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All roads lead to New York

Some 150 leaders to attend UN Millennium Summit

By Rezaul Karim



Some 150 heads of state or government will attend a three-day Millennium Summit of the United Nations beginning on September 6 to address some of the major challenges of the coming decades.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave for New York on Sunday to join the largest ever gathering of world leaders at the Summit.

The theme of the Summit is "The United Nations in the 21st Century." The decision to designate the 55th session of UN General Assembly (UNGA) as the Millennium Assembly and to hold a Millennium Summit was taken by the UNGA in December 1998.

According to the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in Dhaka, the Summit will take up a host of challenging issues like how to pull billions of people out of degrading poverty, strengthen UN peace operations and deal more effectively with the world's environmental problems.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has asked world leaders

to commit to achieve by 2015 a number of targets including to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, to reduce and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and to provide basic education to all boys and girls equally.

He set these targets and other initiatives in his Millennium Report launched in April in preparation for the Summit as part of an action plan to make globalisation work for people everywhere.

The Summit is likely to be co-chaired by President of Namibia Sam Nujoma whose country holds the presidency of UNGA since its 54th session and by President of Finland Tarja Halonen whose country will take over the presidency at the 55th session which opens on September 5.

At the Summit, the world leaders will participate in one of the four interactive roundtables, each to be chaired by a nation nominated from different regions. The Heads of state or government of Algeria, Poland, Singapore and Venezuela are likely to chair those.

It is also expected that the Summit will adopt an outcome document which is being prepared through consultations in the UNGA under the leadership of its current President Theodor Gurrirab of Namibia.

A meeting of the UN Security Council at the heads of State level will be held during the Millennium Summit on September 7 to focus on peace keeping issues, especially in Africa, UNIC said.

The UN Secretary General has also invited heads of state or government to take the opportunity of the Summit to sign or deposit instruments of ratification for multilateral treaties they may not have joined as yet, especially those representing key UN objectives. Among the core treaties are those dealing with the International Criminal Court, landmines, rights of women and children and climate change.

The UN Economic and Social Council will hold an informal high level meeting of its governing bureau during the Summit to discuss the Council's recent session on information technology and how to bridge the "digital divide" separating rich and poor countries.

Kofi Annan has launched several information technology projects in his Millennium Report. The projects include a volunteer corps to provide information technology training in developing countries, a Health Inter Network to enable over 10,000 hospitals, clinics and public health facilities in poor

countries to have access up-to-date medical information via the Internet, and an initiative to provide mobile and satellite telephones to relief workers in emergencies. Each initiative has already moved into the pilot project phase.

Prior to the Summit, about a dozen women heads of state or government will join senior women officials of the UN at an informal meeting on September 5. The Council of Women World Leaders in cooperation with the UN will organise it and it will be chaired by Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in her capacity as former President of Ireland.

Earlier, a parallel people's assembly called the Millennium Forum brought together some 1,350 representatives of NGOs from more than 100 countries on May 22-26. Its Declaration which will be presented to the Summit called for a Poverty Eradication Fund, among many concrete recommendations.

Meanwhile, a three-day 53rd annual conference of NGOs organised by the Department of Public Information of UN was held in New York on August 28-30. The theme of the conference was "Global Solidarity: The Way to Peace and International Cooperation".

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With the all-devouring Padma eating right into their backyards, these women at Jafarganj under Shibalaya thana in Manikganj don't seem to mind the loss of precious pieces of land when it comes to taking a dip or filling pitchers or washing utensils.
Star photo: Anisur Rahman

BNP, allies protest killing of city Jubo Dal leader

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders and activists of BNP and its allies brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting killing of Jubo Dal activist Delwar Hossain.

Bullet-hit body of Delwar, joint secretary of Jubo Dal Ward No 86 unit, was recovered from a shanty at a slum near Dayaganj Bridge during hartal hours on Wednesday. BNP blamed the ruling Awami League for the murder and demanded arrest and trial of the killers.

The BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote and some other smaller parties of the opposition alliance brought out a joint procession from Mukhtangar yesterday afternoon.

BNP leaders Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Abdullah Al Noman, Mirza Abbas, Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Zainal Abedin Faruq MP and Rezi Ahmed, JP leaders Saifur Rahman and Abu Hossain Babla, Jamaat leaders Ali Ahsan Mujahid and ATM Ahsanul Islam, LOJ leader Abdul Latif Nazami and Jappa President Shafiqul Alam Prodhan led the procession.

Before concluding the programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club, city BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka alleged that the terrorists belonging to the Awami League brutally killed Jubo Dal leader Delwar Hossain to foil the current opposition movement.

He called upon the people to make September 6 countrywide demonstration programme a success.

Rubel murder: 18th prosecution witness cross-examined

By Court Correspondent

Abu Kaiser Monirul Haq Chowdhury, the 18th prosecution witness in the Shamim Reza Rubel Murder Case, was cross-examined in the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

Judge Mollah Mostafa Kamal adjourned the proceedings of the case till September 12. Monirul in his statement said that Munshi Atiqur Rahman, the investigation officer of the case, took him to DB office from in front of CID office on July 26, 1998.

