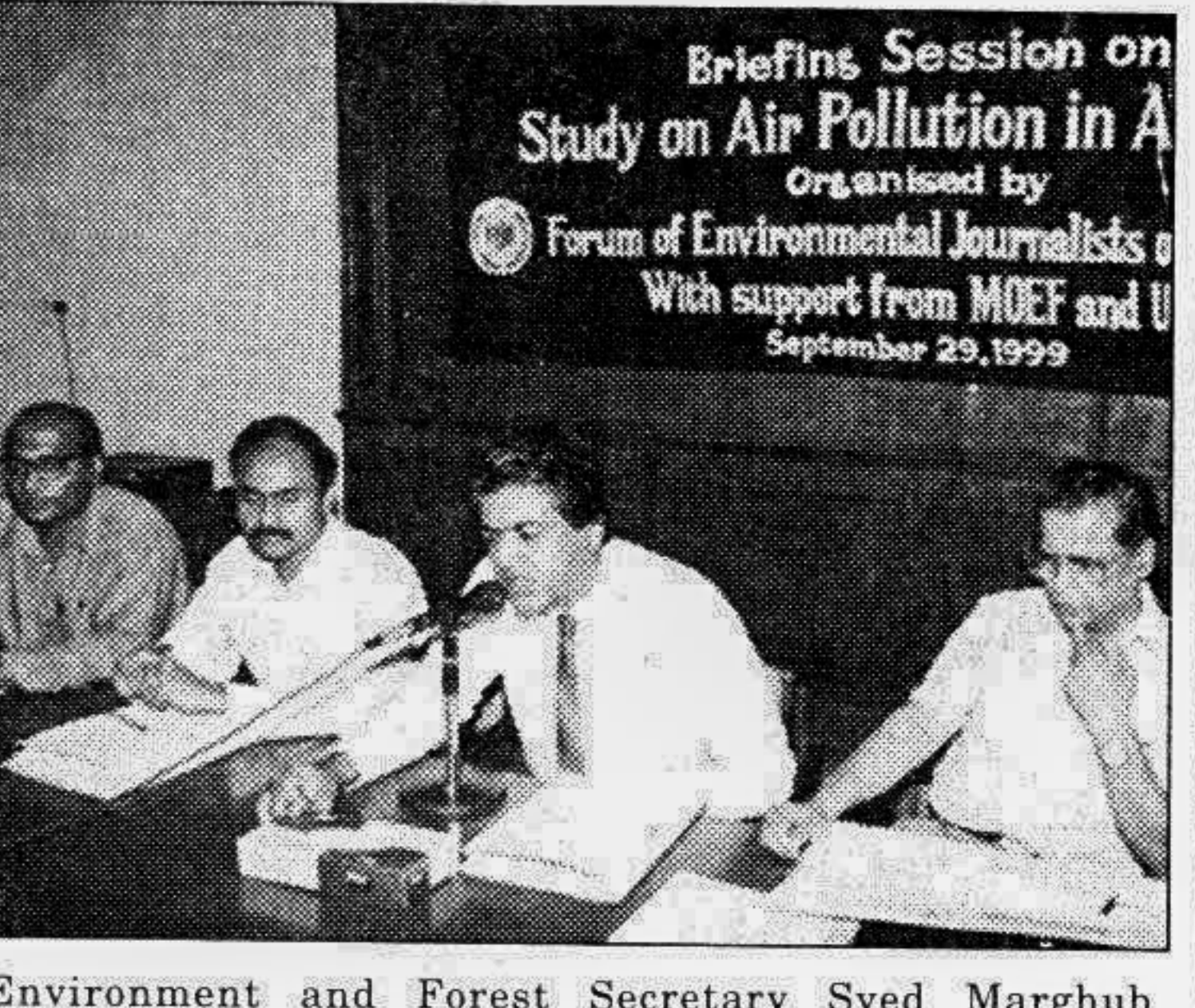
Experiments reaffirmed the potential of natural predators, they said adding six fishes of different sizes including Guppy fish consumed on an average 10 to 700 larvae in 24 hours, he said.

Though Prof. Ameen and other discussants discarded the information that mosquito-borne disease like cerebral Malaria and Dengue is spread

ing alarmingly, they endorsed the fact that some city dwellers are suffering from Dengue. The discussants claimed that some patients became vulnerable, to fever while visiting malaria-prone areas like Netokonia, Mymensingh and Chittagong hill tracts (CHT). "Excluding Dakkhin (South) Khan area no malarial patient was found in Dhaka city," they added.

