

News

What's on today....

Inauguration: Property Development Ltd will inaugurate Banarashi Mela. Chief guest: State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Prof Zinnatun Nesa Talukdar. Venue: Property Plaza, 66 New Circular Road (Near Mouchak Market). Time: 10.00 am.

Jamdani Exhibition: A weeklong exhibition of "Sonargaon Jamdani" sarees will be inaugurated. Organiser: Bangladesh Sanjukta Tanti Samity (BSTS). Venue: Eurotouch, Rane House NW (J)-2 Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Gulshan-2. Time: 11.00 am.

Seminar: Cultural Centre of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Academy of Darul Ihsan University will jointly organise a seminar on "Mysticism of Maulana Rumi". Venue: Cultural Centre's auditorium, House No 54, Rd No 8/A, Dhamondi. Time: 4.45 pm.

Sitar recital: The High Commission of India will present a "Sitar Recital" by Kiriti Khan, son of Ustad Bahadur Khan and grandson of Ustad Alauddin Khan. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, 754 Satnasjid Road, Dhamondi. Time: 7.00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Photo exhibition: In observance of the International Day of Peace 2000 and the opening of Millennium Summit of the United Nations, the UN System in Bangladesh will organise a three-day UN Poster and Photo exhibition. Time: 10:00 am. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur Road.

Chief guest Minister of Finance, Shah A M S Kibria will inaugurate the exhibition. Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka will be present as special guest. The function will be presided over by the UN Resident Coordinator Jorgen Lissner.

Weather

Light rain likely

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

Moderate to heavy falls may occur at places over Chittagong division and the day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, the Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Chuadanga and the lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Barisal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.13 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.41 am.

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

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in Percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

HERE and THERE

Rickshaw Sramik League

President of Jatiya Rickshaw Sramik League Shukkur Ahmed yesterday demanded immediate execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case for establishing rule of law in the country, reports BSS.

"Rule of law, transparency and accountability of the judiciary must be ensured with the implementation of the verdict of the Bangabandhu Murder Case," he said at a meeting held at the Party Central office in the city.

Central leader of the organisation Nurul Islam chaired the meeting.

Among others, Awami League leader Mohammad Mijan, Faizuddin Mijan, Mohammad Yunus Ali Mollah, Organising Secretary of the Sramik League Central Committee, Mohammad Moshraf Hossain and Abu Daud spoke on the occasion. The meeting formed a 30-member Dhaka City Rickshaw Sramik League committee with Nurul Islam and Mohammad Shorab Hossain as president and General Secretary.

CDC

The launching ceremony of Centre for Development Organisation (CDC) a development organisation, was held at its Urfara office with Chairperson Sabina Hedayet Afroz in the chair, says a press release.

Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury, joint secretary, APD and Dr. Mostafa M. Kamal, president, Bangladesh American University were present among others.

A general meeting and a cultural programme followed the launching ceremony, where all members of the executive and general council were present. They discussed various issues concerning the future activities of the organisation.

Ashraf Uddin Ahmed and Nargis Sultana, members of the Executive Council, Was Mahub, general secretary, A.K.M. Mazharul Islam, Secretary, Research and Development, Mohammad Mohsin, Ziaur Rahman, Ummi Qulsum Ratna, A.K. Sabir Mahub were, among others, who participated in the discussion.



Abdul Hamid's death anniversary today

The 32nd anniversary of death of Abdul Hamid Chowdhury, former Speaker of eastward Provincial Assembly will be observed today, says a press release.

Qurankhwan and milad mahfil have been arranged beside his mazar at Naghari in the district of Tangail. A memorial meeting will also be held at Naghari Hasina Chowdhury High School, of which he was the founder.

He renounced "Khan Bahadur" title conferred upon him by the British Raj in support of the freedom movement of the sub-continent. Late President Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury was his only son. Minister of State Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Chairman Bangladesh Institute of Peace Abul Kasem Chowdhury are his grandsons.



Shafiul Azam's anniversary of birth observed

The 77th birth anniversary of S.M. Shafiul Azam, former chief secretary of East Pakistan, secretary to the central govt of Pakistan, cabinet secretary and Minister of justice, commerce and industry, energy & mineral resources of the govt. of Bangladesh was observed yesterday, says a press release.

