

## ● What's on today .... ●

**Seminar:** Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association will hold a two-day long seminar on 'Reform and opening up: a brilliant chapter of China's development in the past 50 years.' Chief guest: Zillur Rahman, Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 9:30 am.

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

**Workshop:** A 5-day workshop on 'Photographic Documentation of Architectural Conservation' will begin. Organisers: Goethe Institut in association with the Alumni Association of the German Institutes in Bangladesh and Chetana Shapatiya Unnayan Society.

**Exhibition:** Altamira Designer's Fashion Gallery will begin a month long fashion exhibition of ladies dresses. TV actress Shoma Kaiser will inaugurate the exhibition. Venue: Gallery premise at House No 366, Rd No 28, New DOHS, Mohakhali. Time: 3:00 pm.

**Seminar:** A seminar on 'Human Rights in Contemporary Perspective' will be held. Organiser: Muslim Unity for Human Rights. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 3:30 pm.

## ● ..... and tomorrow ●

**Cultural festival:** Chhayanaut will hold a cultural programme to mark Sharat festival (Sharatutsav). Venue: Bakul Tale of Institute of Fine Arts, DU campus. Time: 6:30 am.

**Discussion meeting:** Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association will hold a discussion meeting followed by a cultural programme. Chief guest: Mohammad Nasim, Home Minister. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Reception:** Shabbar Samity will accord a reception to meritorious students who secured star marks in the 1999 SSC exams. Scholarships will also be awarded to deserving meritorious students of thana development in Dhaka. Chief guest: Dr. Md. Hossain, State Minister for Social Welfare. Special guest: Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury, MP. Venue: Planning and Development Academy, Nilkhet. Time: 4:00 pm.

**Meeting:** Former students of the Department of Accounting of Dhaka University will hold a meeting to organise its reunion programme. Venue: Auditorium of Business Studies Faculty, DU campus. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Annual general meeting:** The 1st annual general meeting of Bangladesh Society of Mechanical Engineers (BSME) will be held. Venue: BUET auditorium.

**Exhibition:** A four-day long exhibition of household furniture by designer Nargis Akhter Banu will be inaugurated. Venue: Conference Room of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. The exhibition will continue till October 11.

**Film show:** Three French films *Mort a Venise* (Death in Venice), *La Crise* (The Crisis) and *Gernimil* will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

## Weather

## Light rain likely

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

Moderately heavy falls may occur at one or two places over Dhaka division during the period, the Met Office said adding that rainfall activity may decrease gradually in the subsequent two days across the country.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 23 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:40 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:53 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	28.3	94
Chittagong	32.1	72
Rajshahi	29.2	91
Khulna	28.8	95
Barisal	29.2	90
Sylhet	21.1	80
Cox's Bazar	33.2	68

## BJP poised for victory

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New Delhi.

"We accept the verdict of the people," said senior Congress leader Pranab Mukherjee, and even the BJP's bitterest opponents admitted the party seemed on course for victory.

Singh Surjeet, general secretary of the Communist Party of India-Marxist said it was now "very clear" that Hindu-nationalists would form the new government.

Madai Lal Khurana, a BJP leader who won his seat in New Delhi, said the prime minister's personal popularity had been a major factor in the voting.

"People voted for Vajpayee. People want a stable government and we will deliver it," Khurana said.

The new government will be India's sixth in four years and, for all the BJP's bravado, political analysts warned that political stability would remain a long-term pipedream.

The make-up of the new parliament looks like it will be very similar to the last," said analyst Mahesh Subramanian. "The challenge won't be forming a government, but trying to run it."

Of the 498 seats where counting figures were available, the BJP coalition had won or was ahead in 255 -- a potential gain of 11 seats. The Congress and its allies had won or were leading in 138 seats -- a loss of 26.

Vajpayee, the moderate face of Hindu nationalism, won his fourth victory in a row in Kaptai.

Sonia Gandhi was declared elected from the Bellary constituency in southern India by a margin of 51,450 votes.

The Italian-born Congress party president defeated her high-profile Hindu nationalist rival, Sushma Swaraj, by 51,450 votes in the southern seat of Bellary which has 1.2 million registered voters, state-run television reported.

