

What's on today

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

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Day temperature may fall by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over the country during the period, according to Met Office. The country's highest temperature yesterday at 31.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and the lowest 23.1 degree Celsius at Satkhira. The sun sets in the capital today at 5.30 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.58 am. Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Max, Min, Humidity in percentage. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

HERE and THERE

Workers Party

By Staff Correspondent A three-day session of the Workers Party Central Committee ended Friday night after adopting a number of resolutions on different national issues and the latest developments in Pakistan and India. Held at the Tophkhana office of the party with its President Amal Sen, the meeting observed that the country was plunged in deep crisis with its politics, economy, law and order, communal harmony, natural environment and border situation becoming worse each day. It blamed the ruling Awami League for arrangements it made to hand over the oil-gas fields and the ports to the foreign multi-national companies, ignoring the national interests. The meeting also held the ruling party responsible for widespread violence. 'The fundamentalist groups are no more confined to attacks on the minorities, they have started attack on mosques in the Pakistani-style.' It also accused the ruling party of not being able to tolerate the opposition parties and denying them their rights, jeopardising the atmosphere for healthy politics. The Workers Party also criticised the BNP for allying with the extremist, reactionary and fundamentalist parties in its course of anti-government agitation. 'People are frustrated by

Three muggers held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 17: Police arrested three muggers after chasing them from Dampara WAPDA crossing in the port city, where they tried to mug rickshaw passenger today, reports UNB. They were identified as Mohammad Zahed, Azizur Rahman and taxi driver Mohammad Reshat Ali. Alerted by the mobile inspector through a walkie-talkie, police rushed to the spot and arrested the mugger after chasing the taxi in which they were fleeing.

Clash leaves 40 hurt in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Oct 17: A fierce clash between two feuding groups left 40 people wounded, 20 critically, at Bhurair Bhitia village in Sarishabari thana today, reports UNB. Witnesses said the rioting began when some 20 armed terrorists, allegedly led by Lal Mahmud, swooped on the home of his rival Abdul Aziz in a sequel to land dispute. Seven of the injured were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and 13 admitted to Sadar Hospital. Their condition was stated to be critical. Others were admitted to the local thana health complex. Tensions were mounting in the area. Police were deployed at the troubled village.

Corrigendum

The art exhibition held at Oxford International School was participated by students from Play Group to Std I and not 'KG to Std I', said a school press release yesterday correcting their earlier release to Daily Star which was published yesterday.

Obituary

AQM Naim Jahangir, eldest son of late Khan Bahadur Fariduddin Ahmed of Comilla Darogabari, died of brain haemorrhage in the city on Saturday night. He was 73, says a press release. His Namaj-e-Janaza will be held today at the Baitul Mokarram National Mosque after Jumu'ah prayers. He left behind his wife, one son, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. His kulkhwani will be held on Thursday after Magrib prayers at House B-185, Lane-21, New DOHS, Mohakhali residence in the city.



State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed distributing prizes to winners at a cultural competition organised by Katha Lalitkala Academy at the premises of Badda Allatunnessa school and college yesterday in celebration of the birth centenary of Kazi Nazrul Islam. - PID photo

Defamation charge framed against Nazir Rahman

A Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday framed a defamation charge against JP leader Nazir Rahman Manju, reports BSS. The defamation case was filed with the CMM court on June 19 last year by Ifath Obayed, wife of Industrialist Obayedul Haque Babul. Magistrate Serajul Haider framed this charge after hearing both sides of the case in presence of Manju and the complainant.

BNP, front bodies joint meet today

A joint meeting of city BNP and its front organisations will be held at the central office of Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal at 7 pm tomorrow, reports UNB. BNP city convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka has requested joint convenors, presidents and general secretaries of thana and ward committees and front organisations and party ward commissioners to attend the meeting in time.



Don Gaylor, President of Crop Protection Asia-Pacific Region of Novartis is flanked by BARC Executive Chairman Dr Z Karim, DG of BRRi Dr A Hamid and DG of DAE Enamul Hoque with Novartis distributors of BRRi at the seed launching ceremony of Dhan-29 at Ambari, Dinajpur on Friday.

