

What's on today . . .

Lecture: El Net-3L Academy will hold a lecture on "Electronically Networked Life Long Learning (El Net-3L)" system. Keynote speaker: Prof A K Ray, Chairman of CEP-HT-Kharagpur. Venue: EL Net-3L Study Centre, House No 69, Rd No 9/A, Dharmamandi R/A. Time: 11:30 am.

Memorial meeting: Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad will hold a discussion on Md Ibrahim Mia. Venue: Sangsad premises at Works Building, Segunbagicha. Time: 4:00 pm.

Certificate awarding ceremony: Democracywatch will hold a certificate awarding ceremony for students of its different batches. Venue: Kendria Kochi Kanchar Mela, 37/A, Segunbagicha. Time: 4:00 pm.

Dialogue: Dainik Matribhumi in association with Bangladesh Press Institute (PIB) will hold a dialogue on "Trial of war criminals: Pre-conditions for establishing democracy and rule of law." Chief guest: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak. Venue: Seminar room of PIB. Time: 5:00 pm.

ITDG workshop: ITDG-Bangladesh in association with Disaster Forum will hold a workshop on "Livelihood Options for Risk Reduction Against Disasters". Venue: IDB Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Sylhet, Chittagong and Barisal divisions till 6 pm today reports UNB.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met office said.

The country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Syedpur and Dinapur and the lowest 24.0 degree at Rangamati, Bhola and Kheupura.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:33 pm and rises on Tuesday at 5:34 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	28.6	25.3
Chittagong	31.7	24.8
Rajshahi	32.8	24.7
Khulna	30.8	24.5
Barisal	28.0	25.0
Sylhet	29.5	24.4
Cox's Bazar	30.5	24.6

HERE and THERE

NSU

Bangladesh International Business and Information Technology Symposium (BIBITS), the first of its kind in the country, was held at North South University (NSU) yesterday, says a press release.

A total of 22 papers incorporating and expounding on the latest developments in the fields of management, marketing, international business and economics, management information system, and Information Technology were presented at the event.

Dr Hafiz G A Siddiqi, NSU Pro Vice Chancellor while inaugurating the symposium, expressed the hope that in addition to enhancing theoretical knowledge, the recommendations of the symposium will set tangible and realistic guidelines to deal with the challenges for Bangladesh in the 21st century.

Martials Garden

The annual election of the martial artists' association "Martials Garden" was held at its head office in the city recently, says a press release.

The following 19-member executive committee was elected for the next session (2000-2001):

Chairman -- Main Uddin Ahmed, vice-chairman -- N I Khokan, secretary general -- Ferdous Ara, it secy -- Gen Nasim Ahmed, asst secy -- Gen Sk Shahjahan Dulal, finance secy -- Sufia Ferdous, women affairs secy -- Hasin Ferdous, publicity secy -- Mahbun-un-Nabi, office secy -- Syed Jahir Iqbal, asst office secy -- Washim Rana, organising secy -- G M Maman, children affairs secy -- Reaz Ahmed and members -- J H Manik, Bashar, Ibrahim, Masum, Arafat, Tahir and Manik Mia.



A 5-day long 25th Commissioners' Course of Bangladesh Scouts began at its Shams Hall on Friday. 28 participants including national commissioner, deputy national commissioner, regional commissioner and trainers of Bangladesh scouts are taking part in the on going course.

JU employees refute news report, threaten agitation

By JU Correspondent

Employees Association of Jahangirnagar University has protested newspaper reports about involvement of its leaders in harassment of female employees at the university.

The association at a meeting held recently termed as "false and baseless" report published in the Bhorer Kagoi on August 6 and denied involvement of any of its leaders.

They also blamed journalists for damaging the image of the university through publication of such false reports and demanded that the daily termination of such incidents, they said.

Campus sources, seeking anonymity said that some employees' leaders are involved in anti-social activities on the campus and the university authorities, although aware of the situation, is indifferent to it.

This encourages the repetition of such incidents, they said.

An official of the university, also seeking anonymity, cited recent incidents that have occurred on the campus but have gone largely unpunished because of the authorities' silence despite repeated complaints, in some cases regarding the same employee.