The IO (investigation officer) recovered a stick from drawer of SI Hailul Islam Thakur, one of the accused in the case and prepared a seizure list in front of him.

He also said that he put his signature on the seizure list. All the accused including AC Akram and a local Awami League leader Mukul Begum were produced before the court yesterday.

Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 1	6-16 pm
Sept 2	5-40 am

Prayer Timings

September 1

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Juma	12-45	1-30
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-24
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

BCIC workers threaten 72-hour strike

Govt given a month to meet five-point demand

By Staff Correspondent

Workers and Employees of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) has threatened to go on a 72-hour strike on September 26, if their five-point demand is not met within a month.

The ultimatum was given at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Md. Rashidullah, co-ordinator of BCIC Sramik Karmachary Oikya Parishad read out the written statement. Among others attending the press conference were Abdul Malek, President of Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) of BCIC, M. Kamal Uddin, General Secretary of

TSP Sramik Karmachari Union and Abdul Momin, President of CBA of Zia Perilliser.

The five points of the demand are: announcement of wage board and its implementation, cancellation of tender procedures of Lira PVC factory and Ujala Match Factory, transfer of Balancing, Modernisation, Rehabilitation and Expansion (BMRE) fund into equity fund in different mills of BCIC under BMRE project, re-fixation of product prices proportionately with the increased price of gas, electricity and water, implementation of job pro-

gramme for the wards of workers and employees.

The Parishad leaders announced a month-long programme beginning on September 2 with the workers holding meetings at the main gates of factories, followed by two hour pen down/work stoppage programme on September 4 and 5, then a seven hour mass hunger strike in front of the headquarters of the organisation on September 10 and finally a 72-hour total strike from September 26.

The association also announced cessation of all activities.

See page 11 col 8



Remains of the Dholaikhal have been made a depository of untreated waste, which ultimately find their way to Buriganga river. Photo shows a portion of the canal near Loharpool at Farashganj.
Star photo: A K M Mohsin

Cases on share scam move at snail's pace

Hearing on charge framing begins September 24

By M Shamsur Rahman

Hearing on charge framing in three 1996 share scam cases will begin in the Metropolitan Sessions Court on September 24, almost three and a half years after filing of the cases, sources said.

The three sensational cases are against Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Shineeupur Holdings and Doha Securities. The accused in the cases are Sohail F Rahman, Salman F Rahman and ABM Siddiqui Rahman of Shineeupur, Sohail F Rahman, Salman F Rahman and DH Khan of Beximco Pharmaceuticals and AKM Shamsuddoha of Doha Securities.

Thousands of small investors had lost their savings as the stock market nose-dived to an unexpected low after reach-

ing unreasonable highs in 1996. The capital market watchdog, SEC, later launched an inquiry which led to filing of 15 cases on April 2, 1997 against the accused directors of listed companies and brokerage houses.

Three months later, these three accused companies filed three revision petitions with the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, which referred those to the High Court (HC) for quashment. The HC on December 9, 1997 rejected the district court's suggestion. The three companies then went to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC), which rejected the leave petitions on May 3, 1998.

The cases later came up for hearing on charge framing in

the court of First Additional Sessions Judge of Dhaka on January 3, 1999 and it continued for three days.

But the cases were recalled and sent to the newly formed Metropolitan Sessions Court on January 7. Those were then sent to the Court of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge.

The accused companies later sought transfer of the cases to the Court of Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge, who had earlier heard the cases as First Additional Sessions Judge of Dhaka.

The Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge rejected the transfer petitions and the three companies went before the HC. See page 11 col 4

Dengue: 22 more hospitalised in city

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty-two more people with dengue fever were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in the city yesterday.

The Central Control Room at the Health Directorate said, Dhaka Medical College Hospital reported admitting three patients, Milford Hospital one, Dhaka Shishu Hospital and BIRDEM two each. Bangladesh Medical College and Monwar Hospital four each, Ibn Sina Clinic two, Central Hospital in Green Road one, Samarita Hospital two and Al-Raji Hospital reported admitting one patient.

The Control Room also reported admission of nine dengue patients to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital and three to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Forty-eight people have so far died of dengue haemorrhagic fever and Shock Syndrome (DHF, DSS) across the country.

Mondal murder: Shahid's associate sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent

Bachchu, an associate of DCC ward commissioner Saidur Rahman Shahid, arrested in connection with the killing of city BNP leader Habibur Rahman Mondal, was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail after the expiry of his three-day remand yesterday.

Mondal, joint secretary of the city unit of BNP, was gunned down by unidentified assailants near his Banogram residence on August 20.

Bachchu was arrested two days after the killing and taken on remand for six days in two phases.

Police till yesterday, could not trace Asad, who was driving the motorcycle on which Mondal was going to the court on August 20 when the killing took place.