In observance of the day, S.M. Shafiul Azam Memorial Committee chalked out elaborate programmes to recall the contributions he made to the country in various fields. Special programmes were also held at Dr Muhammadul Haque Government Primary School and Latifa Khatoon Furkania Madrassah at his village home in Chittagong. Special prayers were also offered in his memory and aims were distributed to the destitute on the occasion.

Birth anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad observed

By Staff Correspondent. Gunjion Smitra Sangsad (GSS) organised a discussion meeting and Doa Mahfil in the city yesterday to mark the 102 birth anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad.

Addressing the discussion, speakers said Abul Mansur Ahmad was a great man with outstanding merit and personality.

He contributed a lot for the development of country's politics, journalism, literature and law," they added.

Presided over by GSS president Md Noman, the programme was addressed, among others, by Mohsin Kabir, Zahangir Alam, Md Delwar Hossain, Faridur Rahman Zahid, Sirajul Islam Patowary and Md Kaikobad. The discussion meeting was followed by a Doa and Milad Mahfil.

Army chief

From page 1. laws passed by the parliament. So, the army chief has to be accountable to parliament, the committee said.

The army chief then said that the courts martial were done according to law and confirmed by officers holding the rank of Major General and above.

At this point, Major (Rtd) Akhteruzzaman asked him if all the generals were correct in their actions, then why the army is now taking "action" against Major General Imamuzzaman.

The army chief then claimed that Major General Imamuzzaman was being retired as per his request.

Imamuzzaman was called to the army headquarters by the army chief through the Chief of General Staff.

At this point, suggestions were made for review of performances of the present and former army chiefs by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, as per the Constitution.

The sub-committee in its report submitted yesterday said those who were court-martialled and sentenced to death and various other terms were deprived of self-defence during trial. In some cases, relevant laws were either not abided by or applied.

It further observed that they were sentenced without any witness or evidence and the verdicts were pre-planned. So, the sub-committee felt that they were wrongly sentenced.

The sub-committee also recommended Tk 20 lakh compensation each for the families of those who were hanged. Those who were jailed should get their pension and Tk 10 lakh compensation each and those who lost their jobs should get pension.

According to sources, some 35 army men were sentenced, 12 of them hanged, for their alleged involvement in the killing of president Zia.

Blue panel

From page 12. Asaduzzaman, dean of Faculty of Social Sciences (494 votes). Prof. Khalilur Rahman of the Department of Biochemistry (429 votes). MD. Mohobbat Ali of the Department of Accounting (439 votes). Prof. Syed Abul Kalam Azad, dean of Faculty of Business Studies (491 votes) and Prof. Syed Rashidul Hasan of the Department of Marketing (415 votes).

The only independent candidate, Badrun Naher, associate professor of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science got only 265 votes. The left-leaning "Pink Panel" did not contest in this year's election. A total of 980 teachers out of 1060 voters cast their votes to elect the new teachers' representatives in the Senate. The elected representatives along with other Senate members will choose a new Vice-Chancellor as the tenure of the incumbent VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury expires on September 23.

DU Treasurer Prof. Abul Hashem conducted the election as election commissioner. Inside the jail in a planned way and the accused tried to wipe out all the evidences of the rape case. Some police personnel were involved in it, he said. The accused include the then District Police Super, Abdur Rouf, Jailer Abdur Rub, three former jail superiors Mosharrar Hossain, Aminul Islam and Md Mostafa, the then Civil surgeon Anzad Hossain, medical officers Dr Md Shah Alan and Dr Md Salahuddin, three Investigation Officers (IO) of the case, SI Iqbal Hossain, ex-CID Inspector Sirajul Islam and four accused in Seema rape case - SI Uttam Kumar, Constable Sadek Ali, Abul Bashir and Goura Chandra Karmoker. Seema Chowdhury was gang-raped inside Raozan thana on September 9 in 1996. She later died mysteriously during trial of the rape case. Four police personnel were convicted in the rape case. Later, an evidence hiding case was filed by Elna Khan of BSEHR which is now under trial at the District Sessions Judge's Court. Advocate Kafiuddin conducted the case for the plaintiff. Referring to unity of the op-

Draft voter list

From page 1. Hafizuddin Ahmed's claim that many voters were doubly registered and fictitious names were included in his Biola-3 constituency.

