

What's on today....

Scientific seminar: Bangladesh Society of Medicine will hold a scientific seminar on "Management of Dengue" as part of CME programme. Venue: Gallery-1 of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Time: 11:00 am-1:00 pm.

BCS Software Expo 2000: The Bangladesh Computer Society (BCS) inaugurates its 3-day long BCS Software Expo 2000. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10:30 am.

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of the monthly bulletin of Bangladesh Book Club will be held. Chief guest: Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed. Founder president of Bishwa Shahitya Kendra. Venue: VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 5:30 pm.

Uttam Kumar retrospective: Zahir Rahman Film Society will screen Memshaheb starring Uttam Kumar and Aparna Sen. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Discussion meeting: Shadesh Chinta Sangha will hold a discussion meeting on "The Waking up of Bengal." Keynote speaker: Mohammad Azam. Venue: Residence of late Prof Ahmed Sharif. Time: 10:00 am.

Exhibition: Gallery 21 presents a solo exhibition of Prints and Drawings of artist Monirul Islam. Venue: Gallery 21, 765 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:00 pm.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Dhaka, Khulna, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rajshahi division till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Moderately heavy to heavy falls is expected at places over Dhaka, Khulna, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions. Met Office said forecasting slight fall in day temperature over the country during the period.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.5 degrees Celsius was at Chuadanga and the lowest 22.4 degrees Celsius at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:40 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:30 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	Max 34.5 Min 24.4	Morning 90 Evening 95
Chittagong	26.7	100
Rajshahi	32.8	98
Khulna	32.3	98
Barisal	29.4	97
Sylhet	26.5	97
Cox's Bazar	29.6	82

PM shocked at death of diplomat

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Kamrul Hasan Sheikh, the Consul General of Bangladesh Consulate General in New York, reports UNB.

In a condolence message, she recalled Hasan's contributions and said the country has lost an experienced professional at the death of Hasan.

Correction

In a photo caption published on the back of our newspaper yesterday, it was said that Bangladesh Scouts brought out a rally "demanding government measures" to combat dengue.

In fact the rally was brought out to create awareness among the public regarding dengue fever.



Prof Faruque's death anniversary

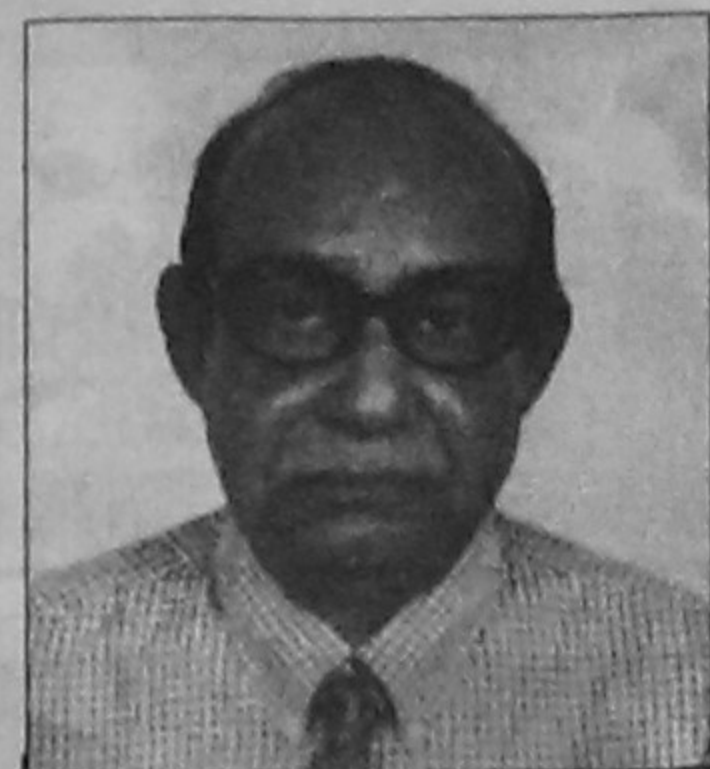
The first death anniversary of Mohammad Faruque, a former professor and chairman of Bangladesh Department of Jahangirnagar University will be observed today, says a press release.

