

What's on today....

Cultural programme: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha will present two cultural programmes to mark the 59th death anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 9.30 am and 6.00 pm respectively.

ITEXPO 2000: The two-day long ITEXPO 2000, Indian Textile Exhibition will be inaugurated. Organisers: High Commission of India and the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council of India. Chief guest: Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. Venue: Poolside, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10.30 am.

Discussion meeting: Protirodhi Joddha Parishad will hold a discussion meeting on "The fight of the Mujib soldiers in the period after Bangabandhu's assassination and today's Bangladesh." Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 4.00 pm.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Sagarika starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. Venue: Auditorium of High Commission of India, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi, R/A. Time: 6.15 pm.

ABC meeting: Assistance for Blind Children (ABC) will hold a review meeting of its activities. Venue: ABC head office, 2/11 Tajmahal Road, Block C, Mohammadpur. Time: 4.00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

BSAF Seminar: Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) will organise a seminar on "Child labour in Bangladesh: NGO Interventions and Future Directions." Venue: Women's Voluntary Association (WVA), House No 20, Rd No 27, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 9.00 am.

Discussion meeting: Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar Smriti Sangsad will hold a discussion meeting on the BNP leader in observance of his first death anniversary. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 4.00 pm.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Harano Shoor starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.15 pm.

Weather

Rain likely

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

Slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country. Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Chuadanga and the lowest of 24.2 degree at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.26 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.37 am.

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

Three arrested for following Shamim Osman's car

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Aug 21: Three people were arrested today for suspiciously following the car of local MP Shamim Osman.

New chief engineer of LGED

Md Ataulah Bhuiya, senior most Additional Chief Engineer, has been appointed as the new Chief Engineer of LGED with effect from August 17, says a press release.

Opposition

From page 12 sion from Mohakhali, Mirpur, Kafur and Pallabi units from Mirpur no 10 round square, Tejaon thana from Farmgate, Mohammadpur and Dhanmondi thanas from Newmarket, Hazratbagh thana from Gajmahal Shishu Park and Shiyampur thana from Alam super market premises.

Death anniversary

The 12th anniversary of death of Begum Khwaja Selima Khatun, a journalist, educationist, politician and women leader will be observed today, says a press release.

Mondal's house

he could recognise the assailants but did not disclose their names, some sources said. Mondal was an aspiring candidate in the next elections in Ward No 83.

5 PBCP members on 6-day remand for interrogation

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 21: Five members of the out-lawed PBCP, arrested on Saturday in the city, have been taken on police remand for six days each today for interrogation under Arms Act.

Obituary

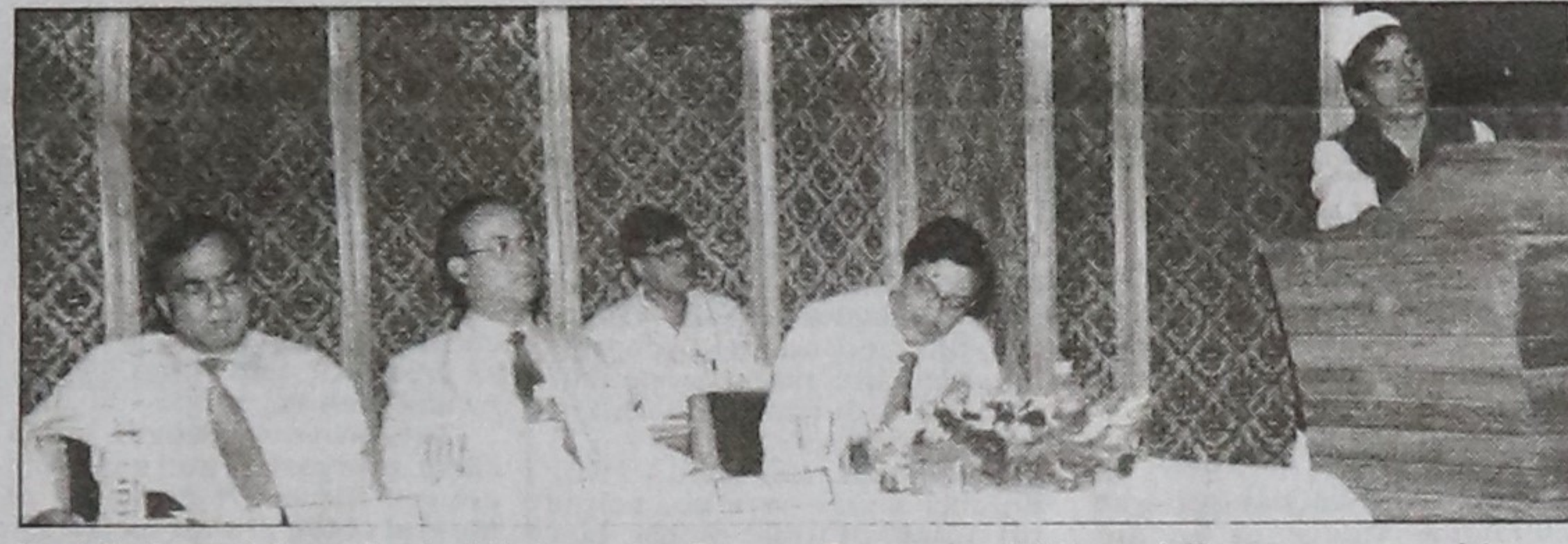
AM Fakhruddin, a retired chief engineer, Housing Settlement, PWD, died at Sohrawardi hospital on August 19. He was 60, says a press release.



