

News

• What's on today

British Film Week 2000: East is East and Beautiful People will be screened on the 2nd last day of the British film festival. Venue: British Council auditorium, Fuller Road. Time: 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm respectively.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Champa Dangar Bou starring Uttam Kumar and Sabitri. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No. 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Seminar: The Mechanical Engineering Division of The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) has organised a seminar on "Heat Pump Air Conditioning System by a Geo-Thermal Technology (Environmentally Safe and Energy Saving System for the Air Conditioning Engineering)." Venue: Seminar Room of IEB Headquarters. Time: 5:30 pm.

Technical talk: On "Low Emission Two Stroke Engines" organised by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, BUET. Venue: Room No 404, EME Building, BUET. Time: 4:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Saheb Bibi Golam starring Uttam Kumar, Anubha and Sumitra. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No. 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Weather

Rain likely

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

Day temperature is expected to rise slightly over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Srimongal and the lowest of 23.6 degree Celsius at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.45 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.26 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity percentage	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.3	78	25.8	27.8	78	78
Chittagong	32.2	78	23.6	92	78	78
Rajshahi	32.2	80	26.5	88	80	80
Khulna	31.5	87	24.0	98	87	87
Barisal	30.2	90	24.3	89	90	90
Sylhet	33.0	66	26.3	77	66	66
Cox's Bazar	30.5	88	24.5	82	88	88

Nirmul body meet in Ctg today

CHITTAGONG, July 25: Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Jatiya Samannoy Committee will hold a meeting at the Shaheed Minar premises tomorrow, reported UNB.

The city unit has organised the meeting in commemoration of the killings of eight people at Lalidighi Maidan on July 26, 1994.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Labour and Employment Minister MA Mannan, Convenor of the Committee Syed Hasan Imam and member-secretary Abdul Mannan Chowdhury are expected to address the meeting.

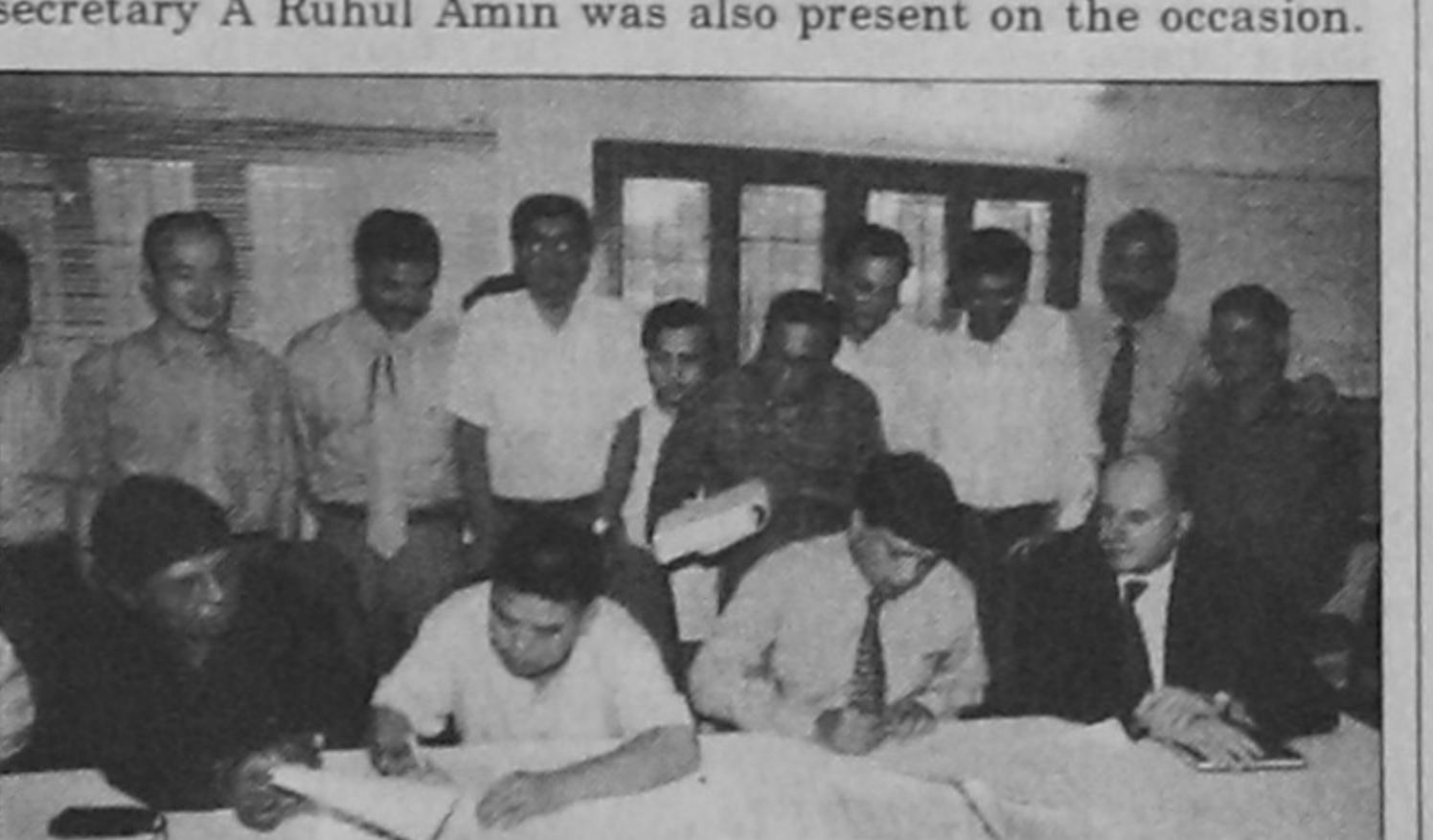
Kishoreganj Press Club team calls on president

