

What's on today

CUP view exchange meet: Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP) will hold a view exchange meet. Venue: Community Development Library (CDL) auditorium, House No. 39, Road No. 14/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 9:30 am.

Press conference: Sanghati, a human rights organisation will present the findings of a research study on 100 evicted sex workers of Tanbazar and Nintali. It will be followed by an exchange of views session with journalists. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 11:00 am-1:30 pm.

DRU talk: Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) presents BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as part of its ongoing series "Meet the Reporters". Bhuiyan will deliver a talk on "State of Politics in Bangladesh" and participate in a question and answer session. Venue: DRU auditorium, 8/4-A, Topkhana Road, Segun Bagicha. Time: 10:55 am.

Meeting: A meeting of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League will be held. Venue: Paltan Maidan. Time: 3:00 pm.

British Film Week 2000: Gregory's Girls and With or Without You will be screened on the second day at the week-long film show. Venue: British Council auditorium, Fuller Road. Time: 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm respectively.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society in association with Information and Cultural Wing of the Indian High Commission begins a month-long festival to pay tribute to legendary Bengali actor Uttam Kumar. On the first day of the festival Uttam Kumar starrer 'Chitriakhana' will be screened. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No. 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Public lecture: Liberation War Bangabandhu and Bangladesh Research Institute of the National University will hold its fifth public lecture on "The Nature of Urbanisation in Bangladesh". Speaker: Prof Nazrul Islam, Geography and Environment Dept, Dhaka University. Venue: Kabi Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum, Shahbag. Time: 4:30 pm.

Seminar: The Electrical Engineering Division of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) will hold a seminar on Status of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) System in Bangladesh and Austrian Experience. Chief guest: Minister for Science and Technology Noor Uddin Khan, Fsc (Retd). Venue: IEB seminar room, Ramna. Time: 5:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

British Film Week 2000: Notting Hill and Gregory's Girls will be screened on the 3rd day of British Film Week 2000. Venue: British Council auditorium, Fuller Road. Time: 4:30 pm & 7:00 pm respectively.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society in association with I&C wing of the Indian High Commission presents Basu Paribar starring Uttam Kumar and Sabitri. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No. 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Scientific meeting: Shishu Bikash Network will hold its 4th scientific meeting on "Promoting Child Development in a Rural Community in Bangladesh". Keynote speaker: Dr Saeedur Rahman, Head of Paediatrics Department, Jahurul Islam Medical College. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 12:00 pm.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain of thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy falls may also occur at one or two places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions during the period. Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet divisions while may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.2 degree Celsius at Syedpur and the lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and Bhola.

The sun sets in the capital today 6:46 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:25 am.

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Four murdered in city in two days

By Staff Correspondent

Four people were murdered in separate incidents in the city yesterday and the day before, police and hospital sources said.

The victims were identified as Sentu, son of late Noor Mohammed 86, West Jurain and Mohammed Jewel, 20, a JCD activist of ward no 22 in Rampura. Identity of two others — an auto-rickshaw driver, aged 20, and a young man aged 28 — could not be known.

Sentu was called out of his house at about 1:30 am yesterday by a gang of miscreants. They took him to Abdul Malek's residence.

The gang hit him with machete and left him in a pool of blood. Later, Sentu succumbed to injuries.

Safeha Begum, mother of the victim filed a case with Shayampur police accusing 15 people. None was arrested in this connection till writing of this report.

Shayampur police recovered a body of an unidentified young man from a residential plot in East Dhania residential area at about 8:30 pm on Saturday.