Shikhhak Karmachari Oikya Parishad staged a token hunger strike in front of the National Press Club yesterday to press for its 6-point demand. — Star photo

REB warns govt organisations against non-payment of bills

Failure of different government and non-government organisations to pay bills is one of the key factors hampering rural electrification process. It will be quite impossible for the authorities to continue with customer services unless the government takes up more effective measures to realise these accumulating arrears and ensure timely payment of bills.



Prof Rafiqul Islam, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, speaking at the Annual Performance Target Agreement of Palli Bidyut Samities at Rural Electrification Board auditorium in the city yesterday.



The shareholders of-BAPEX approved the new name of the company at a meeting yesterday. The company has been renamed Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd. Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company Md Mosharaf Hossain is also seen in the picture.



Islamic Bank Bangladesh Ltd opens its Head Office Complex branch in the city yesterday. Md Ataur Rahman, Chairman of Board of Directors of the bank, speaking at the opening ceremony. — Star photo

BNP protests statement of DB chief

From Staff Correspondent BNP joint secretary general Ashraf Hossain yesterday protested the statement of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of the Detective Branch (DB) Abdul Hannan regarding the killing of BNP leader Habibur Rahman Mondal.

Shafi Sami to carry letter

From page 12 The Foreign Secretary, responding to questions, said that he would take the opportunity to meet other high officials in Pakistan including his counterpart Enamul Haq Sami said that he was not the first government representative to travel to Pakistan, State Minister for Sports Obaidul Kader and State Minister for Jute Faezul Haq visited Pakistan. However, their trips were unrelated to any contacts with the Islamabad government and were for participation in conferences. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad had also met his Pakistan counterpart on the sidelines of the Cartagena Summit.

DU Senate polls now on Sept 3

Dhaka University authorities have advanced the date of election to the posts of 35 teachers' representatives in the Senate to September 3, reports UNB.

The election was scheduled for August 30, but was shifted due to countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal sponsored by BNP-led opposition alliance.

The other schedule of the election will remain unchanged, official sources said. The decision was taken at a meeting of DU teachers with DU Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

According to the schedule announced by the DU authorities on August 14, the polling will be held at the Teachers' Students Centre (TSC) from 9 am to 1 pm without any break.

City BNP meeting today

An emergency meeting of the city BNP will be held at 11.30 am today at party's central office at Naya Paltan. The meeting has been called following the killing of city unit joint secretary Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal.

Vice presidents, secretarial body, all thana unit presidents, general secretaries and organising secretaries, BNP-backed DCC Ward Commissioners will attend the meeting.

City BNP president Sadek Hossain Khoka MP and general secretary Abdus Salam in a statement requested all concerned to attend the meeting in time.

The city unit of All Party Action Council (APAC) meanwhile will hold a *milad mahfil* at BNP central office after the Asr prayers tomorrow to pray for Habibur Rahman Mondal.

PM

Jubo League Chairman Fazul Karim Selim in a double-pronged attack on Barrister Mainul Hossain said people know the role of that Barrister during the War of Liberation, and after Bangabandhu killing.

