

News

● What's on today . . . ●

BCDJC discussion: Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) will hold a discussion on "Deliberative Democracy in Bangladesh". Venue: BCDJC programme office of House No 8, Road No 16 (New 27 Old), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 10.00-2.30 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain and thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places of Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature is expected to rise 1-3 degree Celsius over the country during the period, according to Met Office.

The country's highest temperature yesterday at 31.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Madaripur and the lowest 21.2 degree Celsius at Haitya.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.29 pm and rises tomorrow Thursday at 5.58 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	29.4	23.7	91	93
Chittagong	26.7	24.6	98	97
Rajshahi	30.6	23.5	89	89
Khulna	31.0	24.2	91	87
Barisal	29.2	23.5	88	95
Sylhet	27.9	22.9	97	88
Cox's Bazar	27.0	24.5	95	98

HERE and THERE

FBITS

Information Technology students from different institutions have recently formed the Bangladesh IT Students' Forum (FBITS) with a view to help meet the challenges of the next millennium through information technology, says a press release.

The main objectives of the forum are to develop the skills, create opportunities for IT students, provide scholarships to poor IT students and act as a coordinator between IT related employers and job-seekers.

FBITS will also emphasis on the coordination between IT students and government and non-government IT bodies.

Shameem Ahsan Roni, from NIIT has been elected the president of the forum while Kazi Hamidur Rahman Rana of IIT and Farzana Ahmed Maneka of Genetic Computers have been elected General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

NCBPR

A day long workshop organised by the National Committee for Beijing Plus Five Review, Bangladesh (NCBPR) was held on Sunday at the WVA auditorium, says a press release.

The workshop was presided over by the Vice-President of the NCBPR Sitara Musa. 85

Qulkhwani

The qulkhwani of Syeda Shamsunnesa, widow of late Syed Fazlur Rahman of Makrall of Faridpur will be held at her 131/1 Siddiq Bazar residence today after Asr prayers. Family sources said, reports BSS.

Relatives and friends have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Syeda Shamsunnesa died on Sunday at the age of 75. She was laid to eternal rest at Azimpur graveyard on Monday.

Obituary

National Cardiovascular Diseases Hospital on Monday. He was 65, says a press release.

Poddar left behind his wife, 5 sons, 2 daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His last rites were carried out at the Mirpur Barabazar pyre.

Quake was God's punishment for secularism in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Oct 19: Police on Monday detained a leader of an Islamic sect under investigation saying August's killer quake was God's punishment for Turkey's secularism, the Anatolia news agency reported, reports AP.

Mehmet Kutlular, a leader of the Nur Cemaati sect, was detained at the headquarters in Istanbul of his newspaper, Yeni Asya, and was being questioned, Anatolia said.

Prosecutors are looking into whether Kutlular may be guilty of inciting religious hatred, which is punishable by up to three years in prison.

A booklet, printed by Yeni Asya and distributed at a Nuri religious ceremony earlier this month, said the earthquake was God's revenge for military-imposed policies banning headscarves in schools and public buildings, newspapers reported.

Many Turkish women wear the scarves out of tradition, but it can also be an Islamic political statement. Turkey's secular establishment, led by the powerful military, see Islam-based politics as a threat to the country's secular regime.

Over 17,000 people died in the Aug. 17 quake that devastated Turkey's industrial heartland.

Killing condemned

Dewanganj-Baksigunj Samity in Dhaka has condemned the killing of Advocate Abdur Razzaq who was gunned down by miscreants in Dewanganj on October 11, reports BSS.

The Samity, at a meeting here on Sunday, expressed grave concern over the recent terrorist activities in Dewanganj and demanded immediate arrest of the killers of late Razzaq and sought exemplary punishment to those who are involved in the brutal killing.

Earlier, the Samity had arranged Qurankhwani, milad mafil in memory of late Razzaq and prayed to almighty Allah for the eternal peace of the departed soul and expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

UK fisheries consultants call on DU VC

Two leading fisheries consultants from United Kingdom Dr Michael J Greaves and Dr Edward Allison and local fisheries expert Dr M Shahjahan Howlader called on Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor A K Azad Chowdhury at his office, yesterday, reports BSS.

The UK consultants are on a visit under the Support for University Fisheries Education and Research (SUFER) project of the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) of UK.

During the meeting they discussed matters relating to improvement of fisheries education and research in Bangladesh, particularly the role of Dhaka University in this regard. They also discussed possibilities of further expansion of collaborative research programmes and exchange of scholars and faculty members between Dhaka University and the Universities of UK in the fisheries sector.

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Polytech students, teachers threaten to boycott exams

A faction of teachers and students of polytechnic institutes have threatened to boycott the final examination of diploma engineering as not a single demand of their 14-point demands has been met by the authority, reports UNB.

We gave an ultimatum to the government to meet our 14-point demands by October 20 but the authority is yet to meet any demands and is pushing us to take stern action, Md Shamsur Rahman, general secretary of Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers Association (BPTA) told UNB today.

The demands among other things include introduction of four-year diploma engineering course and withdrawal of the Director General of the Directorate of Technical Education.

'Urdu Road' renamed

Urdu Road, under Lalbagh Police Station of Dhaka City Corporation, has been renamed as 'Moulana Mufti Deen Mohammad Road'.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday renamed the road after eminent Islamic Philosopher Moulana Mufti Deen Mohammad in pursuance of its decision of the 25th general meeting held earlier, a press release said.

PCP meet at TSC today

By DU Correspondent

Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) will hold a condolence meeting at TSC of Dhaka University tomorrow afternoon in memory of the tribal people, killed in clashes in Kharagchhari district recently.

In a separate statement yesterday, the PCP demanded the Dhaka University authorities announce fresh date for the examinations of the university which had been scheduled for October 13 and 14.



Zahir Raihan's mother dead

Begum Sufia Khatun, wife of late Maulana Habibullah, a former principal of Aliya Madrasa, died of old age complications Monday night. She was 94, reports BSS.

She was the mother of distinguished personalities Shahed Shahidullah Kaiser and Shaeed Zaheer Raihan.

Begum Sufia Khatun was a social worker and deeply devoted to religious activities.

She left behind two sons, three daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Her first *namaz-e-janaza* was held at Kaituli Jame Mosque yesterday after Zohr prayers and the second *namaz-e-janaza* was held at Mojupur in Feni district where she was buried by the side of her husband.

Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend her *qulkhwani* on October 22 at 29, Kaituli after Asr prayers.

Ritz salvaged at Karnaphuli

CHITTAGONG, Oct 19: The runaway mother vessel Ritz was salvaged from the sea into the Karnaphuli channel of the seaport this afternoon, removing shipping hazards, reports UNB.

Tearing off its moorings the attached foreign ship was swept into the rough sea by stormy winds and waves Monday. It rammed two other ships, damaging them severely.

The freewheeling Ritz went beyond control after its crews abandoned it last month at the outer-anchorage.

Port sources said after an 8-hour-long frantic effort tugboat Kandari saddled the ship at about 2 pm and tugged it four and half kms into the Karnaphuli channel.

Earlier, Warwick Watkins, a leading fisheries consultant from United Kingdom Dr Michael J Greaves and Dr Edward Allison and local fisheries expert Dr M Shahjahan Howlader called on Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor A K Azad Chowdhury at his office, yesterday, reports BSS.

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