

## ● What's on today .... ●

**Nat'l Craft Show '99:** The inaugural ceremony of the National Craft Show '99 will be held. Organisers: Export Promotion Bureau and Banglancraft. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 11 am.

**Training course:** The inaugural ceremony of the Regional Training course on Food and Nutrition Programme Planning and Management will be held. Organisers: BIRTAN, MoA & RTP-FNP, UPLB. Chief guest: Begum Matia Chowdhury, Minister for Agriculture and Food. Venue: BARC auditorium, Farmgate. Time: 9:30 am.

**Discussion meeting:** Hamdard Foundation Bangladesh will hold a discussion meeting in memory of Hakim Mohammad Sayeed, founder of the modern Hamdard Laboratories. Venue: Hamdard Bhaban, 291/1 Sonargaon Rd. Time: 4:00 pm.

## ● ..... and tomorrow ●

**Film show:** Liberation War Museum will hold the screening of 'Seen, Heard and Respected: The Street Children of CSKS', the 1999 Worldfest-Houston International Film and Video Festival Silver Award winner. Venue: Museum premises. Time: 7:00 pm.

## Weather

## Heavy falls likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower with temporary gusty winds is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls along coastal belt in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may fall by 1 to 3 degree Celsius over the country during the period, according to Met office.

The country's highest temperature yesterday 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and Srimongal and the lowest 23.2 degree Celsius at Sathkhira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:31 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:57 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	24.0	73	77
Chittagong	33.5	25.8	76	72
Rajshahi	30.0	24.8	83	85
Khulna	33.5	25.0	81	-
Barisal	32.8	24.5	82	93
Sylhet	32.5	25.2	71	80
Cox's Bazar	34.2	24.5	77	85

## Tofail to opposition: Take part in Upazila polls

CHAR FASSON, Bhola, Oct 16: Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday called upon the opposition political parties to take part in the upazila elections saying there is no scope for capturing power through undemocratic ways, reports BSS.

Addressing a big public meeting here yesterday, the minister said the opposition was indulging in negative policies which would not bring about welfare of the people. 'You may come to power through people's mandate and election is the only way to capture state power,' he said amid thunderous clapping at the meeting, presided over by Abdul Mannan Hawlader, Chairman of Char Fasson Pourasabha.

The minister also addressed a number of wayside meetings

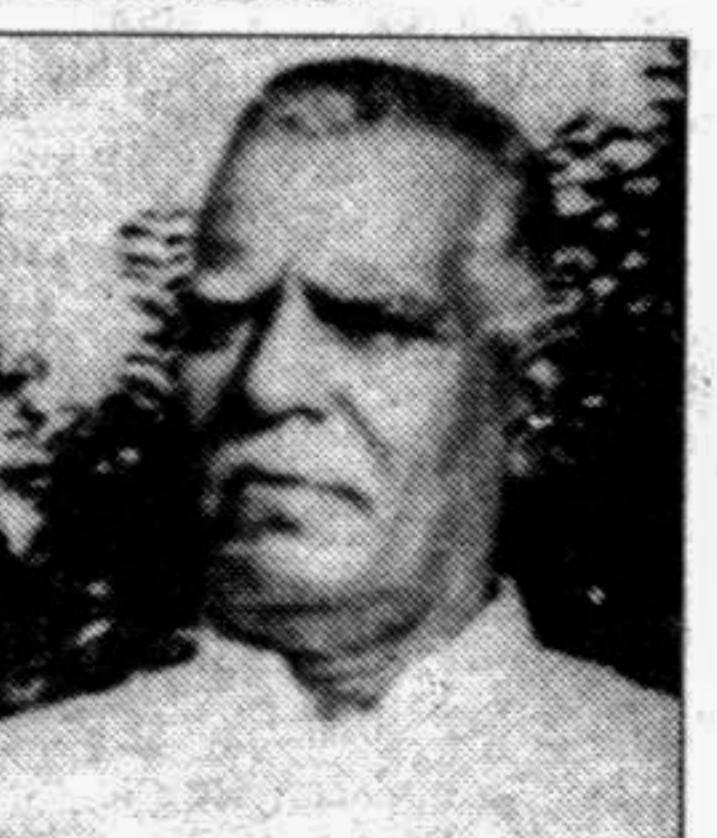
## 2 killed in Jhenidah

JEHENDAH, Oct 16: A young man and a minor girl were killed by unidentified assailants in Shailakupa Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said Badsha Mia, 32, who was last seen in Raira bazar at about 10 pm Friday did not return home in the night. His body was found hanging in a tree adjacent to the bazar this morning.

