

What's on today....

FEMA meet: The Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) will hold a meeting with JSD leaders as part of its electoral law reforms drive in collaboration with Study and Research Group of Manabik Shahajya Sangstha. Venue: 35-36, Bangabandhu Avenue (2nd floor). Time: 4 pm.

Council & Freshers' Reception: The council of Biplobi Chhatra Moitry Jagannath University College unit and a freshers' reception programme will be held. Venue: Liberation War Memorial Sculpture premises on the college campus. Time: 11 am.

BISS roundtable: Bangladesh Institute of International on Strategic Studies (BISS) in collaboration with the German embassy will begin a two-day roundtable on 'Development Policy on the Threshold of Year 2000'. Chief guest: Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries. Venue: BISS auditorium. Time: 10:00 am.

Public Debate: Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association will hold a public debate on Draft Bill for Protecting Open Spaces of Cities. Chief guest: Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Minister for Housing and Public Works. Venue: CIRDA auditorium. Time: 4:00 pm.

Discussion meeting: Bangladesh Shishu Academy will hold a discussion meeting on 'Children involved in domestic work'. It will be followed by a cultural show. Venue: Academy premises. Time: 4:30 pm.

Discussion meeting: Bangladesh-China Friendship Association will hold a discussion meeting followed by a cultural programme in celebration of the golden jubilee of China. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5:00 pm.

Symposium: Bangladesh Supreme Court will hold a symposium on 'Root of all Discord and unrest in the Subcontinent and Solutions'. Venue: VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 4:00 pm.

.....and tomorrow

Monthly meet: The monthly general meeting of the association of Former Students of the Siddheswar High School-1967 will be held. Venue: Association office at 17, Rajuk Road, Chowdhurypara. Time: 5:00 pm.

Weather

No change in temperature

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

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

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 23.0 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:41 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:52 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	31.2	25.5
Chittagong	31.0	24.4
Rajshahi	32.0	24.5
Khulna	30.4	25.4
Barisal	28.8	24.2
Sylhet	28.7	23.0
Cox's Bazar	32.8	24.0

HERE and THERE

AIUB

AMA International University of Bangladesh (AIUB) has organised a seminar on 'Objective and Operations of the Asia Foundation', says a press release.

Shahajahan Kabir, Programme Advisor, The Asia Foundation, was the keynote speaker. Kabir highlighted the programme of The Asia Foundation in respect of providing books, journals, different universities and colleges of Bangladesh and also explains the global network of The Asia Foundation in promoting educational particular in developing countries.

The seminar was presided by Carmen Z Lamagna, Vice-Chancellor of AIUB.

Prof Dr Anwar Hossain, Advisor and Academic Coordinator School of Business, AIUB, also spoke on the occasion. Dr Anwarul Aedin, Chairman, AIUB gave the concluding speech on the seminar. Faculty members, high university officials and students largely attended the seminar.

Workers Party

Workers Party of Bangladesh yesterday criticised the government for its failure to protect the country's border, and life and property of common people, reports UNB.

A meeting of the politburo of Workers Party also criticised the provocative attacks by the Indian Border Security Force at different frontier areas of Bangladesh saying it is "definitely politically motivated".

The left-leaning party said protests at high commissions level are not enough, rather the issue should be protested at political level and the problem should be solved immediately.

City AL extended meet today

A special extended meeting of the Dhaka city Awami League will be held today at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue office at 6 pm, a press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Awami League leaders including members of parliament from the city constituencies, presidents and general secretaries of all thanas, wards and union units of the metropolis have been requested to attend the meeting on time.

Death anniversary

The sixth death anniversary of Prof Dr

Surya Jabeen is on October 7, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held on Friday after Magrib prayers at the Lake View Clinic. Road: 79, Gulshan in the city.

Prof Surya Jabeen was a renowned gynecologist in the country. She, served as a professor of gynecology in Dhaka, Chittagong, Myrmensingh and Salimullah Medical College.

Canadian envoy presents credentials

Newly appointed Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh David D Preston presented his credentials to President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Welcoming Preston, President Shahabuddin recalled with gratitude the support extended to the cause of liberation of Bangladesh by Canada in 1971.

He said Canada is an important development partner of Bangladesh. He appreciated the numerous programmes undertaken by the Canadian government in Bangladesh.

Death of Hasan Saeed condoled

Leaders of the journalist community yesterday expressed their profound sorrow at the untimely death of Hasan Saeed, a senior journalist of the country, report agencies.

Abul Kalam Azad and Akhtar Ahmed, president and secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Altaf Mahmud and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, president and general secretary respectively of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), in a joint statement condoled the sudden death of Hasan Saeed. They said Saeed was very active even at this age.