Foundation of hostel in Sheikh Hasina Youth Centre laid

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs

Obaidul Quader on Saturday laid the foundation stone of an international hostel at Sheikh Hasina National Youth Centre at Savar to mark the International Youth Day, reports BSS.

The centre would be upgraded to international standard, he said while addressing a symposium titled "Increasing awareness of youths in the world youth activities" after laying the foundation of the new hostel of the centre.

Quader said Hasina National Youth Centre would be one of the milestones of country's youth development.

The centre was established on nearly eight acres, about 20 miles from the capital, aimed at making the country's ongoing youth activities more dynamic, he said, adding necessary infrastructures of the centre are being constructed at a cost of Taka 25 crore.

Director General of Youth Directorate Mohammad Zahiruddin Buiyan presided over the symposium. It was addressed, among others, by Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Abdul Bayes and Professor of Sheikh Hasina National Youth Centre Mohammad Al-Amin Chowdhury.



A delegation of BNP member of parliament called on Khaleda Zia at her Minto Road official residence last night.

India Today publishes Hamoodur Rahman Commission report

Inquiry blamed army atrocities, corruption and moral laxity for Pak defeat in 1971

NEW DELHI, Aug 13: A secret inquiry into Pakistan's defeat in the 1971 war that saw the emergence of Bangladesh, held army atrocities, widespread corruption, cowardice and the moral laxity of its generals as main reasons for the debacle in East Pakistan. "India Today" reported in its current issue published today, reports BSS.

The "India Today" said it has obtained a copy of the Hamoodur Rahman Commission report which was suppressed by successive Pakistan governments.

The commission, the report said, recommended that a coterie of generals -- Gen Yahya Khan, Gen Abdul Hamid Khan, Lt Gen SGMM Pirzada, Lt Gen Gul Hasan, Maj Gen Mitha -- be publicly tried for criminal conspiracy because in agreement with one another they brought

about a situation in then East Pakistan which led to a civil disobedience movement, armed revolt by the Awami League and subsequently to the surrender of Pak troops and the dismemberment of Pakistan.

"The refusal of General Yahya Khan to negotiate with the Awami League becomes all the more significant when we remember that two of its top leaders, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Kamal Hossain were in his custody in West Pakistan and that almost all the friendly countries had advised him to arrive at a political settlement in view of the looming Indian threat of military action," the commission observed in the report.

These two "direct devastating consequences," the report said, ensured that the Pakistan army "was obviously fighting a losing battle from the very start."

Although the commission dismissed the official claim of Bangladesh that three million people were killed in 1971, it did take into account certain concrete allegations, like the claim of Lt Col Mansoorul Huq that 17 Bengali officers and 953 soldiers were executed in Comilla Cantonment on the night of 27-28 March "by a flick of one officer's finger." The accusing finger is pointed at Lt Gen Yakub Khan, CO of the 53rd field regiment.

In an observation, the commission said "the process of moral degeneration among the senior ranks of the armed forces was set in motion by their involvement in martial law duties in 1958, that these tendencies reappeared and were, in fact intensified when martial law was imposed, once again in March 1969 by General Yahya Khan."



The launching ceremony of APTECH Southern Cross University's joint degree programme on Bachelor of Information Technology/Multimedia was held at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. Dr Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, BUET addressing the programme as the chief guest while others look on. (From R-L) Julianne Ittne, Prof Bruce WN Lo, Uday Nirgutar and Tarun Mitra. (Story on Page 6)

Meeting at Health Ministry told Govt stock of medicines, preventives adequate

A high-powered meeting at the Health Ministry yesterday directed the authorities to ensure necessary stock of medical supplies to combat possible waterborne diseases, including diarrhoea, during floods, reports UNB.

The meeting was held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim in the chair to make contingency medicine plans in the wake of monsoon floods.

It was informed in the meeting that there are adequate medicines and preventives in government stock to combat waterborne diseases and "all necessary steps have already been taken to face flood-related calamity."

It put emphasis on setting up a control cell at the ministry to gather information about flood situation from across the country.

The health ministry directed the flood control cells and medical teams at thana and district levels to remain ready to face any emergency.