In another incident Rikta, 8, daughter of Ziarat Mondal, who used to work in a rice mill at Kabirpur went missing Friday night. Police recovered her body from a vegetable field adjacent to the rice mill this morning.

The bodies were taken to hospital morgue for autopsy. Separate cases were filed in these connection.



## Death anniversary of Rahatullah Sarkar today

The 17th death anniversary of Rahatullah Sarkar, former member of the undivided Bengal Legislative Council and the then East Pakistan Provincial Assembly will be observed today, says a press release.

Quarkhwani, miliad mahfil and feeding of the destitute have been arranged at Parbatipur residence of late Rahatullah's son, MA Jalil, Member of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) at 7/1, Naoratan Colony Circuit House Road after Magreb prayers today.

A miliad mahfil will also be held at the residence of late Rahatullah's son, MA Jalil, Member of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) at 7/1, Naoratan Colony Circuit House Road after Magreb prayers today.

A close associate of Sher-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq and Hussain Shaheed Subhray, late Rahatullah Sarkar was a prominent leader of the Juktajfront and was involved in the anti-British freedom movement and he later took part in the Bangladesh Liberation War.

## 12 Tigers killed, 9 bunkers destroyed in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Oct 16: Sri Lankan troops destroyed nine Tamil Tiger rebel bunkers and killed 12 guerrillas in an attack in northern Kilinochchi district, military officials said today, reports Reuters.

They said the troops on offensive patrol detected the rebel bunker line and attacked it at Vannivilankulam village on Friday.

'Ground troops confirmed 12 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) terrorists were killed and two automatic weapons and a rocket recovered,' one official said.

Two soldiers sustained minor wounds during the confrontation.

The clash came a day after fierce fighting in the north and east of the country left at least 150 combatants dead, according to the defence ministry.

The ministry said in a statement 100 rebels and 19 soldiers were killed when the guerrillas launched an abortive attack on the military's defence lines near Ampakam village in northern Kilinochchi district late on Thursday.

Troops had recovered 55 rebel bodies and were making arrangements with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to hand over 35 officials said.

In a separate clash, Sri Lankan naval gunboats attacked a flotilla of Tamil Tiger boats off the northeastern coast, killing some 25 guerrillas, navy officials said.

Bagerhat JCD convenor held

BAGERHAT, Oct 16: District convenor of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was arrested from Muniganj area here today, reports UNB.

The arrested JCD leader, Khadem Neyamul Nasir Alap, was wanted in a number of cases, police said.



Leaders of different political parties placed wreaths on the coffin of Ajoy Bhattachariya, a communist leader, at the Teacher Students Centre (TSC) island of the Dhaka University yesterday.

— Star photo

## Lalon Mela opens at Kushtia

KUSHTIA, Oct 16: Lalon died 108 years ago but his philosophy is still kept alive among thousands of his disciples. This was manifested by the two-day *Baul mela* at Chheruria organised on the 109th death anniversary of Lalon Shah opened here today, reports BSS.

Hundreds of spiritual followers of Lalon Shah gathered at Chheruria today, the *mazar* of the poet and the place of his activities, to pay homage to him. Lalon's life and 'Shad-honos' were centred round the principle of universal brotherhood and religious integration.

It's a grand occasion for the members of the *Lalon Tariqa*, a school of thinking of folk music, to meet in *Lalon Mela* (Lalon Fair) in observance of the death anniversary on Pahela Kartik of Bengali calendar every year.

Lalon Fakir, a protagonist of the *Baul* cult born in the seventies of the eighteenth century, died in October 1890.

