

What's on today....

NSU orientation: The orientation programme of the new students of North South University's English and Computer Science departments will be held. Venue: NSU campus. Time: 10.00 am and 11.00 am respectively.

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.

Meeting: The emergency meeting of the Sammitito Anjibhi Samannaya Parishad (SASP) will be held. Venue: Conference room of Bangladesh Bar Council. Time: 4.00 pm.

Founding anniversary: The weekly Begum will hold a function to celebrate its golden jubilee. Chief guest: Dr Nilima Ibrahim. Venue: Dhaka Ladies Club, Eskaton Garden. Time: 4.30 pm.

Film Show: Rainbow Film Society will screen *Path of Death and Angels* and the Alchemust and the virgin by Zoltan Kramdi. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhamondir R/A. Time: 5.30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Exhibition: The second solo news exhibition of freelance journalist Shahiduzzaman Badal will be inaugurated. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road. Time: 5.30 pm.

Film show: Rainbow Film Society will screen *My Name is Joe* by Ken Loach and *Nadro* by Luana Massetti. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhamondir R/A. Time: 5.30 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

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

Moderately heavy falls may occur at places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and the day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.4 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 23.5 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.12 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.42 am.

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

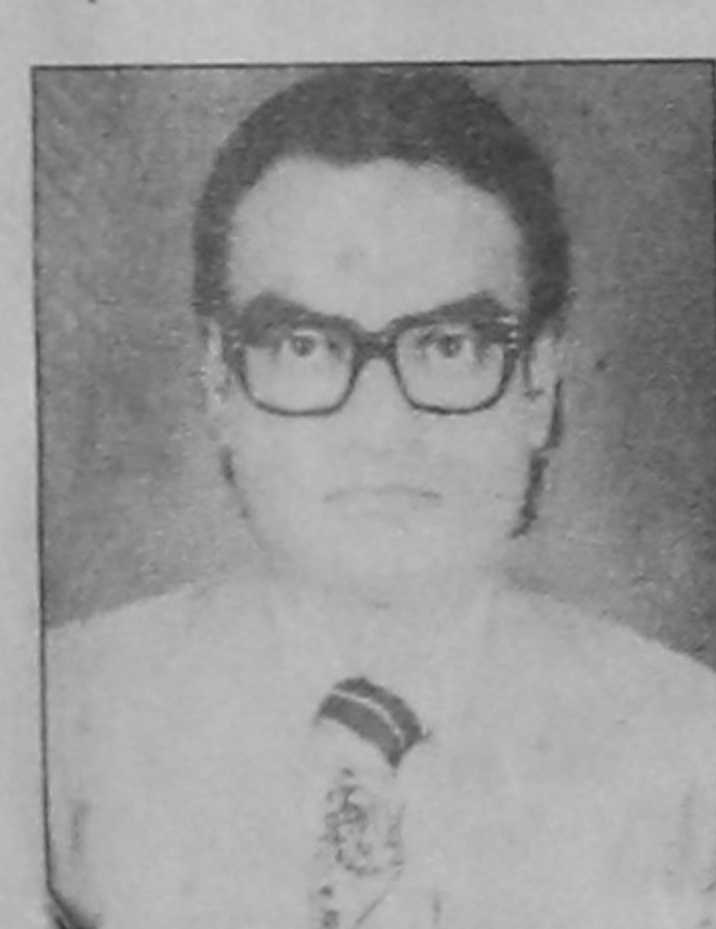
| City/Town | Temperature in Celsius | Humidity in Percentage |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Dhaka | 31.0 | 82 |
| Chittagong | 29.3 | 85 |
| Rajshahi | 31.8 | 87 |
| Khulna | 32.6 | 90 |
| Barisal | 30.5 | 90 |
| Sylhet | 26.0 | 100 |
| Cox's Bazar | 31.7 | 84 |

Abducted girl rescued in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Sept 4: Sadar thana police rescued a school girl on Sunday night four days after her abduction by local *mastans*.

The girl Shaily, 13, is a student of Class IV Bangabandhu High School.

Police arrested Idris Biswas in this connection. Shaily and her friend Putuli were abducted on August 30 on their way to school by Idris and Monir at gunpoint. Putuli managed to escape and informed others.



Freedom fighter Abdul Hamid dead

Noted freedom fighter and retired director of Department of Environment Abdul Hamid died at Delta Hospital yesterday afternoon. He was 58.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, six brothers, two sisters and a host of friends.

