

News

What's on today....

BCB procession: Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will bring out a procession to celebrate Bangladesh's Test status. Venue: Dhaka Stadium. Time 8.30 am.

Weather

Moderate rainfall likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Dhaka, Barisal and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6 pm yesterday, reports UNB.

Day temperature may rise by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over the country during the period. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 33.8 degree Celsius at Jessor and the lowest 21.3 degree Celsius at Barisal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.14 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	32.4	24.0
Chittagong	32.5	24.7
Rajshahi	31.8	24.6
Khulna	33.5	23.4
Barisal	33.0	21.3
Sylhet	27.5	24.3
Cox's Bazar	32.6	24.0
	78	80

HERE and THERE

BNP city unit

By Staff Correspondent
The Dhaka city BNP yesterday organised a *milad mahfil* and discussion meeting in memory of late BNP leader Ismail Hossain Mia.

Hold at the BNP central office, it was addressed by BNP secretary general Abdul Manan Bhuiyan, Sadek Hossain Khoja MP and Abdus Salam.

Paying tribute to the late leader, Bhuiyan said that Ismail Hossain Mia's commitment to the party was unquestionable and he had become popular within a very short time through his active participation in all programmes of the party.

BNP leaders Abdul Matin Chowdhury, M K Anwar MP, Ashraf Hossain, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Alamgir Kabir MP, Moazzem Hossain Alal, Jatiya Party leader Saifur Rahman and a large number of leaders and activists attended the *milad*.

FEMA

The Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) organised a discussion meeting with the representatives of some leading NGOs in the country at FEMA Office yesterday, says a press release.

The meeting discussed different aspects of the ongoing advocacy programme on electoral law reform recommendation pertaining to the election to parliament formulated by FEMA.

The representatives of the NGOs expressed their solidarity and said that they will extend their support and cooperation to make the advocacy programme a success.

Acting Chairperson of FEMA Abul Ahsan presided over the meeting. Among others, Munira Khan, Ataur Rahman, Dr Shawkat Ara Hossain, H. M. Nazrul Islam, Mostafa Sohel of FEMA and the representative of ADAB, PROSHIKA,

CCDB, VHSS, CDF, BRAC, CARITAS and Dhaka Ahsania Mission were present at the meeting.

BAF

Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) has joined the national tree plantation campaign initiated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a few days ago, reports BSS.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed inaugurated the tree plantation programme by planting a Krishna Chura sapling at the Air Headquarters yesterday. Senior BAF officers were present on the occasion.

Bangladesh Air Force has taken up an elaborate programme for tree plantation this year.

Prerona

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayed has said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expanded the development activities to ensure welfare of the people, reports BSS.

The State Minister was addressing a cultural programme jointly organised by Prerona, a voluntary organisation and the National Museum on Sunday. The disabled people rendered songs at the function.

He said the Prime Minister has established National Foundation for the Handicapped (NFH) and adopted a policy for the betterment of the disabled.

He urged the non-government organisations to help the government implement the policy.

Presided over by Director General of Shilpkala Academy Azad Rahman, the function was addressed, among others, by Rozina Begum, Prerona president Dalia Nawshin, actor Shahid Islam Sacchu, and NFH general secretary Sultana Zaman.

Clash with police
10 arrested from MMCH

MYMENSINGH, June 26: Police today arrested 10 people from Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) who were admitted there after receiving injuries in Sunday's clash with police, reports BSS.

The arrested are Jalal, 35, Hafizuddin, 15, Abdul Khaleq, 25, Iman Ali, 60, Shafiqul Islam, 25, Rafiqul Islam, 26, Abu Bakar Siddiq, 20, Taher Ali, 15, Majbir, 25 and Soleman, 20. They sustained bullet wounds during the clash.

Meanwhile, injured police inspector Zahurul Huq and constables Haran Chandra Chakrabarti and Sukkur Mahmud were shifted to the MMCH from the thana health complex.

