

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 LGED and Cooperatives. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 9:30 am.

Monthly meet: The monthly general meeting of the Association of Former Students of Siddheshwari 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 Shapatya Unnoyoy Society.

Exhibition: Altamira Designer's Fashion Gallery will begin a month long fashion exhibition of ladies dresses. TV actress Shomi 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 Tala 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: Shishor 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 studying in Dhaka. Chief guest: Dr Mozammel 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 *Germinal* 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	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.3	24.3	92	93
Chittagong	32.1	24.5	72	81
Rajshahi	29.2	24.5	91	86
Khulna	28.8	23.8	96	90
Barisal	29.2	23.8	100	95
Sylhet	21.1	23.8	88	83
Cox's Bazar	33.2	24.4	88	83

BJP poised for victory

From page 1

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.

Madal 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 Subramaniam.

"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 Lucknow.

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 Bihari Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist BJP party, had labelled Gandhi a "foreigner" unfit to rule 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 which began September 5.

The major political leaders who have already been declared elected include Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Lucknow), IK Advani (Gujarat), Muri Monohar 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' allies 16 and others 42.

Five districts will vote Oct 28.

The victim was identified as Dhana Kanti Dey, 17.

The victim was travelling on the roof of a passenger bus going to Razasthali from Rangamati.

When the bus reached Raikhal Bazar, the victim fell from the roof and received severe head injuries. He was rushed to Kapatali 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.

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.

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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 Shakwat Osman Memorial hall of the Central Public Library tomorrow.

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

President of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Ramendu Mojunder 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 Swaborn Khali 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 genocide.

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.

A 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 p.m. last night.

Proposed law

From page 1

Syed Marghub Murshed was special guest.

Commenting on several points of the draft, Prof Anisur Rahman of Dhaka University said that like Osman Udyan 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 Shudhanshu 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 Osman Udyan, 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 precaution to protect the environment. "We are closely looking into an environment law which would be helpful for a total conservation," he said.

Khushi 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 University Press Limited (UPL), says a press release.

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 379 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.

BANGLADESH DOCUMENTS

VOLUME TWO

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-four crossing" clause in our Constitution. But that is now 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 how farcical) tried to force BNP to resign and call for mid-term election, 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. The 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 she knows is wrong. Why does she know it? Because she has already been a Prime Minister. She knows, more than anyone else, the 'haves' AL's hartals and negative politics brought upon the nation when she was in power. She knows more than anyone else how destructive a hartal is to the economy. So how can she do things she knows will not bring any good for the country and its people? An elected government must be allowed to finish its term. Khaleda Zia said so a hundred times when she was in power. AL was wrong in trying to bring her government down, as BNP is now wrong in trying to bring down Hasina's.

However the lesson there is that AL did not succeed. Nor will BNP. Only that the country and its economy will once again be destabilised. Let us remember that the same mistake committed a second time, when on hindsight we know that it was wrong, is a far more serious crime than the first time around. The world will consider us unreliable and incapable of learning from our mistakes. So please, please do not push us to the precipice. As we had pointed out in the beginning, it would be a far better politics for BNP to raise the issues that are relevant to the people and win their hearts and minds with alternative programmes, plans and ideas suited to the 21st Century. This will gain them voters who are the ONLY POWER TO OUST ANY GOVERNMENT.

Khaleda to visit Feni today

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia will visit her constituency Chhagalnaiya in Feni today.

During her visit, she will also address a public meeting in Chhagalnaiya Court area in the afternoon, said a press release.

Anwar Zahid released

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson's Press Advisor Anwar Zahid was released on bail from Dhaka Central Jail yesterday morning.

The BNP leader was arrested on August 30 a couple hours after BNP's mass procession. The Daily Janakantha office came under attack during the procession.

After the attack, the Janakantha authority filed a case against Anwar Zahid for his alleged involvement in leading the attack on the office. Police also filed two other cases against him after the incident.

The High Court and Dhaka Metropolitan Session Judge court granted him bail in all the cases.



The namaz-e-janaza of noted journalist Hasan Saeed was held at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

— Star photo

Non-committal IOCs mar

From page 1

penses would be recovered from the gas sales from it. "This gives the oil companies the opportunity to undertake half-hearted operations," the source pointed out.

An oil company executive, commenting on the work schedules outlined in the PSC, said that the rationale behind the obligations was well understood. "But the time frame now appears unrealistic considering the speed of work of the bureaucracy in Bangladesh," he said.

As a result, oil companies might sometime resort to drilling a well just to comply with the PSC deadline.

Similarly, a Petrobangla official said, "It is true that sometimes some approvals and paper works take more time than they actually should have. For instance, it took more than three months to obtain an environmental clearance for Occidental to start drilling a development well in Jalalabad gas field." But, he added, without the PSC-dictated time frame oil and gas exploration and development would have become very slow.

An independent energy expert said, "since there had been cases of failures in the last four years, Petrobangla should review the reasons and minimize bad practices by IOCs or even by itself. After the review of the PSC activities, Petrobangla may correct problematic areas and, if necessary, extend the exploration and development time frame so that no oil company undertakes a drilling project just to avoid punishment for failing to fulfill PSC obligations."

Other than the exploratory drilling, the oil companies had contractually obtained rights over a couple of gas fields discovered before they came to Bangladesh with the condition that they would develop these gas fields. Cairn, which obtained rights to Semutang gas field in the Hill Tracts under block 15 and the Kutubdia gas field under block 16, did not develop the gas fields. Occidental, which got the huge 1.5 TCF Jalalabad gas field as a "complement" in block 12, however, developed it and its gas has started flowing to the national grid from January last.

Following is the scheme-wise list of exploration activities undertaken by Cairn and Occidental since 1995:

Cairn's venture at Sonadia: It had good oil and gas prospects. But the data showed high-pressure hydrocarbon prospects in geological zones. The ideal target was set at 4500 meters. The primary target depth was 3800 meters. But Cairn used a rig inappropriate for high-pressure Sonadia operations during early 1998. The rig capacity needed for this drilling was "15 K", but Cairn used a "10 K" rig. As a result, the rig bogged down and Cairn had to abandon the drilling. Although Petrobangla approved the 'work programme' budget of 9.5 million dollars, it disapproved the use of inappropriate rig. These expenses would have been recovered from Sangu gas production if the failure had been due to genuine reasons. That is why Petrobangla in a Joint Review Committee (JRC) meeting consisting of Petrobang