

What's on today....

Conference: Junior Chamber Bangladesh will inaugurate the conference on Managing the Excellence. Chief guest: Finance Minister Shah AMS Ribbia. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9:00 am.

Gathering: National Coordination Council for Annihilation of the Collaborators of 1971 (Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee) will hold a gathering to protest the attack on its member writer Shahriar Kabir. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 3:00 pm.

Education fair: Islamic University Chittagong (IUC) will organise a Business and technology Education Fair. Venue: IUC, Dhaka campus, House No 23, Rd No 3, Dhammondi. Time: 3:30 pm-8:00 pm.

Seminar: A seminar will be held on "Eradication of dengue carrier mosquitoes in an environmental friendly way." Venue: Porosh office, 9/12 Block D, Lalmitia. Time: 4:00 pm.

Discussion meeting: Visumuktibishwa Andolon (movement for a visa-free world) will hold a discussion meeting on use of manpower from poor and populated countries in the affluent countries. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Chameli House, Tophkhana Road. Time: 5:00 pm.

Monthly meeting: The regular monthly meeting of Freedom Fighters Council's (FF Council) Sector Troops freedom fighters will be held. Venue: Gano Shasthya Nagar Hospital. Time: 5:00 pm.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Shilpi* starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission, Rd No 2, Dhammondi R/A. Time: 5:30 pm.

Instrumental recital: Ustad Ayet Ali Kha Sangeet Niketan will hold an instrumental recital to mark the 28th and 33rd death anniversaries of Ustad Alauddin Kha and Ustad Ayet Ali Kha respectively. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhammondi R/A. Time: 7:15 pm.

BELA workshop: Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association will hold a 2-day long workshop on "Environmental Law and Justice" in collaboration with Judicial Training Institute (JATI) and UNDP. Venue: Jalshaghar of Hotel Purbani International.

Weather

Temperature may rise

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Barisal and Khulna divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Besides, moderately heavy to heavy rainfall is likely at a few places over Chittagong division during the period.

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

The country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 23.2 degree at Barisal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.15 pm and rises on Sunday at 5.41 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	30.7	25.0
Chittagong	32.4	24.2
Rajshahi	30.1	25.4
Khulna	31.0	24.2
Barisal	30.5	23.2
Sylhet	30.8	25.2
Cox's Bazar	29.0	25.5

HERE and THERE

Dhaka District Rover Scouts

An executive committee of Bangladesh Scouts Dhaka District Rover has been elected unanimously with Scouter Abdul Awal Bulbul as Secretary at the annual council of the organisation held at the auditorium of Dhaka Zila Parishad on August 25, says a press release.

K M Shajahan, vice-president of Dhaka District Rover Scouts and Principal of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute presided over the council.

Other newly-elected office-bearers of the 21-member executive committee are president Abdus Sattar, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Dhaka, vice-presidents-principals of Jagannath University College, Bangladesh Agriculture Institute, Dhaka Polytechnic Institute, Mirpur College and group

president of Dhaka Mid Town Open Scouts, treasurer Md Omar Ali, RSL of Dhaka Mid Town Open Scouts, joint secretary Md Atiquzzaman Ripon, RSL of Samatoh Open Scouts and Mohd Sabir Uddin Ahmed, RSL of Cosmos Open Scouts, Group President representatives principal of Mohila Polytechnic Institute, principal of Dohar-Nababganj College and group president of Red & Green Open Rover Group, rover leader representatives Mohd Jamal Uddin, RSL of Jagannath University College, Md Enamul Haque Khan, RSL of Govt SS College, Shabnam Sultana, RSL of Dhaka College Rover, Shafiqul Islam, RSL of T&T College and Mukhlesur Rahman, RSL of Khilgaon Model College, executive members Md Nasir Uddin, RSL of Govt Dhamrai College, K M Azaduzzaman, Samatoh Open Scouts and Monirul Islam Khan immediate past secretary.

Condition of Mannan Bhuiyan improving

Ailing BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan is likely to be released from hospital within a week if his condition continues to improve, reports UNB.

The patient (Bhuiyan) is improving. Hopefully, he will be released within a week, if he continues to improve at this rate. Dr Fazlulunnissa Malik told UNB at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) yesterday morning.

Bhuiyan is undergoing treatment at the hospital under the supervision of Dr Fazlulunnissa, associate professor of its cardiology department.

She said a six-member medical board is reviewing his latest condition and treatment. The team met earlier on Thursday morning and sat again yesterday morning, she said.

