

News

What's on today . . .

Roundtable: Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) will hold its 'Roundtable meeting of media professionals'. Venue: VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club. Time: 10:00 am.

Foundation laying ceremony: The foundation stone of SM Sultan Smriti Sangraha Shala will be laid. Chief guest: State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs, Obaidul Kader. Venue: Narail residence of the artist. Time: 10:00 am.

Handover ceremony: The handing over ceremony of 4 multinational government industries to the private sector will be held. Venue: Ballroom of Hotel Sheraton. Time: 11:30 am.

CDRB seminar: Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB), representative of American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS), will hold a seminar on 'Baul Women in Bangladesh: Constructions of Identity.' Venue: WVA auditorium, House No 20 (new) 405 A (old), Rd No 16 (new) 27 (old), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:00 pm.

Discussion: Bangabandhu Juba Parishad will hold a discussion in observance of 25th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 4:00 pm.

Lecture: Bigyan Chetona Parishad will hold a lecture on 'Ways to overcome hindrance towards truth and logic.' Venue: Parishad office at 51 Aziz Super Market (2nd floor), Shahbagh. Time: 5:30 pm.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Nayak* starring Uttam Kumar and Sharmila Tagore on the last day of the 1st part of its Retrospective on Uttam Kumar. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission, House no 25, Road no 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Discussion: Swadeshi Chinta Sangha will hold a lecture on Dr Lutfor Rahman's 'Unnata Jibon'. Venue: Dhanmondi Residence of late Prof Ahmed Sharif. Time: 10:00 am.

Film show: Three French movies, *Adieu, ma Concubine* (Farewell my concubine), *Le Reine Margot* (The Queen Margot) and *Le Femé Element* (The fifth element). Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Discussion meeting: Col Taher Sangsad will hold a discussion on Shaheed Khudiram. The meeting will be followed by a presentation of music. Venue: TSC seminar room at Dhaka University. Time: 5:00 pm.

Installation ceremony: Leo District Council and Lions Clubs International Dist-315A1 Bangladesh will hold the installation ceremony of the office bearers of the session 2000-2001. Venue: WVA auditorium, House no 20, Rd# 27(Old), 16 (New), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:00 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at many places over Chittagong, Khulna and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy falls at one or two places over Sylhet division till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Light fall in day temperature is expected over the country during the period. Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 33.8 degree Celsius at Chittagong and the lowest 24.0 degree at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.36 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:32 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka		31.5	27.3	80	73
Chittagong		33.8	25.5	72	79
Rajshahi		30.3	27.0	90	83
Khulna		32.4	26.0	81	78
Barisal		32.4	27.0	78	76
Sylhet		31.4	24.0	97	97
Cox's Bazar		33.4	25.5	76	76

Regional cooperation

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there would not be any problem if there is inter-dependence.

He suggested that political expediency for short-term gains be left behind and a bold political decision for long-term gains be made, instead. 'We must not forget the economic benefit of transport integration and regional cooperation for the sake of prosperity,' he added.

Dr Alamgir further said that apart from road and rail links, air traffic should also be considered to promote trade involving Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, China and Nepal.

As regards informal trade or smuggling, he said that it will continue as long as the imperfect trade policies are not fine-tuned.

Dr Karen L Casper, Representative of the Asia Foundation, Dhaka; Mohammad Omar Hadi, former Civil Aviation secretary, Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue; Dr Forrest E. Cookson, Country Director, DID, Inc.; Abul Ahsan, former Foreign Secretary, Major General Jamil Ahsan, Director General, BIS; and Dr Abdus Sattar and Shamsuddoha took part in discussions. Dr Abdur Rob Khan, Research Director, and Shamsur Rahman, Research Fellow, of BIISS presented the study.

Dr Karen L Casper said Bangladesh will benefit from an integration of transport systems and suggested further study on it.

Mohammad Hadi stressed on developing infrastructure, especially the rail and roads and a third port at Galachipa on Tetulia river linked by the Mawa-Dhaka-Tanabil road.

Prof. Mustafizur Rahman said that inter-regional trade would increase by 11 per cent and cost of transportation would come down if transport infrastructure was integrated.