Another committee has completed investigation into BNP leader Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi's allegation of inconsistency in the percentage of fall and rise in voters' number in some areas of the Feut-2 constituency.

A three-member committee has been formed to probe allegation by Fisheries and Livestock Minister and JSD President ASM Abdur Rab that voters from outside Laxmipur-4 constituency were included in the electorate.

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Choudhury's allegation of anomalies in the list, and allegation of Amir Khoshru Mahmud Choudhury, BNP lawmaker from the area, that some 800 voters were penned off from his Chittagong-8 constituency and were enlisted with another constituency. Reports on the two allegations have also been submitted.

Reports of investigation into other charges of various flaws in the draft list, mainly from political activists, have also been submitted.

Apart from looking into written complaints, the EC also sent teams to check out the draft list in areas where the list appeared to be abnormal or there were press reports of irregularities.

During the registration of voters, the EC sent officials in an attempt to have on-the-spot reports from 30 districts where registration forms more than the stipulated number were taken by the local authorities.

After the publication of draft list, the EC officials went to 10 other districts that showed a 30 per cent rise in the number of voters than those in the previous list.

Meanwhile, the EC has already received revised voter list from all but Barisal division. After publishing the final list

Govt to stay

From page 1. as per the constitutional provision.

The present government had attained socio-economic development and proved it was most effective and efficient government among the governments which ruled the country after 1975, he said. Members of the working committee and advisory council attended the meeting.

Ctg HSC exam centre

From page 1. He said, the college authorities have formed a three-member body to probe the allegations against Saidul.

Officials of Education Ministry could not be contacted for comments regarding the suggestion for action against Mujibur Rahman.

The probe body report was submitted to the then Chairman of Chittagong Board Dr Enayetur Rahman. Instead of acting on the report, he formed another committee for fresh investigation. The second committee found no irregularities.

The Board went for action as per the first report after Enayetur Rahman's transfer in June this year.

Meanwhile, our Staff Correspondent reported from Chittagong that Pallabi Datta of Ispahani Public School and College who was placed in the second position in HSC examination in 1998 would now be placed in the first position.

Fahima Ahmed of Agrabad Girls College who was 19th would be placed in the 18th position, he quoted the Secretary of the Board as saying.

AL has once again

From page 1. Paltan Maidan from 3 p.m. and the entire area turned into a sea of humanity within a couple of hours.

The concluding programmes started with a special prayer seeking divine blessing for the welfare of the country and peace of the soul of late President Ziaur Rahman. City BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka MP chaired the function. Khaleda Zia in her 10-minute speech said Awami League, through its two terms, has clearly proved that it party is incapable of running the state affairs smoothly due to the fact that its leaders and policy makers are "incompetent".

She said in the last four years Awami League has devalued taka 17 times, enhanced price of electricity six times and gas price three times. It has ruined the economy and the education system and politicised administration apart from carrying out resorted to repression on the people and opposition leaders and activists.

The BNP chief said life of the citizens are not safe at all the country as long as the party is in power since corruption, extortion and terrorism have assumed an alarming proportion.

Khaleda Zia said the government of Ziaur Rahman and her government worked tirelessly to develop the country. But Awami League is destroying everything one after another. "The AL does not know how to build... it knows very well how to destroy". Referring to unity of the op-

on October 26, the EC will reopen the process of inclusion of fresh names in the list. Voters to be listed until the schedule for the next general election will be allowed to vote in that election.

Earlier, the EC offices across the country received some 6,000 claims for inclusion or exclusion of names and correction of facts in the draft list during a 15-day public exhibit of the list, which was published on July 18.

The local authorities completed revising the draft list by settling the public claims on August 20.

Ershad: Writ

From page 1. Advocate Khondaker Mahbob Hossain filed the writ on behalf of Ershad.

The writ challenged the August 30 notification declaring Ershad's Rangpur-3 Jatiya Sangsad seat vacant following a High Court verdict in the Janata tower case.