The entomologists said that the most common larval habitats were tree holes, bamboo stumps and leaf axils of some plant species including banana. They said the single interior household breeding site was a flower vase containing a philodendron or money plant being rooted in water. The exterior breeding sites were tyres, clay pots, drums, buckets, flower pots with saucers or other water catching containers beneath.

The experts said even at the VIP lounge of Chittagong Airport one flower pot was seen with Aedes pupa with one 4th instar larval skin during random Aedes survey carried out by WHO at four localities in the port city including Halishahar, Chandaon, Nasirabad, Mehedibag and VIP lounge (in 1997).



Briefing Session on Study on Air Pollution in A. Organised by Forum of Environmental Journalists. With support from MOEF and U. September 29, 1999.

Environment and Forest Secretary Syed Marghub Morshed speaking at a briefing session on "Study on Air Pollution in Asian Cities", organised by the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh, at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Opposition siege

From page 1 Agargaon Shishu Mela crossing to Rokeya Swarani-Agargaon point and old Nine Division crossing (Aeroplane crossing) to Parjathan crossing at Bijoy Swarani, East end of Indira Road to Western part of Manik Mia Avenue, restricted area of the Jatiya Sangsad. Chandrima Uddyan and all roads, lanes and by lanes towards the EC office area.

Many city schools have been declared closed today amid apprehension of violence. The authorities of the schools have decided to keep those open on Friday and Saturday.

The liaison committee of the alliance yesterday declared that the EC gherao programme would be "completely peaceful and disciplined" and asked all their leaders and activists not to react to any 'provocation' from the government.

Leaders and activists of BNP will assemble at Kalabagan Krira Chakra playground and hold a rally at 10:30 am before marching towards the EC office.

Jatiya Party will hold a rally in front of its central office at Kalabagan at 10 am and then proceed towards the EC office.

Jamaat leaders and workers will gather at Maghbazar crossing and move towards the EC office at 11 am. IOJ will march from Asad Gate at 10 am.

The liaison committee met yesterday the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament with BNP Vice Chairman M Shamsul Islam MP in the chair.

The meeting discussed the latest political situation, today's EC office siege and the countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal on Sunday.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shamsul Islam said the committee discussed 'fresh programmes' to be announced on Sunday. It will 'finalise' the programmes in a couple of days.

The liaison body strongly condemned and protested the government's 'evil effort' to involve BNP vice chairman Tariqul Islam in the Udichi bomb explosion incident and 'harassing' of opposition leaders and activists.

The meeting was attended by BNP leader Ashraf Hossain, JP leader Kazi Firoz Rashid, Jamaat leaders Abdul Qader Mollah and ATM Azharul Islam and IOJ leaders Fazul Haq Amini and ARM Abdul Matin.

Water transport strike

From page 1 nearly Tk.3,000 crore revenue to the oil sector, excluding system loss. He said, "The sector has recently agreed to pay fixed presumptive tax, which will contribute a substantial amount to the public exchequer, in addition to the Tk. 3,000 crore."

The sector is also generating employment opportunities for lakhs of river transport workers, he said.

The Council leaders claimed that the sector does not cost much foreign currency as the vessels are built in the country. They also claimed that 15 per cent VAT is unbearable for the sector as their vessels carry goods at the lowest freight rate and therefore the profit margin is very low compared to that in road and railway sectors.

This is why the sector has been included in the 'sick sector,' they said.

Mahmudur Rahman alleged that leaders of the sector tried to negotiate with officials of the Finance Ministry and the National Board of Revenue (NBR) but all their initiatives went in vein.

"Earlier, we decided to go on strike from September 23, but later it was suspended following a government request and assurance that our problem would be resolved with in a week.

"Now we have no alternative but to go for the indefinite strike," he said.

President of Bangladesh Passenger Launch Owners Association M Kalimullah said the water transport sector carries about 40 per cent passengers from southern region of the country, 70 per cent of dry cargo from Chittagong and Mongla and 99 per cent of petroleum

products from Chittagong to all inland ports and to the depots in different areas of the country at the lowest freight rate, which is nearly one-fifth of that in road and railway sectors.

The Council leaders hoped that the government would consider their demands and immediately withdraw VAT and three per cent compulsory tax.