To mark the occasion cooked food will be distributed in the orphanages and among the destitute today. Special *majilat* will also be offered in the mosque.

Second son of late Mvi Abdul Latif, a former prominent Advocate of Supreme Court and younger brother of eminent educationist late Professor Mohammad Noman, Prof Mohammad Faruque was the head of Bangla Department of Karachi University for a long time.



BSCIC Chairman Ziaul Islam Chowdhury distributing loan cheques among poor villagers in Araihazar upazila under Narayanpur yesterday as part of their poverty alleviation programmes. — Star photo



Businessman dead

Mohammad Lutfar Rahman, income tax practitioner and businessman of Chittagong, died of following open-heart surgery at New York University Hospital in the USA on Tuesday. He was 74, says a press release.

Rahman is survived by his wife, Shamsunnahar Rahman, four daughters and one son. He was a founding member of Ghoshful, a leading NGO of Chittagong. He was the father-in-law of former Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud.

His body will arrive today by Bangladesh Biman. His *namaj-e-janaza* will be held at Gulshan Central Mosque premises after Zohr prayers the same day. He will be buried at the New Azimpur Graveyard. His *qulhwani* will be held tomorrow at his daughter's residence road-117, house-7, Gulshan after Asr prayers.



Politician dead

Akaddas Sirajul Islam, an elderly politician-journalist died of old age ailments at his village home at Mathiura in Baniachang thana in Sylhet district. He was 78, says a press release.

Late Islam was the general secretary and president of Baniachang thana Awami League.



Customs official dead

A K Waqil Ahmed, a noted freedom fighter and Joint Commissioner of Customs, Excise and VAT Commissioner, Jessore and his wife Nishat Ahmed died in a road accident on Tuesday at Beltai near Comilla town. They were on their way to Chittagong from Dhaka. He was 48, says a press release.

The ill-fated couple left behind a daughter, a son and a host of relatives to mourn their death.

The *namaj-e-janaza* of Waqil Ahmed, also a writer and treasurer of BCS (Customs and Excise) Association, will be held at 12 noon today at National Board of Revenue premises. BCS (Customs and Excise) Association condoned the sad demise of Waqil Ahmed and his wife.

Former MP dead

NAOGAON, Aug 2: Former MP AKM Morshed died of cardiac arrest here today. He was 62, reports UNB.

Morshed, an active member of BNP, was elected MP, upazila and panchayat chairman during his long political career.

He will be buried tomorrow at his family graveyard after *namaj-e-janaza* at 9 am at Nowjawan Ground.

Meanwhile, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan condoned the death and expressed sympathy to the bereaved members of his family.

Qulhwani

The *qulhwani* of Kamrul Hasan Sheikh, Consul General of Bangladesh Consulate General in New York will be held on Friday after Asr prayers in Gopalganj, reports UNB.

His *namaj-e-janaza* will be held on the premises of Foreign Ministry at 9:30 am today.

Kamrul Hasan Sheikh, son of Dr Faruquddin Ahmed, founder president of Gopalganj Awami League, died of protracted kidney problem on July 31 at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York.

He will be buried at his family graveyard in Gopalganj district.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Prof M Abdul Quddus has expressed deep shock at the death of freedom fighter Kamrul Hasan Sheikh.

Pakistan offers 'no war pact' to India

ISLAMABAD, Aug 2: Pakistani military ruler General Pervez Musharraf today offered a "no war pact" to India and urged New Delhi to seize the chance for peace arising from the ceasefire by a Kashmiri militant group, reports AFP.

"Let's forget about the past. I want peace. I am for a reduction of armed forces. I am for a no war pact with India and Pakistan," he said in an online interview with the BBC.

Hit list

From page 1

Interrogating Hosne Ara, Rafique and Akhtar. Interrogation of the three suspects in Shamsur Rahman murder case began on Tuesday last.