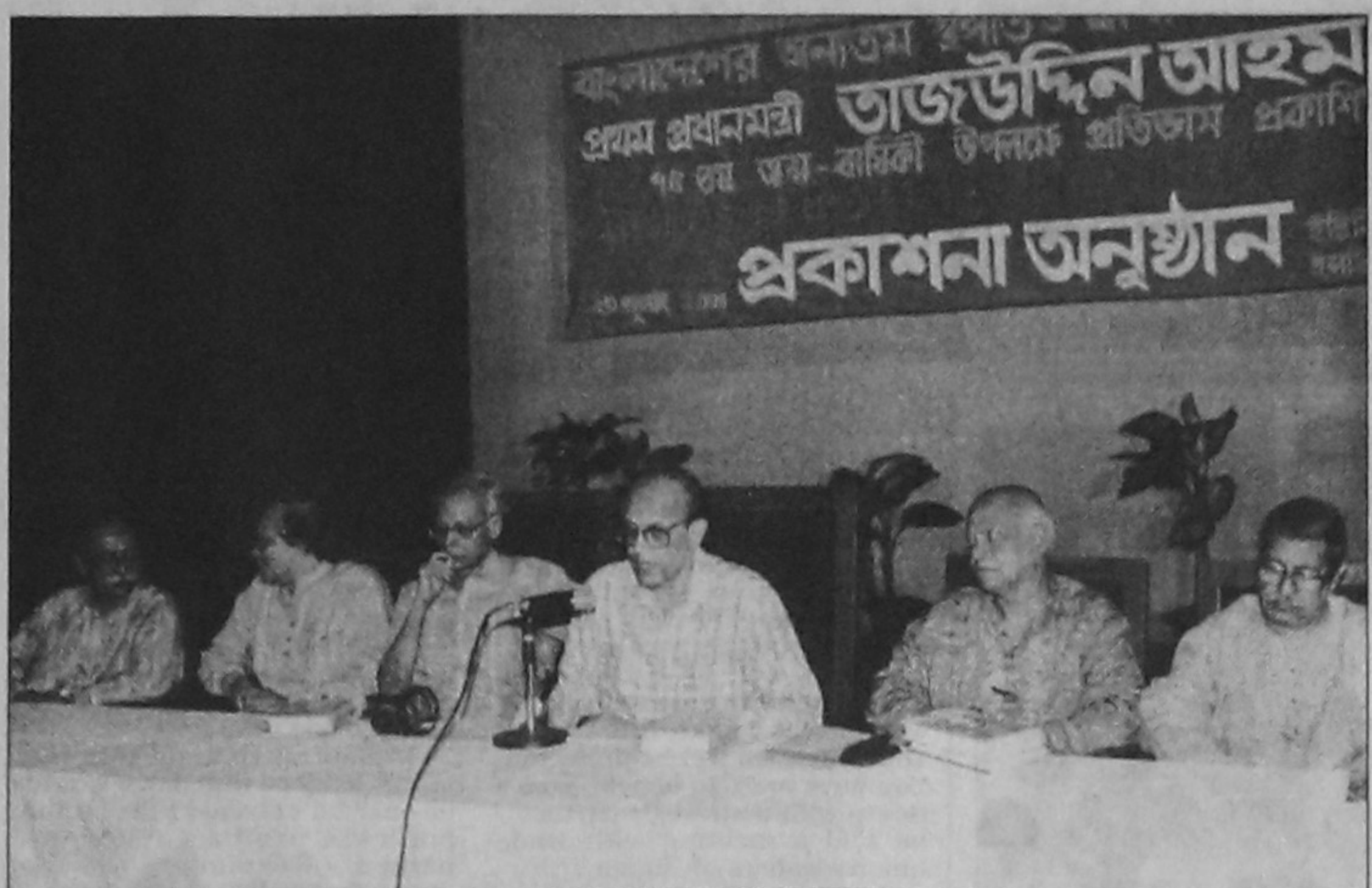
Hospital and police sources said the victim was slaughtered. The body of the victim was recovered by the police and sent to Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

Sutraper police rescued an unidentified auto-rickshaw driver aged 20 from fatal stab injury from Foider Street at

Hospitalised

From page 1 in the city is not over yet. The DMCH has asked for supply of kits on an emergency basis. Saurarita Hospital also ordered for reagents.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital is still out of reagents while BIRDEM is getting along with limited stock.



Tajuddin Smriti Sangsad launched two books "second part of Tajuddin's Diary (1949-50)" and "Tajuddin Ahmed: Ithahasr pata thekya" at a function at the Institution of Engineers yesterday to mark the 75th birth anniversary of the late national leader.

OC, SI of Nalchhiti thana closed

By Staff Correspondent

The Officer-in-Charge and a sub-inspector of Nalchhiti thana have been removed from the thana following allegations from Elen Bhutto, an independent candidate in the parliamentary by-election in Jhalakathi-2 constituency.

The Election Commission on Thursday ordered transfer of OC Moraleb and sub-inspector Shahjahan of the thana. They were closed at Rajarbagh police headquarters in the city yesterday, official sources said.

The new O.C. Mohammad Sellm, took over charge of the thana yesterday.

By-election in Jhalakathi-2 constituency is due on July 31. The seat fell vacant following the death of Jatiya Party MP Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

Elen Bhutto, widow of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, met the Chief Election Commissioner on July 19 to complain that the two policemen were siding with the ruling party candidate, Food Minister Amir Hossain Anu.

