

What's on today....

Seminar: Centre for Development and Policy Research (CDPR) in association with the Women and Children Affairs Ministry will hold a seminar on "Women in Labour Market: Impact and Implications of Labour Laws". Chief guest: State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Prof Zinnatun Nesa Talukdar. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Chameli House, Topkhana Road. Time: 9:00 am.

Workshop: Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project and Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) will jointly hold a workshop on Formulation of Planning to combat arsenic problem. Venue: DPHE auditorium, 14, Shaheed Captain Monsur Ali Sharan, Kakrail. Time: 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

BNPS discussion: Bangladesh Nari Progoti Sangha (BNPS) will hold a discussion on the various problems faced by women workers and different steps taken by government and non-government organisations to combat these situations. Chief guest: Minister for Labour and Employment MA Mannan. Venue: Women's Voluntary Organisation, House No 20, Rd No 27 (Old), 16 (New), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 9:30 am.

Seminar: Concern Bangladesh will hold a "Dissemination Seminar on Social Assessment of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh". The study has been conducted by Concern Bangladesh and READ, sponsored by the World Bank. Venue: IDB Bhaban auditorium (fourth floor), E/8/A, Rokeya Sharan, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9:30 am-1:00 pm.

AMA Technohaven seminar: AMA Technohaven, a computer training centre, will hold a seminar on "How to build a successful career in IT". Venue: Government Science College, Faringate. Time: 9:00 am.

Inauguration: The inaugural ceremony of "Temporal Bone Dissection Laboratory" in the premises of specialised ENT Hospital (SENTH) of Society for Assistance to Hearing Impaired Children (SAHIC) will be held. Chief guest: Speaker Humayun Rashied Chowdhury. Venue: Conference Hall of National Centre for Hearing and Speech for Children, Mohakhali. Time: 11:00 am.

Bonsai exhibition: Bangladesh Bonsai Society will hold the second annual Bonsai Exhibition. Venue: Banquet Hall of BRAC Centre Inn, 75, Mohakhali. Time: 5:00 pm.

Film Show: Rainbow Film Society in association with Goethe Institut will screen Village of Dreams by Yoichi Higashi and Tokyo Story by Ozu Yasuhiro. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Road No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Discussion meeting: Swadesh Chinta Shingha will hold a discussion meeting on Bertrand Russell's "Political Ideology". Venue: House No 25B, Road No 1, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 10:00 am.

Film Show: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will screen two French films *Nelly of Monsieur Arnaud* and *Max et Ferris*. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 10:30 am and 6:00 pm.

Theatre: Theatre Art will present a technical presentation of Azizur Samad's drama "Biye Shankranta Jaitila". Venue: Mahila Samity Stage, Bailey Road. Time: 11:00 am.

Charity show: The amateur school band *Elxir* of St Francis Xavier's Green Herald International School will present a show to raise funds for Amit, an 11-year old wild polo victim. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 6:00 pm.

Cultural evening: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka presents an evening of classical songs by Ali Farhan Khan and Shaila Yasmin. Venue: Conference Room of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 7:00 pm.

Recitation festival: *Abritee Angan* will hold a two-day long recitation festival to celebrate its 7th year of foundation. The festival will be inaugurated by State Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture Obaidul Kader. On the first day *Tanasa* will be presented. Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 7:00 pm.

Weather

Light rain forecast

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

Moderately heavy falls may occur at places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions, Met office said.

The country's highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sayedpur and the lowest 24.2 degree Celsius in Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.10 pm and rises on Friday at 5.42 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	32.2	26.5	83	71
Chittagong	31.2	24.2	76	83
Rajshahi	33.5	25.4	86	81
Khulna	33.2	25.3	86	82
Barisal	32.0	26.0	94	80
Sylhet	30.7	25.5	83	81
Cox's Bazar	31.8	24.5	85	87

Women urged to avail business facilities

President of women's entrepreneurs' Association Rokia A Rahman has urged women businesspersons to avail themselves of the wide ranging financial facilities extended to them through various financial institutions, says a press release.