Leaders of the National Press Club also condoled the death of Hasan Saeed. Club president Khondaker Monirul Alam and general secretary Swapan Kumar Saha said, 'The death of Hasan Saeed has caused an irreparable loss to the nation.'

Overseas Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (OCA) condoled the death of one of its founding members, Hasan Saeed. OCA president Matiuir Rahman Chowdhury and general secretary Nadeem Quadir expressed sympathy and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Bangladesh Photojournalist Forum (BPJF) president Pavel Rahman and general secretary Sheikh Mosharraf Hossain expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

In separate condolence messages Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Bangladesh, Dhaka Reporters Unity and Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique of Mass Communication and Journalism Department also condoled the death.

Lions eye-sight testing programme

Lions Club of Dhaka South, Dist. 315 B 1 has organised a two-day school eye-sight testing programme, Vitamin A capsule distribution and De-worming programme throughout the day today and tomorrow at different schools in Savar, says a press release.

Govt urged to convert agri colleges into agri universities

By Staff Correspondent

Some leading agriculturists of the country have denounced government's current move of converting the agricultural colleges into science and technology universities.

They also decided to hand over a memorandum to the Prime Minister next week seeking her intervention to stop the conversion process.

They were participating in a meeting of the Bangladesh Agriculture Institute (BAI) Old Boys' Association held at BAI Conference Room on Saturday, said meeting sources.

The agriculturists protested September 11 conversion of Haji Danesh Agriculture College into a science and technology university and demanded of the government to upgrade the agriculture colleges into agricultural universities.

They also resented that scope of agriculture education was being squeezed in the country by placing the specialised education under the Education Ministry instead of keeping it under the Agriculture Ministry.

Former agriculture minister and president of the BAI Old Boys' Association chaired the meeting, attended among others, by its secretary and an Assistant Professor of BAI Mohammad Hossain, ex-DG of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) Dr Md H Mondal, ex-DG of Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) Dr Aminul Islam, Principal of BAI Shadatullah, former Director of Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI) Md Yasin Ali, a former teacher of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof MA Hashmat, ex-director of now-defunct Jute Extension Directorate MA Samad and organising secretary of the Association Nazrul Islam.

Siddiqui

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the request. 'The CEC has already asked the officials concerned to take steps to include Ganchha to the list of election symbols,' said a top official of the Commission secretariat yesterday.

However, as per electoral rules, the authority to allocate election symbols to the candidates in elections lies with the Returning Officer. In the case of the ensuing parliamentary by-elections, the Deputy Commissioner of Tangail district would officially be allocating the symbols.

Tangail - 8 constituency of Jatiya Sangsad fell vacant as dissident Awami League leader Kader Siddiqui resigned his parliament seat on August 29 last. The by-election in the seat is likely to take place some time before November 20.



Newly appointed Canadian Ambassador in Bangladesh David D Preston presented his credentials to President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo



Visiting 4-member delegation of National Democratic Institute of US led by Bruce Charberlain called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. — PID photo

PM tells KIB reception

Steps to reorganise marketing of farm produce taken

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday unveiled government plans for modern agricultural farming and marketing to build a dependable food security and enhance farmers' incomes, reports UNB.

'We've taken an initiative to increase food production and maintain the food storage at national level and also increase food security at family level,' she said at a reception at Khamarbari at Farmgate in the city.

'To meeting the challenges of the open-market policy our agriculture will have to be modern and sustainable,' she said, informing the agriculturists that the government has also taken up measures to reorganise the marketing system of farm produce to ensure its fair price.

Bangladesh Krishibid Institution hosted the reception in honour of the Prime Minister on her winning 'Ceres Gold Medal' of the World Food Organisation (FAO) in recognition of her outstanding contribution to agricultural development.

Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Fisheries and Livestock Minister ASM Abdul Rab, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council Chairman Dr Zahurul

Karim and Krishibid Institution Secretary General Abdul Mannan also addressed the function. Institution President Enamul Huq presided.

The Prime Minister said food diversification is another side of food-security system and for this 'the government laid emphasis on food diversification through increase in production of fruits, vegetables, pulses and oilseeds.

Steps for food diversification will also help elevate agriculture to commercial and profitable professions from the traditional approach, she said. Hasina said agriculture is the most important and basic sector for attaining rapid economic growth. This sector is meeting the food and nutrition needs of the 130 million population of the country.

She said that in the coming century the small agricultural farms of the country would be the base of agricultural production. 'So we will have to ensure capital mobilisation of the farmers from credits, distribution of agri-inputs and a proper marketing system.'

Work opportunity for landless agricultural labourers will also be ensured in these small-scale farms, she said explaining the government plans for agricultural reforms aimed at enhancing earnings and buying capacity of the peasants.

This would need more investment in agriculture, fisheries, forest and livestock sectors and the government is aware about the needs for modernisation of farming, she told the function.