She also alleged that the district administration was biased to the ruling party candidate. She also alleged that the ruling party candidate was using his official facilities in the election campaign. But the EC is yet to take any step in this regard.

At a press conference in the city on Friday, Elen reiterated her allegations and demanded Anu's resignation from the Cabinet.

Dengue fever CCC drive to eradicate aedes mosquitoes

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 23: Dengue scare prompted the authorities here to take some precautionary measures against the killer disease, sources concerned said.

Chittagong Medical College Hospital authorities urged the concerned body of the government for providing reagents to test dengue virus. The reagents are not available in CMCH, sources added.

A person was detected with dengue virus at CMCH, the sources said.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) will start spraying larvicides in the city from tomorrow to eradicate aedes mosquitoes. The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the corporation today.

CCC also contemplating procurement of test kits for detecting dengue virus, corporation sources said.

Besides, special campaign to create awareness among the people about dengue fever will be launched in the city, CCC sources added.

However, CMCH and CCC are yet to confirm any death from dengue fever here.

Journalist murder

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Kagoj Editor Kazi Shahed Ahmed and Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam.

They urged the journalist community to unite and create a movement to press the demand for justice. They said the government must arrest Shamsur Rahman's killers by July 31. Otherwise, the journalists would announce a massive movement.

Mahfuz Anam said the Daily Star and Prothom Alo will bear all educational expenses of the two daughters of Shamsur Rahman till they complete their Masters degree. He said Shamsur Rahman's murder proved that a true journalist has no friend.

Bazlur Rahman said "while we could not save Shamsur Rahman we should make sure that his killers do not get away with the heinous act."

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury urged upon all to create resistance against terrorists and enemies of the people while Rahat Khan urged upon the government to provide shelter to Shamsur Rahman's family.

Kazi Shahed Ahmed wondered why a journalist should give away his life like this. He said the risk factor in journalism is gradually increasing these days.

The editors of the national dailies met with the family members of the deceased, Kazi Shahed Ahmed handed over Tk 50,000 to Shamsur Rahman's two daughters Sejjuti and Pranati.

Call for recognition of Tajuddin's contribution

By JU Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion on the publication of two books on the first Prime Minister of Bangladesh Tajuddin Ahmad yesterday said that Bangladesh needed to rewrite the history of its past and recognise the true contributions of Tajuddin Ahmad.

Dr Atiur Rahman said Tajuddin Ahmad dreamt of an economically self-dependent nation and so he introduced reform oriented policy accordingly.

Syed Shamsul Haq said that the country had totally failed to evaluate properly the Liberation War and the contribution of Tajuddin Ahmad.

Speakers urged the countrymen to introduce and implement a development agenda of the country's own as Tajuddin Ahmad had dreamt, and not to forget a leader like him who had always taken lessons from the history of the country.

Two books launched on the occasion were — the 'Second Part of Tajuddin Ahmad's Diary (1949-50 and 1969-1974)' and 'Tajuddin Ahmad Ithahasr Pata Thekya'. The second is a compilation of Tajuddin's speeches, statements and interviews.

The discussion was participated by eminent citizens of the country with Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid in the chair. It was addressed by Prof Muntasir Mamun, economist Dr Atiur Rahman, Literateur Syed Shamsul Haq, economist Anisur Rahman, former secretary Abdul Mal Abdul Muhith and Prof Anisuzzaman. The wife of late Tajuddin Ahmad Zohra Tajuddin was present at the function.

Speaking on the life of the national leader, Prof Muntasir Mamun said that Tajuddin Ahmad deserved the second

Dengue fever 23 test kits brought from India

Emergency test kits for screening blood samples for dengue viruses were brought from Delhi yesterday, reports BSS.

A supply of 23 "packages" of test kits, enough for testing blood samples of about 1,000 patients, were brought by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

WHO handed over the kits supplied at the request of the government in view of the rising number of dengue patients, to the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

Director of IEDCR Dr Abdul Basit told BSS that his organisation needs more test kits, for at least 1,000 more patients.

The WHO office in the city said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University has also sought test kits which they should get within a week.

Gunfight between 2 AL factions in Munshiganj: 35 injured

MUNSHIGANJ, July 23: At least 35 people were injured, 16 with bullets, in a clash between two factions of Awami League at Digirpar under Tongbari thana yesterday, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the clash took place when Mahbubur Rahman (SP Mahbub) was addressing a public meeting in the evening.

Supporters of his rival Alhaj Lutfur Rahman attacked the meeting.

The meeting was organised by Jaglul Haldar Bhutto, a leader of local MuktiJoddha Front. It is alleged the Bhutto's rival Sohrabuddin Khan led the attack.

