

● What's on today ... ●

DU seminar: A seminar titled "Globalisation: Socio-Economic and Political Effects on Bangladesh" will be held. Prof M. Nazrul Islam of Department of Political Science of Dhaka University will present the key-note paper on the topic. Organiser: Centre for Advanced Research in Social Sciences of DU. Venue: Room no 404, Lecture Theatre of DU. Time: 11.00 am.

Film show: Tanvir Mokammel's Chitra Nadir Pare will be screened. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 3.00 pm, 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm.

Annual general meeting: The annual general meeting of Bangladesh Terry Towel & Linen Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BTTMEA) will be held. Chief guest: Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries. Venue: Ballroom of Hotel Sheraton. Time: 7.00 pm.

Film show: Three new local documentary films by Sarwar Jahan Khan, Tuku Khandakar and Samee Saeed will be screened. Venue: Goethe Institut, House no 10, Road no 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

BATEXPO'99 fashion show: The BATEXPO'99 fashion show will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 7.30 pm.

Weather

Rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Barisal, Rajshahi, Khulna and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country during the period, according to Met Office.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and Jessore, and the lowest of 22.5 degrees at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:20 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:05 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	30.8	90	24.7	78	90	90
Chittagong	30.2	86	23.4	92	86	86
Rajshahi	30.2	83	24.5	86	83	83
Khulna	31.8	83	24.0	82	82	83
Barisal	30.4	92	23.5	87	92	92
Sylhet	29.0	88	24.2	80	88	88
Cox's Bazar	30.3	88	24.0	100	88	88

HERE and THERE

DRU

USAID-CIDA

A two-day workshop on "Reporting on Information Technology" began at the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) Office yesterday, says press release, reports BSS.

Thirty reporters from different newspapers and news agencies are taking part in the workshop, jointly organised by DRU Computer Club and Business Information and Advertising Services (BIASL).

DRU President Shahjahan Sardar and General Secretary Mohiuddin Islam Raju, Convenor of DRU Computer Club Shayamol Datta and Managing Director of BIASL Naeem Ahmed addressed the inaugural function.

State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir will hand over the certificates of the workshop to the participants at 3 pm today, the press release added.

BCL president injured in road accident

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) President Habibur Bepari and two other activists were injured yesterday when the microbus in which they were travelling fell into a roadside ditch near Kasba in Brahmanbaria.

Bepari was rushed to Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital but he was later shifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH). Hospital sources said his condition was critical. Bepari was unconscious till late last night.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a passenger bus hit the microbus at about 11 am yesterday.

Qulkhwani of police sergeant Ahad Tuesday

The qulkhwani of police sergeant Abdul Ahad will be held at his "Property Homes" residence at 17/A New Eskaton after Asr prayers on Tuesday instead of Monday, reports BSS.

The date of the qulkhwani has been shifted due to tomorrow's hartal, called by the opposition alliance, family sources said.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Workshop on strengthening local govt' begins today

By Staff Correspondent

A two-day workshop on Strengthening local government at union level with the elected representatives of the Union Parishads begins in the city today.

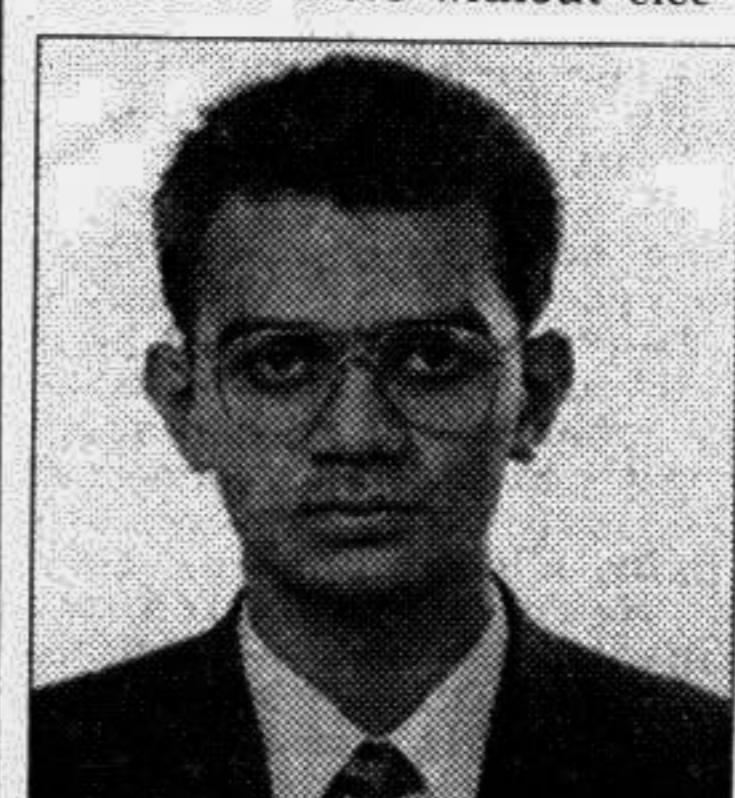
LRGD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman will inaugurate the workshop, organised by the International Voluntary Services (IVS), at LGED Bhaban Auditorium at 9 am, says a press release.

