

## What's on today . . .

**Workshop:** The National Stakeholder's Workshop (NSW) on Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) will be held. Organisers: Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and UNDP. Chief Guest: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief. Venue: Conference room (3rd floor), IDB Bhawan, Begum Rokeya Sarani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 10:00 am.

**Launching ceremony:** Centre for Social Science and Public Policy Research of the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) will hold the launching ceremony of 'Women and Islam in Bangladesh' by Prof Taj J Hashmi, Director of the School of Liberal Arts and Science of the university. Venue: IUB campus, House No 6, Rd No 14, Baridhara. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Uttam Kumar Retrospective:** Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Harano Shoor starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. Venue: Auditorium of House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

**Discussion:** International Society for Krishna Consciousness will hold a discussion meeting to mark Jannamati. Venue: Sree Sree Shwambhag Ashram, 79, Shwambhag Road. Time: 3:00 pm.

**Founding anniversary:** Bangladesh Short Film Forum will hold a get-together to celebrate its 15th founding anniversary. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Bangabandhu Parishad will hold a discussion meeting 'Bangabandhu Bangladesh' to mark the 25th anniversary of Bangabandhu's killing. Venue: BCIC auditorium. Time: 5:30 pm.

## and tomorrow

**Workshop:** Population Services and Training Centre (PSTC) will hold a day long workshop on working children. Venue: 103, New Circular Road. Time: 9:00 am.

**Discussion meeting:** Swadesh Chintu Sangha will hold a discussion meeting on 'The Prince by Niccolò Machiavelli'. Keynote speaker: Prof Sana Ullah Nuri. Venue: Prof Ahmad Sharif. Time: 10:00 am.

**Film show:** Alliance Française de Dhaka will screen three French movies: *Les Cousins* (Tati shorts), *Mon Oncle* (My Uncle) and *Tout de Fête* (Festival Day). Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Bangabandhu Mahila Parishad will hold a discussion meeting on 'Women's Liberation Movement and Bangabandhu'. Chief guest: Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury. Venue: Kabi Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum, Shabbagh. Time: 4:00 pm.

**Get-together:** The Gregorian Association will hold a get-together. This will be followed by a dinner and raffle draw. Venue: Bangladesh Institute of Administrative Management.

**Cultural Programme:** Rabi Rashmi, a cultural organisation will hold an evening of Rabindra Sangeet. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:50 pm.

## Weather

## Light rain likely

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and Srimangol and the lowest of 23.6 degree at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:24 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	33.2	27.0
Chittagong	33.4	23.6
Rajshahi	33.5	26.6
Khulna	34.8	26.3
Barisal	32.6	26.8
Sylhet	29.8	24.4
Cox's Bazar	33.2	26.2

## HERE and THERE

## Sarak Paribahan Samity

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity (BSPS) had a meeting with the authorities of Bangladesh Road Transport Authorities (BRTA) over their few demands yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues including price hike of fuel oil, income tax and vehicle tax.

Presided over by BRTA chairman Mohammad Azizul Haq Bhuiyan, the meeting was also attended by A K Joinul Abedin, Mohammad Ashraf Khan, M A Kader, Ajmal Uddin Ahmed and Khandaker Enayet Ullah.

## Sree Sree Geeta Sangha

Jannamati, the birthday of Lord Sri Krishna, was observed on Tuesday under the auspices of Sree Sree Geeta Sangha at Bholananda Giri Ashram in the city with due fervour and solemnity, says a press release.

The programme of the day included *Mongalacharan*, recitation from Geeta and Bhagavad, Sree Sree Krishna Puja, distribution of prasad, and a cultural function.

The function was presided over by Sree Rati Ranjan Ukil. A souvenir was also published to mark the day.

## CDF

Credit and Development Forum (CDF) organised an orientation training course on micro-finance quality data in Pabna recently, which was attended by 43 NGO participants, says a press release.

The course was conducted by Akhtaruzzaman, Assistant Manager of CDF. The objectives of the course were to provide NGOs with hands on experience so that they understand related terms and terminology used for data collection. The overall goal was to ensure quality data from the organisations.

