

What's on today....

Meeting: The Anti-Fascism Democratic Committee will hold a meeting to protest the killings at Dighinala in Khagrachari. Venue: 68/2, Purana Paltan. Time: 6.00pm.

..... and tomorrow

Meeting: The organising committee of the Society for Care and Welfare of Schizophrenic (SCWS) will hold a meeting. Venue: Flar no 601, Building no 3, Eastern Circuit, 30 Circuit House Road. Time: 5.00pm.

Cultural evening: A solo performance by singer Shumon Chowdhury will be held. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, 758 Satmasjid Road, Dhamondi R/A. Time: 6.30pm.

Painting exhibition: The solo painting exhibition of Sarkar Nahid Nizam Manna Nipu titled 'Wooden Box' will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Rafiqun Nabi. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 5.30pm.

The exhibition will remain open from 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm everyday till November 4.

Film show: Three French movies *My Mother's Courage*, *Au Revoir les Enfants* and *Le Plaisir* will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11.00 am, 4.00pm and 6.00pm.

Premiere: Bangladesh Short Film Forum will hold the premiere of *The Long Wait*, an independent documentary on pioneer sculptress Novera Ahmed by N Rashed Chowdhury. Venue: Goethe Institut, House no 10, Road no 9, Dhamondi R/A. Time: 7.00pm.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

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

Moderately heavy falls is expected at places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions during the period, according to Met Office.

It forecast that day temperature likely to rise one or two degree Celsius over the country while weather may improve gradually in the subsequent two days.

The country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 22.0 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.28 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.59 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	
Dhaka	28.7	23.1	93	88
Chittagong	31.2	24.2	93	89
Rajshahi	31.5	22.8	79	85
Khulna	31.0	24.3	93	100
Barisal	28.6	23.6	100	95
Sylhet	27.2	23.9	88	98
Cox's Bazar	33.0	23.3	88	82

HERE and THERE

BCDJC

Swedish Ambassador Anders Johnson yesterday said that a democratic culture must grow from within "through an active civil society". He was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on 'Deliberative Democracy in Bangladesh' organised by Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) at Dhamondi, says a press release.

Johnson emphasised on transparency, accountability and participation as the three basic means in consolidating democracy.

The discussion session was arranged by BCDJC to introduce and emphasise the concept and process of deliberation as a highly effective means in strengthening our fragile democracy.

In his address of welcome BCDJC chief Nayeemul Islam Khan said, "Deliberative Democracy is the solution that we are aggressively looking for to hold on and use to bring about positive changes in our society towards stability, peace and progress."

The lively discussion was moderated by Prof Ahdaduzzaman Md Ali, Dr Karen L Casper, Representative of the Asia Foundation, and John Kincannon, Public Affairs Officer of the Embassy of the USA, were the special guests. Editor of Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Prof Dr M Tawhidul Anwar were the designated speakers.

Among others the discussion meeting was participated by Zafqul Abedin Chowdhury of BSS, Bulbul Manzurul Ahsan of Sangbad, M Anwarul Haq of The Daily Star, Abdul Matin of Janakantha, Muhammad Musa

of Inqilab, Ahmed Faruque Hassan of Mava Zamin, Anisul Haq of Prothom Alo, Syed Ishtiaq Reza of The Financial Express from the working journalists and by Abdur Rouf of PSTC, Mahfuz Ullah of CSD, Zillul Hye Razi of EU, Muhammad Jahangir of CDC, Zafurul Karim of North South University, Dr Ansarul Karim of ECOMAC, Dr Nawshad Ahmed of the Asia Foundation, Barrister Manzoor Hasan of Transparency International, Masud Hasan Siddique of the Swedish Embassy and BCDJC members.

ICAP, SRRA

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 20: ICAP and Social Restoration and Reformation Association (SRRA) as a part of their plan to set up a 500-bed hospital jointly in the port city for the drug addicted has decided to install the hospital with 50 beds in the preliminary stage by 2000.

ICAP — The Institute for Comprehensive Health, Research and Rehabilitation of Addicts and Psychopaths, Bangladesh — and SRRA in a preparatory meeting at Hotel Agrabad last evening have also decided to collect the 80 pc of the required money from financial aids from national and international sources and remaining 20 pc from local sources.

Presided over by Advocate Amin Chowdhury the meeting was attended by ICAP central Committee president AFM Ataul Karim, FCA economic advisor Professor A Quasem, A Chowdhury, Professor Rawshon Akter Hanif, Shahidullah Khan, Barrister Saifuddin Mahmood, Syed Murtaza Ali, Dr Moyeenul Islam and Iftekhar Uddin.

Chehulum

The chehulum of Ayubur Rahaman, a former secretary of Ministry of Works and former chief engineer of Road and Highway Department, will be held tomorrow at his residence at 27/1 West Malibagh after Asr prayers, says a press release.

All friend, relatives and well-wishers of Rahman have been requested to attend the *mildat mahfil* and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Bomb defused at Faridpur

FARIDPUR, Oct 20: An army team from Jessore Cantorment today detonated the time bomb recovered from a movie house in Madhukhali Bazar on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The 12-member army team, led by Maj Zia, exploded the bomb on the bank of river Chandana near Akhchashil Mohila Collage this noon.

The bomb, weighing about 8 pounds, was found abandoned by a sweeper at the Neela-Borna hall before a show.