In the meeting, a resolution was also adopted for taking preparatory steps to face imminent floods in coordination with the Relief Ministry and NGOs.

The meeting took a decision for allocating additional funds for dispatching immediate medical supplies to flood victims.

State Minister for Health Dr M Amanullah, Health Secretary Sved Alangir Faruq Chowdhury, Additional Health Secretary Dhiraj Kumar Nath, Director General of Health Directorate Prof A B M Ahsanullah, Director General of Family Planning Directorate Moniruzzaman and senior officials were present in the meeting.

New committee of OFA, Dhaka

The election of the committee of OFA Dhaka Chapter for 2000 was held on Friday at RAOWA CLUB, says a press release.

Those elected to the office are: Ofn Sufee M Ahmed (president), Ofn Norbert G Mendes and Ofn Md Anwarul Azim Majumder (vice-presidents), Ofn A Z M Saifuddin (general secretary), Ofn Moslehuddin Ahmed (treasurer), Ofn Khurshid Reza (joint general secy), Ofn Mahmud Bin Alam (secy sports and cultural affairs), Ofn Morshed (organising secretary), and Ofn Tahmid Hossain Khan, Ofn Shakor Majid, and Ofn Nasiruddin Chowdhury.

In the evening session, the installation ceremony was held in which the new office-bearers were introduced before the members. Those present included Prof A Ashraf Noor, Prof Mofazzal Hossain, Prof Ruffin and Saffur Rahman, Ofn Towfik Ali Secretary was also present.



Visitors at an exhibition on posters, photograph and documentary films on life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the TSC, Dhaka University yesterday. Department of Films and Publications (DFP) organised the exhibition in observance of the National Mourning Day and 25th anniversary of martyrdom of Bangabandhu. — Star photo

PM, her sister's interviews to be aired tomorrow

Interviews of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana will be aired on August 15, marking the National Mourning Day, reports UNB.

The interviews titled "Ajana Katha Abak to Bedona" will simultaneously be broadcast by BTV, Ekushey Television, Channel 1, ATN Bangla and Bangladesh Betar at 8:30 pm.

The programme, produced by M Hamid, will be presented by Tarana Halim.

Blood donation programme held at JU

By JU Correspondent

A day-long blood donation programme was held on Jahangirnagar University campus yesterday as part of national mourning day programmes.

Organised by Bangabandhu Parishad, JU unit, the programme was held at the Social Science Faculty.

Vice Chancellor of the university Prof. Abdul Bayes inaugurated the programme in the morning.

President and general secretary of the organisation Prof. Shariff Enamul Kabir and Dr A T M Abdul Hannan were also present.

The programme was held in cooperation with Shandhani.

Flood

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ganj adds: Flood situation in the district worsened further with the Daleswari and the Meghna swelling further due to rain throughout the day.

The Padma, Meghna, Sitaklhiya and Daleswari were flowing above 52, 7, 40 and 14 cms above their red marks.

Rivers: Randu, Hawladarpara, Rishbari, Deobhar, Manikpur, Charsil Mandir also burst their banks, inundating low-lying areas in the town.

Natungon area alongside Munshiganj-Tangbari road were also inundated, displacing hundreds of poor people.

Movement of vehicles on the submerged road has been suspended.

In Narsingdi vast areas in three upazilas were inundated due to heavy rain and onrush of floodwater.

The affected upazilas are Belabo, Raipura and Sadar.

According to the daily bulletin of Flood Information and Warning Centre, the flood situation in greater Sylhet worsened further due to heavy rainfall in the region over the last two days.

Bangla TV channel in Italy seeks financial help

By Staff Correspondent

Asian Television Network, a Bangla TV channel in Italy, has appealed to government for funds to resume telecasting its programmes.

Hasanuzaman, a Bangladesh businessman and chairman of Asian Television Network made the appeal at a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The channel went into air on February 21, 1999 but was shut down in February this year due to financial constraints.

There are 45,000 Bengali speaking people in Italy and we had the only channel in Bangla which went on air for an hour each day," Hasanuzaman said.

He said that he will be able to resume operation if he gets financial help from the government and other agencies.