The press conference was also addressed by, among others, T M Masuddin Ahmed, President of Bangladesh Oil Tanker Owners' Association; Anwarul Islam, Vice-President of Coastal Ship Owners' Association and Gazi Belayet Hossain, General Secretary of Bangladesh Cargo Owners Association.

President

From page 1 the political activists or, for that matter, no innocent people would be victimised," assured a confident Khasru.

He added, "sanctity of any law depends on the purpose of the law. Our purpose is to curb terrorism in the society. I can assure all that we're fully sincere about ensuring public security. Speedy investigations and speedy trials would be guaranteed."

According to Law Ministry sources, the proposed act would be placed before the cabinet again soon for final approval and then it would be introduced in the Jatiya Sangsad. There would also be discussion on it in the meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Mentionably, a first draft of the proposed law was earlier placed before the cabinet on September 6.

JU closed

From page 1 The Syndicate then decided to shut down the campus for an indefinite period. Students of the university began their agitation on the campus on September 7 and went on an indefinite strike on September 18 demanding the cancellation of the increased fees. Later, one group of the students began fast-unto-death on September 26.

Meanwhile, 11 of the students fell sick yesterday and were given treatment at Ganosasthya Kendra Hospital.

PlaNet

From page 1 micro finance. So, micro finance is just one of the tools needed to fight poverty," said Attali.

PlaNet Finance's operations will critically depend on two more elements - PlaNet Library and PlaNet University.

PlaNet Library will be a virtual library offering information and interactive services via internet to practitioners and operators in micro-finance, research centres, decision makers, donors and individual users.

Library users can gather information regarding micro-finance world events, reference publications, overview of the main actors of the sector through an interactive world map, accounting tools, financial projections, software dedicated to micro-finance and so on.

On the other hand, PlaNet University will offer training on micro-finance and micro-enterprise through the internet to micro-finance practitioners, local training centres, decision makers and individual users.

Girls grab

From page 1 The news was a big relief to the few Bangladeshis, who had come to Kathmandu to witness the regional meet.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh men's 10m air rifle team comprising of Saiful Alam, Feroz Hossain and Husne Zahan, failed to defend their gold when they finished second behind India in the final this afternoon.

Bangladesh scored 1725 against India's 1745 while Sri Lanka, who earned the bronze, scored 1695 points.

Feroz, who scored 684.5 points individually, also got a bronze in this event, as he finished behind Indian Chetan Narendra and his compatriot Abhinav.

Bindra, who scored 688.7 and 685.1 respectively, Bangladesh finished the day with a gold, two silvers and a bronze from shooting.

Bangladesh in semis

From page 1 They played worse than that against Maldives a couple of days back.

Jewel Rana and Company failed to launch any offensives against the youthful Sri Lankans in the first quarter-hour. Rather the Sri Lankans kept Bangladesh busy with a nothing-to-lose attitude. And the islanders almost went ahead in the 23rd minute when forward Gunasekera got the ball from a brilliant right-side cross by Bandange Chana.

But his close header, with custodian Biplab Bhattacharjee covering the near post, went wide off the far post, much to the relief of around a hundred Bangladeshis who witnessed the match.

After surviving the close call, Bangladesh made a few raids and finally got the much longed-for opportunity when Singaporean referee Vijay Rahman signalled the spot after Hasan Al-Mamun was brought down by defender Gange.

Skipper Jewel Rana converted the penalty with a powerful right-footed shot (1-0). It was Jewel's second goal in the Games.

After the breather, Bangladesh were pretty defensive and never went for any serious attack. On the other hand, the Sri Lankans made some splendid efforts to equalise. But it was goalkeeper Biplab who salvaged Bangladesh with some magnificent saves.

Biplab stood in for number one keeper Ponir, who was running a fever since last night.

The margin could have doubled in the first half of injury time had the Sri Lankan goalkeeper Thilakarathne not punched, an Alfaz 25-yarder over the crosspiece for a corner.

Although Bangladesh reached the last four, they will miss the services of two defenders in the semis-Rajani Kanta Barman and Masud Rana, who received their second yellow cards in the match. Besides, Biplab also received a yellow card for delaying a goal kick.

Sri Lanka had to play the last minute of the match with ten players, as defender Kamaldeen Anees made a bad foul on substitute Anwar and got the first red card of the seven-nation meet at the stroke of the final whistle. His compatriots Mohamed Athas and Mohamed Ma also received yellow cards.