## Diploma Medical Association

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday said the role of sub-assistant community medical officer is very important in providing better health and family planning services to rural people, reports BSS.

Possible steps will be taken to solve the problems of sub-assistant community medical officer, the minister assured when a delegation of Bangladesh Diploma Medical Association (BDMA) called on him at his Secretariat office.

The delegation urged the minister to create scope for higher professional education and removal of anomalies in their salary structure.

Secretary general of the association Dr Dilip Kumar Sarkar, Dr Mohammad Kamal Hussain, Dr Sharif Ahmed and Dr Md Belal Hossain were, among others, present at the function.

## Speaker's directive to complete modernisation of Sylhet rly station

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury yesterday directed the concerned officials to complete speedily the Taka 14.60 crore modernisation programme of Sylhet Railway Station, reports BSS.

The officials, however, informed the speaker at a review meeting in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban that the work would be completed within July 2001.

The officials said the development work is going on in full swing and 20 per cent of the total work including all piling works has already been completed.

Chief Engineer of the project Mosleh Uddin, Executive Engineer Mahbub Alam and Director of the implementing agency Badrul Ahsan were, among others, present in the meeting.

## BCU urges govt to accept teachers' demands

By DU Correspondent

Left-leaning Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) yesterday brought out a procession in the city and held a rally in front of Shukkhah Bhaban to press home the six-point demand of the agitating non-government teachers.

Addressing the rally, BCU leaders Monjur-e-Khoda Tarik, Hasan Tarik Chowdhury Sohel and Sharifuzzaman urged the government to accept the teachers' demands.

They also demanded that the government take necessary steps to reopen the educational institutions closed following indefinite strike enforced by the non-government teachers.

## Dhaka Bar members seek withdrawal of case filed under PSA

By Staff Correspondent

Some lawyers who had been charged under the Public Safety Act by Kotwali police for ransacking court rooms while protesting the killing of Habibur Rahman Mondal were not even present at the venue when the incident took place, sources said.

Officials of the Dhaka Bar Association yesterday brought out a procession to protest the filing of the case and demanded that the case should be withdrawn immediately.

The false case was filed to harass the lawyers and activists supporting the opposition, they said.

According to them most of the lawyers whose names have been mentioned in the FIR were not even present at the venue when the incident took place.

The Kotwali police on Tuesday filed a case under Public Safety Act against 33 people including 20 lawyers all belonging to the opposition BNP on charges of ransacking court rooms of CMM's court and Dhaka District Judges Court.

Soon after Mondal's death spread in the court premises on Sunday, the lawyers brought out a procession on the court premises.

During the protests by the lawyers some people also damaged windows and furniture at the CMM's court, Metropolitan Court of Sessions and the court constituted for hearing of cases under the Public Safety Act, according to reports.

## Bohni's body handed over to her father

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET Aug 23: The body of Farhana Akhtar Bohni, a second year MBBS student of the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College who drowned in the Madhabkunda waterfall yesterday, was handed over to her father this morning.

Earlier, her *namaj-e-janaza* was held at the college premises. Father of the deceased, MA Rab, left Sylhet for Dhaka this afternoon along with the body.

The principal of the college in a statement condoled the death expressing deep sympathy to the bereaved family members. The Teachers Association and Sandhani in separate statements also condoled Bohni's pre-mature death.

A condolence meeting will be arranged by the college authority tomorrow while all classes scheduled for the day has also been suspended, said a press release issued by the principal.

## Obituary

Syed Tawfiqul Husain, a retired electrical engineer, died of cardiac arrest at his residence on Tuesday. He was 67, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter to mourn his death.

Son of late Khan Shaheeb Syed Tajammal Ali of Dinajpur town, Husain served as a director of PDB. His *qukhuan* will be held on August 25 after Asr prayers at his 6/C, Aminabad Colony residence. Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend and pray for the departed soul.

Nazimur Rahman, a former member of the Rural Electrification Board died at his residence in city yesterday morning. He was 66, says a press release.