Hamid was the third son of late Rahmatullah Sarker, former member of both the Provincial Assembly of undivided Bengal and East Pakistan Provincial Assembly, and Parliamentary Secretary.

The late freedom fighter actively participated in all progressive movements. He held the post of vice president of Chhatra Union's central committee and treasurer of Dhaka University's Sangkritik Sangsad.

He was laid to rest at the Martyred Intellectuals graveyard yesterday. His *kulhwani* will be held at his father's residence (1/10, Block-C, Lalmaia) on Friday after the *Asr* prayers.

Alhaj Bazlur Rahman Chowdhury, a retired government official, died on Saturday due to old-age complications. He was 96, reports BSS.

His body was taken to his village home at Uzirpur in the Habiganj district where he was buried in his family graveyard.

Chowdhury is survived by three sons and four daughters in addition to large number of grand children, relations and friends to mourn his death.

His *kulhwani* will be held on Friday after *Asr* prayers at his residence at 333, East Nakhalpara, Tejgaon.

Priyananda Mohathero dead

Venerable Priyananda Mohathero, an eminent Buddhist monk and Vice-President of Bangladesh Buddhist Kristi Prachar Sangha died of old age complications at Raoson Gjananda Vihar here last night. He was 78, reports BSS.

A former secretary general of Bangladesh Bouddha Bikhu Mohasabha, late venerable Mohathero was conferred upon Darshan Sagar (an erudite in philosophy).

He left behind a large number of religious colleagues, disciples and devotees.

Meanwhile, Venerable Suddananda Mohathero and Dr Pranab Barua, President and Secretary General of the Krishiti Prachar Sangha and Dr Bikran Prasad Barua, adviser of the World Fellowship of the Buddhists (Youth) in separate messages condoled the death of venerable Mohathero.

Orientation programme held at AIUB

AMA International University - Bangladesh (AIUB) held an orientation programme for the summer semester 2000 at its newly-built auditorium, on Sunday says a press release.

The morning session of the function was for the undergraduate level consisting of four major areas - Bachelor of Computer Science, Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Electronics and Communication Engineering and Bachelor of Business Administration major in Management Information System. 250 students were selected out of 1300 candidates through the admission test arranged by the university authority.

Evening session of the programme was for the Masters in Business Administration (MBA) programme. A total number of 35 students have enrolled in the MBA programme and were oriented with their new institution.

Ms Carmen Z Lamagna, the Vice Chancellor of the AMA International University Bangladesh presided over the programme as the chief guest. Dr Anwarul Abedin, Founder Chairman, AIUB, Prof Dr I Hossain, the Pro-vice chancellor, AIUB, Prof Dr Anwar Hossain, dean - in charge, School of Business, AIUB, Hasanul A Hasan, Founder & Director HRD & Admin, Ishique Abedin, Founder & Director International Affairs, Prof Md Ali Ashraf, AIUB, Dr MZ Manum, Faculty member, AIUB, Ehsan Uddin Ahmed, Coordinator of Student Affairs, AIUB also spoke on the occasion. Students' guardians, faculty members, university officials and students attended.



Visitors admire an outfit at a day-long exhibition of Indian fashion designer Ritu Beri's ready-to-wear collection at Hotel Sonargaon's Chitra Hall yesterday. - Star photo

UNESCAP ministerial confce begins in Japan

KITAKYUSHU, Japan, Sept 4: The two-day UNESCAP Ministerial Conference today began here with a pledge to achieve sustainable livelihoods for the people of Asia-Pacific region, reports BSS.

Japanese Minister of State and Director General of Environment Agency Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi, UNESCAP Executive Secretary Kim Hak-SU, UNEP Executive Director Klaus Toepfer, ADB President Tado Chino, Bangladesh State Minister HN Ashiqur Rahman and Secretary-General of Asia-Pacific Forum of Environment Journalists (AFEPJ) Quamrul Islam Chowdhury addressed the plenary.

Mr Kim described the fourth ministerial conference on environment and development as the largest gathering of ministers before the Rio+10 scheduled to be held in 2002 and said the moot will not only strengthen the cooperative efforts and

partnerships that have been forged already, but will also lay the groundwork to explore new opportunities and possibilities for further cooperation at all levels of governments and involving all stakeholders.

Mr Ashiqur Rahman listed different measures undertaken by Bangladesh for arresting environmental degradation and said as a follow-up of widely acclaimed National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP), the implementation of Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP) is well underway to clean up environment, build capacity and raise awareness.