Speaking at the monthly meeting of the association, Rahman said that under the new budgetary provision, can take loans of Tk 10 million to Tk 30 million for new projects through the Equity Development Fund.

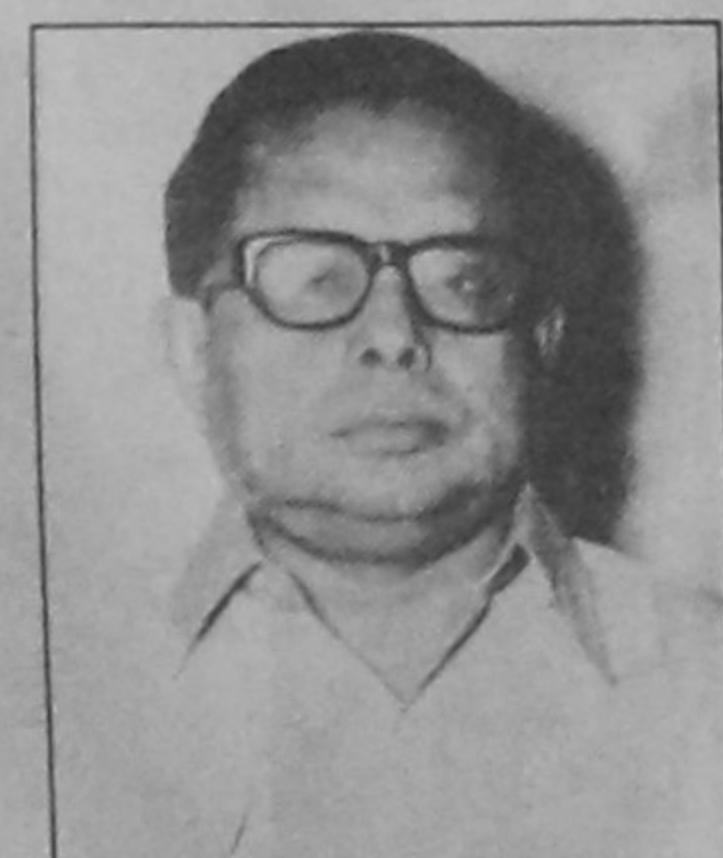
The Equity Development Fund Programme does not require collateral security, which makes it easier for women to set up big businesses and have access to substantial funds.

She said various types of funds are being made available now for women entrepreneurs. Midas offers collateral free loans of Tk 50,000 to Tk 30 lakh for SMEs with special focus on women entrepreneurs through its MIDI programme.

With the availability of project loans women entrepreneurs will need technological support and identification of areas of investment.

The WEA has identified agro based and agro processing industries which have been declared a thrust sector as one of the key areas for investment. For the transfer of technology the members of the association have held meetings with Matching Fund Grant - MFG, Rokia Rahman said that she will also be approaching Asian and Pacific Centre For Transfer of Technology (APCTT) for further information.

She also assured of all kinds of facilities such as credit, business counselling marketing, linkages with supporting programmes etc from Midas.



Death anniversary of Ruhul Quddus today

The 9th death anniversary of valiant freedom fighter and an accused in the Agartala conspiracy case Ruhul Quddus will be observed today, reports BSS. The former CSP, Quddus served in different important posts of the government. He was the principal secretary of the government of independent Bangladesh.

Quddus resigned from his government post protesting the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

Tributes paid to Mother Teresa

By Staff Correspondent

The contributions of Mother Teresa in the service of distressed humanity were recalled with gratitude at a discussion meeting on Tuesday in the capital city.

Pacificare, a health and development organisation in Dhaka arranged the discussion at Moira Hall Room in Mirpur on the occasion of the third death anniversary of Mother Teresa.

Father Anjele, Oblate Father, HM Nasiruddin, executive director, Pacificare, Rokeya Begum, Nurul Huq Mollick, Md Bazul Rahman students of Marino School and students of the Hard To Reach (HTR) Urban Children Centre attended the discussion.