While proposing an amendment to the CrPC, the Home Ministry argued that it was not always possible for the said VIPs to go to the court in person to sue the media people for their defamatory write-ups. So, the PPs should be provided with the legal authority to sue them on behalf of the VIPs, the ministry asserted. In this connection, some ministers informed the Cabinet that India had enacted such a law much earlier.

But when published in some newspapers, the Home Ministry proposal drew scathing criticism from a section of the country's media people and the intelligentsia. They found the government idea a malicious political move to silence the voice of the country's 'fourth estate'.

However, the Cabinet discussed the proposal at a weekly meeting held on September 6 and decided to refer the proposed amendment to the Law Ministry for scrutiny. Cabinet sources told The Daily Star.

The Law Ministry's scrutiny was in progress. But the Prime Minister, while signing the minutes of the Cabinet meeting concerned recently, has 'withdrawn' the item.

Planned law

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the Cabinet's approval to incorporate a new section into the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

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Martial law in Chechnya

GROZNY, Russia, Oct 5: Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov today declared martial law as Russian forces took control of a third of the breakaway Russian republic, a presidential spokesman said, reports AFP.



Bangladesh Sharak Paribahan Sramik Federation procession in the city yesterday in observance of International Road Transport Workers Protest Day. — Star photo

Bangladesh fare fairly

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Bangladesh had scored 229 in the first innings on the opening day of the historic match.

Veteran left-arm spinner Enamul Hoque led the fight-back after Brian Lara and Wavell Hinds threatened to take the match away putting on 133 runs for the third wicket.

Resuming on the overnight score of naught for naught, West Indies lost the Barbados opening pair of Sherwin Campbell and Adrian Griffith with only 16 runs on the board. Monjurul made the early inroads by removing both the openers in successive overs.

The lively left-arm seamer had Campbell brilliantly caught by wicketkeeper Khaled Masood for five in the fifth over of the morning.

Griffith edged a delivery moving away into the safe hands of Mehrib at second slip. But the double-blow failed to rattle the West Indies middle-order as Lara took charge of the proceedings in the company of the 23-year-old Jamaican Hinds.

The celebrated West Indies captain was in such a devastating mood that he needed only 38 balls to reach his fifty. None of the Bangladeshi bowlers escaped the punishment from a marauding Lara.

A century for arguably the best batsman in the world appeared on the cards as he went for lunch with only 17 runs short of the three-figure mark. West Indies were then calling the shots at 139 for two.

But the post-lunch session entirely belonged to the home side as they captured six wickets including the prized scalp of Lara.

The West Indies rot started when Lara was out at 87. He was clean-bowled by Monjurul in the second over after lunch.

Although Monjurul had earlier taken two wickets, the southpaw would relish his third, the wicket of Lara, for a long time.

It was a gem of a delivery from Monjurul. The ball cut back sharply and sneaked through Lara's defence before hitting the middle stump. Lara struck eight sweetly timed fours and a superb six off medium-pacer Khaled Mahmud that landed on the sightscreen at the pavilion end.

Hinds got off to a slow start but once he reached his 50 off 76 balls, he cut loose. The left-hander needed eight more deliveries to reach 70 before being undone by a superb direct hit by substitute fielder Al-Shahriar from mid-on. Television slow-motion replay showed Hinds was only a few inches short of his crease at the bowler's end.

Once Hinds departed the Bangladesh bowlers, with their tails up, ran over the West Indies middle and lower order.

Ricardo Powell, the West Indies batting sensation, failed to make any lasting impression in his first appearance at Dhaka. The young stroke-maker was bowled by a beautiful yorker from Naimur when on 15.

West Indies' hopes of scoring a big total evaporated when Shivanine Chanderpaul fell for only five.

Wickets fell at regular intervals with Enamul proving a very difficult customer on a slow and turning turf. Only Ridley Jacobs showed some resilience with a defiant 25.

Enamul, who mopped up the tail, finished with five for 57 in his 18.2 overs. West Indies were all out 25 minutes after tea.

Hasan Saeed

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as his death news broke. His body will be taken to the National Press Club this morning. After namaz-e-janaza, his mortal remains will be buried at Banani graveyard later in the day.

A man of honesty and integrity, Saeed had a long, checkered journalism career of 37 years. After completion of his masters from Dhaka University, he started his career as a Reporter in the then Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) in 1962. Soon he came to the limelight in the profession and joined the Morning News.

After independence in 1971, Saeed joined Eastern News Agency (ENA) as Executive Editor. Later he joined the daily New Nation as Executive Editor.

Saeed was the first Dhaka Correspondent of Associated Press (AP). He joined the American wire service in 1972. Later he became the Bureau Chief of AP in 1987 and retired from the news agency in April this year.

He was one of the founder Directors of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and held the position of Executive Director until his death.