He said with the proper implementation of SEMP Bangladesh Environment Management Project (BEMP) and Air Quality Management Project (AQMP) we can hope that sustainable environment management will have a solid

grounding in Bangladesh.

Mr Rahman said the best example of partnership between government and NGOs is the implementation of SEMP being executed by Bangladesh environment ministry and supported by UNDP as its largest environment programme globally.

Ms. Yoriko said the conference will build momentum in the region to accelerate preparations for Rio+10. She supported the Indonesian bid for holding Rio+10 conference and said that Asia-Pacific should cohesively and firmly support Indonesia.

Quamrul Chowdhury called upon ministers to help ensure easy access to environmental information and recognise watchdog role of media in establishing an accountable, equitable, corruption free, transparent and environment-friendly governance.

Govt to reinstate film script approval body

The government will reinstate the defunct committee for approval of film scripts to put a brake on the indiscriminate screen shows.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed disclosed the decision yesterday in a meeting with cine-people.

"Although the government had cancelled the committee with a liberal attitude, it took the decision to reinstate the committee as the self-censorship on the filmmakers was obeyed accordingly," he said.

Talking to an eight-member representative team of Bangladesh Chalchitra Pradarshak Samity at his ministry, Sayeed also said the government would soon announce National Film Policy.

The minister asked the Samity to formulate and submit a draft film-screening policy to the government in keeping with the need for sound films.

The minister, however, stressed the need for social

awareness rather than making laws for resolving problems and called upon all concerned to develop the quality of films, maintaining overall sound environment in the cinema halls and fusing improved technologies with films.

Khandakar Fazlur Rahman, Joint-Secretary of the Information Ministry, Saiful Islam Chowdhury, president of the Samity, Kudrat Elahi Ponir, its general secretary, Sudipto Kumar Das, SMA Taher, Nurul Islam, Rafiq Uddin, Yunus Hira and Zahurul Islam Bulbul were present in the meeting.

Save Buriganga

Illegal constructions to be demolished

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday iterated that illegal constructions along the river Buriganga would be demolished to maintain its navigable waterway and keep it pollution-free, reports BSS.

The assurance came when the members of the 'Save Buriganga' called on the minister at his office.

Razzak said ECNEC had already approved a Taka 69-crore project profile prepared for saving the river Buriganga.

A committee has been formed with Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka as convenor to clear the river of illegal occupants. The committee has held three meetings so far, he added.

The minister sought cooperation of all concerned to help create public opinion in favour of the demolition of illegal constructions on the river Buriganga.

Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, advisors of the past caretaker government AMA Muhi, Wahid Uddin Mahmud, Prof Badul Alam, Mahbuba Nasreen and Aminul Islam were present during the meeting.

Assault on 3 CU students by its proctor protested

By JU Correspondent

Students of the Jahangirnagar University's Anthropology Department brought out a procession and held a rally, on the campus protesting the assault on three students of CU Anthropology Department by its proctor.

The procession beginning from Social Science Building premises paraded all campus streets and corridors and ended at the Fazilatunnesa Hall.

The agitating students also held a rally there after the procession. Marif Hasan Russel of CU Anthropology Department addressed the rally.

Students of CU Anthropology Department told journalists on JU campus that CU Proctor Gazi Salehuddin had severely beaten up one male student and hurled abusive words to two female students on August 27 in front of the chairman of Anthropology Department at his office.

Agitating students of CU had demanded termination of the Proctor immediately.

Rly Sramik Party council session in Ctg today

CHITTAGONG, Sept 4: The biennial council session of Bangladesh Railway Sramik Party will be held tomorrow at its central office here, reports BSS.

Minister for Communications and Jatiya Party (M-M) Secretary General Anwar Hossain will attend the council session as chief guest.

JP Presidium Member and former Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Advocate Faez Rabbi, MP, presidium members Advocate Shamsul Huda, Kamarul Nahar Zafar and Additional Secretary General of the party Monirul Haq Chowdhury will attend the session as special guests.

Non-govt pry teachers to gherao UNOs' office today

By Staff Correspondent

Teachers of non-government primary schools, who began an indefinite strike on September 2 demanding nationalisation of their service, will gherao the Upazila Nirbahi Officers' office and submit memorandum today.

Shamsul Alam and Alhaj Akkas, Ali, President and Secretary General respectively of Bangladesh Non-government Teachers' Association (BNGTA) in a statement yesterday hailed the primary teachers all over the country for joining the movement.

The teachers will hold a grand rally in the city on September 10, where opposition leader Khaleda Zia will present as the chief guest.