The verdict, upholding a lower court verdict with some amendments, sentenced Ershad to five years imprisonment and fined him Tk 5.5 crore.

The notification was signed by the Additional Secretary of Jatiya Sangsad.

The Additional Secretary has been made the main respondent, followed by the Speaker and the Election Commission.

Ershad came to the affidavit section of the HC and left soon after signing the affidavit. He did not appear before the court.

UNB adds: The writ petition challenged the authority of the Additional Secretary to issue such a notice while the Speaker was out of the country. It sought a rule declaring the order illegal.

The order violated constitutional provisions and also Ershad's fundamental right on the question of principles of natural justice because he was not notified before issuance of the order, the petition said.

Jatiya Sangsad in its notification said: "As per Article 66(2) (GHA) of the Constitution, Ershad is no longer qualified to remain a member of Parliament following his conviction by the High Court."

Article 66(2) (GHA) says: "A person shall be disqualified for election as, or for being, a member of Parliament who has been, on conviction for a criminal offence involving moral turpitude, sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years, unless a period of five years has elapsed since his release."

Non-govt teachers' rally at Paltan Maidan Sept 10

By Staff Correspondent. Teachers of non-government primary schools in the capital city are yet to join in the strike called by Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers' Association demanding nationalisation of their institutions.

The teachers will hold a grand rally on September 10 at Paltan Maidan to press home their demands.

Gen Imam

From page 1. Imam as the then GOC of 9 Division based at Savar ordered tanks and troops to defend the Constitution in May, 1996 when some ambitious military officers led by the then Chief of Army Staff made an aborted attempt to disrupt the democratic process. The country was then preparing for general elections under the Caretaker government.

A military analyst noted that two Major Generals, both repatriated officers, were given extension of service while dozens of freedom fighters were retired prematurely. The two -- Mahbubur Rahman who was CGS and AM Siraj who was Military Secretary to the President -- were given extension.

Vested property

From page 1. nority Hindus.

"The Hindu community wants to see complete repeal of the law. We seek the cooperation and support of all including members of parliament when a bill on the law would be placed in Jatiya Sangsad," he said.

Gano Forum chief and leading lawyer Dr. Kamal Hossain welcomed the government decision saying, "It was long overdue."

"Everybody now expects there will be no delay in repealing the law," he said. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader Hasanul Haque Ina called the government decision a courageous initiative for equal civic rights and rule of law and said, "The issue should not be linked with politics of election."

He said the then Pakistani government enacted the law to destroy economically the minority Hindu community and expel them from this country. Unfortunately, no governments after independence took any initiative to repeal the law.

Communist Party (CPB) leader Mujahidul Islam Salim said the progressive parties, including the CPB and Awami League had decided their stand "in principle" on the issue even before the emergence of Bangladesh.

A decision in principle on the issue is nothing new. It is already late and we want to see this black law scrapped immediately," he said. Hindu Bouddha Christian Ojika Parishad leader Prof. Nim Chandra Bhounmik said though late, the initiative of the Cabinet is a positive indication.

The demand for repealing Vested Property Act has turned into a national demand," he said urging the government to take necessary steps to repeal the law in the coming parliament session.

PM to address

From page 1. eign Secretary Shafi Sami. Secretary and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr S A Samad.

At a press briefing, only hours before the team's departure, Foreign Secretary Shafi Sami disclosed that Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad would not accompany the Prime Minister as he fell sick due to allergic reaction from some medicines in London. He returned to Dhaka on Friday after attending the Al Quds Committee Meeting in Morocco. A high-powered medical board is looking after his health.

The press briefing was attended by Hemayetuddin, Director General, United Nations and Hossain Komol, Director General of External Publicity.

Sami said the Prime Minister's speech at the UN and the Security Council would give thrust on poverty alleviation, empowerment of women and children, and on global and regional peace and security. She will also speak on globalisation and its impact.