"We know you very well, and we know what you have done during the War of Liberation, what you have told Niemi and Farman Ali, how Sirajuddin was killed," Selim said.

He said after the killing of Bangabandhu, the newspaper of Barrister Mainul identified the killers as "heroic sons."

"Now Mainul is speaking about contempt of court, about human rights, but when Bangabandhu was killed, women and children were killed, he said tonight."

Janmastami

From page 1 gregation of Hindu religious leaders, worship in temples and discussion on the life and deeds of Lord Krishna. The main attraction of the day will be recitation from the Sreemathbhagawat Geeta, recitation of Padabali, rendering of Kirtan, Bhajan, Baidik dance, Nandoutsava and distribution of prosad among the devotees.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the day wishing overall well-being and prosperity of the Hindu community in Bangladesh where complete religious harmony and amity among all communities have been established.

Shahabuddin described the day as a unique event for the Hindu community and wished that they would contribute towards further strengthening the existing bonds of brotherhood among all religious communities in Bangladesh.

Hasina in her message said Lord Krishna carried the message of eternal love for mankind on this earth where he fought against all evils and established the rights of the weak.

The people in Bangladesh are religious but not communal. They, irrespective of caste, creed and religion, have been living in this part of the world for hundreds of years in utmost unity, brotherhood and harmony," she said.

The day will be a public holiday. Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television will put up special programmes while newspapers will publish special articles on the significance of the day. Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif will lead a Janmastami procession to be brought out from the Dhakeswari Mandir here.

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness has chalked out a 10-day programme beginning today with a discussion on the life and deeds of Lord Krishna. Other events include recitation from the Sreemathbhagawat Geeta, Padabali, rendering of Kirtan, Bhajan, Baidik dance, Monipuri dance, Nandoutsava, discussion and distribution of prosad. Sree Krishna Seba Sangha also announced a five-day programme beginning today.

In Chittagong and other parts of the country, the Hindu community will also celebrate the day.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Col (ret'd) A Maleque, Awami League Advisory Council member, former Dhaka city mayor and minister and Chairman of Sunlife Insurance Co and Bangladesh Thai Aluminium Group of Companies, will be held at his village home in Manikganj today, says a press release.

Mondal's murder

From page 1 protest and mourning programme, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote and some other parties held a joint rally at Muktagang under the banner of All Party Action Council (APAC) and brought out a huge mourning procession.

The rally was presided over by APAC Convenor and city BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka MP.

Speaking at the rally, opposition leaders blamed the government for the killing. Mondal was killed on the day the lawyers filed a contempt petition against the Prime Minister. It was pre-planned to foil the opposition movement, they alleged.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the ruling party resorted to killing and repression to cling to power. Killing of Mondal will only hasten the fall of Awami League government, he said.

He said murder has now become an everyday affair as the ruling Awami League is patronising its armed cadres, instead of taking action for such incidents.

The AL government has no moral right to stay in power as it has completely failed to ensure security of life and property to people and even to its party men, Bhuiyan said.

He urged the AL government to step down immediately. "If you hand over power to us, we will ensure security to people and your party men," he added.

Bhuiyan strongly protested the remarks of DB police chief, who told some newsmen on Sunday that Mondal was a terrorist.

A police official who is not in charge of investigating the murder can not make such comments before trial. This is a conspiracy, he added.

He claimed that some government officials including the DB chief were "nakedly supporting" the AL government and asked them not to do "excess" or be involved politics while in service.

"If you want to do politics, you resign. We will not object if you join Awami League."

He called upon the people to intensify the current out-governments movement and observe countrywide half-day

Contempt case

From page 1 President Barrister Mainul Hossain and a group of pro-opposition lawyers filed two separate petitions with the High Court.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Standing Committee member Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury is the plaintiff of the case and filed the petition on behalf of 110 MPs belonging to BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Although Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleeda Zia and Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad signed on the vokalatnamas, but finally they were dropped from the petition list as the lawyers apprehended that "court might feel embarrassed" if they became plaintiff of it.

Moudud Ahmed told newsmen that the MPs who signed vokalatnamas are 95 from BNP, 12 from JP and three from Jamaat.

Earlier, more than 50 opposition MPs assembled at 29 Minto Road, the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in the morning before filing of the petition.