Interrogation of Dumuria UP Chairman Kabirul Islam, car driver Habibul Rahman and cook Azizul Huq will begin tonight, said a source in KMP.

UP Chairman Kabirul is one of the accused in a murder case recorded with Dumuria thana last year. He was arrested from Litu's house along with two others at midnight Monday night.

Humayun Zahir murder case: Hearing on

By Court Correspondent

The hearing in the Humayun Zahir Murder Case continued for the 4th day yesterday in the 8th Additional District and Sessions Judges Court, Dhaka.

After arguments from the prosecution side, Judge Mir Mohammad Awlad Hossain adjourned the hearing of the case till 11 am today.

Humayun Zahir, a leading businessman was shot dead by a group of assassins on the premises of his Dhanmondi residence on April 8 in 1993.

Zahirul Haq Khan, father-in-law of Zahir filed a murder case with Dhanmondi thana accusing seven people the same day.

The investigation officer of the case submitted a chargesheet before the CMM's court against seven people including Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu.

Akhteruzzaman Babu and Abdul Matin, who were granted ad-interim bail from the High Court division of the Supreme Court, in 1997, appeared before the trial court yesterday.

Hirok's gun

From page 12

Shamsur Rahman. A general diary has been filed with Khulna thana in this regard.

According to a source in KMP, ward commissioner Litu has in his possession 60 illegal firearms including one AK-47 and two AK-47 rifles, three SMGs, 11-303 rifles, 16 SBL and DBL guns, eight revolvers of different kinds and brands, nine pistols of foreign brand, one point-22 bore rifle, one six-shooter gun, one HMM rifle and some home-made pipeguns and seven grenades.

Litu is one of the FIR-named accused in 55 criminal cases including several murders. Over 200 armed cadres in his gang are now active in the south-western zone and the Sundarbans, police said.

Political competition

From page 1

The intelligent thing would have been to expose the book for its flaws (if it is flawed, as claimed by AL supporters) and allow the public to judge for themselves. But, then that would have been an example of democratic practice that the government's ban greatly increased the credibility of the book. The still unexplained attack on the author allegedly by AL activists, in which he was hit by a bullet on the leg, further enhanced the author's and the book's profile.

The purpose of this piece is not to argue for or against the authenticity of the said book. Our aim is to argue that the author's unsubstantiated claim in a highly politically motivated book does not constitute sufficient ground for a person of the stature of the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow prime minister to make public accusation of assassination against a person of the stature of an elected prime minister of our country. However provoked, Khaleda Zia should not have done it. She has damaged the image of the country. She has further damaged (much of the damage is being done by the government itself) whatever little chance of foreign investment we may have had.

We consider Khaleda Zia's action to be extremely irresponsible casting serious doubt as to her maturity, political sagacity and capacity to judge what should and should not be brought into the public domain, even if provoked to no end. The book has been out for a few months now and she has known about Sheikh Hasina's alleged plot for quite sometime. Why didn't she make it public before? Why to BBC and not the national media? And, why now? Did she decide to say all this after Sheikh Hasina herself went over her own irresponsible spree of accusation (see below)? So is it another example of 'tit for tat' politics that has 'nothing to do with the

By-polls was peaceful, says FEMA

The Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) observed that the Jhalakati-2 by-election was held in "comparatively peaceful atmosphere" and without any major violence, reports UNB.

"But such election, boycotted by opposition, can not help consolidate the country's democratic process," the non-government election watchdog said in its preliminary report yesterday.

FEMA prepared the report after observing the voting in 19 centres — 10 in Jhalakati and 9 in Nalchhiti upazila — during the by-election held on July 31, said a press release.

FEMA observed that the ruling party candidate and his supporters violated electoral code of conduct. "Visits of ministers and their pledges for development created pressure on the voters."

The report further said that voters' turnout in the FEMA monitored 19 centres was below 50 per cent, but the Election Commission showed an overall 69.87 per cent turnout.