He was suffering from Parkinson's disease.

Rahman is survived by his wife, three daughters and two sons.

His *namaj-e-janaza* will be held at the Jame Mosque of Uttara Sector No 7 after zohr prayers today.

His *qukhuan* will be held on August 26 after Asr prayers at his Uttara residence (House no 1, Rd no 7, Sector no 7).



The activists of Sutrapur thana unit of BNP took to the streets yesterday demanding immediate arrest of the killers of Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal. — Star photo

## Dengue

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ported admitting five patients. BIRDEM three, Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital five, Bangladesh Medical College Hospital three, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital three, Suhrawardy three, Central hospital four, Samarita Hospital two and Al-Raji Hospital reported admitting six patients.

So far, 37 people have died of dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF). The number of people hospitalised since the onset of the disease has last month stands at 2,257. Currently, 240 people are undergoing treatment for the disease in different city hospitals and clinics.

Meanwhile, a joint study by scientists in Thailand and ICDDR in Bangladesh concluded that majority of the patients are infected second time with the dengue virus.

The study concluded yesterday said that type-3 or Dengue-3 was prevalent in the 100 blood samples studied since Mid July this year.

However, other experts when contacted over the phone last night contradicted the findings saying investigation on only 100 patients from a single hospital (Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital) is inconclusive especially for a country where the attack is relatively new. "We need to conduct larger epidemiological study to validate such findings," said an epidemiologist.

## Girl burnt to death as teacher's house set on fire in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Aug 23: A girl was burnt to death and her parents were seriously injured when some unidentified miscreants threw petrol on them and set fire to their house.

The incident occurred at Pirojpur village in Godagari upazila last night.

The miscreants sprayed petrol and set fire to the house when Samier Rahman, 50, the headmaster of Pirojpur High School, his wife Shamim Ara, 43, and their daughter Tamanna, 4, were sleeping. The miscreants threw petrol through the windows.

Hearing hue and cry, the neighbours rushed to the spot and rescued them. They were rushed to Premtoli Health Complex with serious burn injuries.

Tamanna succumbed to her injuries this morning.

The house was damaged and all the furniture and valuables were burnt to ashes.

A case was filed in this connection with Godagari thana today.

Police said the incident was a sequel to previous enmity over the last SSC test examination in which some students failed to qualify.

## PBCP activist

Prakash held

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 23: Prakash Biswas, 30, an activist of outlawed Purbu Banglar Communist Party, was arrested from the Paikgacha police station on Tuesday night.

He is one of the accused in Dinesh murder case filed with Dumuria thana on March 29 this year.

Dinesh Mondol, 35, ring leader of the Dumuria unit of Biplobi Communist Party was slaughtered on the night of March 28 by Shimul group of PBCP. Dead body of Dinesh was found on the bank of the river Shubarna under Dumuria thana.

Prakash went to Paikgacha thana along with Dibakar Biswas, Chairman of Paikgacha union and a veteran Awami League leader.

OC of Paikgacha thana said there are seven murder cases against Prakash lodged so far only with Paikgacha thana.

He was employed as the chief security guard of UP chairman Dibakar Biswas despite knowing the fact that Prakash alias Kala Prakash is a professional killer.

## Seminar on dengue

A seminar on 'Dengue Problem and its Prevention and Treatment' will be held at the auditorium of Institute of Nutrition and Food Science at 10:30 am on Saturday, reports UNB.

Organised by Bangladesh Biochemical Society, the seminar will be attended by Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury as chief guest.

## Contempt: Hearing resumes

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out that they filed the petition to defend the judiciary and the right of the citizens that police cannot detain a person indefinitely.

He argued that the PM's statement is designed to "obstruct the course of justice." The utterances are calculated to undermine the authority of the judiciary to grant bail. The motive or design as was made clear in her statement now under scrutiny is to uphold the word of the police and not the law." But, he went on, "blame will be borne by the court for its failure to protect people's fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. The courts and judges will thus be degraded as active participants and collaborators in the unhindered abuse of power by the police. There is scope for appeals to higher courts if there are 'well-founded' materials to justify denial of bail. But the PM and her government would not care about that."