Hasina's speech, to be delivered in Bangla, will keep in perspective the UN Millennium Summit's theme, "Role of the UN in the 21st century," he said. Besides participating in the UN Summit, Hasina will hold bilateral meetings with her counterparts. A dozen bilateral meetings have already been scheduled and more may take place depending on mutual convenience. She will hold meetings with leaders from India, Pakistan, Argentina, Ukraine, Jordan, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, the Philippines, Qatar and Columbia.

The Prime Minister will attend a meeting hosted by US President Bill Clinton on September 6. She is also expected to join a breakfast meeting to be hosted by Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Hasina, during her stay in US, will be conferred an Honorary Doctorate degree by the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut. She will also attend a reception to be hosted by the Bangladesh community in New York.

The Prime Minister will return on September 11. She will again visit the US on her first official trip on October 17.

Congratulations

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Sept 3: Jhenidah Cadet College has produced excellent results in this year's HSC examinations under Jessore Board.

A total of nine students secured positions in the combined merit lists of science, humanities and commerce groups.



Nahid seeks a career in the army

Mir Nahid Mahmud has stood first in the combined merit list of Humanities group under Jessore Board in this year's HSC exams.

Nahid secured 933 marks with distinctions in four subjects. He is the son of Mir Rownak Ali, Thana Ansar and VDP officer at Fultala thana in Khulna district.

Nahid, who loves to read books, used to study for eight hours each day. He wants a career in the army.



Maruf stands fifth in JB science

Md Maruf Hossain has stood fifth in the combined merit list of science group under Jessore Board in this year's HSC examinations.

Maruf secured 939 marks with distinctions in four subjects. He is the son of Enayet Hossain, a businessman at Soudanga in Khulna.

Maruf wants to join the army in future.



Amin wants to serve the nation

JSM Iftekarul Amin has stood third in the combined merit list of the science group under Jessore Board in this year's HSC exams.

He secured 951 marks with distinctions in four subjects. Amin is the son of Sheikh Ruhul Amin.

He used to study for eight hours each day before his exams. Amin who loves to read books, wants to join the army to serve the nation.



Junayed stands 13th in JB science

Khan Mohammad Junayed Shajib has obtained the 13th position in the combined merit list of science group under JB in this year's HSC exams.

He obtained 910 marks with distinctions in four subjects. Junayed is the son of Group Captain Khan Mohammad Nazeb who is director of Air Operation at Dhaka Cantonment.

Like his father, Junayed wants to serve in the army.



Rezoanoor stands fourth in JB science

Md Rezoanoor Rahman has stood fourth in the combined merit list of science group under Jessore Board in this year's HSC exams.

He obtained 943 marks with distinctions in five subjects. Rezoanoor is the son of Md Razidur Rahman, a businessman of Sarsa thana in Jessore district.

Rezoanoor, who used to study for eight hours each day, also seeks a career in the army.

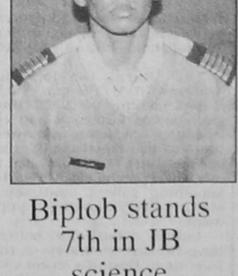


Khaled wants to serve in the army

Khaled Shams Md Shahed Jamil has stood 15th in the combined merit list of science group under Jessore Board in this year's HSC examinations.

He secured 906 marks with distinctions in four subjects. Khaled's father, late Naziruddin, lived at Purbabandhipara in Jessore.

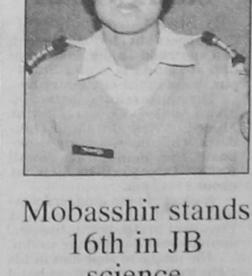
Khaled, who loves to read, seeks a career in the army.



Biplob stands 7th in JB science

Biplob Kumar Daas stood seventh in the combined merit list of science group under Jessore Board in this year's HSC exams.

Biplob obtained 932 marks with distinctions in four subjects. Biplob's father, late Dulal Krisno Daas, is from Noapara, Jessore. Biplob wants to join the army.



Mobasshir stands 16th in JB science

Md Mobasshir has stood 16th in the combined merit list of science group under Jessore Board in this year's HSC exams.

He secured 904 marks with distinctions in three subjects. Mobasshir is the son of Abdur Shukur, headmaster of Kapashatia Government Primary School in Harinakunda thana in Jhenidah. Mobasshir too wants to join the army.