Sonia was also leading in the northern seat of Amethi -- a Gandhi family stronghold -- where she was expected to win by a landslide.

Swaraj, the top woman leader in Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist BJP party, had labelled Gandhi a "foreigner" under the rule of India.

Swaraj said her defeat was a reflection of the overall performance of the Hindu nationalists who were faring poorly in

southern Karnataka state.

One of the highest-profile casualties was Congress strongman Manmohan Singh, the architect of India's radical economic reforms, who lost badly to an unfancied Hindu nationalist candidate in New Delhi.

Voting in India's marathon elections ended Sunday after five rounds of polling till 9 pm last night.

The major political leaders who have already been declared elected include Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Lucknow), IK Advani (Gujarat), Murli Manohar Joshi of BJP in Allahabad, Trinamul Congress leader Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), former Speaker and nationalised Congress Party (NCP) leader PA Sangma (Meghalaya), Congress leader Rajesh Pilot from Dausa and CPM leader R Mohan from Madurai.

**Results at a glance**

NEW DELHI, Oct 6: The preliminary results from vote counting Wednesday for 317 of the 543 elected seats in India's lower house of parliament, as reported by AP:

Bharatiya Janata Party 104, BJP's allied parties 66, Congress Party 89, Congress' 16 and others 42.

Five districts will vote Oct 28.

**Teenager falls from bus top, dies in Kaptai**

RANGAMATI, Oct 6: A teenager travelling on the roof of a passenger bus reportedly fell at Raikhal in Kaptai this morning and later succumbed to his injuries at Kaptai thana health complex, police sources said, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Dhana Kant Dey, 17.

The victim was travelling on the roof of a passenger bus going to Razashahar from Rangamati. When the bus reached Raikhal Bazaar, the victim fell from the roof and received severe head injuries. He was rushed to Kaptai thana health complex, where he died shortly. Police handed over the body to the relatives of the victim after an autopsy at Rangamati sadar hospital this evening.

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## Millennium Film Festival begins tomorrow

By DU Correspondent

A week-long film show titled "Millennium Film Festival '99" begins at the Shakhat Osman Memorial hall of the Central Public Library tomorrow.

Swaborni, a newly floated cultural forum, organised the show sponsored by Datapro.

President of Sammilitik Jote Ramendu Mojumder will inaugurate the show as chief guest at 10 am on Friday.

Disclosing this at a press conference at the TSC of Dhaka University last evening, the president of Swaborni Khalid Hasan Pantha said that some 35 famous films of the outgoing millennium would be screened at the festival.

Each ticket will cost Tk 30 per film.

The slogan of the show is "new Millennium for better Film." The show will continue till October 15 and films will be screened in four sessions a day.

The films included "The City of Angles," "There is Something," "Shakespeare in Love," "the Saint," "The Matrix," "Baby's Day Out."

"Sleeping with the Enemy," "Pretty woman," "The Mummy," "Armageddon" and "The Spy who Shagged Me."

**DNA profiling**

By Staff Correspondent

Dr M A Hassan, Convenor of War Crimes Facts Finding Standing Committee yesterday left Dhaka for India enroute to London for DNA profiling, dating and improved forensic examination of the remains found at Muslim Bazar mass grave site, said a press release.

Dr Hassan carried some of the remains along with him for examination as part of a drive to collect and establish documentary evidence with a view to enlist the country's saddest episode and the second biggest genocide of the history in the United Nations' book of genocides.

In a statement Dr Hassan thanked the government, people, army personnel and others who helped to excavate at the Muslim Bazar mass grave site.

It may be mentioned that Dr Hassan has been leading the team to help DNA profiling of remains.

**Market fire**

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shops and stores in the basement. Out of five collapsible gates, only two are usually kept open. The traders alleged that only one was open during the incident, making it difficult for them to escape.

The fire brigade officials said they entered the market after breaking down one of the gates on the western side of the complex.

Shops selling chemicals, plastic items and crockery were reduced to ashes by the raging inferno but the loss of property could not be ascertained immediately.

It could not be known either whether any fire-fighting equipment was kept at the premises as none from the shopkeepers' association or other market authorities were available.

The five injured were sent to local hospitals, fire officials said.

Police were deployed at the market and its surrounding area after the incident.

