

## News

## What's on today....

**Conference:** Junior Chamber Bangladesh will inaugurate the conference on Managing the Excellence. Chief guest: Finance Minister Shah AMS Ribia. 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 Shahrir 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, Dhamondi. Time: 3:00 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, Lalmoni. Time: 4:00 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Visamuktabishwa 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, Topkhana 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 Suchita Sen. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission, Rd No 2, Dhamondi 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, Dhamondi R/A. Time: 7:15 pm.

**BEZA 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: Jalsaghara 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, 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 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                    | Morning                | Evening |    |
| Dhaka       | 30.7                   | 25.0                   | 94      | 76 |
| Chittagong  | 32.4                   | 24.2                   | 100     | 79 |
| Rajshahi    | 30.1                   | 25.4                   | 92      | 96 |
| Khulna      | 31.0                   | 24.2                   | 100     | 83 |
| Barisal     | 30.5                   | 23.2                   | 96      | 83 |
| Sylhet      | 30.8                   | 25.2                   | 88      | -  |
| Cox's Bazar | 29.0                   | 25.5                   | 100     | 86 |

## 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 Shahjahan, vice-president of Dhaka District Rover Scouts and Principal of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute presided over the council.

Other newly-elected office-bearer of the 21-member executive committee are president Abdus Sattar, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Dhaka, vice-presidents-principals of Jaganmohani University College, Bangladesh Agriculture Institute, Dhaka Polytechnic Institute, Mirpur College and group 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 Fazilatunnesa Malik told UNB at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) yesterday morning.

Bhuiyan is undergoing treatment at the hospital under the supervision of Dr Fazilatunnesa, 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 AFP.

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

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## Chehlim

The Chehlim of Daiyan Malik, son of Malik Abdurrahman Al-Amin Sadi Additional District Judge, Noakhali and Fakhima Amin Mal, will be held today after Asr prayers at house no 27, road no 9/A (new), Dhamondi, 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 Bangabandhu 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, she added.

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 tons 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 Aminur Rashid and Dr M A Matin were elected president and general secretary respectively of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association yesterday, reports BSS.

Other office bearers elected unopposed are: Vice-Presidents - Prof Muhammad Sabir Ali, Prof Amin Uddin Mridha and Prof Dr Muhammed Abdus Sobhan, Treasurer - Prof Dr Muhammad Abdul Kashem and Joint Secretary - Rashed Al Mahmud 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 Tamu-Kalewa highway project, which will significantly improve cross-border transport, and communication between the two countries," he said.

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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 terrorist group is likely 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.

— Star photo

## Osmani's birth anniversary observed

The 82nd birth anniversary of General Muhammad Ataul Ghani Osmani, the commander-in-chief of freedom fighters was observed yesterday, reports UNB.

To mark the occasion, Jatiya Janata Party held a discussion at Osmani Udayan with its leader 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 Udayan 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 Moina as he is a charged 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, Jessor 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.

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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.

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