Hearing of Humayun Zahir Murder Case continues

By Court Correspondent

Hearing of argument in the Humayun Zahir murder case continued for the 8th day yesterday in the 8th Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka.

After hearing on argument from the prosecution side, the Judge Mir Mohammad Awlad Hossain adjourned the proceedings of the case till 11 am today.

Humayun Zahir, a leading businessman, was shot dead by a group of assailants on the premises of his Dhamondir residence on April 8, 1993.

Maid commits suicide in city

By Staff Correspondent

A teenage maid allegedly committed suicide after taking poison at her employers residence at Tantiabazar in Kotwali area in the city yesterday.

Monita Mitra, 18, daughter of Bhokta Mitra who belongs to Mokshedpur of Gopalganj found in an unconscious state at about 7 am yesterday.

Monita was working as housemaid at the residence of Sallandra Das at 10, Tantiabazar in the city. She was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where she died after an hour. Parbati, her mother said that she has been working at this house for a long time. She did not know why her daughter could have committed suicide. Kotwali police said no case has been filed in this regard.

SAARC summit

From page 1

free trade area in the region for which member countries must finalise a draft treaty by 2001.

Currently under the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangements (SAPTA), members provide between 20 and 100 per cent tariff cuts in regional trade on 5,551 products to boost regional trade, which represents 3.4 per cent of global trade.

Members have also worked out a common position for trade negotiations in forums such as the World Trade Organisation.

Police informer

From page 1

Heju, arrested on Sunday for his alleged involvement in phensidyl trade at the BNP Slum was placed on a two-day remand yesterday.

He was produced before the CMM's Court with a prayer for seven-day remand. The court, however, granted it for two days.

Gas Act

From page 1

cessing, distribution and supply of gas have been set in accordance with a cost reflective methodology agreed to by the Commission and have been publicly notified.

But the Commission may set prices which depart from the principles specified in the Draft Act and involve subsidies, if it thinks that the undertaking will be adequately compensated from some other source and that the means for recovering such compensation are specified.

It would also make and modify regulations which define all technical and safety standards in respect of gas sector, the sources said.

Garments

From page 1

the conference. Other leaders of the Parishad including Shahidul Islam, Amirul Haque Anon, Abul Hossain, Jonaal Abedin, Delwar Hossain and Selim Reza were present.

Delwar Hossain Khan said he is hopeful about the success of their strike because the garments workers have been subject to worst form of exploitation since long.

"I think the garment workers will join the strike programme because they are struggling hard for survival. They are waiting for such a call," he said.

Khurshid Alam said time has come for the garment workers to launch a strong movement for implementation of the demands.

AL blames opposition for instigating anarchy

Bangladesh Awami League has called upon the people to resist the clique of "veto thieves, Rajakars and autocrat" now desperate to grab power by any means, reports UNB.

The call came in a resolution of the party's Central Working Committee meeting held at Ganobhaban on Sunday night with party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

"In order to reinstate the autocratic regime, the identified quarter became restive to grab power through backdoor as the people did not respond to their harts and strikes," the resolution says.

The ruling party accused the Opposition of instigating anarchy in the country by abetting killers, terrorists and social evils and pursuing the path of killing, conspiracy and filing of

false case. Condemning the filing of case against Sheikh Hasina on charge of contempt of court, the meeting reiterated the party's stand in favour of people's constitutional right to speak the truth.

"Constructive criticism by the people of any state organ is their rational right as it operates on their money," the meeting observed.

The ruling party said Prime Minister's comment on the judiciary reflected the sentiments of the people as all organs of the state and responsible persons have the constitutional obligation of accountability.

In a condolence motion, the Awami League Central Working Committee expressed shock at the death of eminent personalities, including party leaders, who died between July 25 and September 2 this year.

Muggers stab rice trader, snatch Tk 50,000

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers stabbed a rice trader and snatched away Tk 50,000 from him at Jatrabari in the city yesterday.

Mozammel Huq, 25, a resident of Jatrabari, came under attack by a gang of muggers when he was going to Tikatul in a rickshaw at about 6.30 p.m.

The gang stopped Mozammel and asked him to hand over the money. As Mozammel refused to comply, they stabbed him in the chest and hand. The gang snatched Tk 50,000 from him and fled the scene.

In another incident three day labourers received injuries when they tried to foil a snatching attempt at Sat Rasta in Tejgaon industrial area last night.