On the AG's contention that freedom of speech should be balanced against law of contempt, Mainul Hossain said Article 39 of the Constitution makes it clear that freedom of speech is subject to law of contempt of court.

He said, "When some ministers brought out a stick procession and gave open threats that they knew where the sticks would fall, we did not rush to court."

But, he went on, "The implication of the PM's utterances is to treat judges and lawyers as extension of police 'force' and that they must obey police in refusing bail. The PM threatened the lawyers not to move bail petition. The 11 eminent lawyers who issued statement sharing the Bar's anxiety urged all including the PM not to repeat any expression derogatory for the judiciary were not only ridiculed but they were also blamed for helping the criminals."

Mainul Hossain further said, "The PM may not have realised that the deteriorating law and order could be the result of some people's carefully researched blueprint to destroy democracy and democratic Constitution. May be they are the same people who used Bangabandhu to establish one party Baksl rule. We are anxious to see the Prime Minister as a democratic PM."

Resuming his arguments, Barrister Rafiqul Haq referred to Barrister Amirul Islam's contention that there had been no contempt petition in England during the past 100 years and said the situation in Bangladesh and Britain varies in socio-economic context. "In England, single, unwed mothers are recognised, so is living together. But you would not accept my daughter living like that", he remarked.

He argued further that a person has the right to criticise a court judgement. "But if one attacks the foundation of judiciary, then it constitutes contempt and what our PM said is not criticism. She has scandalised our judiciary, judges and lawyers."

Later, Barrister Maudud Ahmed rose and asked whom Barrister Amirul Islam was representing. At this stage, the court adjourned the hearing.

## HSC results

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90 days of completion of the examinations and the deadline is August 27, another board official said.

Uncertainty gripped the publication of the results last week mainly for work stoppage by education board employees although it was reported that the results would be published on Thursday.

The employees of eight boards, including Madrassah, technical education and NCTB, are on strike to realise their four-point demand.

According to a source in Mongla port authority, two firms of international standard - one from Bangladesh and the other from Indonesia - are jointly carrying the dredging. They are to remove at least 30 lakh cubic metres of silts and muds from the river.

The first dredging was done in 1992 at a cost of Tk 45 crore. But that did not save the real purpose for making Passur navigable for foreign ships.

Deposit of silts in the river along the port has forced many sea-going vessels to anchor with loaded goods for the port.

As a result, security of both loaded goods and personal belongings of the crew could not be ensured due to rampant piracy, sources said.

## All 3 cases

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behind this, he said, "These petitions need to be rejected at the very out set on this ground alone."

Islam argued, "These malicious petitions are politically motivated. Many people became embroiled in these unwittingly, without fully realising the magnitude. Their ultimate objective is to destabilise the Republic by bringing the Head of the Executive in conflict with the other organ of the Republic."

"These petitions in the guise of contempt cases are in fact multiple subversive attempts to silence the voice of the sovereign people of the Republic. Laws relating to contempt were misrepresented and misused through these malicious petitions."

"The power of the Republic exercised by the Judiciary comes from the people and as such every citizen has the inalienable and sovereign right to hold all state functionaries including members of the Judiciary accountable through the bona fide public deliberation as long as it does not scandalise any court or judge by way of destroying or obstructing the judicial function."

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## Bangabandhu murder

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The state has appointed 11 lawyers to defend that 11 absconding convicts with death penalty in line with the legal provisions in the death reference hearing required by the law to confirm the capital punishment.

The prosecution side headed by Senior Advocate Serajul Haq is likely to start its submission and reply to the defence arguments after they are presented.

The defence lawyers appointed by the four convicts in appeal ended their appeal arguments on Sunday after 35 days of hearing when they mainly sought remission of punishments for their clients on "benefit of doubts" citing apparent contradictions in witnesses' testimonies and evidences.

The convicts facing the trial in person are former lieutenant colonels Syed Farooq Rahman (sacked), Sultan Sharif Rashid Khan, Muhiuddin Ahmed (artillery) and ex-major Bazul Huda.