Local executives of the channel Sirajul Islam, Nurul Alam, Nuruzzaman and Abdul Mannan were also present at the press conference.

Janakantha

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the leaders mentioned of 'indecent and audacious' behaviour of the owner-editor of the daily in different occasions.

The Oikya Parishad leaders said when they went to the Janakantha office on the night of August 5 to urge the journalists, press workers and employees to join the rally and silent procession of August 6, the owner-editor misbehaved with them.

Besides, he instructed the journalists, staff and employees of the daily not to join the rally and procession which was organised to protest the murder of journalist Shamsur Rahman. Shamsur Rahman was killed while discharging his professional responsibility for the Daily Janakantha.

Drawing the attention of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP), the Oikya Parishad leaders said, that it can not avoid the responsibility of any unstable situation in the newspaper industry due to any individual's action.

Presided over by BFUJ leader G M Yakub, the meeting was also attended by BFUJ leaders: Amanullah Kabir, Akhter Ahmed Khan and M A Aziz, DUJ leaders: Altaf Mahmud, Abu Saleh and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan. Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Press Samikha Federation President Alhaj Mosharraf Hossain and Secretary General Mozammel Haque and Employees Union Acting President Alfaruddin Khan and Secretary General Matinur Rahman Talukdar.

Programmes on Nat'l Mourning Day

By Staff Correspondent

Different organisations have chalked out various programmes to observe the 25th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Bangabandhu Parishad will bring out a silent procession from Supreme Court Lawyers' Association premises at 4:30pm today demanding immediate execution of verdict of Bangabandhu murder case.

Gano Forum will hold a discussion at its central office at 5pm tomorrow. A statement of the Forum called upon the countrymen to observe the National Mourning Day with due respect.

Meanwhile, Jahangirnagar University (JU) unit Bangabandhu Parishad organised an essay and painting competition for the children on the JU campus yesterday. JU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Abdul Bayes inaugurated the programme as chief guest. A blood donation programme was also held on JU campus on the occasion.

A film and poster exhibition on Bangabandhu was held at the TSC on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. DU VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury inaugurated the function as chief guest.

Islamic Foundation Bangladesh and Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association held two separate discussions on the occasion.

Khulna

BSS adds: Preparations have been taken by various political and socio-cultural organisations in Khulna to observe the National Mourning Day on August 15 commemorating the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On August 15, 1975 Bangabandhu, most of the members of his family and a number of his close relations were killed by

PM: Lawyers

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after the meeting. "We will make our next move after examining the statement," Huda added.

The decision to meet the PM was taken after a meeting of the SCBA on Saturday. Mainul Hossain had requested the lawyers to wait for the outcome of the meeting with the PM before taking a decision to file a contempt petition.

Over 300 lawyers had earlier signed a Vokalatnama for filing the petition after the SCBA executive committee authorised its President and General Secretary to do so.

The developments in the SCBA followed a statement by 11 eminent jurists and senior lawyers, including past presidents of the SCBA. They criticised the PM for her remarks that the Judiciary should be accountable as criminals are repeating crimes after obtaining bails from courts.

The SCBA meeting relieved its General Secretary Shahidul Karim Siddiqui of its earlier decision to be a party to the contempt petition. He was elected from a panel of pro-government lawyers. Mainul Hossain was elected from the pro-opposition panel of lawyers, which created some problems as to who would file the contempt petition.

Earlier on Friday, Hossain had a meeting with Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru which resulted in an appointment with the PM.

Barrister Hossain said the invitation for the meeting came from the Law Minister. But the government side said it was arranged following a request from the lawyers.

The delegation led by Barrister Hossain included Barrister Svedpattique Ahmed, Khandaiker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Barrister Rafiqul Huq, Barrister Najmul Huda, Ayeennudin, Khandaiker Mahbub Hossain, Mohammad Nawab Ali and Shahidul Karim Siddiqui.

The PM was assisted by Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and Rahmat Ali, State Minister for Rural Development and Cooperatives.

Mori's visit

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tacted said, "So far we are concerned, the trip is on. We are making all preparations for the visit."