Two people were killed and 50 others, including 10 policemen, injured in the clash between police and mob at Santoshpur in Fulpur-Modhupur area over stealing of pineapple.

Previously, RHD had floated tender but the process stopped due to allegations of foul play and lack of participation.

Now one of the bidders, disqualified in the first phase of evaluation or technical evaluation, alleges that RHD has accepted a Chinese contractor — Major Bridge Engineering Bureau (MBEB) — as technically qualified though there were major deficiencies in its proposal.

Sources said technical evaluation had listed nine 'Key Criteria' and in case a bidder failed in any one, he was to be declared 'non-conforming' and his bid was to be rejected.

One of the 'Key Criteria' is the 'Bank Commitment Letter'.

The 1.8 km bridge is being constructed under a Japanese credit scheme.

NU honours exam
8 students file writ petition

Some 8 examinees of Honours Part-III under the National University in a writ petition in the High Court yesterday sought directive upon the authority to defer the examination scheduled to begin on July 29, reports BSS.

The division bench comprising Justice Matin Reza Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hossain adjourned till Thursday the hearing on the question of issuance of rule.

The petitioners seeking to defer the examination contended that the course has not been completed.

The court asked the counsel for the petitioners to submit authenticated documents from the National University whether the session for 1996-97 in question has been completed in last three years or not.

Tk 75cr Dutch grant to BRAC edn programme

The government of the Netherlands will provide 35 million guilder equivalent to Tk 75 crores as grant to BRAC for its Non-Formal Primary Education Programme Phase-III, says a press release.

An agreement in this regard was signed by the Ambassador of the Netherlands D.C.B. den Haas and the Founder Executive Director of BRAC Fazle Hasan Abed at the BRAC Centre yesterday. This brings the Dutch government's contribution to BRAC's education programme to Tk 170 crores.

The government of the Netherlands, a long-time development partner, has over the years contributed Tk 216 crore to BRAC's Rural Development and Education Programmes. In addition, over the last two decades, the government and the people of the Netherlands, through a Dutch civil society organisation NOVIB, have contributed more than Tk 210 crore to BRAC in pursuing its poverty alleviation goals.

BRAC is running 34,000 non-formal primary schools throughout the country where 1.1 million poor children are receiving primary education. Over 1.6 million have already graduated from these schools and most of them are pursuing their studies in higher classes in high schools and colleges. BRAC also reaches more than 40 million people through its health services and poverty alleviation programmes.

US Peace Corps may expand work in Bangladesh

US Peace Corps, presently engaged in providing English language training to primary school teachers in Bangladesh, may expand its programmes to other sectors in future, reports BSS.

Margaret Goodman, Country Director of US Peace Corps in Dhaka, told BSS about this possibility saying that in addition to the education sector, the Peace Corps Volunteers (PCV) have been working in different countries of the world in health care, computer education, environment and agriculture development sectors.

In 1997, Bangladesh invited the Peace Corps to develop a programme that would supplement the government's efforts to uplift the socio-economic conditions of its people. Peace Corps in its turn after discussion with Bangladesh officials decided to take up training of English teachers as its first programme.

Goodman said that the first batch of 17 PCVs arrived in Bangladesh one and a half year back to work as English language training instructors for primary school teachers for a period of 2 years. Prior to joining their work, they underwent three-month long competency based training, she said adding that with the latest arrivals of PCVs, their total numbers now stands at 48.

Death anniversary

The 19th death anniversary of Advocate Adel Uddin Ahmed, a noted lawyer, politician and social worker, was observed yesterday, says a press release.

A *doa mahfil* was held after ASR prayers at his Faridpur residence to mark the occasion.

A minister in the then Pakistan, Adeluddin was president of Faridpur district Awami League for ten years in the 60's.

Academy of Research on Health, Education & Ethics (AROHEE) held a symposium on the theme "Training Professionals to Prevent Violence Against Women" to commemorate the "UN International Day in Support of Torture Victims" at the conference room of Centre for Medical Education.

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