Nat'l Council for Energy, Mineral Resources dissolved

By Court Correspondent

The government has dissolved the National Council for Energy and Mineral Resources, reports UNB.

The Cabinet Division dissolved the council in a circular on July 27 with immediate effect.

Entrusted with a huge task of supervising the energy sector and making necessary recommendations, the council, headed by the Prime Minister, could not meet even on a single occasion since it was reconstituted in 1997.

It was scheduled to meet at least once in three months and if necessary, meet in shorter intervals.

Recommendations or decisions of the council were to be sent to the Prime Minister for approval.

The council was reconstituted with Prime Minister as its president in a circular of Cabinet Division on October 6, 1997.

The National Energy Council was entrusted with reviewing overall energy situation of the country, formulating policy for proper pricing of petroleum and other fuels and making recommendations for justified supply and proper use of fuels.

Biman employees

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9 am. Addressing the rally, leaders of the Steering Committee criticised Biman management board for approving conversion of the airline into a PLC at its meeting on July 31.

They also criticised Civil Aviation Minister Mosharraf Hossain for not keeping his verbal pledge that he would not approve the conversion.

The employees also decided to hold demonstrations and meetings in all sections of Biman at 10 am on July 6 and 7. They will hold a rally at Biman head office at 2 pm on July 6.

Meanwhile, sources in Biman management said they will continue talks with the trade unions to settle the differences.

Political arena

From page 1

acts of terrorism for which the government blamed the opposition. Having incurred the wrath of the ruling Awami League for its alleged involvement in the Chittagong killings, Jamaat persuaded its partners to go for the hartal programme.

Opposition sources said BNP and its allies are working on special arrangements to ensure increased presence of their workers during the hartal. Apprehending police action under the PSA, most of the opposition activists went off the streets during the last three hartals.

The opposition parties plan to add more venom to the movement to topple the government, which lost momentum due to disputes over the planned electoral alliance, sources said.

The AL that has already launched a street agitation against the recent incidents including the "attempts" on the party chief and the prime minister will go ahead with the move, party sources said.

Its week-long agitation culminates in a grand rally at Paltan Maidan in the city today. Fresh agitation programmes are likely to be announced at the rally, AL sources said. The ruling party will be on the streets during the ensuing hartal, confirmed a central AL leader.

The AL workers were seldom seen on the streets, let alone taking the opposition head on in the recent hartals.

Besides, the AL move to mobilise all social forces against the fundamentalist and anti-liberation forces will be further strengthened, the sources added.

Former leader of PBCP slaughtered in Pabna

PABNA, Aug 2: Unidentified assailants slaughtered a former leader of an outlawed party at Shimulchara in Sadar upazila at midnight on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Quoting family sources police said about 12 terrorists stormed into the house of Abdul Karim Sarder, 45, a former leader of Purbanga Bangladesh Communist Party, dragged him out of the house and slaughtered at the courtyard.

Karim got released from jail and joined Awami League a month ago.

Bangabandhu

From page 12

"Farook's so-called presence during the unoffended time doesn't involve him in the occurrence," he said adding had Farook really gone there, he had gone at the order of Chief of General Staff, Khaled Mosharraf.

Referring to the FIR, the defence lawyer said that the evidence showed Farook went to Dhammondi 32 at 7 am. "But there is no reference that his presence was harmful anyhow."

He argued that Farook was at Dhaka Cantonment when the incident began at 4:30 am the time about which there was no confusion, and after the occurrence everything was being controlled by Brigadier Khaled Mosharraf.

"If Farook really had gone to the headquarters of Rakhi Bahini, he was also at the order of Khaled Mosharraf as he already took over the movement of entire army," Khan Saifur said.

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1000 girls

From page 12

assed: 11.75 per cent reported harassment by police. 35 per cent of the girls were found to be working under dangerous conditions. Meanwhile, 83 per cent stressed the need for more security in workplaces as well as in their homes, the study further added.

The study said that 93 per cent of the girls felt the need for education on sex and reproductive health services.

