

News

What's on today....

Cultural evening: Surobani presents an evening of Rabindra Sangeet "Badal Meghe Madol Baje". Venue: Indian High Commission Cultural Centre auditorium, 765 Satmasjid Road, Dharmonti. Time: 7-15 pm.

Painting exhibition: The 3rd solo painting exhibition of artist Mohammad Fakhrul Islam will be inaugurated. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Fine Arts Institute, Dhaka University. Time: 5 pm.

Sylhet Division Development Parishad rally: The Parishad will hold a rally demanding steps to protect the people from dengue infection. Venue: Topkhana Road. Time: 5 pm.

Seminar: On "Green Energy Revolution Ahead: Potentials for Bangladesh", organised by the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. Venue: IEB mini hall. Time: 4 pm.

Officers' Club AGM: The 32nd annual general meeting of the Officers' Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Club premises. Time: 5 pm.

..... and tomorrow

British film show: Two films will be screened as part of the 'British Film Week', organised by the British Council and Lever Brothers Bangladesh Ltd. The films are 'With or Without you' at 4.30 pm and 'Notting Hill' at 7 pm. Venue: British Council auditorium.

Andrei Tarkovsky retrospective: 'Nostalgia' and 'The Sacrifice' by Russian filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky will be screened. Zafir Rahim Film Society has organised the event. Venue: German cultural centre. Time: 5 pm.

Dress exhibition: Kraft Kraft has organised a three-day exhibition. The inaugural ceremony will be held at 4 pm. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 4 pm to 8 pm daily.

Scientific seminar: On "Importance Of Zinc For Child Health", jointly organised by Bangladesh Institute of Child Health, Dhaka Shishu Hospital and Medical Services Department of Orion Laboratories Ltd. Venue: Dhaka Shishu Hospital auditorium. Time: 11 am.

Seminar: 'Health for All' will hold a seminar on "Eyesight for All and Eye Tests". Speaker: Prof Altaf Hossain. Venue: Gonoshasthya Nagar Bhaban, House No 14/E, Road No 6, Dharmonti R/A. Time: 5.30 pm.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.2 degree Celsius at Sylhet and the lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Chittagong and Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.47 pm and rises on Sunday at 5.24 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity in Celsius			
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening	percentage
Dhaka	29.7	25.7	88	81	
Chittagong	30.2	24.0	85	87	
Rajshahi	32.8	26.0	86	88	
Khulna	28.0	24.2	100	100	
Barisal	28.0	24.5	92	90	
Sylhet	34.2	24.0	79	84	
Cox's Bazar	27.0	24.3	99	95	

HERE and THERE

Reuters Foundation workshop ends

A five-day training workshop on journalism under the auspices of Reuters Foundation ended in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Twelve journalists, having experience of at least three years, took part in the workshop conducted by Gill Tudor and Nick Louth of Reuters Foundation.

At the concluding ceremony, Gill Tudor gave away certificates among the participants. Reuters Dhaka Bureau Chief Anis Ahmed was present on the occasion.

Sirajganj embankment threatened

Strong current and whirlpool in the Jamuna (Brahmaputra) have severely threatened the two-year old two-kilometre Sirajganj town protection embankment despite recession of the water level of the river at all points, officials said today, reports BSS.

Reports from Sirajganj said residents of the town fear that Tk 3.75 crore embankment will collapse at several vulnerable areas including its hard point threatened by the current and whirlpool caused by excessive flow in the past several days.

Officials said that the strong current has been constantly hitting the hard point of the embankment threatening its breaking approach.

The embankment was faced with similar problem last year and authorities had to undertake emergency measures to save the structure as well as the town.

Meanwhile, Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) has said that rivers of the country's four basins — the Brahmaputra, Ganges, Meghna and South Eastern Hill Basin — registered recession at most points and were likely to fall further in the next two days de-

Internet facility at JU

From JU Correspondent Jahangirnagar University (JU) added Internet facility to its list of facilities. Thursday with the logging in to the information superhighway.

Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Abdul Bayes inaugurated the Internet connection at the Computer and Information Technology Institute in the morning.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Prof Abdul Bayes said since development activities including education, research, business, industry and culture depend on Internet to a great extent, Jahangirnagar University has brightened its possibilities of survival in the competitive age of information technology.

Milad mahfil

Local people yesterday arranged a *milad mahfil* and feeding of the destitute after Juma prayers at East Nakhalpara in the city in memory of Badru Alim Biplob, who was gunned down by terrorists on July 4, reports BSS.



Minister for Agriculture Motia Chowdhury inaugurated an exhibition of *Satrangi*, local traditional carpets, at La Galerie, the new multi-purpose hall of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Northeastern dists threatened with desertification

Most of the rivers, canals silt up

SYLHET, July 21: County's northeastern districts have been under threat of rapid desertification due to continued silting of rivers, haors, canals and croplands in the region, reports UNB.