The incident put the traffic in the area in chaos after police closed the road for safety. The rush hour traffic using the New Elephant Road was diverted on to other roads, leading to chaos on Maulana Bhashani Road, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and Elephant Road.

When contacted, the duty-officer of Ramna thana said they were aware of the incident but none lodged a complaint till 9 pm last night.

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**Proposed law**

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Syed Marghub Murshed was special guest.

Commenting on several points of the draft, Prof Anisur Rahman of Dhaka University said that like Osmany Udayan there are other instances of grabbing open spaces.

"Provision must be there in the law to seek public opinion before taking up any work which might affect the public," Anisur Rahman said.

Advocate Shudhangshu Shekhar Haldar welcomed the provision for a related special tribunal to try the offenders and said it would greatly reduce the time consuming process of delivering justice.

Mosharraf Hossain said that the law would be helpful to protect the vanishing canals, open spaces, and rivers. Commenting on Osmany Udayan, the Minister said that one has to count how many trees there are and whether those trees are environment-friendly or not.

The speakers pointed out several clauses of the draft bill and said those contradicted democratic rights.

The minister, however, said the law would be enacted in line with the suggestions received from the participants of the debate. BELA has been asked to provide a compilation of the proceedings of the debate.

Mosharraf also said that Rajuk would declare a zoning system for the city within two to three months.

The environment secretary said that the present bill was a pre-emption to protect the environment. "We are closely looking into an environment law which would be helpful for a total conservation," he said.

Khushib Kabir, Vice Chairman of ADAB and Executive Director of Nijera Kori, conducted the debate.

Rajuk Chairman, M Azizul Haque said the new law would greatly help protect the environment of the cities.

## Bangladesh Documents reissued

The historic *Bangladesh Documents* published in 1971 to generate world public opinion in favour of Bangladesh Liberation War was reissued in the original form on Tuesday by the country's leading publishers UPL.

The publication was considered instrumental in evoking almost immediate response

trials and sacrifices of the Bengali population of the erstwhile East Pakistan.

The documents helped the international print media in 1971 to draw on factual information on the ground conditions in East Pakistan with respect to the question of transfer of power to an elected government by the dictatorial regime of General Yahya Khan of Pakistan.

The book has remained out of print for many years and after 28 years of the country's independence, UPL has taken the task of reissuing the documents for archival reasons. The documents are expected to serve as a great source of information on the Bangladesh Liberation War for researchers, scholars and the media.

The *Bangladesh Documents* include a chronological presentation of significant events of 1971, commentaries in the world press, speeches of important people, record of initiatives by different interest groups, reporting of the war and the record of peace efforts. The 1498 pages publication in two volumes include 979 important documents pertaining to the Bangladesh Liberation War.

It may be mentioned that publishing of historic and archival material has been an area of special interest of UPL. Its *Road to Bangladesh Series* which include books and monographs on the Bangladesh freedom struggle has worked great interest among the readers. The publication of the *Bangladesh Documents* will be a notable addition to the list.

from the world intellectual community who generated support for the Bangladesh Liberation War with the political leaderships of their respective countries.

The *Bangladesh Documents* in two volumes was published in 1971 by the Indian External Affairs Ministry to support the cause of Bangladesh freedom struggle by exposing the genesis, significant developments,

eliminated through "no-floor crossing" clause in our Constitution. But that is now an agreed process and applies to all, just as it did when BNP was in power.

When AL and its allies (by the way the BNP allies of today are the same people as were the AL allies of yesterday. How ironic and in some sense farcical) tried to force BNP to resign and call for mid-term elections. They miserably failed even though they were able to organise mass resignation by the whole of the opposition. They failed because an elected government cannot be "ousted". It can only be voted out. For that to happen one needs an election, and for that one has to wait for the Constitutionally prescribed time, as the AL learnt it the hard way. AL could not "oust" the government of Khaleda Zia.

What it was able to do was to ruin the country and its economy. Today BNP and its allies will meet the same fate. They will NOT be able to "oust" the AL government but what they will be able to do is ruin the country and its economy a second time around. Who will suffer? Need we answer the question?

We urge the BNP and personally Khaleda Zia, not to follow the path that