Work of Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre going on

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 1: The construction work of 500-seat Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre is going on in full swing, reports BSS.

The first phase work of the project is expected to be completed by May next.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader today visited the site of the project and directed the authorities concerned to complete the work by May, 2001.

Lalmonirhat DC hurt in road accident

LALMONIRHAT, Sept 1: Deputy Commissioner of the district and his son were seriously injured in a road mishap at Mithapukur of Rangpur district today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at about 11:30 am when a microbus carrying DC Tariq Karim Roy Chowdhury and his family members fell into a roadside ditch after being hit by a bus bound for Rangpur.

Chehlum

The Chehlum of Daiyan Malik, son of Malik Abdullah Al-Amin Sadi Additional District Judge, Noakhali and Fahmida Amin Mala, will be held today after Asr prayers at house No 27, road No 9/A (new), Dhammondi, says a press release.

Daiyan, a class three student of Sunnydale School, died of dengue fever on July 26.

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Sylhet Bibhag Unnayan Parishad, in observance of the 82nd birth anniversary of Bangabir M A G Osmany formed a human chain in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Motia tells 25th FAO regional confce

Food security complex, broad multi-faceted phenomenon

Minister for Agriculture Motia Chowdhury said in Yokohama, Japan yesterday the access to food and "entitlements" to food actually determine food security of a population, according to a message received here, reports BSS.

Speaking at the 25th Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) regional conference for Asia and the Pacific, Motia termed food security as a complex, broad and multi-faceted phenomenon and said sustainable food security cannot be automatically ensured only through increased food production.

She said policies and programmes relating to income generation and employment creation both on-farm and off-farm, health care services, education and nutritional awareness have to be taken to raise productivity and income of the entire population with special focus on the most vulnerable sections.

Due to inability to increase cultivable area and to create off-farm employment opportunities, the minister said, intensification of production assumes phenomenal importance for Bangladesh.

FAO, she said, can play much broader role in supporting sustainable agricultural development in general and food security measures in particular.

Motia said, "Although committed to implementing World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreement, which is in force since January 1995, we are yet to see the impact of WTO and GATT in reducing poverty and enhancing the food security."

To accelerate and make the agricultural research system effective, she said, the present government approved a revised act for agricultural research institutes.

Efforts are being made continuously to increase investment in agriculture sector through Annual Development Programme (ADP), she added.

The minister said Bangladesh achieved its production target of 25.12 million tonnes two years ahead of time, projected in the terminal year 2001-02 of the Fifth Five Year Plan.

In 1999-2000 the farmers of Bangladesh, she said produced a record harvest of 25 million tonnes of rice, wheat and maize, 32 per cent higher than that of 1995-96.

"This foodgrains production for the first time in Bangladesh exceeds the total foodgrains consumption requirement by 0.67 million tonnes," she added.

The remarkable progress in food production, the minister said, was possible due to the pragmatic policies and strategies undertaken by the government since it has come to the power since June 1996.

She said the production and availability of non-cereal protein food has also increased significantly consequent upon a sustained growth rate of over 8 per cent per annum in the fishery and livestock sub-sectors in recent years.

Motia said it has been imperative to increase both the cropping intensity and yields in such a way that preserves the natural resource base in the country.

The government, she said, recently adopted the National Agriculture Policy which gives guidelines on managing the agriculture in the new millennium efficiently and competitively to ensure food security for the teeming millions.

The food policy of the government includes ensuring food price stability through public sector import of foodgrains, procurement of locally produced rice and wheat, improvement of the nutritional status of the vulnerable groups by restructuring the public food distribution system, she added.

The minister expressed the hope that the conference would help find the rural masses in the Asia-Pacific region and to gain access to the factors of production and thereby improving our quality of life.



Members of Feni Samity in Dhaka brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding free treatment for dengue fever. — Star photo

New FBUTA office-bearers

Dr R I M Amrur Rashid and Dr M A Matin were elected president and general secretary respectively of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association yesterday, reports UNB.

Other office bearers elected unopposed are: Vice-Presidents - Prof Muhammad Sabdar Ali, Prof Amin Uddin Mridha and Prof Dr Muhammad Abdus Sobhan, Treasurer - Prof Dr Muhammad Abul Kashem and Joint Secretary - Rashed Al Mahmood Titumir.

Islamic University did not participate in the election.