Sands carried by floodwaters from across the border have silted up most of the rivers, canals and haors of the region, hampering agricultural activities.

Inhabitants of six upazilas in Sunamganj district are the worst victims of silting.

Some 80,000 acres of land in Sadar, Tahirpur, Biswambarpur, Dharampasha, Duarabazar and Chhatakhola have virtually turned into deserts as those are covered with sands.

Agriculture officials said hundreds of tons of sands enter the country through river Moga in Sunamganj and Biswambarpur, Maharam in Tahirpur, Chilai and Khasimara in Durabazar, Sumeshwari in Dharampasha. Over

20,000 acres of land on the vicinity of Kharchar *haor* in the district have gone under 5-6 feet sand.

Some 40,000 acres of land in Tahirpur and Biswambarpur upazilas have also been threatened with desertification, wrecking the livelihoods of over 50,000 people.

Thousands of acres of farmland in Moulvibazar have also been submerged with sands coming down from Tripura and Assam through the rivers Mano, Dholai and Juri.

The silts carried by floodwaters have also covered the arable lands in Kamalganj, Kularia, Rajnagar and Baralekhupazilas of the district.

Sands coming through rivers Surma and Kushiara have also covered arable lands in Companiganj, Gainghat and Zaganiganj upazilas of Sylhet district.

Situated at the foot of Khasimara mountain, Companiganj upazila of the district is entirely

dependent on rivers Dholai and Plain for farming. But the two rivers are slowly going to die due to massive silting, affecting agricultural works in the upazila.

Most of the rivers in the region burst their banks during monsoon and dry up well before the winter, disrupting movement of river traffic.

To overcome the problem, Water Development Board (Sunamganj circle) had sent a proposal to Water Resources Ministry for dredging 70,000 cubic feet of silt in 10 rivers of the district. But its proposal appears to have fallen into deaf ears.

Sylhet Water Development Board has also taken up a Tk 41 crore project to dredge river Piai in Companiganj, but this project profile too remained shelved.

Besides, the board had sent another project proposal, "Current River Development project", involving Tk 38 crore, to the Ministry. But action on this proposal is too slow.

He said although Jamaat had sought support of the main opposition party for a united stand on the issue, the BNP advised it to defend its position and resist the government propaganda on its own.

AL sources said prime minister and AL president Sheikh Hasina has asked party leaders and activists as well as like-minded socio-cultural organisations to intensify the campaign against the anti-liberation forces so that AL can ride on the sentiment to win the national election.

Meanwhile, Jamaat claimed that a total of 203 Jamaat and Shibir activists were arrested till Thursday in the country since the July 12 incident in Chittagong.

Besides, it said, more a large number of activists were wounded in attacks by police and Chhatra League in 20 districts including Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Laxmipur, Dinajpur, Jessor, Bagerhat, Kushtia, Jhenaidah and Faridpur.

Silhout said that the party leaders and activists at the scene of the attack were wounded in attacks by police and Chhatra League in 20 districts including Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Laxmipur, Dinajpur, Jessor, Bagerhat, Kushtia, Jhenaidah and Faridpur.

He said that with the construction of Bangabandhu Convention Centre near Chandrima Uddyan and the planned Secretariat in the area, traffic movement will increase manifold and Indira Road will serve as a relief for the city dwellers.

JCD activists chased away the BCL activists from the college campus and later sacked local Awami League office.

He said that all leaders and family members of BCL activists have resorted to a reign of terror across the country, police instead of arresting them have started to harass opposition members.

Both the groups used firearms and hand-made bombs during the clash.

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Gallery Chitrak, a centre of fine arts, was inaugurated in the city yesterday with the opening of a 15-day-long painting exhibition of new and old artists.

— Star photo

to take up the plan to facilitate their business in the middle class residential areas.

Jubo League calls hartal at Bagerhat today

BAGERHAT, July 21: Ruling party's youth and peasant fronts have called a half-day hartal in the town tomorrow (Saturday) to protest the killing of Jubo League leader Russel, reports UNB.

Jubo League and Sramik League called the hartal following a decision taken in their joint meeting held here Thursday.

District vice-president of Jubo League Asad Sarder presided over the meeting that condemned the killing of Abu Naser Mohammad Russel.

The Awami League youth front leader was killed by armed assailants at Ranobijoy in the town on July 16.

Army officials, giving a description of the device said it looked like a small drum made of cast iron. The cylinder shaped container has a lid on the top, secured by welding. The device has two handles for carrying it. The device was covered with dust carbon and packed in a polythene sheet. It was filled with an anti-lifting device.

Jubo League and Sramik League called the hartal following a decision taken in their joint meeting held here Thursday.

On receipt of information, an Army team of explosives experts was sent from the Jessor Cantonment yesterday morning. They immediately retrieved the explosive material. Police did not put a security cordon around the rostrum as a protective measure normally done on such occasions.

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