Witnesses said both the groups exploded bombs and fired bullets during the clash.

Those received bullet injury are Hasina, 22, Alauddin Member, 50, Yusuf, 60, Rakib Khan, 35, Jamil Khan, 17, Ismail Bepari, 30, Mobarak Khan, 40, Abul Kashem, 38, Anwar Hossain, 23, Muktar Hossain, 18, Abdul Mannan, 26, Mohiuddin, 25, Mizanur Rahman Khan, 22, Mohammad Babul, 17, and Delwar, 20.

They are undergoing treatment in different hospitals of Munshiganj and Dhaka.

Tension was prevailing in the area. No case was filed in this connection till writing of this report on Sunday.

Bushra murder Arrested women sent to jail

By Court Correspondent

Two women arrested in connection with Bushra murder case were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail by the CMM's Court yesterday.

Sufia, domestic help and Kaniz Fatema Hena, sister-in-law of Abdul Kader, another accused in the case, were produced in the court yesterday after completion of a two-day remand.

After hearing, the Metropolitan Magistrate Shahidul Islam sent them to the Dhaka Central Jail as the IO of the case did not pray for further remand.

Three other arrested — Abdul Kader, Relief and Social Welfare Secretary of City Awami League, Minto and Rader Anam, brother-in-law of Kader — are now in the jail custody.

Businessman mugged at Comilla

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, July 23: Armed terrorists snatched Tk 1,70,000 from a businessman at Rajganj in the town last night.

Police later recovered Tk 62,000 and arrested two persons in this connection.

Businessman Shadwest Chandra Dutta, was returning to his residence with the money.

Four muggers snatched the money at gun point, police said.

Rooppur N-plant

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It also approved the proposed organogram of the RNP.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed satisfaction over the progress made of the plant so far. She suggested reclamation of land for the plant.

Several donor countries have already expressed their willingness to provide assistance for the plant.

Earlier, a team of International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) came to Dhaka in December 1997 and discussed with experts and government officials about the plant and determined a time-bound action plan.

The team visited the site of the plant and conducted a 10-week pre-implementation training programme participated by 32 persons in 1998 in Dhaka.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Science and Technology Minister Lt Gen (Retd) Noor Uddin Khan, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, State Minister for Energy Prof Rafiqul Islam, Principal Secretary to the PM Dr S A Samad and secretaries concerned attended the meeting.

Mayor

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"Since the latest dengue scare we've doubled our efforts to control population of mosquito larvae. In fact, we're very alert and doing everything on an emergency basis to contain mosquito menace."

The mayor attributed the rise in cases of dengue infection in the city to comparatively less rain this season.

But he said, "I don't believe that dengue infection has assumed an epidemic proportion. In fact, had dengue infection spread at such a rate as newspaper reports suggest, we would by now have witnessed at least 10 to 12 lakh deaths."

Meanwhile, residents of different city areas alleged that the Dhaka City Corporation's effort to contain the mosquito menace has totally failed.

The DCC spent over Tk 10 crore exclusively for mosquito control programme in 1998. The spending touched Tk 12 crore last year while the allocation for this purpose has been raised to Tk 13 crore.

Some of the residents said mosquito population even in many city areas where neighbourhoods are clean have grown beyond imagination.

"We haven't noticed any serious activities by the city corporation despite the fact that the alarm bell is ringing," said Naity Bala, an Azimpur resident, at a private clinic yesterday.

Rahat Khan, a housewife, said, "Mosquito population has gone beyond control. In fact, the city corporation made no comprehensive effort to control its growth. They are still sleeping."

There are also allegations of massive larceny of larvacide and insecticides by the DCC officials.

"Huge amount of money is allotted every year for mosquito control programme but only a fraction is spent and the rest is shared among them (DCC officials)," said a city corporation staff, preferring anonymity.

However, Dr M Ashraf Uddin, Chief Health Officer of DCC said, "People misunderstand us. Our regular work on mosquito control is on. In fact, we've launched a vigorous campaign in this regard since the last couple of weeks, but we suspended use of fogger machine due to rain."

Court orders arrest of Janakantha editor

By Staff Correspondent

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Nurul Islam yesterday ordered arrest of Editor of Janakantha Atiqullah Khan Masud and its Executive Editor Borhan Ahmed for publishing libellous news in the daily.

The order followed a petition filed by one Ataur Rahman.

The petition said that both Rahman and Masud hailed from Kazeri Pagla village under Louhajang thana of Munshiganj district. It said electricity was supplied to the village by DESA and some culverts were built there by the government following initiatives taken by Rahman.

