

What's on today....

Inauguration: Rabitat Al-Alam Al-Islami, of World Muslim League, inaugurates its 10-day long training course on Islamic Studies. Venue: Al-Harmin Islamic Studies Institute, House No 12, Road No 3B, Sector 9, Uttara. Time: 5:00 pm.

Inauguration: Dhaka University will hold the inauguration ceremony of its automated library catalogue and internet browsing facilities. Venue: Nat Mandal auditorium. Time: 10:00 am.

Conference: Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance will hold a press conference to present its tobacco-related malnutrition report. Venue: VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 11:00 am.

BISS dialogue: Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) in association with Daily Star and Centre for Alternatives will hold a dialogue on "Peace Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts." Venue: BISS auditorium, 1/46, Elephant Road. Time: 10:00 am.

Film show: Chalachitram Film Society and the Indian High Commission in association with Bangladesh Film Archive presents Asiya by Fatcho Lohani. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House No 25, Road No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:00 pm.

Meeting: The Lions Club of Dhaka Blues, District 315-B2 will hold its regular monthly meeting. Venue: Doza Mansion, 2nd Floor, 23 Mirpur Road. Time: 6 pm.

Certificate distribution ceremony: Engineers Institution, Bangladesh (IEB) will hold the concluding ceremony and prize distribution ceremony of its "GIS data base concepts and Arc view GIS user" training course. Chief guest: State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Haque. Venue: IEB seminar room. Time: 7:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Prize-giving ceremony: The National Trained Imam Conference and Prize giving ceremony of Islamic Foundation Bangladesh will be held to award the trained imams of the Imam Training Academy. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 11:30 am.

Training course: Bangladesh Tariff Commission begins its Training Programme under BDXXIP: PATC. Venue: Conference room of Bangladesh Tariff Commission, Segunbagicha. Time: 11:30 am.

Weather

Fall in temperature likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said slight fall in day temperature is expected over the country.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.0 degree Celsius at Jessore, Chuadanga, Rangpur and Madaripur and the lowest 24.4 degree Celsius at Sitakunda.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:18 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	30.1	25.6	97	82
Chittagong	32.0	25.2	97	82
Rajshahi	32.2	27.0	94	82
Khulna	33.2	26.2	92	84
Barisal	32.0	25.0	96	83
Sylhet	32.5	25.5	96	75
Cox's Bazar	31.5	25.4	97	92

HERE and THERE

HBFC Borrowers' Association

By Staff Correspondent

The Association of the Borrowers of HBFC yesterday protested the recent move taken by House Building Finance Corporation regarding direct allocation of loan defaulters' mortgage property, said a press release.

Leader of the association termed the decision as 'inhuman' and said HBFC has taken the decision at a time when the rate of loan recovery has stood at 86 per cent.

The leaders hailed the government for passing a bill to operate all activities relating to housing under a new authority.

Sampreeti

The annual general meeting (AGM) and election of new executive committee of Sampreeti (an organisation for promotion of peace and development) was held at its head office, at Mohammadpur, in the city recently, says a press release.

The AGM reviewed the activities of last year and planned the activities for new year.

A new executive committee was elected in the meeting. Mohammed Ataur Rahman has been elected as chairman, Nilufa Nasreen Rima vice-chairman, Mofak-Kharul Islam vice-chairperson, Ruhu Das treasurer, Nasiruddin Ahmed as member, Prof Syed Aminul Haq member, Advocate Nurul Islam member, Chitta Francis Reberio member and Mohammad Abdul Hamid member.

NIPSOM, UNFPA, British Council

A three-day workshop on "Review of Course Curriculum Including Dissertation of Master of Public Health in Reproductive and Child Health," jointly organised by National Institute of Preventive and So-



The installation ceremony of Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga was held at the ballroom of Hotel Sonargaon recently.

'96 scamsters active again?

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As prices continued to soar, investors stopped selling their shares at one stage, resulting in a severe share crisis in the market.

After noon, the traders' screen showed a number of buying offers at very high prices, but there was no sale.