North, S Korea agree to hold military talks

SEOUL, Sept 1: North and South Korea today agreed during a new round of peace talks in Pyongyang to hold military talks "at an early date" to reduce decades of military tension, a joint statement said, reports AFP.

The agreement paved the way for a dramatic turn in relations between the two Koreas which have remained technically at war since the 1950-53 bloody conflict.

"The South and North (Korea) should make efforts to reduce tension and secure peace, and in a related step, discuss ways to hold military talks at an early date," said a seven-point joint statement released in Seoul.

India, Myanmar agree to combat drug trafficking

NEW DELHI, Sept 1: India and Myanmar agreed to combat cross-border drug trafficking and boost two-way trade during three days of talks in Yangon, officials said today, reports AFP.

The Indian mission, led by Secretary of Home Affairs Kamal Pande, met leading Myanmar officials, including Junta Secretary General, Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, foreign ministry spokesman Raminder Jassal said.

The two sides reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of measures for ensuring security along the India-Myanmar border and pledged to further strengthen their bilateral cooperation in this regard," he said.

"They also welcomed the completion, by the end of the year, of the Tama-Kalewa highway project, which will significantly improve cross-border transport, and communication between the two countries."



Members of Russel National Shishu Kishore Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday to protest the hoisting of a Pakistani flag on August 14 at the house of Jahangir Mohammad Adel. They also protested the killing of Kamal following his protest over hoisting of the flag. — Star photo

Osmani's birth anniversary observed

The 82nd birth anniversary of General Muhammad Atila Ghanai Osmanli, the commander-in-chief of freedom fighters was observed yesterday, reports UNB.

To mark the occasion, Jatiya Janata Party held a discussion at Osmani Udyan with its president Sheikh Asad in the chair.

Participants in the discussion demanded of the government to publish books written by Osmani on the War of Liberation, name a cricket stadium in Dhaka after Osmani and turn the Osmani Udyan into a national venue for public meeting.

Indian SC blocks release of 30 prisoners

NEW DELHI, Sept 1: India's Supreme Court blocked today the release of 30 prisoners who formed a core ransom demand of the bandit kidnapper of Indian film icon Rakumar, reports AFP.

Liton murder

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tion offices and border check-posts have been asked to help arrest Molna as he is a chargesheeted accused in Liton murder case and one of the suspects in Rob murder case.

Police are looking for the criminal in connection with four sensational murders committed in Khulna, Jessore and Bagerhat districts recently.

Four out of eleven wanted persons belong to different fronts of the ruling party, said a source in KMP.

Fax messages have also been sent to DMP and police superintendents of different districts of the country to help arrest these criminals, said KMP sources.

Political persons named in journalist Shamsur Rahman and AL Mayoral candidate SMA Rob murder cases are being watched wherever they go, said a high official of KMP.

On the other hand, security arrangement has been strengthened in and around the residence of SMA Rob on request of his eldest son Arifur Rahman Mithu.

Dhaka, Thimpu

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to be done within next six months," said an official announcement.

As per protocol, Bhutan can use land and air routes for commodity transportation. Bangladesh requested Bhutan to send formal proposal when the Himalayan Kingdom proposed to use naval routes to increase bilateral trade.

The two sides will sit for a meeting in the Bhutanese capital Thimpu next year to review bilateral trade scenario.

The minutes contain detailed review of trade between the two neighbouring countries as well as ways of enhancing trade volume.

Bhutanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Dashedo Latu Wangchuk and senior officials were present in the signing ceremony.

2 murdered

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cumbed to his injuries at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital last night. Jahangir received severe stab injuries in his head.

Some unidentified assailants stabbed Jahangir whole he was working at a chilli-field in the evening.

He was first admitted to Mohepur Thana Health Complex and then Jhenidah Sadar Hospital in critical condition where he died.

Separate cases were filed with respective thanas.

JCD workers

From page 1

other day.

BNP suspended JCD activities for an indefinite period on July 7, a day after feuding factions of the student organisation clashed on the DU campus, leaving one dead and many injured.

Later, a four-member BNP committee comprising Dr. Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, Tariqul Islam, Mirza Abbas and Ashraf Hossain was assigned to report to Chairperson Khaleda Zia, stating reasons for the internecine conflicts in JCD and suggestions for remedies.

The committee report is learnt to be ready for submission to the chairperson, who may withdraw the moratorium on JCD activities and announce a new committee of the organisation any time.