Zillur in Beijing confce Cooperatives for women may help eliminate poverty

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman has underscored the need for organising women's cooperatives in Bangladesh to empower them, and eliminate poverty by 2005, reports BSS. He said organisation of women's cooperatives is a must for the elimination of hardcore poverty. Through skill enhancing training and micro-credit facilities, cooperatives will not only help them emerge as entrepreneurs, he added. Zillur Rahman was speaking at the concluding session of the 6-day 5th Asia-Pacific Cooperatives Ministers' Conference in Beijing on Saturday. Presenting the action plan for Bangladesh, he laid emphasis on organising small and marginal farmers through cooperatives to produce and market their products in the global markets. 'Bangladesh is an agrarian country where 86 per cent of its total 120 million people are directly and indirectly engaged in agriculture who are mostly poor,' he added. Referring to the progress of cooperatives law in Bangladesh, he said it is being examined in the light of present day realities. 'A national workshop in association with ICA-ROAF, would be organised to finalise the law with necessary amendments,' he said. Cooperatives ministers from 26 countries across the globe including representatives from different international development agencies participated in the conference which began here on October 11. Apart from the participating nations, representatives from ILO, FAO, AACU, AARRO, AWCF, CCA, DID, CICOPA also attended the conference. Later, a joint declaration was adopted by participating countries.



A procession was brought out in the city yesterday demanding the release of Al Markajul Islam's chairman Mufti Shahidul Islam. - Star photo

Pahari Chhatra Parishad blasts Dighinala attack

By Staff Correspondent Pahari Chhatra Parishad organised a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting Saturday's attack on the hill people at Dighinala thana in Khargachhari district by the army personnel and the Bangladeshi intruders. Addressing the rally at the TSC crossing, the Parishad leaders condemned the attack in which a school student Dipen Jyoti Chakma was killed. They demanded immediate arrest of the people responsible for the murder and their trial. They also demanded withdrawal of the army from the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Earlier, the Parishad brought out a procession from the campus to the Jatiya Press Club and back. United People's Democratic Front in a statement also condemned the 'medieval-style' attack by some members of the army. The party feared that continued presence of the army in the CHT might result in the recurrence of the Dighinala incident.

UNB adds from Rangamati: PCJSS, Hill Students Federation and Hill Women's Federation in a joint rally yesterday protested the incident at Babuchhara that led to the death of three persons. Speakers at the rally held at Banarupa in the town expressed concern and said that such incidents might jeopardise the peace process in the region. They demanded punishment for those responsible for the clash.

US historian Fritz Stern wins Book Fair Peace Prize

FRANKFURT, Oct 17: Fritz Stern, a US historian whose family fled the country during the Nazi regime and has written about the history of Germany's Jews, was awarded the prestigious Peace Prize at the Frankfurt International Book Fair on Sunday, reports AP. In his acceptance speech at St. Paul's church, Stern called on Germans to not forget their past, but said the world should not blame children for their parents' mistakes. 'Germans are rightly admonished not to forget, but such voices do not place guilt at the door of today's generation,' he said. 'They demand responsibility, reinforced by a knowledge of the mistakes and crimes of the past.'

Last year's winner of the Peace Prize, Martin Walser, ignited a wide debate in Germany by saying in his acceptance speech that references to the Auschwitz death camp were being used to pummel Germans with guilt about the past. His comments were strongly criticized by Ignatz Bubis, the head of Germany's Jewish community who died in August.

Israel to build 22 housing units in Gaza Strip

JERUSALEM, Oct 17: The Israeli government has given the green light to the construction of 22 new housing units in the settlement of Neve Dekalim in the Gaza Strip, Israel radio announced today, reports AP. The decision came as Israel is preparing to dismantle 10 out of 42 rogue outposts illegally built by settlers in the West Bank over the past year.

BCL rival factions clash in Feni: 11 hurt

FENI, Oct 17: At least 11 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured and 15 shops ransacked in a fierce clash between two of its rival factions at Kalirhat in Fulgazi thana Saturday night, reports UNB. Police and witnesses said the clash ensued following the assault on Zehad Chowdhury of Ekram group by the supporters of Bashir group at 8 pm. The Ekram group reportedly burnt down the house of Bashir. Witnesses said over one hundred armed men took control of Kalirhat Bazaar and searched for their opponents in vehicles and nearby houses. A house was burned down and two shops looted during the one-hour clash that began at 9 pm. Police were deployed in the area to avert further clashes as a tense situation was prevailing there.

Govt believes in peace: Sayeed

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed said in the city yesterday that the present government believed in peace, not confrontation, reports BSS. Reiterating the government's firm belief in free flow of information, Prof Sayeed assured of considering the North Korean proposal for enhancing cooperation in the field of information and news. The State Minister was talking with North Korean Ambassador Ri Jang Il who called on him yesterday. During the meeting, the ambassador appreciated the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for implementing the development programmes to fight hunger and poverty, facing calamities, relief and rehabilitation and signing of the peace agreement on Chittagong Hill Tracts. He also congratulated the Prime Minister for receiving the UNESCO peace prize.