There was no share of Singer Bangladesh, Rangpur Foundry Ltd, Standard Cement, Delta Life Insurance, Ashraf Textile, Bangladesh Lamps, Bangladesh Thai Aluminium, GQ Ball Pen, Exelsior Shoes, IDLC, Kay & Que and Beximco companies.

DSE system finds it tough to handle huge orders

Meanwhile, the DSE computer system found it tough to handle huge orders placed by the investors.

Many brokerage houses complained to the DSE management that their orders were executed five to six hours later.

Art works by Bengal greats comes together in exhibition

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts will present a valuable collection of art works by eminent artists of Bengal at its Bengal Shilpaya gallery at Dhanmondi from July 12 to July 26, says a press release.

The collection of paintings titled 'Arts works of late Bengal greats' are taken from the private collection of Abul Khaer (Litul).

Artists whose works will be on display are Rabindranath Tagore, Gogendranath Tagore, Abanindranath Tagore, Nandalal Basu, Jamini Ray, Ramkinkor, Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hasan and SM Sultan.

This is the first in a series of collections from Abul Khaer that will be exhibited by Bengal Gallery.

Earlier, the orders used to be executed instantly. Implementation of orders placed through WAN (wide area network) connections used to be a little slow.

But yesterday, orders placed through LAN (local area network) also became slow.

Asked, DSE Chief Executive Officer GQ Chowdhury said that their system was functioning beyond its optimum level and they were finding it difficult to cope with such increased orders.

The turnover hit a four-year high of Tk 57.95 crore yesterday, involving 35310 transactions in five and a half hours.

Most of the prices hit circuit breaker

Most of the share prices yesterday hit the circuit breaker ceiling. Beximco Pharma reached its highest limit of 19.96 per cent, reaching Tk 71.50 from previous day's closing of Tk 63.00. ACI also posted a 19.96 per cent rise, reaching Tk 64.30.

The other leading gainers of the day were Beximco Knitting, Excelsior Shoe, Mona Food, Kay & Que, Reckitt and Colman and Shunepur Holdings.

DSE seeks police help to control kerb market

In the wake of huge transactions, the DSE authorities yesterday sought help from law enforcers to restrict the kerb market from growing out of proportion.

In a letter to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner, the DSE CEO said, the stock market is the legal place for trading shares. As prices are rising in the stock market, the kerb market may become active like that in 1996.

"Such illegal kerb market can lead to chaos in the stock market," the CEO said in the letter seeking help.

SEC observing market cautiously

Acting Chairman of the Securities and Exchange

Commission (SEC) Manir Uddin Ahmad said that they were observing the market cautiously to make sure that every one plays fairly in the market.

Ahmad said monitoring and surveillance officials are on alert and monitoring the market closely.

He said government should release shares in the market by making many of its companies public.

"Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge can be turned into a public limited company and funds can be raised from the market to create more bridges in the country," Ahmad said.

Market reaches four-year high.

The DSE All Share Price Index made the highest single day gain in four years yesterday, reaching of 745.47 points from previous day's 663.46 points.

Of 185 issues traded, prices of 176 gained and seven suffered loss while seven issues remained unchanged.

The market capitalisation reached Tk 7058.30 crore.

Alleged criminal

Humayun's daughter also fired at police from his residence.

Humayun is one of the five chargesheeted accused in the case of Bangabandhu Bridge at about 7:00 am yesterday.

Abdul Malek, 35, died on the spot while five others were sent to Sirajganj Hospital.

Police seized both the vehicles and two separate cases were filed with Ullahpara and Bangabandhu Bridge west police stations.

UNB from Bagerhat says, a minor girl was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Shibpur Amtali in Chitalmari upazila yesterday morning.

Witnesses said Rupali, 7, daughter of Nasiruddin met the tragic accident at 7:30 am while returning home from madrasah.

Agitated people put up barricade on Bagerhat-Nalua road from 8 pm to 11 pm following the accident disrupting communication for three hours.

Bushra murder

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day's interrogation that he was suffering from heart disease.

The investigating officers told the Daily Star that they are also questioning Kaniz Fatema Hena, and Ruhul, sister- and brother-in-laws of Kader. They suspected that his wife Runu Kader and her family members carried out the act planned by Kader.