Saeed also worked as Dhaka Correspondent of the Daily Dawn, Asia Week, Saudi Gazette and BBC (Urdu service). He was also a part-time lecturer of Journalism Department of the Dhaka University.

Born in Indian State of Uttar Pradesh in 1939, Saeed came to Dhaka with his parents on partition of the subcontinent in 1947. In his student life he was aligned with the then East Pakistan Students Union (EPSU).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of Hasan Saeed.

In a condolence message, she conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

BNP Chairperson and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleida Zia has also expressed her deep shock at the death of Hasan Saeed.

In a condolence message she said Hasan Saeed, who had been doing journalism for over three decades, served the country and the people a lot.

Khaleida prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed her deep sympathy with the members of the bereaved family.

When Bangladesh came out to bat again they were greeted by the hostile fast bowling trio of Mervyn Dillon, Reon King and Pedro Collins.

King got the breakthrough by dismissing Javed Omar, the half-century in the first innings, with an express delivery in the fourth over when he was on nine.

Skipper Aminul, who came in to bat at number three, was welcomed by King with a bouncer that struck his chest. Collins pried open the grill of Shahriar's helmet with another rising ball.

However, the two weathered the storm to put on a brave 47 runs for the second wicket before Shahriar lost his composure and fell for 16 by playing a rash shot against off-spinner Nehemiah Perry.

Aminul, who has had a year of batting he would rather forget, appeared very determined to get back among the runs. He played some trademark shots for his 54-ball 22 that included an exquisite back-foot square drive and a superb on-driven four.

The match concludes today with Bangladesh trying to survive the pre-lunch session to force a draw.

8 fighters

month training and familiarisation programme to fly and operate the eight multi-role MiG-29 jets, according to sources.

Two MiG-29 aircraft are scheduled to arrive in Bangladesh in December. These fighters would be dual-purpose, being both operational fighter jets and trainers. The other six MiGs are due for delivery by February, 2000.

Monsanto

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At home, a leading expert on the issue of frontier research and a former agriculture minister AZM Obaidullah Khan gave his reaction to The Daily Star last night heaving a sigh of relief saying, 'Terminator Technology is an absurd tech-pare. Unless a farmer uses prescreened input, the seeds do not click. Resource-poor farmers can't simply afford it.'

He, however, made it clear that 'under no circumstances, are we against modern technology but, that has to be to the benefit of poor farmers.' He also differentiated genetically modified (GM) crops with that of terminator seeds explaining that 'not necessarily GM crops are harmful, if new disease-resistant or other useful characteristics are induced.'

However, BBC said that in recent month's demonstration protestors in Britain and India destroyed fields of GM seeds.

BBC quoted Vandana Shiva of the Research Foundation of Science, a leading environmentalist in India, as saying that if there had not been protests against the terminator technology in the past, India would have discovered it as a colony of Monsanto within a decade from now.

It may be recalled that on July 27, Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director of the Grameen Bank, was reported by the BBC to have cancelled the Bank's planned relationship with Monsanto Corporation. The arrangement would have given the world famous micro-credit bank 250,000 US dollars to provide loans to poor farmers to buy Monsanto products.

Last month, the United Kingdom made it mandatory for all restaurants to put special tags on food items while serving the customers food made of GM crops.

On June 25, European Union environment ministers concluded a marathon negotiating session in Brussels with a de facto moratorium on new applications for genetically modified organism.

The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture announced in mid-June that it would tighten safety regulations on GM crops. Brazilian state of Rio Grande Do Sul declared itself a GM-free zone this year.

Shikdar

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Chandpur, Kushtia, Pabna, Naogaon, Gaibandha, Rajshahi, Comilla, Narsingdi, Noakhali, Bogra, Sirajganj, Nilphamari and Dhaka districts (SB and CID) will arrive in Khulna tomorrow morning.

In another development, police seized a lot of documents relating to Shikdar's link with gold smuggling and his bank accounts.

KMP sources said the Income Tax Department was preparing to file cases against Shikdar on charge of tax evasion.

SAF Games

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Security services also won praise after an incident free Games following earlier fears that any one of a number of regional tensions and Nepal's own ultra-left groups could disrupt proceedings.

The 8th SAF Games were also the first to meet International Olympic Committee regulations on dope testing. As Nepal lacked the facilities for such tests, samples were sent to an IOC affiliated laboratory in Penang, Malaysia.

A total of 1069 athletes from seven countries took part in the 12-discipline Games, competing for a total of 523 medals including 161 gold, 161 silver and 201 bronze.

The 9th SAF Games will be held in Peshawar, Pakistan, with the Pakistan Olympic Committee wanting to increase the number of sports to 14 including squash and badminton.

However, the final decision on the number of disciplines will be made at a meeting of SAF Games regional chiefs.