An 11-member delegation of the newly elected executive committee of Kishoreganj Press Club, led by its president Kazi Shahin Khan, made a courtesy call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabandhu Bhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

The members of the delegation, who represent the national dailies in different capacities, apprised the President of various problems of the local journalists in carrying out their professional duties properly.



Former secretary Dr ATM Shamsul Huda of Ministry of Water Resources was given a farewell at a meeting held at the conference room of the ministry yesterday with Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak in the chair. New secretary A Ruhul Amin was also present on the occasion.



Yan Wei, project manager of Summit-Daqing joint venture, and Yunus Mia, Secretary of Gas Transmission Company Limited, signed an agreement on the Habiganj-Ashuganj 55 Kilometre Loop Line project on behalf of their respective organisations.

BCL workers to donate blood for dengue patients

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) will voluntarily donate blood for the dengue patients as directed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

The BCL leaders have urged relatives of dengue patients to collect blood, if needed, from its workers through the presidents and general secretaries of its different hall units of Dhaka University.

"All members of BCL are ready to donate blood for dengue patients," said a BCL statement.

Rivers in SE hill basin mark sharp rise

Due to moderately heavy to heavy rainfall at most places over the southeastern hill basin during the last 24 hours till 9 am yesterday, all the rivers in the basin marked sharp rise, reports UNB.

According to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), the Muhuri rose by 33cm at Parshuram, the Halda by 5cm at Narayanhat and 139cm at Panchpukuria, the Sangu by 160cm at Bandarban, the Matamuhuri by 124cm at Lama and 53cm at Chirang and the Teesta by 22cm at Ramgarh.

The Halda was flowing 57cm above its danger level at Narayanhat.

"All members of BCL are ready to donate blood for dengue patients," said a BCL statement.

Direct access to information superhighway suggested

Leading academicians and information technology (IT) experts of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday urged the government to boost its IT-friendly image by establishing direct access to information super highway via fiber-optic links and to refurbish the country's weak telecommunication system, reported BSS.

DU authorities are trying hard to equip every student with moderate level computer skills along with world class lessons in their respective disciplines, DU Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury said while inaugurating a seminar titled "Role of IT in Resolving Unemployment Problem in Bangladesh" in the TSC auditorium here.

DU students like other educated boys and girls of Bangladesh are blessed with innate intelligence and proficiency in English badly needed for all types of enterprise in the IT field. The VC sought assistance of the DUCA in this field.

Prof Farook Ahmed said our neighbouring country India has already emerged as a superpower in the information arena. He expressed optimism about DUCA initiatives and said many of our bright boys and girls are working in the prestigious IT labs in the USA, Canada, the UK and other countries.

"We don't lack talents but we should admit that we have deficiency in resources and concerted efforts," he said.

He urged the government to endorse the national IT policy and establish a separate ministry to oversee IT affairs.

Prof Lutfar Rahman said the pace of globalisation is much faster than we perceive. He said

our country lacks many things including national fibre-optic backbone and links with information super highway badly needed for efficient and cost-effective surfing. He urged the young entrepreneurs to dedicate their efforts to launched small websites.

He appealed to the mainstream political parties to formulate their IT agenda before the next general election and denounce V-SAT up-linking as interim arrangement. Prof Rahman also called on the political parties to launch their campaigns through online homepages.

Bangabandhu Mahila Parishad condemns attempt on PM's life

A central convening committee of the Bangabandhu Mahila Parishad has been formed recently with Dr Khaleda Begum and Dilwara Islam as its convenor and member-secretary respectively, says a press release.

The leaders and members of the Parishad strongly condemned the attempt on the life of the Prime Minister by planting a bomb at Kotalpara.

The members of the Parishad expressed grave concern at the ill motive of the anti-liberation forces who are out to create an anarchic situation in the country.

They demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those involved in the heinous act.

The Parishad will hold a protest meeting at its office at House-77/A, Road-12/A, Dhanmondi today at 4 pm.