The study recommended the establishment of small enterprises, women's cooperative, garment factories etc. in the rural areas in order to generate employment for the adolescent and help them earn a living without having to come to Dhaka.

Advocate Rokhsana Khondker, Executive Director of Khan Foundation, presented the keynote paper.

Lawmakers Abul Kalam Azad, Akhter Hamid Siddique and Colam Kader, Anisul Haque, Chairman of Mohammedi Group, Rokeya Qader, Chairman of Desh Group and Shahida Azfar, representative of UNICEF took part in the discussion.

What we need now is total and undivided concentration in unearthing the bomb plots. If in the future some link is found to exist with BNP or any other party then let the public know and allow the law to deal with it. We want all those who are linked to destabilising our democracy and threatening the life of our prime minister or any other leader to be severely punished. But for that to happen, we must allow investigation to proceed without the type of irresponsible actions and utterances from our leaders that we have seen recently.

There is a story of two neighbours who hated each other. A theft took place in one house for which the neighbour was promptly accused. In retaliation the other side made counter accusations of more serious crimes. While the police was kept busy by these accusations the thief roamed freely to steal again.

JU teachers

From page 12

the Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) to launch a movement for dissolution of the controversial selection committee. Later, the JUTA held a meeting on May 13 and agreed that the selection committees must be dissolved to ensure a healthy academic and administrative atmosphere.

They also submitted a memorandum to the Vice-chancellor on that day.

Besides, the Senate members urged the Vice-chancellor to take immediate steps to ensure transparency in teachers' selection process.

However, the Vice-chancellor is yet to take steps to this end although he took office in February this year. He had sent a note of dissent over the move to approve the selection committees when he was Pro-Vice-chancellor.

2 Shibir workers held with arms in Cox's Bazar

From page 12

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 2: Two Shibir activists were arrested with arms and ammunition from a karate training centre at Darladighi in Ramu upazila early today, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the karate centre and arrested Jakerullah and Nurullah, sons of Nurul Huq and students of Dhechhuha Palang Madrassah.

Anwar Uddin

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tries during his illustrious life.

Anwar Uddin Khan was a great music enthusiast from his early boyhood. He started singing at the age of five and was a regular singer of Bangladesh Betar until his death.

He got a number of awards, including Jagadish Chandra Basu Smriti Gold Medal in 1994. Shilpakala Academy conferred state honour on him in 1998.

He composed the tunes for 200 songs, wrote the lyrics for 300 and lent voice to more than 500 songs.

Qulhwani of late Anwar Uddin Khan will be held at House 108, Road 19, Dhanmondi, after Asr prayers tomorrow (August 4).

Kashmir

From page 1

hospital officials at Pahalagam said the death toll rose to 32 this morning, with 41 injured.

The dead and injured included many Muslim porters and men who hire horses that carry pilgrims up the steep slopes from Pahalagam, 90 kilometers south of Srinagar.

Army and paramilitary soldiers fired back, killing the militants, police said, saying they suspected the attackers were Islamic guerrillas fighting for Kashmir's independence from India.

However, some witnesses said that many were killed in the 20-minute cross fire by the soldiers. Others alleged that the attackers were not militants, but Kashmiri police. There have been several previous cases of police in Kashmir blaming militants for attacks and the local people insisting it was government forces who did the killing.

Bus driver Balbir Singh, who had brought pilgrims to Pahalagam, told The Associated Press. "I saw two men in a Kashmiri police uniform who started firing from a bridge and on the bus. I saw two Hindu priests killed before me, and two other men."

India's government is trying to negotiate with guerrilla groups, notably the Hizb-ul-Mujahadeen, which announced a unilateral cease-fire July 17. It was followed by the Indian army's announcement Friday that it would cease offensive operations against the guerrillas.

But up to a dozen other rebel groups, some of whom want Kashmir merged with Pakistan, have opposed the peace moves, saying it is necessary to fight for independence.

More rain

From page 1

Road, Gopesh was among many who had to spend hours yesterday morning clearing water and mud from their ground floor residences.