The future role of JCD which always played an important part in BNP politics, especially during street agitation and election campaign, is seen as very crucial as the main opposition party is preparing to fight the ruling Awami League in the upcoming elections.

The JCD's general members expect dedicated, sincere and non-terrorist leaders to take over the organisation at this hour of crucial political need, but the terrorists' group is learnt to be trying to stage a comeback.

JCD suffered a lot due to internal feuds since the organisation was founded on January 1, 1978. It had its worst experience of internal conflicts during the anti-Ershad movement in the '90s.

Congratulations



Anwar stands second in JB Science group

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 1: Mohammad Abdullah Ibne Anwar of Barisal Cadet College secured 2nd position in the HSC examination from Science Group under Jessore Education Board this year.

He obtained 953 marks with distinction in four subjects.

Anwar stood first in the SSC examination of 1998 from this college from Science Group.

His father Md. Anwar Hossain is a Deputy Director of the Social Welfare office at Bhola. He is the eldest son.

Anwar, who wants to join Bangladesh army in future, loves sports.

Zurana stands first in DB Humanities group

By DU Correspondent

Zurana Aziz Keka of Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College topped the combined merit list in Humanities Group under Dhaka Board with 877 marks and distinction in four subjects.

Jurana is the second daughter among four children of Syed Abdul Aziz, an official of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel and Majeda Aziz.

She wants to be a university teacher and intends to study English literature or Law in the Dhaka University.

Jurana, who also stood first in the combined merit list in the SSC examination from the same institution used to study as per discipline enforced by school and she did not have any private tutor.

She thanked her parents and teachers who had inspired her for doing such brilliant result.

Jurana likes to read book and listening to music, specially Tagore songs, is her hobby.

She does not like student politics.



Mamun wants to study literature

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 1: Md. Al Mamun of Anurrital Dey College of Barisal stood 2nd from Humanities Group in the combined merit list in the HSC examination under Jessore Education Board this year.

He obtained 895 marks with distinctions of three subjects. His father Md. Khalilur Rahman hails from Rajapur of Jhalakati district.

Mamun is the fourth son out of four children. He loves to play cricket and read books.

He wants to pursue higher studies in English literature.

Mamun said his father and mother are the sources of inspiration in his life. He used to study for 4 to 5 hours a day.

Ruhul wants to join the army

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 1: Md Ruhul Amin of Barisal Cadet College secured 2nd position from Science Group in combined merit list in the HSC examinations under Jessore Education Board this year.

He obtained 953 marks with distinctions of four subjects.

Ruhul Amin stood 14th in the SSC examinations from Science Group in combined merit list in 1998.

His father Md. Sohrab Hossain of Gopalganj is a businessman.

Ruhul, the eldest son of his parents, wants to join the army in future.



Arafat seeks a career in the army

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 1: Arafat Hasan of Barisal Cadet College secured 7th position in the HSC examination under Jessore Education Board in the combined merit list from Science group this year.

He obtained 932 marks with distinctions in four subjects.

He also stood 11th in the SSC examination in 1998.

Arafat is only son of Mohammad Hasan, an assistant Engineer of Public Works Department (PWD) at Chittagong.

Arafat wants to join Bangladesh Army in future.

Bari stands 8th in JB Humanities gp

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 1: Mohammad Abdul Bari of Barisal Cadet College secured 8th place in the HSC examination from Humanities Group under Jessore Education Board this year.

He obtained 863 marks with distinctions in three subjects.

Bari stood 3rd from Humanities Group in the SSC examinations in 1998.

His father Mizanur Rahman is a businessman of Kalaroa in Satkhira district and his mother a housewife.

Bari wants to be an army officer in future.

US embassy to be closed on Sunday

The American Embassy and its attached departments in Dhaka will remain closed on Sunday on the occasion of Labour Day, reports UNB.

The embassy, the US Information Service (USIS), the USIS Information Resource Centre and Student Counselling Service, will remain closed on the day as it's a government holiday of the United States, a USIS press release said yesterday.

Abdullah wants to be an army officer

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 1: Abdullah Al Hashib of Barisal Cadet College secured 8th position in the HSC examination under Jessore Education Board from Science Group in the combined merit list this year.

Hashib obtained 931 marks with distinction of four subjects.

He stood 15th in the SSC examination in 1998, in the combined merit list from Science Group.

Hashib's father Harun Ar Rashid is a senior scientific officer of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute at Gazipur.

Hashib's hobbies include reading books. He wants to be officer in the army.