Gordon H West, Mission Director of USAID, Dhaka, and Gias Uddin Pathan, Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau, will attend the inaugural function as special guests while ADAB Chairperson and Proshika President Dr Gazi Faruque Ahmed and Representative of the Asia Foundation Dr Karen L Casper will be present as guests of honour.

Reception to Bibi Russel

A civic reception will be accorded to internationally acclaimed fashion designer Bibi Russel, who has recently been appointed a special envoy of UNESCO, says a press release.

The reception will be held at the main auditorium of the National Museum at 6.00 pm on November 2.



Qulkhwani

The qulkhwani of Akhtar Hossain Choudhury (Jimmy), son of Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Altaf Hossain Choudhury, will be held at the old DOHS Community Centre in Banani after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Akhtar, a third year BBA student of North South University, drowned at the Proshika Training Centre in Manikganj on Friday. He was only 22. He was buried at the Military Cemetery at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

All friends and relatives have been requested to attend the milad mahfil.

They also suggested forming a special 'squad' in the factories to protect the female workers from sexual harassment.

Child Women Relief and You (CWRV), a human rights organisation, organised the roundtable on 'the Growth of Garments Sector and Security of the Women' at Dhaka Club on Thursday last.

Advocate Fahima Nasreen presented the key-note paper while general secretary of Bangladesh Manabadihikar Bastabon Sangstha Advocate Sigma Huda was the moderator.

Dr Rana P Sattar, Rehana Siddiqui, Sirajul Haq Nasim, Masud Khan, Prof Shamsul Islam, Syed Borhan Kabir, Rebeca Siraj, Dr Mahbuba Nasreen and Mahmud Leena also took part in the discussion.

Shamsul Alam, Registrar, Department of Cooperatives, said that extensive motivational and innovative training programme need to be geared up for the members of the SSWRDSP's Water Management Cooperative Associations (WMCA).

Some 135 participants from LGED and the Department of Cooperatives from different districts took part in the open discussion on the key-note paper.

Students removed the barricade at about 6:15 pm following assurance of proper investigation from local administration.

Emergency meet of DMC Teachers Assoc today

By Staff Correspondent

An extended emergency meeting of the executive committee of Dhaka Medical College Teachers Association will be held today, says a press release yesterday.

The meeting was called to find a solution to the impasse following the strike called by interned doctors which continued for the fourth day yesterday, it said.

The routine activities of the hospital came to a halt on the fourth day of the strike on Saturday, the release said.

However, emergency medical services were provided and operations conducted following talks between the trainee doctors and the health minister on Thursday, the release said.

Speakers at a roundtable have underscored the need for ensuring security of the female workers at the garment factories.

They also suggested forming a special 'squad' in the factories to protect the female workers from sexual harassment.

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Students block

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motor vehicles from Dhaka and the Northern districts came to a halt on the both sides of the barrier for about two hours.

Students removed the barricade at about 6:15 pm following assurance of proper investigation from local administration.

SNS demands direct elections to reserved seats in JS

By Staff Correspondent

Sammilito Nari Samaj (SNS) yesterday held a rally at Muktangan demanding direct elections to reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Presided over by Shirin Akhter, the rally was addressed by renowned writer Selina Hossain and convenor of Left Front Moshred Ali.

Speakers at the meeting said that women were in favour of increasing the number of reserved seats in parliament but they want direct elections to these seats, said a press release.

The rally was followed by a procession that ended at the Jatiya Press Club.

Iqbal Ansari

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Class IV employees' movement and Language Movement respectively.

He was one of the first batch of students who violated Section 144 and courted arrest in front of the old Arts Building (now the new block of DMCH). He was elected a Joint Secretary of the National Democratic Front (NDF), the political front which opposed the military dictator Ayub Khan in the 1964 elections.