TEAMS Bangladesh: Biplab, Hasan Al-Mamun (Sourav Raju), Jewel Rana, Rajani Kanta Barman, Masud Rana, Nazrul Islam, Matiu Rahman, Monwar Hossain, Iqbal Hossain, Mizanur Rahman Dawn (Anwar Hossain) and Alfaz Ahmed (Shajuddin Tiplu).

Sri Lanka: Thilakarathne, Kabeer, Kamaldeen Anees, Gange (Weerasinghe), Athas, Mohamed Ma, Wickremathilake, W Jayasuriya, Bandange Chana, Gunasekera (Fazal Mohamed) and Arumugam.

Referee: Vijay Rahman (Singapore).

TODAY'S MATCHES Bhutan vs Pakistan India vs Nepal

Hasina to visit

From page 1 eral trade, the sources said. However, Australia is an important development partner of Bangladesh and one of the donors.

Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam visited Bangladesh in 1974. Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fisher visited Dhaka in 1997. This was followed by a visit by the Australian foreign minister.

November will keep the Prime Minister occupied with two important summits which are of great significance to Bangladesh.

Hasina will fly for South Africa on November 10 to attend the four-day CHOGM. The summit will include one and half days' retreat in the coastal city of George on November 13 and 14.

The Prime Minister will also hold talks with South African President Thabo Mbeki on bilateral matters and international issues of common concern. Bangladesh, South Africa and Columbia are now members of the NAM Troika.

The forthcoming CHOGM holds a special significance for Bangladesh as it is contesting for the post of Commonwealth Secretary General. Former Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan is pitted in a straight fight with the only other contender, Don McKinnon, Foreign Minister of New Zealand.

Heads of state or government, or leaders of delegations will elect the new Secretary General through secret ballot on November 12, the first day of the summit. Fifty-three voting members of the 54-member Commonwealth will elect the new Secretary General for a four-year term.

The 11th SAARC Summit, besides considering other economic agenda, is expected to adopt a 'binding treaty', specifying a time frame for creation of a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA).

The SAARC Summit will also include a one-day retreat where participating leaders are expected to discuss bilateral matters and approve the Kathmandu Declaration.

Sources said that the Prime Minister intends to make a bilateral visit to the US in December. When contacted a spokesman of the US embassy said, "We are aware of the Prime Minister's interest to visit Washington at the end of the year. However, it is yet to be firm up."

This is still in a nascent stage," confirmed an official at the Foreign Ministry.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, meanwhile returned from a 13-day trip to New York and Paris on September 26.



Crewmembers of the John Player Gold Leaf bringing the sail down during the course of the Voyage of Discovery.

Gold Leaf crew on the last leg of their journey

The John Player Gold Leaf left Karachi on September 24 and is bound for Abu Dhabi scheduled to reach there today. As the crewmembers head towards the last leg of their journey with the ultimate destination of reaching the waters of Bangladesh in November, they still remain strong and enthusiastic, says a press release.

In the modern-day crews are well aware of the demands placed on their bodies. None more so than the crew of the John Player Gold Leaf who are facing the challenge of sailing around 17 countries in 170 days, touching a total of three continents. A combination of nutrition and fitness is crucial to the success and safety of this maritime adventure.

"Striking a healthy balance between regular exercise and good nutrition is key to maintaining the physical as well as mental well being of the crew," explains Gold Leaf Captain Joe Outed. "The actual job of sailing the boat involves a great deal of physical activity for the

crew, pulling heavy ropes, lifting and taking the sails."

Before the boat leaves a port, Gold Leaf chef Alex Piper has the daunting task of buying up supplies of food which often have to sustain the seven-man crew for up to six-seven days. "We have to put a great deal of thought into what foodstuffs to buy," explained Piper. "Bearing in mind there is very little storage area for food on the boat. It becomes quite a challenge to include all the basic vital food groups."

The John Player Gold Leaf, an 80ft Maxi racing yacht, left Tower Bridge on June 19, bound for the Voyage of Discovery. The proposed 170-day voyage will see the yacht skirting the coastlines of three continents through some of the world's most testing waters, including Oman, Pakistan, the UAE, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. With the final leg of the route taking the journey south, the Voyage of Discovery finishes in the Bay of Bengal.