The incident took place when Alamgir, 25, Kamal, 24 and Rubel were returning after the day's work. At that time, a gang of muggers tried to snatch away valuables from a rickshaw passenger. When the victim cried for help, the three chased the gang. The gang hurled bricks and stones.

The three received burn injuries and were sent to the DMCH.

Depression over Bay likely

One or two seasonal depression is likely this month over the Bay of Bengal while the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna basins may experience normal flooding, says a long term report of the Met Office yesterday, reports UNB.

The report came after the experts committee analysed weather data and map, climate regression and analogue model, and satellite picture.

FOBANA

From page 1

The three-day council ended on September 3 amidst great enthusiasm. The council was featured by various programmes including fashion show, raffle draw, recitation, cultural show, film show and exhibition of Bangladesh products.

Students, artists, journalists, businessmen and writers were also awarded for their outstanding contributions to the Bangladesh community in US.

Among others, Director General of Bangla Academy Dr Syed Anwar Hossain, editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, editor of the Jai Jai Din Shafiq Rehman, editor of the Weekly 2000 Shahadat Chowdhury and poet Rafiq Azad joined the programme.

US couple Richard Tailor and Filip Tailor, who had played an important role to create world opinion in favour of the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, was also present on the occasion.

As per the tradition of the FOBANA Council, the participants held a meeting on the concluding day and decided to hold the next council of FOBANA in Montreal in September next year.

Ctg port

From page 1

of Port Habban this morning.

They also announced programmes from September 10 to 19. Next course of action will be announced on September 20 if the demand is not fulfilled," they said.

Five other trade unions are also staging several programmes seeking announcement of a fresh date of CBA poll. The election scheduled for August 21 was postponed by a High Court order on August 20 following a case filed by a worker who was left out from the voter list.

Rab murder

From page 1

Meanwhile, Rab Murder Case has been transferred to the CID today. AC Abdul Matin of DB, IO of the case, will formally hand over the case to CID tomorrow, it is learnt.

The case has been transferred to CID due to some reasons including political pressure, a KMP official said.

Godfathers and nasterminds in the Rab murder including an industrialist are being watched. All of them belong to a faction of the ruling party, the source said.

Opposition's grand rally in Khulna on Friday

KHULNA, Sept 4: Four-party opposition alliance is expected to announce a fresh oust-governance programme from a grand rally in the port city on Friday, reports UNB.

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam and Moulana Azizul Haque will address the meeting to be held at 3 pm at the Circuit House ground.

Organisers said a committee and a sub-committee have been formed for successful holding of the rally. Workers and supporters of the four parties of 10 southern districts are expected to attend it.

They said secretary-generals of the four parties and mayors of Rajshahi and Khulna City Corporations are also expected to address the rally.

Workers' Party slams govt for delaying annulment of Vested Property Act

By Staff Correspondent

Workers' Party of Bangladesh criticised the government for delaying the annulment of Vested Property Act.

The Polit Bureau of the party in a statement yesterday expressed resentment over the government's new strategy of consuming time in the name of forming a committee to review the act instead of scrapping it.

The government's new tactic is a violation of commitment to several lakh people who are sufferer of the act, the statement said.

Bangladesh Democratic Lawyers' Association in a meeting yesterday also criticised the government for taking lengthy process for scrapping the Vested Property Act. The meeting observed that the delay in cancellation of the act would have a negative impact on the people affected by the law.

The meeting presided over by Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, was addressed, among others, by Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, Mohammad Abdul Quddus, Zahedul Bari, Monsur Habib, Moqbul Ahmed Mian and Govinda Chandra Tegore.

Nude paintings

From page 1

part in the exhibition - "Voices for the New Century" - to remove their works on protest.

"We have to think twice," said one of the artists, who asked not to be named.

"If we give in to the whims and fancies of bureaucrats we will lose our voice. It is a battle we have to fight," the artist said, adding that the government move had been an act of "cultural terrorism" and cowardice.

"We can't understand the ministry's prudishness. The ancient Indian Khajuraho temples are famous for their erotic architecture. Why pick on this tiny image of Icarus? It hardly qualifies as smut."

Ayyar is reported to have told the artists that he "liked the painting" but was under pressure because of fears that nationalists fanatics might target the exhibition.

The Ashoka Pillar was constructed by the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka who ruled India from 273-232 BC.

The stone carving of four lions, supporting a stone wheel - or "dharmachakra" - in their midst has been adopted by India as a national seal, and adorns bank notes and official government documents.

JP meet

From page 1

sources said