Police also said they gathered "vital information" from Hena. Hena was staying in the house during the night of the incident.

The three-day remand of Kaniz will end today and she will be produced before the CMM's Court tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the DB investigation talked yesterday with CID Syed Momin Hossain who was the first to visit the spot. They also talked with the SB (Special Branch) officials regarding the case.

The DB officers visited the house of the victim yesterday and talked with Kader's wife.

Her family has been residing in the house for about four years following the death of its owner A Samad who is Bushra's maternal uncle. Kader, step-brother of Samad, also resides in that house along with his family.

Bushra, only daughter of a retired police officer was killed in her bedroom at their residence at DIT Road in the city on the night of July 1.

Senakalyan

From page 1

said explaining why they had to expand into the river water.

"Our ownership of the land allows us to enter another 120 feet into the river but we did not do that for the sake of the river," the official said.

Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Mustafizur Rahman in an interview with the BBC yesterday said that the SKS installation was set up as per land documents dating back to the British period. He said, as far as his knowledge goes, the SKS project did not encroach upon the Buriganga river.

Another official source disclosed that the government has finalised plans to acquire about 50 acres of "foreshore" area of Buriganga to expand Water Engineering facilities of the armed forces at Postogola.

Several illegal encroachers on the river at Shyampur said that last year, they were asked by the army to wind up their businesses in two years. One Manna of a brick and said trading company told this correspondent that he heard that the army would build facilities to expand the "cantonment" at Postogola.

The SKS encroachment on the river is barely half a kilometre from the army engineering facility.

Meanwhile, the inquiry committee formed by the Department of Environment (DoE) was sitting idle with its findings. The Director General of DoE was "too busy elsewhere" and could not sit with the committee members to decide a course of action against the SKS and other encroachers of the river.

But a DoE source said the committee has detected "serious encroachment" on the river Buriganga, which obstructs water flow as well as navigation.

"Time has come to remove all the encroachments and free it from the clutches," said a DoE official.

PM urges opposition to join next JS session

'Help pass bill to extend tenure of women seats'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the opposition yesterday to join in the next session and help pass a pending bill for renewal of women's reserved seats in parliament, reports UNB.

"If the opposition needs women vote in the next election, (then) they would come when parliament convenes next and help pass the bill," she said in her valedictory speech before the budget session was prorogued in the afternoon.

"Because of their absence, we can't pass the bill for women's reserved seats, as it would require two-thirds majority."

The bill seeking to extend

the tenure of the 30 women seats in parliament for another 10 years was placed in the House during this session. The term of reserved seats will expire this year.

Responding to the boycotting opposition plea that there is no environment in parliament for them to return, the prime minister asked them to clearly explain what kind of environment would bring them back to the House.

Dismissing opposition leader Khaleda Zia's complaint about lack of proper environment in parliament as "unwarranted," she said if the environment was polluted anyway, it was the opposition who did

that.

Referring to the opposition's customary appearance in the House on June 20, Hasina said they came, signed the attendance register and protected their membership, red passport and salary and other privileges.

"What had their voters gained through their return? They did not protect the interest of their voters, nor did they perform their assigned jobs as opposition," said Hasina.

The prime minister said her government always exercised restraint towards the opposition and created opportunity whenever the Leader of the Opposition wanted to speak on any matter in the House.

Road accidents

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Hospital.

The bus plough through at least six shops of the area, witnesses said.

In another accident, one person was killed and five others injured when driver of a truck loaded with fertiliser lost his control over the steering and fell into a roadside ditch, at the west side of Bangabandhu Bridge at about 7:00 am yesterday.

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Shazneen rape case

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room, Hasan caught her. Shazneen freed herself and came out. She threatened Hasan that she would report the incident to her parents. But she did not tell her parents anything as they were busy preparing for a visit to Ceylon in India.

On April 2, Shazneen along with her elder sisters and brothers-in-law went to their tea garden at Kulara in MoulaviBazar. There, she told them about the incident.

Her parents returned Dhaka from India on April 18. But soon after, her mother fell sick and her father became busy with his business. As a result, they were not informed about the incident.