Dr Forrest Cookson said huge income from the integrated transport system could be diverted to infrastructure development.

Major General Jamil Ahsan noted that Chittagong and Mongla ports, and roads and rail systems in Bangladesh need to be upgraded.

Dr Abdus Sattar called for taking an overall look into the security situation in the north-

eastern India before taking any decision on integration. He also called for looking into ways to reduce the trade deficit with India, cut down the tariff barrier and sort out the informal trade.

Abul Ahsan, former SAARC secretary-general, called for allaying the fears and suspicions that stand in the way of regional cooperation, along with red-tapism and other problems.

One killed, 30 hurt as villagers clash in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Aug 9: A fierce clash between two rival groups of villagers left a youth dead and 30 people, including four women, injured at Shamboli village in Raipura upazila today, reports UNB.

At least 30 houses of the village were looted during the incident.

Four of the injured were admitted to Sadar hospital.

Electoral alliance

From page 12

After coming to power in June 1996, AL used to have exchange of views with some other parties, particularly left-leaning ones time to time. But that practice is stalled for quite long.

Meanwhile, AL is trying to mobilise freedom fighters (FFs) in its favour. An adviser to the Prime Minister has taken the responsibility of organising the FFs to take a firm stand against religion-based politics, sources said.

Party leaders may start visiting different constituencies to make a primary assessment of political developments across the country.

AL leadership is happy at the party position at grassroots levels following the elections in some tiers of local governments in which opposition parties did not participate, one source noted.



Bangladesh Medical Association brought out a procession in the city yesterday with a call for 'Nuclear Weapons-free South Asia.'

— Star photo

Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant

43 pc work of first phase ends

The work on the Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant is progressing fast and 43 per cent of the first phase of the project has been completed.

Officials of WASA told BSS yesterday that the first phase of three-phase project will be completed by April 2002 which would add 22.50 crore litres more water per day with the WASA's present daily production strength of 120 crore litres.

Engineer K Azharul Huq, Managing Director of WASA said the growing demand of pure drinking water of the city dwellers could be met through the production of pure drinking water from this plant. The daily requirement of water in the city now is about 142.50 crore litres.

and inquired about the progress of work. Managing Director of WASA, Engineer K Azharul Huq briefed the minister about the progress of the work at the project site.

During the visit, the minister expressed satisfaction over the progress of the work and hoped that the work would be completed much ahead of the stipulated time.

The minister said the present government of Sheikh Hasina has undertaken various pragmatic efforts to meet the growing demand of pure drinking water of the city people.

Senior officials of the WASA were present during the visit of the minister.



All Party Students' Unity brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting state-sponsored terrorism, harassment of opposition activists and anti-people role of the government.

— Star photo

PM: Dengue

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conducting a cleanliness drive and spraying insecticide to kill the larva of Aedes mosquito.

The government officials said special training on Dengue fever has been given to 120 physicians, and the government intends to continue such training programmes.

The government has also taken up regular programmes in the media concerning public responsibilities in regard of prevention of the disease.

The officials said that steps have been taken to bring foreign experts. Steps have also been taken to test blood, free of cost, at 10 government hospitals of the city, including Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital, Shishu Hospital, BIRDEM, Suhrawardy Hospital, ICDDR, B, Government Employees Hospital, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, and Mahanagar General Hospital.

In these hospitals, blood is being tested on emergency basis to detect the Dengue virus and specialist physicians are available for necessary suggestions, they said.

In addition to the government measures, steps have been taken to involve various NGOs and voluntary organisations in preventing the Dengue virus.

Dengue

From page 1

mitted five and six patients respectively.

Central Hospital and Monwar Hospital admitted seven patients each while Samarai and Al-Raji admitted three each.

Villagers said the clash between the supporters of former UP member Lokman and sitting member Wahed took place over establishing supremacy in the area.

At least 30 houses of the village were looted during the incident.

Four of the injured were admitted to Sadar hospital.

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Minister for Education A S H Sadique will inaugurate the exhibition at 5:00 pm, says a press release.

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