A prayer was arranged in memory of Mother Teresa. Participants also prayed for the health and long life of Pope Second John Paul, Sister Nirmala and Father RW Timm. The executive director of Pacificare conducted the prayer.

Zikr Mahfil

The monthly zikr mahfil organised by the Anzuman-e-Toazila will be held today after Magrib prayers at Khankaya Toazila at 27, Siddheshwari Road in the city, says a press release.

The Peer of Dariaapur Sharif, Hazrat Moulana Shah Sufi Al-haj Abdul Hasan Muhammad Abdul Quayyum, will conduct the zikr mahfil, according to the rules of Quadiria Tarika.



Rokia A Rahman, President, Women Entrepreneurs Association, Bangladesh (WEA) discussing various related issues of women entrepreneurship development in the monthly meeting of the WEA Committee held recently. Amongst the issues discussed were: availability of financial funds and facilities for the women entrepreneurs; possibilities of setting up of agro-based and agro-processing small industries by the women entrepreneurs.

The UN Summit in pictures



The UN Millennium Summit got underway yesterday in New York - pictures show Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (L) meets with Ahmed Necdet Sezer, President of Turkey, yesterday morning at a hotel suite in New York while UN Secretary General Kofi Annan (M) greets Cuban President Fidel Castro, back at the UN after a long period. Picture on the extreme right shows Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak (L) shaking hands with Namibian President San Nujoma at the summit. — AFP photos

UN Millennium Summit

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"But in both cases, the UN did not have the tools to finish the job. We must provide those tools to peacekeepers who can be rapidly deployed with the right training and equipment, missions well-defined and well-led, with the necessary civilian police," Clinton said.

He specifically called on the Indonesian authorities "to put a stop to these abuses." Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid was in the audience.

At the urging of the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the leaders held a minute of silence at the start of the meeting to commemorate the deaths of the three aid workers slain Wednesday after an angry pro-Indonesian mob and militiamen attacked and burned the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Even before rioters overwhelmed the UN refugee agency in the Indonesian-controlled territory, there were no illusions that the three-day summit in New York would in itself change the world and cure it of its ills.

"The problems seem huge," Annan said, listing poverty, the AIDS epidemic, wars and environmental degradation. "But in today's world, given the technology and the resources around, we have the means to tackle them. If we have the will, we can deal with them."

While Annan is hoping for new commitments to the UN goals of ending poverty and wars, some heads of state are expected to use the three days

to speeches, discussions and meetings to push their own agendas - including those critical of the United States.

In a taste of what may come, North Korea denounced the United States as a "rogue state" Tuesday, claiming the government was responsible for allegedly ordering the search of its switched planes in Germany. The incident prompted Pyongyang to call off the summit trip by No. 2 leader Kim Jong Nam, who had been scheduled to meet South Korean President Kim Dae-jung.

American Airlines apologised for the search and said no US government agency took part. White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said the search was partially a result of misunderstandings.

Washington also is expected to come under fire from Cuban President Fidel Castro, who arrived in New York on Tuesday for the first time in five years. He is expected to speak out against US domination of the United Nations on Wednesday afternoon.

The United States also can expect an earful from more friendly countries.

In his speech, Russian President Vladimir Putin referred indirectly to US proposals to create a national missile defense system, citing the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, which must be amended if Washington is to go ahead with the programme.

"The new century of the United Nations, must go

Akhtaruzzaman

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ble for his overt remarks many times in the past, claimed that many MPs in BNP share his view and they might push his idea. "You never know, maybe the madam (BNP chief Khaleda Zia) will change her mind," he said.

BNP's National Standing Committee suspended Akhtar's primary membership on Tuesday night for acting against the party constitution as well as its interests. A private news agency reported late Tuesday night that the suspension was withdrawn, but the party denied it.

"Until now, I've received neither the suspension order nor the one withdrawing it," Akhtar said at nine "O'clock last night.