Shazneen along with her sisters made up her mind to tell their parents about the incident on April 24 as it was on holiday. But Hasan came to know it. He then instigated guard Humayun, Badal, carpenter Shaniyar and house maid Minu and Parveen to help domestic help Shahid rape and kill Shazneen.

Mojibur Rahman further

told the court that as per the autopsy report, Shazneen was raped before she was killed. So he filed a rape case with Gulshan Thana under Section 6(1) (2)/14 of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 1995, he said.

During the cross-examination, lawyers of Minu and Parveen asked him several questions. Mojibur Rahman replied that he filed the rape case after four months' investigation into the murder case.

The lawyers also submitted a petition before the court to "restrain the Daily Prothom Alo and the Daily Star from writing fictitious reports" on the incident. The court did not give any order on the petition.

Shahidul Islam is the principal accused in the case while contractor Hasan is the alleged mastermind.

All the accused — Shahid, Hasan, Badal, Shaniyar, Humayun, Kabir, Minu and Parveen were present at the court during the proceedings.

Special Public Prosecutor MA Bari and advocates Mahbub Ahmed and Sharfuddin Mukul appeared for the state.

JS session prorogued

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of the seventh parliament, was over.

Speaking before the prorogation, both Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina regretted the role of opposition MPs and hoped they would join in the following session.

The Speaker termed opposition parties' return to the House as a notable achievement in the just-concluded session.

"The opposition parties' return, for a brief time though, resulted in a lively atmosphere in the House. But I wondered that they did not participate in the proceedings. The matter appeared unprecedented to me," he said.

In her winding up speech, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina refuted opposition leader's allegation that the parliament lacked the right atmosphere for the opposition MPs to return and participate in the proceedings.

"The atmosphere is alright... It is the opposition that destroyed the atmosphere at different times," she said, asking the opposition leader to explain what the latter meant by atmosphere.

Fazle Rabbi of the pro-government faction of Jatiya Party also criticised the opposition leader for his decision to continue the boycott. "What is the nation gaining out of your boycott? You are simply depriving your electorate," Rabbi told the boycotting MPs.

He also requested the

7 garments

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"They are so powerful that they even lobbied to the higher authority so that criminal cases were not filed against them," one source said. They hide papers and documents sent by mail on the way to the police station for registering cases, he said.

This time the papers and documents were delivered to local police stations by hand, the source said.

PDB

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plovees from the LGED in the PDB as his 'personal secretarial team'.

"But that has nothing to do with appointments and transfers of PDB officials whom he did not even know when he came to PDB as its chairman one year ago," said another official.

Speaker and the PM to take fresh initiatives to bring the opposition back to parliament in its next session.

With continued absence of the opposition lawmakers, the House suffered chronic crisis of quorum on most of the 25 working days in the session. But the attendance dramatically increased on the concluding day.

Against an average of 50, the House yesterday had about 100 MPs present until the end of the sitting.

On the last day of the budget session, the parliament passed the Copyright Bill providing for major amendments to modernise and update the copyright law. Besides, two more new bills—one seeking amendments to the Bank Company Act and the other providing changes in the Financial Institution Act—were introduced and sent to the parliamentary standing committees on relevant ministries for examinations.

The House also hosted a general discussion thanking Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, State Minister for Sports Obaidul Quader, Bangladesh Cricket Board President Sabur Hossain Chowdhury, the cricket players and others concerned for Bangladesh's earning the Test status.

Ruling party MP Abdul Latif Mirza moved the vote of thanks while Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed and Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party discussed on the motion.

Earlier, Tajul Islam Chowdhury of JP placed the report of an investigation committee on alleged negligence in the medical treatment of his party MP Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who died recently. In the report, Chowdhury and two other MPs recommended punitive action against three doctors at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital in the city for their negligence in treating Bhutto.

Deputy Minister for Food Dharendra Devanath Shambhu made a statement on the country's food situation. The House also disposed of two call attention notices—one on a yearly loss of Tk 18 crore incurred by Biman Bangladesh Airlines and the other on damage of paddy by flash flood in Kishoreganj.

Police raid

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three companions refusing to leave the vehicle. A heavy contingent