This made Masud jealous. He published a number of libellous news items in the Janakantha on November 25, 26, 28 and 30 last year against Rahman.

Rahman sent rejoinders to the newspaper, but those were not published.

Finally, Rahman filed a case under Sections 500 and 501 of CRPC. The court summoned the accused, but they did not respond.

G-8 Summit ends

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he said. "The government really should be complimentary" in its role.

US President Bill Clinton, attending his final G-8 meeting said the United States will send 300 million dollar in surplus farm crops to provide school lunches in the developing world.

"We think we can increase by millions and millions (the number of children in school) just by telling these children and their parents we will give them one hot meal," Clinton said, before rushing home to re-join peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland.

In Okinawa, the semitropical island where the last major land battle of World War II was fought, the departing Clinton made a quick detour to shake hands with a crowd of well-wishers waiting in a heavy rain to watch his departure from Kadena Air Base, one of the many US military bases in Okinawa that have drawn complaints from local residents.

Clinton was the first leader to leave Nago, and also had to delay his arrival in Japan by a day because of the Middle East peace talks.

Despite his abbreviated presence, Clinton, the senior statesman at the summit, was praised effusively by the other leaders in toasts at a dinner held in a rebuilt castle Saturday night.

The final G-8 statement put the United States, Britain, Japan, Russia, Italy, Germany, France and Canada on record as supporting universal primary education for all the world's children by 2015. Currently, 100 million children in developing nations are not in school.

The leaders vowed to reduce by the year 2010 the number of HIV-infected young people by 25 per cent, tuberculosis deaths by 50 per cent, the burden of diseases associated with malaria by 50 per cent, AIDS will leave 44 million orphans in the next decade.

The rich countries said they would set up a task force to "bridge the international information and knowledge divide" between the rich and poor by enlisting help from private companies to spread computers and internet access to developing countries.

The leaders agreed to create a digital opportunity task force, or "dot force", to expand internet access and make it more affordable in developing nations. A report on this effort is to be presented at next year's G-8 summit in Genoa, Italy.

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Summit preparations

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ters. Asked whether the NAM Summit would be held as per schedule, the foreign minister evaded a direct reply, saying efforts were on to "make it a success."

Newly appointed Foreign Secretary Dr Toufiq Ali. Additional Secretary Sarjil Hasan and Director General of External Affairs Hossain Komol were present at the press conference.

Japanese PM's to visit Dhaka

The foreign minister told newsmen that Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori would be visiting Bangladesh in the third week of next month. The Japanese premier's visit to Dhaka would be part of his three-nation tour of South Asia that also includes India and Pakistan.

Sources indicated that the Japanese prime minister would arrive in Dhaka on a two-day tour on August 19.

Mori would be the second Japanese prime minister to visit Bangladesh after Toshiki Kaifu who came in May 1990.

Mori would be visiting Bangladesh at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who undertook an official visit to Japan in 1997.

Briefing about the outcome of his July 16 to 21 trip to Uzbekistan, Azad said useful bilateral discussions had taken place with Uzbek Prime Minister Utkir Sultanov and Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Kamilov.

Dhaka may consider purchasing IL 114 passenger and cargo aircraft as well as smaller aircraft for use in the domestic sector, Azad said.

The aircraft are of high quality and sold at comparatively much lower price on hire/purchase deferred payment basis," the foreign minister said.

Bangladesh government will consider sending a technical team to Uzbekistan to study the aircraft for eventual purchase, he added.

During the visit, it was agreed that Bangladesh businessmen would be allowed to purchase Uzbek cotton directly from the government of that country at a mutually beneficial price.

The Uzbek government also decided to increase import of tea, medicines, jute and jute goods, leather goods, readymade garments and consumer items from Bangladesh. Both sides also agreed that it was required to reduce or abolish visa fees between them.

When asked if there was any progress regarding the signing of an extradition treaty with India since so many criminals and terrorists are reportedly staying in various Indian cities, particularly Calcutta, Azad said, "It is in that stage," without elaborating what "that stage" was.

Asked if he suspected involvement of any foreign power in the Gopalganj bomb involvement, the foreign minister replied that "foreign involvement has now decreased a lot."

AL toughening stance

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is also going to reactivate all social forces opposed to the politics based on fundamentalism and communalism.

Accordingly, it has reorganised the Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee campaign for a ban on the politics of Jamaat-Shibir and trial of the war criminals. AL president member and Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak is leading it.

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