Despite instruction, no JP MP was seen at Minto Road. From Jamaat, only MP Delwar Hossain Saidee went there.

Badrudozza Chowdhury, prominent MPs including M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Oli Ahmed, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Col (Ret'd) Akbar Hossain, Nazmul Huda, M Shamsul Islam, MK Anwar, Kurshid Jahon Haq, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Ziaur Rahman Khan, Amir Kashru Mahmud Chowdhury, Major (Ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Ziaul Haq Zia, Mohammad Shahjahan, Barkatullah Bhulu, Amanullah Aman, Prof Shahidul Islam, Salahuddin Ahmed, Nazimuddin Alam, Ruhul Quddus Talukder Duhi, Nuriul Mostafa, Goutam Chakrabarti and others were present at the court.

Petition

From page 1 in Kotailpara weighing 76 kg and the recent killings in Chittagong, Khulna, Jessore and the killings of cultural workers of Uddichi and recent killings of political leaders in various districts indicate a frightful design to destabilise the country and destroy the nascent democracy following autocratic rule.

"We are ready to provide Bangladesh with technical support in this regard. In fact, our Minister for Housing and Public Health Goutam Dev offered such help earlier."

About 53 lakh people are at risk of drinking arsenic contaminated groundwater in 67 blocks in eight districts, nine municipalities and 15 townships in West Bengal.

Russian sub

From page 1 came clear that the submarine was flooded, they said. A British rescue mini-submarine was not used because the divers determined there was no point, officials said.

Russian officials said they were concentrating on raising the Kursk and recovering its two nuclear reactors. The Norwegian divers found no sign of radiation leaks on Monday.

Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov said Moscow would make an international appeal for funds to raise the Kursk because of the enormous expense. He indicated it would take weeks just to draw up plans for the salvage operation.

"Not a single country on its own can handle such an operation," he was quoted as saying by the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Strong criticism continued today in the Russian media and among many ordinary people of the way the government handled the rescue operation. Moscow initially refused to accept Western aid and gave contradictory reports, claiming for days that it was in touch with the crew only to later back down.

NU exam dates changed

GAZIPUR, Aug 21: The examinations of BA, BSc, BCom and BSc subsidiary part-2 of 1999, scheduled for August 23 and 30 under National University, will now be held on September 3 and 4 due to unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.

According to changed schedule, examination of third papers of History, Islamic History and Culture and Physics will be held on September 3 while those of Social Welfare, Social Science, Accounting and Zoology on September 4, said a NU press release.

Cabinet

From page 12 located for innovative activities on environment and rehabilitation in municipal areas during the current fiscal in the Trustee Board of Housing Fund.

It was also appraised of the report of Bangladesh delegation that attended the World Education Conference held in the Senegalese capital Dakar in April.

Arsenic

From page 1 Asked what he meant by deeper aquifer, he explained: "It does not necessarily mean that the tubewell pipe has to go deep into the soil. For instance, in North Bengal (in West Bengal), deep means at what depth the impervious layer is."

"If the water is drawn from a layer after crossing two impervious layers, you can be absolutely sure that the water is safe."

Asked about ecological effects in the command area in West Bengal, Ray said, "It is too early to comment because we started applying the new method in 1994."

He however said environmentalists do not apprehend any ecological imbalance due to this.

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About 53 lakh people are at risk of drinking arsenic contaminated groundwater in 67 blocks in eight districts, nine municipalities and 15 townships in West Bengal.

Ctg port

From page 1 forced the officials concerned to suspend ship movement at the port channel today, sources said.

Port sources said if the work abatement continued, it could lead to severe congestion at Chittagong Port. Port users said they would have to pay demurrage of \$6000 per day to each of the waiting ships.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up in and around the Port. A large number of police force has been deployed to face "any possible untoward incident."

Boral murder

From page 1 police said. The SP of Bagerhat, quoting Saeed's confession, said there were five armed men in the killing squad.

Son of Atiar Rahman of Barhobaria village under Chitalmari thana, Saheed is an armed cadre of outlawed PBCP, police said.

Another person Mantu Rishi, 40, arrested after the murder, is also being questioned as he is one of the eye witnesses.

Police recovered two used cartridges from the place of occurrence on Sunday.