The absconding convicts are: sacked Lt. Colonels Khondokar Abdur Rashid, Shariful Haque Dalim and A M Rashed Chowdhury, former Lt. Col. Mohiuddin Ahmed (Lancer), S H B M Noor Chowdhury, Abdul Aziz Pasha, former Major Shariful Hossain alias Sharful Hossain, sacked captain Kishmat Hashem, former captain Nazmul Hossain Ansari and Abdul Mazhar and former Risalder Mosleh Uddin.

## Talks adjourned

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be held up if the existing trend of cheating in the examination continues, he said, adding that the teachers must be sincere to their duties.

The teachers' representatives did not agree to the conditions of the ministers but they agreed to continue dialogue with the minister for an acceptable solution.

Among others, Principal Qumruzzaman, Sheikh Amanullah, Mohammad Akhteruzzaman, Principal Kazi Farook Ahmed, Badar Uddin Hawlader, Abdur Razzak, Principal Mazharul Hannan, Principal Nazrul Islam, Maulana Abdul Latif, Principal Mohammad Shahjahan, Principal Zahurul Islam, M Motiur Rahman, Principal Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Principal M Shariful Islam attended the meeting.

Education Secretary Kazi Rakib Uddin Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of National University Prof M Anisul Islam, Director General of Secondary and Higher Education and high officials of the Education Ministry were present.

## ETV's new programme 'Mukto Khabar'

Weekly news programme to be produced by students

By Staff Correspondent

Ekushey Television (ETV), the first private TV network in the country, has introduced its weekly news programme, *Mukto Khabar*, which will be produced and presented by students aged between 11 and 16 years.

First of its kind in Bangladesh as well as in South Asia, the programme will go on air from September 2, said Faid Chowdhury, commissioning editor and executive producer of the *Mukto Khabar*, at a press conference at the ETV office yesterday.

Drawn from various educational institutions, 32 boys and girls went through two-month special training at the ETV. They will collect news and feature items from across the country.

Chowdhury said it will be a programme for the young people by the young people.

"The team has been divided into four groups and the each group will produce a programme once a month. So, it will not hamper their studies," he said.

Addressing the programme, ETV Chairman Abu Sayeed Mahmud said, "The voice of young people will be heard on ETV and their opinions must be respected. We can learn a lot from them."

He further said "Once a year, the entire programmes of a day will be conducted by the young people."

"ETV is committed to working for the interests of young people, whoever and wherever they are," Simon Dring, MD of ETV said.

*Mukto Khabar* will expand over the next few months to include reports from young people in other countries, particularly from the South Asian countries, he said.

The programme has been undertaken by ETV News and Current Affairs in co-operation with UNICEF and Save the Children Sweden (Radda Barnen).

A five-member ETV team will assist the young reporters in producing the news programme. The 25-minute *Mukto Khabar* will be aired at 7:20 pm every Saturday.

## Rupsha Bridge

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JBIC set a vital criterion in the pre-qualification bid that would favour certain Japanese companies and disqualify or weaken the position of other bidders, some sources pointed.

In a letter to JBIC earlier this month, RHD said, "We feel that a particular requirement for a joint venture, which states that the lead partner, in addition to the other requirements, shall have necessary experience in piling would restrict many specialist contractors to meet the criteria."

"This is likely to affect the wide competition and the experienced contractors may be deprived of the opportunity to compete for the project," RHD said, urging JBIC authorities to relax the criterion.

Officially JBIC loan is "untied" and "for open competition". The project's Japanese consultant PCI prepared the pre-qualification document in March. Later, some JBIC officials changed the qualification criteria at least twice and added a criterion that the lead contractor must have necessary experience in piling, in addition to the other requirements.

Very few construction companies outside Japan have experience in piling, said an official who believes that the bidding would not be so competitive.

## Vajpayee, Mori

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biggest aid donor before it imposed the sanctions, has been pressuring New Delhi to accede to a global nuclear test ban treaty.