Although he had no academic background, the philosophy reflected in his songs suggested his profound depth of philosophical thought.

The newly developed ground for the proposed 'Lalon Complex' and the 'Mazar Site' of Lalon Shah took a different look today as folk and *Baul* singers camped either in group or individually singing songs of Lalon Shah to observe the death anniversary.

The local authorities has imposed a ban on smoking *gariya* inside the *mazar* complex, which is usually called by the *Baul* singers as 'Shiddhi'. But most of the admirers and visitors of the fair welcomed the decision as a positive one.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina begins her work in the morning after offering prayer and reading the Holy Quran regularly. She got the UNESCO Peace Prize for signing the CHT peace accord. She was also acclaimed for signing the Ganges Water agreement with India, he said.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Mofazzal Hosain Shaheen and Fazlul Kader Moznu, president and general secretary of Bhola district Awami League, central leader Abdul Momin Tulu, Abdullah Al Islam Jakob and Shafiqur Rahaman Kiron, Chairman of Bhola Pourasabha.

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The arrested JCD leader, Khadem Neyamul Nasir Alap, was wanted in a number of cases, police said.

He accused the ruling party of hatching a conspiracy against Islamic ideals. He urged upon all to force the government to resign through a relentless mass movement.

This terrorism, supported

## JP working body meet Oct 19

By Staff Correspondent

The first meeting of the newly elected working committee of Jatiya Party will be held at 3 pm on October 19 at Sobhannagar Community Centre in the city.

Party chairman HM Ershad would preside over the meeting, says a press release.

Jamaat calls for ousting govt

Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Gamil Azam yesterday called upon all irrespective of party affiliations to oust the government through an all-out mass movement to save the country's independence and sovereignty, reports UNB.

Addressing a rally at Syedpur airport, he said man cannot have peace without the establishment of rule of Allah. Peace cannot be established in the country if Islamic ideal is not followed at every tier of society, the Jamaat Amir said.

'Iraq has been confronted with the most atrocious terrorism on the part of the United States because of its support for the embargo, its continued aggression and its interference in Iraq's internal affairs,' he said, cited by the official INA news agency.

'If there is evidence that he was involved in corruption, I do not reject the idea of putting him on trial,' Wiranto said in an interview published here today.

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## Iraq rejects UN discussion

BAGHDAD, Oct 16: Baghdad on Friday reiterated its rejection of any UN Security Council discussions on the fate of Iraq that were not aimed at putting an end to a decade of international sanctions, reports AFP.

'We have said it explicitly: debates in the Security Council are not responding to Iraq's desire for a lifting of the sanctions,' Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz told reporters here.

'There is nothing new in the council's discussions ... because the topics being debated are not focused, as they must be, on lifting the sanctions,' he said here on the fourth anniversary of a referendum backing President Saddam Hussein.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Mohammed Zaman Abdul Razak said the sanctions, imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, were a kind of 'terrorism' that had caused the death of at least 1.5 million people.

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This terrorism, supported

by the United States, Britain and Zionism, has thus far caused at least 1.5 million deaths, most of them children,' he said.

The five major powers on the UN Security Council are divided on the question of lifting the sanctions, with Washington and London taking a tough line on keeping them in place with 'guarantees' of Baghdad's disarmament.

The sanctions are not due to be lifted until Baghdad has demonstrated it no longer possesses weapons of mass destruction.

In the shrewdly articulated board memo, the management has mentioned that out of 40 banks including NCBs, denationalised banks, private banks and foreign banks, eleven have their own premises. However, the sources point out, only three of these 11 banks are in the private sector.

To make its case stronger for having the head office outside Motijheel area, it said potential sites could be in Kawran Bazar (topping the list), Mohakhali, Gulshan, Banani, Rajarbagh and Kakrakhali.

IFIC certainly does not need 2.5 bighas of land for its head office. So, it proposes to resell part of it to finance the cost of construction.

The idea has drawn criticism from the bank officials who argue that it is not the function of a bank to get involved in real estate business.

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