UK confirms LTTE have hi-tech missiles

COLOMBO, Oct 17: Ballistic experts in Britain have confirmed Sri Lanka's Tiger guerrillas were in possession of hi-tech anti-tank guided missiles, a press report here said today, reports AFP. Military authorities sought Britain's help to identify fragments of a missile which destroyed a Chinese-built armoured personnel carrier last month amid fears the rebels had acquired sophisticated weapons. The Sunday Times said the British experts had identified as an AT4 Fagot that could have been manufactured in Bulgaria, Iran, Romania or the Russian Federation. A further report is expected on the country of origin of the weapon and other technical specifications, the Sunday Times said. It was the first time the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are known to have fired an anti-tank guided missile when the track-armoured personnel carrier was blasted in the northern town of Paranthan.

Pakistan to be suspended from C'wealth today

LONDON, Oct 17: Pakistan will almost certainly be suspended from the Commonwealth at a special meeting tomorrow, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said today, reports AP. In response to Tuesday's coup which the military overthrew the democratically elected government, Pakistan has already been barred from attending the meeting of Commonwealth heads of state in south Africa next month. The suspension from the group, one of many moves by the international community to isolate Pakistan, would be aimed at restoring democracy in Pakistan at the earliest possible date, Cook told the British Broadcasting Corp. Commonwealth Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoku later told the BBC that the decision to suspend Pakistan from the 54-nation organisation encompassing Britain and its former colonies, will depend on how quickly military leaders are prepared to restore Pakistan's democracy. 'What the Commonwealth will be doing tomorrow will be to assess how far the new leaders in Pakistan are determined to return Pakistan speedily to democracy,' he said. The suspension of Pakistan will depend on what plans the new military authorities will be pursuing. Cook told the BBC that, 'the rules of the Commonwealth are quite clear - they are set out in a set of principles - that members of the Commonwealth must abide by democratic principles and observe human rights.'

'As the secretary-general of the Commonwealth said last week, a country that has a military coup suspends itself from membership of the Commonwealth. Therefore I expect that decision to be endorsed on Monday,' Cook said.

Solana to attack European defence role

BRUSSELS, Oct 17: Spanish former NATO chief Javier Solana on Monday begins his new job of attempting to coordinate the European Union's foreign and security policies, reports AP. The European Union's need for a wide head in this key post was shown last week when opposition to EU leaders considered they had been misled over the arrangements for a key meeting in Luxembourg. Thirty-two opposition figures were invited. Twenty-two showed up. The 10 who didn't were considered the most important, including Vuk Draskovic, head of the powerful Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), and Zoran Djindjic of the Democratic Party (DS). One explanation for the no-show was that they were miffed over being handed what some termed an EU 'ultimatum' that they sign a statement up front promising, if they ever gain power in Belgrade, to immediately turn over indicted war criminals, including Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Opposition in Afghanistan retakes Hajaghar

ISLAMABAD, Oct 17: Afghanistan's northern-based opposition recaptured a district in the northern Takhar province from the Taliban Islamic militia Sunday after fierce fighting, an opposition spokesman said, reports AP. Several Taliban soldiers were killed in the district of Hajaghar, 280 kilometres (168 miles) from the capital Kabul, when the opposition launched a major attack early Sunday, spokesman Mohammad Abeel told The Associated Press by telephone from Takhar. The two sides traded heavy artillery fire for several hours before the Taliban fled, leaving at least six bodies on the battlefield. 'For 24 hours, soldiers were taken prisoner. The opposition lost two fighters, he said. The Taliban, who captured Hajaghar two weeks ago, had no immediate comment. The fighting is now raging near Qezelkocha district, 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of Hajaghar. The Taliban have attacked Takhar province several times since the start of their summer offensive on July 28, but failed to make any inroads in this opposition stronghold.

Two small quakes rock Taiwan again

TAIPEI, Oct 17: Taiwan, devastated by a killer earthquake last month, was rocked by two smaller quakes late Saturday and early Sunday. No injuries or damage were reported from the latest quakes, reports AP. The first quake with a magnitude of 4.9 struck late Saturday, centered 29 kilometres (17 kilometers) west of the eastern coastal city of Hualien. That was followed early Sunday morning by a magnitude 4.4 quake that struck in central Nantou county near the epicentre of the devastating September 21 quake. The second quake was an aftershock of last month's magnitude 7.6 quake, the Central Weather Bureau said. Living along the earthquake-prone Pacific rim and crisscrossed by 51 fault lines, Taiwan is rocked by scores of earthquakes each year, most of them harmless.