When asked if it was correct that due to the dengue situation, the visit has been put off, he replied, "There is no danger from dengue to our Prime Minister. Your Prime Minister has already assured about all preventive measures."

Asked if floods would prevent the trip, he replied, "Only 20 per cent of your land mass has been flooded. It is not that serious. Floods are normal for your country."

Teachers

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from the teachers' procession, witnesses said.

Earlier, the teachers formed the human chain on the Dhaka-Aricha highway disrupting transport movement for one and half hours from 11 in the morning.

In Narsingdi, some 200 teachers formed human chain from the Deputy Commissioner's house to DC's office amidst rain. Secretary General of BFTA Nazrul Islam and Assistant Secretaries General Khalilur Rahman and Humayun Kabir joined the agitation.

Human chains were also formed in other districts, including Barisal, Chapainawabganj and Barguna.

some army officers. A meeting in connection with the observance of the day was held in the Khulna deputy commissioner's conference room recently. The meeting took a detailed programme which included hoisting of the National Flag at half-mast atop all public and private buildings in the morning, mourning procession at eight in the morning from Khulna Circuit House ground.

People from all walks of life including the students of educational institutions will take part.

Blood donation session will be arranged at the local Shaheed Hadis Park under the auspices of Civil Surgeon and Shandhani Donor Club, special prayers at all mosques and other places of worship and hand and naat competition to be arranged by Islamic Foundation and a three-day exhibition of newspaper and posters at the local Umesh Chandra Public Library auditorium.

Social Welfare, Youth Development and Women's Affairs departments have taken up separate programmes to mark the day.

IUC, Dhaka classes begin in Sept

The Dhaka campus of Islamic University Chittagong (IUC) will start begin the classes of the next batch of Executive MBA and BBA programmes in September, says a press release.

The university has MOU with some foreign universities with are opportunities for higher studies and credit transfer to those universities.

Rab murder

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party left the rally protesting his invitation to the rally.

Rab was brought to AL from Jatiya Party by Sheikh Helaluddin MP. Strongly favoured by Helaluddin, Rab's prominence in the party dashed hopes of many dedicated leaders.

Rab faced all odds by giving most of his earnings for different party programmes and to his rivals in the party, family sources said. His rivals in AL or opposition political parties may be behind the killing, they said.

But involvement of a non-political group can not be ruled out, police sources said.

During Rab's Namaz-e-Janaaza on Saturday, his son Arifur Rahman Mithu declared that their close relative and BNP leader Abdul Gaffar Biswas was his local guardian, which surprised many.

A rumour is being spread allegedly by some local AL leaders that Biswas was involved in the murder, but Rab's family denied this. It is also heard that Biswas is on the hit-list of an outlawed organisation.

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim is due to arrive here tomorrow morning on a day's visit. He will attend a meeting of the Law and Order Committee.

RMG, textile

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ing backward linkage industries in the country.

But BGMEA and BKMEA leaders felt that this would increase garments export from the country and expand the market abroad.

The BTMA chief also urged the government to introduce a system so that apparel manufacturers do not use imported fabrics. They should be encouraged to use local fabrics in the interest of local textile industries and establishing backward linkage industries in the country, the sources said.

When contacted, a source at the EU Dhaka office said regional cumulation has been allowed by the EU and now it depends on the governments whether they would implement it or not.

A government may decide that it would not issue GSP certificate against those items which are made with foreign raw materials. It has the option whether it would allow the facility or not, the source added.

A wall

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contacted, admitted that the decision to raise such a wall was wrong in the aesthetic point of view. But he said a see-through fence would have cost much more than the brick wall.

The old airport was handed over to the BAF about a year ago. We are constructing the wall as an urgent measure to demarcate our land," the official said.

"Now we are trying to ensure that the boundary is well marked. I can assure you that in near future we will consider the aesthetic aspect of the area," said the official hinting that a see-through fence might replace the brick wall.

Without elaborating the official said that BAF would build some facilities within the boundary of the old airport. The ministry concerned recently directed the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) to raise a 'high wall' around the Zia International Airport, he mentioned.

The government has also handed over the premises of the Ordnance factory to the Bangladesh Ordnance Factory and the Mongla port to Bangladesh Navy, the official noted.