Khan was connected with many socio-cultural organisations and was the founder member of Drama Circle and President of Sangskriti Parishad of Dhaka University in 1955-56.

The WB also sent four representatives to Dhaka from New York early last week to discuss various power-related issues including the AES-Marubeni matter. But the talks ended inconclusively as none moved from their positions.

AES also suspended in mid-October all its deals with its sub-contractors for installation of equipment. As per the deal, if AES does not make payments to them by November 1, those will stand terminated.

AES - government talks in the last one week however produced some "verbal solutions", the sources said.

AES argued that the proposed deal with Marubeni for the Second Phase Meghnagar Plant would increase the risk of its investment as Bangladesh would be saturated with excessive power supply after a few years.

In such a situation, AES wanted to be reassured by the government that PDB would purchase the power as per the agreement and that it would be given priority over the Second Phase Meghnagar Plant.

If reassured, it would try to convince the WB to provide the risk guarantee for the IFC credit. If IFC does not provide the credit, AES would finance the project from its own funds, sources said quoting AES officials.

It's a matter of half a billion dollar investment. AES will only do it if it feels absolutely comfortable.

The government then verbally assured AES that it would respect the PPA signed between AES and PDB.

"But AES wants written commitment so that it can try to convince lenders," the source added.

When contacted late last night Uttara police, however, could not confirm the incident.

Earlier, Shamsul Huq Selim, an Awami League leader of DCC ward-74 was murdered on Tuesday while Sarwar Hossain Hiru, convenor of Awami Sechchhaseb League, Dhanmondi unit, was shot dead at Green Road Thursday night.

At one stage, one of them shot Mashuri from a point blank range and escaped the scene. Fatally injured Mashuri was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed at about 8:15 pm, sources said.

When contacted late last night Uttara police, however, could not confirm the incident.

Earlier, Shamsul Huq Selim, an Awami League leader of DCC ward-74 was murdered on Tuesday while Sarwar Hossain Hiru, convenor of Awami Sechchhaseb League, Dhanmondi unit, was shot dead at Green Road Thursday night.

The prohibition comes into effect from midnight tonight, said a DMP press release yesterday.

The areas under the prohibition are: Mohakhal crossing, Banglomotor, Old Airport, Farmgate, Sonargaon Road, Panthapath, Green Road, Shymoli, Dhanmondi Road 27, Shishu Mela, Rokeya Swarani, Parjatan Crossing, Indira Road and Manik Mia Avenue.

In addition, telephone numbers 9887373 and 9883812 are also in operation.

Housewife strangled for dowry in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 30: A young housewife was strangled allegedly by her husband or in-laws for dowry at Beparipara here early today, reports UNB.

Mahmuda Sultan Sammi, 20, daughter of Hajji Sultanuddin Bhuiyan, was found hanging from a ceiling fan at her husband's house at Mubarak Shahr road.

Police arrested Sammi's husband Abdul Kalam Azad alias Ripon, his father Abdul Aziz Shikdar, mother Monwara Begum, younger brothers Abu Zafar and Abu Bakar Siddique and elder sister Rumka Akhter in this connection.

Ripon, who was a house tutor of Sammi, married her on March 12 this year. Sammi passed SSC with star marks in 1996.

Sammi's brother Advocate BM Hossain told police that his family had given Ripon Tk two lakh, one colour TV and a refrigerator as dowry. But his sister was tortured for more dowry money.

He alleged that Ripon's family hanged Sammi from a ceiling fan after strangling her. Sammi was six months pregnant.

In police custody, Reshma, a seven-year-old maid who works at Ripon's house, said she saw Sammi crying for help when Ripon made the attack on her. Ripon denied the allegation.

The recovered arms and ammunition included two sawn-off rifles, cocktails, 24 bombs, 12 pieces of iron rods and one dagger.

Police said the Shibir men gathered there to launch an attack on the local BCL office.

District unit of Shibir today brought out procession in the town demanding release of the leaders and activists.

The processionists damaged six vehicles and ransacked some shops in the town, police and witnesses said.

JCD, police

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rush-hour traffic in central Dhaka into chaos. Police used tear gas and batons to stave off the young BNP supporters who clashed with police for the second time since Thursday.

Police picked up eight persons. Police were yet to charge them until 9:30 p.m. Nor could their identity be known as police went for random charges on the JCD supporters, foiling their attempts to regroup which caught many passersby in the area.