Floods snarl traffic in Manila

MANILA, Oct 17: Floods spawned by a tropical depression continued to spawn huge traffic jams in and around Manila today, reports AFP. At least two major roads were rendered impassable by waist-deep waters while several other avenues were still covered with knee-deep floods, preventing passage of light vehicles. In Cavite province, outside Manila, waters in some villages reached chest height while traffic moved at a snail's pace through smaller floods in low-lying areas of the capital. Civil defence officials and the Red Cross said there were no immediate reports of casualties from the heavy rains brought on by a tropical depression that hit the country yesterday. Flash-floods swamped the capital and several other areas in the main island of Luzon when the tropical storm crossed the island on Saturday. As of 10:00 am (8:00 am BST) Sunday, the tropical depression was located 175 km northwest of Manila, moving at 19 km per hour west towards the South China Sea, the government weather station said.

Border peace

From page 1. There is no indication of any change about his visit. Concerned people are working on the US President's visit. On Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's trip to Australia he said she was paying the five-day official visit at the invitation of her Australian counterpart John Howard. The FM said there is significant potential to increase bilateral trade and investment with Australia. Since independence of Bangladesh, Australia has provided about 400 million US dollars in development aid.

BNP: Udichi

From page 1. Party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the government had already filed a 'false case' against Tariqul Islam in the case regarding murder of 'Father of the Runners' and is conspiring to implicate him in the Udichi case. He said not a single person in Jessore region believes that the BNP leader was involved in any of the incidents. Bhuiyan called upon all to intensify the one-point movement to oust this 'autocratic and subservient' Awami League government. BNP Standing Committee member Abdul Matin Chowdhury alleged that this government has become isolated from the people and is now trying to cling to power by filing false cases and arresting leaders and activists of his party. Moudud Ahmed said the government has resorted to repression on the Opposition to cover its incompetence and failures. Presided over by city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, the meeting was also addressed by, among others, Abdullah Al Noman, Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, party MPs Amanullah Alam, Alamgir Kabir, Joyinal Abedin Faruq and Nazimuddin Alam, central leaders Nazimuddin Al Azad, Abdus Salam, Kazi Abul Bashar, Chowdhury Alam and JCD President Habibun Nabi Khan Sohel. Later, a procession was brought out.

Tangail-8

From page 1. officer for the by-election. The parliamentary seat fell vacant as Kader Siddiqui resigned from Jatiya Sangsad in August. Both Kader Siddiqui and Shawkat Moner Shajahan, the main contenders for the seat, held public rallies and brought out processions in the constituency before filing their nominations. Addressing public rally, Kader Siddiqui told his audience at the Shakhipur thana premises that the up-coming by-election was, in essence, a contest between him and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Shajahan, on the other hand, made an emotional appeal to his audience arguing that he, unlike his political rival Kader Siddiqui, hailed from the Shakhipur-Basail constituency. 'So, you should elect me.' Although the Election Commission is yet to allocate symbols to the candidates, the supporters of Kader Siddiqui chanted slogans in favour of gamchha (thin cotton towel) and those of Shajahan for boat. Other candidates from political parties are: Kazi Ashraf Ali and Anisuzzaman from Jatiya Party (Ershad), and ASM Rafiqul Islam Khan Alo from JP (Mizan-Manju), M Abu Sayeed (NAP-Bhasani), Alhaj Abul Kalam M Nurul Islam Netaji (National Party), Shaifur Rahman (ASD) and Sohrab Ali (Zaker Party). The independent candidates are: Moulvi M Moshed Ali Khan Panni, Shah Noor-e-Aziz, LA Khan Jahangir, AM Enayet Karim, Shahidur Rahman Khan, Badirur Rahman, Nazma Chowdhury, Rebecka Rahman, Farid Ahmed, Abdul Gafur Bir Protik, Ibrahim Miran, Nurul Islam, Ataur Rahman, Fazul Haq Sikder, Mohammad Alim Uddin, Kamal Haq, Bokar Hossain, Ali Asgar, Lokman Hossain, Abdu Aziz, Alhaj M Abu Bakar Siddiqui, Abdul Halim Sarkar Lil Mian, SM Amjad Hossain, Anwar Ali Mollah, Mohammad Enayet Karim and BM Khalilur Rahman Talukdar.