BHRC President Kazi Abdur Razzak and Secretary General Saiful Islam Dildar have expressed their condolences at the death of Yakub Ali.

In a message, they prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Police Super of Magura Ali was present.

Computer display network project at Liberation War Museum

By Staff Correspondent

The Liberation War Museum has taken up a 'Computer Network Project' under which, the museum authorities said, visitors would be able to see computer displays of the objects in different galleries of the museum.

In a press release issued last night, the museum authorities also said that two separate software were developed — one for the documentation centre of the Liberation War Museum and the other for enlisting the martyrs of 1971.

Sraddha

By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 20: The Sraddha of Rajib Majumder, a young engineer from Chittagong, who died in the United States on October 12, will be held on Oct 22 at Kaliballyadam shrine at Pahartoli here.

Rajib's body was flown back from the United States yesterday. He was cremated at Avyomitra pyre today.

Rajib left behind his wife, a one and half year old daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Mir Yakub Ali, general secretary of Rangamati pourasava unit of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC), died of cancer at Rangamati Sadar Hospital yesterday. He was 47, reports UNB.

He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters, said a press release.

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Firefighters trying to extinguish a fire at Dabiruddin Engine Oil Recycling Co. at Tejgaon yesterday.

Official talks

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with USA, Canada and EU and as committed at WTO, ECOSOC and UNGA.

She appreciated the current preferential treatment of five per cent tariff concession by Australia to some items from the LDCs including Bangladesh.

Regarding developments in Asia and East Timor, Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh always favours peace. "We are actively associated with the peace keeping mission of the United Nations," she added.

The Prime Minister referred to her country's total commitment to peace saying 'we have suffered tremendously due to absence of peace'. She recalled with deep gratitude the contribution of Australia in Bangladesh's war of liberation as well as post-liberation reconstruction initiatives.

"I myself had to struggle for decades against the authoritarian rules during the period the army overly or covertly ruled the country. During this regime people's right of franchise was totally denied," she said, describing her struggle for restoration of democracy and economic emancipation of the people.

Referring to the peace accord signed on Chittagong Hill Tracts, the prime minister said, Bangladesh has brought back peace in one tenth of the country's total territory ending a two-decade old insurgency.

The prime minister said her government had initiated huge development activities in CHT region which is now totally free from ethnic confrontations.

Referring to the signing of 30-year Ganges water sharing treaty with India, the prime minister said we have reduced tension in the region through the agreement.

The prime minister also mentioned various programmes taken by her government for poverty alleviation and expansion of education.

The Bangladeshi leader was assisted by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal Secretary to the prime minister Dr S A Samad, Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Sami, Press Secretary to PM Jawadul Karim and Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia QAMA Rahim.

The Australian PM was aided by Minister of Trade and Industry Foreign Minister Mark Latham and Minister of State for Environment and Climate Change Ian Campbell.

After reaching at about 8:30 last night, the receptionist at the guest house said four of their foreign guests left yesterday, two were still to leave and the process of fresh reservation was continuing.

Executive director of Best Eastern Ekramul Haq said they were not officially informed that their guest house was "sealed". He, however, admitted that they do not have any trade licence as the DCC was not issuing trade licence for guest houses since 1997.

"There are about 60 guest houses without trade licence in the city. Why all those are not being sealed at a time?" he asked.

The DCC deputy director, when told about this, said they have shortage of manpower and the process of sealing guest houses requires time.

Japan's Matsuru

new UNESCO boss

PARIS, Oct 20: Japan's ambassador to France, Koichiro Matsuru, was elected the new director-general of UNESCO on Wednesday, the secretary of the UN agency's Executive Board said, reports AFP.

Mohammad al-Shaabi said Matsuru's appointment for a six-year mandate at the helm of the agency would be proposed for approval to the UNESCO General Conference on November 12.

Matsuru, a 62-year-old career diplomat, won 34 votes against his closest rival, the candidate from the Arab world, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Britain, Ghazi Alqosai, who obtained 13.

The Japanese candidate's win came during a third round of balloting by the 58-member UNESCO Executive Board.

Karwan Bazar

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C's Zonal Office-6 has been totally taken over by one Abdul Ali. The market is known as Abdul Ali's foot, housing more than 100 wholesale stalls.

Traders and DCC officials who requested anonymity said that the existing traffic problems in the area were caused mainly due to the existence of Abdul Ali's Foot market.

Like the park, Abdul Ali had also obtained a court injunction to block any official move to recover the passage until the matter is settled in the court.

"We are also moving to court to recover the road," said a DCC official who requested anonymity. The DCC officials admitted that none of these 'traders' doing transactions of crores of taka has any trade licence.

She said they enjoyed as much as an 80-to-one cash advantage.

Perhaps I can handle 2-1 or even 10-1, but not 80-1," she said.

Dole, 63, who was seeking to be the first woman president, acknowledged severe difficulties in raising funds.

But the first woman to hold two cabinet positions struggled to bring in the millions necessary for a White House bid while Bush has broken all fundraising records. Her campaign staff said she had collected 1.3 million dollars in the third quarter of the year against 20 million for Texas governor Bush.

It would be futile to continue," she told a press conference here. "The bottom line remains money."

Dole, seeking to become the first woman to win a major party presidential nomination, said her rivals from the party had amassed enormous money reserves that she could not hope to match, citing by name George W. Bush and Steve Forbes.

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