Jamaat activists take shelter inside the Baitul Mukarram Mosque when police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse them. The Jamaat activists were demonstrating yesterday as part of the countrywide mass procession programme.

—Star photo

Khaleda slates attack on her procession in Mymensingh

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has strongly protested police and Awami terrorists' joint attack on her party procession in Mymensingh yesterday that reportedly left 25 people injured.

In a statement yesterday, she said as part of the countrywide mass procession to protest deterioration of law and order, terrorism, anarchy, corruption and to press for the demand of repeal of the Zilla Parishad Act and resignation of the government the BNP brought out a huge procession in Mymensingh.

She said more than 20 to 25 thousands people brought out procession from local BNP office and proceeded towards the Station Road, but police obstructed the marchers near Bidayamol Girls School.

At this stage, Khaleda Zia alleged that Awami terrorists equipped with fire arms and bombs all on a sudden attacked the procession and fired and exploded bombs on the processionists indiscriminately.

At the same time, said added that police also fired tear gas shells and gun shots targeting the BNP activists and created a serious tension and local people help protest rallies in the district town.

Khaleda Zia said the local BNP has also called for a half day hartal in Mymensingh town to protest the attack and called upon the local people to observe the shut down spontaneously.

The employees have called another rally in front of the Administrative building at ZIA at 9 am on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Biman authorities held informal talks with the CBA leaders. A Biman source said there is hope for a resolution of the problem. Further talks are likely, he said.

Humayun Zahir

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case with Dhanmondi police station accusing seven people the same day.

The Investigation Officer of the case submitted a chargesheet against seven people including Akhteruzzaman Babu after a detailed investigation.

Akhteruzzaman Babu and Abdul Matin, who were granted an interim bail from the High Court Division in 1997, appeared before the trial court yesterday.

Of the rest Tanmoy, Kaiser and Alam — now in the jail custody — were produced before the court under tight security while Hedayatul Islam Bulu and Touhidul Islam have been absconding since the incident.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam and Advocate appeared for the state while Advocate Mahbub Ahmed, Sharifuddin Mukul, and Shamim Ahsan for the accused.

6 arms allegedly stolen from arms shop of Faridpur

FARIDPUR, July 25: Six firearms — one rifle and five SBBL guns — were allegedly stolen from an arms shop in the town on Monday night, reports UNB.

Owner of Talukdar Arms Company, a dealer of arms and ammunitions at Chowrangji Jame Mosque Market, told police that burglars had stolen the arms by breaking a ventilator of the shop.

Additional SP SM Hafizur Rahman along with other police officials visited the shop and seized 17 firearms from the shop for security reason.

Police sources said six firearms were also stolen from this shop in 1991.

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Rubel

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arrived 7 pm on July 23, 1998.

He told the court that at around 11 am on July 24, 1998 he went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and found Rubel's body lying on the ground floor.

After a while a Magistrate came there to make inquest report in front of him, Gazi said.

Shamim Reza Rubel, 24, a BBA student of the Independent University of Bangladesh was picked up by a team of DB police from his Sidewall residence and was tortured to death the same day.

All the accused including AC

Akram and Mukuli Begum, a local Awami League leader were produced before the court yesterday.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam and Advocate appeared for the state while Advocate Mahbub Ahmed, Sharifuddin Mukul, and Shamim Ahsan for the accused.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter, and a host of relatives and admirers.

His quirk will be held at his residence at House-12, Sector-2, Lake Drive Road, Ultara, today.

Obituary

Md Mafijul Islam, former Deputy General Manager of Bangladesh Bank, died of a cardiac arrest at a city clinic on Sunday. He was 62, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter, and a host of relatives and admirers.

His quirk will be held at his residence at House-12, Sector-2, Lake Drive Road, Ultara, today.

Ershad

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arms, given free ration and everything else they need to prepare themselves to combat terrorism," he told a public rally at Kalabagan in the city.

The JP demanded scrapping of the existing electoral laws and the Public Safety Act, resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner and dissolution of the municipalities and the Chittagong City Corporation to make the next general elections free and fair.

He also urged the JP workers to take to the streets in larger number to force the AL government to quit.

Chaired by city JP chief Saifur Rahman, the rally was also addressed by party's Secretary General Nazir Rahman Manzur, and other central leaders including Kazi Firoz Rashid, Ruhul Amin Howlader, Shah Md Abu Zafar, Mostafa Jamal Haider and Matir Rahman.

JP Secretary General Nazir Rahman Manzur announced a dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country on July 6 protesting deterioration of law and order and increased rates of water, gas and power.

2 more bombs

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Hannan came back from Afghanistan two years ago. During his stay in Afghanistan, Hannan actively took part in guerrilla war.

After returning home, Hannan used to train mardassah students on use of firearms and making bombs, Motiar told police, the sources said.

Hannan is the nephew of former chairman of Kotalpara Upazila Parishad Munshi Sher Ali. Freedom fighters killed his father after liberation for his involvement with Rajakars and Albadars