Asad has been missing since the killing. He earlier claimed to have recognised two of the killers but did not disclose their names to anyone including the victim's family, sources said.

Police also could not trace the mobile phone that the lawyer was carrying when the incident took place.

Liton murder Attachment of property of 5 accused ordered

From Staff Correspondent

KIULNA, Aug 31: The CMM has ordered attachment of property of five charged/accused in Liton murder case.

They are Golam Mowla Shanu and his younger brother Choton, Shohib, Shumon and Bakibillah. The accused are still at large.

Earlier on August 27, the CMM's Court formally accepted the charge-sheet against all the seven accused in the case. Two of them -- Monirul Islam Moima and Khur Saeed -- were released on bail.

Of the absconding accused, Shohib and Shumon are sons of Moulana Abdul Wahab alias Bulbul-e-Bangladesh.

Police said all the seven charge-sheeted accused are also suspects in S M A Rob murder case. See page 11 col 4

Speeding up the academic clock

Session at public varsities to begin in November this year

By Staff Correspondent

Classes of 2000-2001 academic session of different public universities will begin in November this year instead of July next year to reduce session jam.

Admission tests for first year honours classes will be held in October and admission will be completed by November 15. The universities will seek applications for admission at the end of next month.

The decisions were taken yesterday at a meeting of Education Minister A S H K Sadique

with University Grants Commission Chairman Prof. Zahurul Haq and Vice-chancellors of all public universities, meeting sources said. Education Secretary Kazi Rakiuddin Ahmed was also present at the meeting.

When contacted, Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury said everything will be done to implement the decisions. "We want to remove session jam and save one year from the academic session." See page 11 col 6

Teachers turn back on commitment

Makeup classes at non-government schools, colleges yet to start

By Mustak Hossain

Despite pledges to take extra classes to make up for losses caused by their 45-day strike, the teachers of non-government educational institutions are yet to live up to them.

The teachers called off their strike after government agreed to give 90 per cent of their basic salaries from the national exchequer.

Students of non-government schools, colleges and madrasahs are greatly lagging behind in their studies due to such long abstention from classes, parents and officials said regretfully, adding that any dilly-dallying now will greatly jeopardise students' future.

Most of the non-government educational institutions were not able to hold second terminal examinations as the syllabus could not be completed due to the strike, sources said.

During the strike, a total of 240 classes of class VI to X in high schools, 180 classes of class XII in intermediate level colleges, 180 classes of 1st year degree (Pass) courses, 128 classes of 1st year Honours and 98 classes each of Masters (first part) and Masters (final part) remained suspended, according to Information and Statistics Cell of Bangladesh Federation

of Teachers Association (BFTA).

However, a teacher leader said that they have already requested heads of all non-government educational institutions to take extra classes to make up for the loss.

"We shall start taking special classes from the next week," he said.

The BFTA however failed to mention anything about classes I to V that remained suspended in many schools across the country during the 45-day strike.

200 phone lines snapped in city

Nearly two hundred telephone lines were snapped yesterday as two cabinets were damaged after being hit by a truck near Bangla Motor, T & T Board sources said.

The sources said 170 connections of a telephones with the number of 50, 86 and 96 groups were damaged.

The Board conveyed inconveniences to the subscribers for the temporary disconnections and hoped that the connections would be restored within two days.

BNP's founding anniversary today

By Staff Correspondent

The 22nd founding anniversary of BNP will be observed throughout the country today.

In observance of the day, the BNP has taken up programmes, including hoisting of party flag, placing of wreath at the mazar of President Ziaur Rahman, discussion meeting and rally.

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia along with party leaders and activists will place wreath and offer fatiha at the mazar of President Ziaur Rahman, founder of the party, at 9 am today.

BNP has begun a three-day programmes yesterday through holding a discussion meeting at Engineers Institution in the city. Presided over by party vice chairman Tariqul Islam, it was addressed, among others, by Prof. A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Dr. R A Gani, Moudud Ahmed, Amanullah Aman MP and Fazlul Haq Milon.

The party will hold a grand rally and bring out a colourful procession from Paltan Maidan at 4 pm on Sunday. BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia will lead the procession.

BNP's all city and district units have chalked out a two-day programmes while the thana units have been asked to take up a day-long programme to celebrate the founding anniversary of the party.

Truck with 53 bales of poplin, Tk 11.50 lakh looted in city

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of dacoits took away a truck loaded with 53 bales of poplin and Tk 11.50 lakh in cash from in front of the office of the textile mill at Science Laboratory Road in the city in the early hours of Wednesday, police said.

The truck was parked in front of the office for delivery of the fabric, police said adding the incident took place at about 3:30 am on Wednesday. Mohammad Zakaria, director of the firm, filed a case with Dhammondi police in this regard.

Dhammondi police said that they recovered the truck and rescued the driver with some portion of the looted goods from a place near Tongi. None was arrested till filing of this report last night.

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