The latest action against the BNP leader followed his letter to the party chief requesting her to go back to parliament. The letter also criticised some of her political actions, including forging an alliance with Jatiya Party of deposed President HM Ershad and Jamaat-e-Islami of Golam Azam, a war criminal.

Doctor

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Joseph Poyoun in a proclamation declared September 5 as "Sheikh Hasina Day" in Bridgeport City while the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut congratulated Hasina for receiving the prestigious degree.

In the citation letter, the Bridgeport University recognised Sheikh Hasina as "daughter of democracy" and "Ambassador of Peace" for her struggle for free and open elections, and endeavours for world peace.

The university praised Hasina for acting as mediator during the India-Pakistan nuclear crisis.

Power situation

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instructions, sources said. The Prime Minister had asked the power ministry to make arrangements for deducting arrears electricity bills of different ministries and departments from their budgetary allocations.

The Prime Minister also instructed the ministry to ensure partial production from the 360 MW Haripur power plant, now being built by US company AES.

She also gave her green signal for setting up of two 50 MW units at the Kaptai Hydropower plant. The Kaptai projects will cost at least Tk 250 crore more than any other similar power project, the sources said.

The 450 MW Bheramara power project, originally proposed to be built at Sirajganj, has also got the Prime Minister's green signal. She has also asked the ministry to pursue setting up of a power plant in Bhola, involving Petrobangla.

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FBCCI polls

Jalil's move to get Yusuf Haroon elected

Star Report

Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil has taken an initiative to get the government candidate Yusuf Abdullah Haroon elected as the president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) by persuading all the other aspirants for the top post not to contest the election, business sources said.

Jalil convened a meeting of the top business leaders at his official residence at 9 pm yesterday. The minister invited Yusuf Abdullah Haroon, Latifur Rahman, Salim F Rahman, Mir Nasir and the incumbent president of FBCCI Abdul Awal Mintoo to the meeting.

When contacted Salim F Rahman and Mir Nasir admitted to the minister's invitation but expressed their ignorance about the agenda of the meeting.

All the business leaders invited except Latifur Rahman attended the meeting, sources said. However, it could not be confirmed whether the minister succeeded in his bid as the meeting was going on till filing this report at 10 pm.

In last year's election to the FBCCI presidency, the ruling party employed the same tactic to get elected its own candidate, Abdul Awal Mintoo.

The FBCCI election is scheduled to be held on October 12 and the deadline for filing nomination papers is 1 pm today.

Dengue: 21 more hospitalised in city

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty one more people with dengue fever were admitted to different hospitals and private clinics in the city yesterday, DB sources said.

The Central Control Room at the Health Directorate said Dhaka Medical College Hospital admitted six patients, Mitford Hospital three, Bangladesh Medical College Hospital three, Dhaka Shishu Hospital one.

Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital and Ibn Sina clinic one each while BIRDEM and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital admitted 5 and 1 patients with the fever.

Meanwhile, eight more people were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital yesterday while Chittagong Medical College Hospital reported admitting six.

Fifty people have so far died of dengue haemorrhagic fever and Shock Syndrome. A total of 3,045 people were hospitalised since the outbreak of the dreaded disease last month.

Ctg: Hartal

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police said.

Mufti Ezzar was also accused in four cases including for assaulting three local journalists during an opposition rally at Laidighi Maidan in December.

However, security has been tightened in and around the city today with deployment of additional police force ahead of tomorrow's hartal.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut, USA, on Tuesday. — AFP photo

Khaleda Zia: Editors

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government. She said her party plans to include leaders of the four parties in the cabinet. "We will ensure representation of all quarters in the future cabinet. We will also have minister from the journalist community."

Replying to a question about BNP's specific plan if voted to power, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said BNP will bring back the sense of security among the public in the first place. Then it will make parliament effective and proceed towards good governance.

BNP leaders M Saifur Rahman, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, M Moshad Khan, M Shamsul Islam, MK Anwar and Anwar Zahid were present on the occasion.

Chief Editor of Bangladesh Observer Prof KMA Munim, Editor of Holiday AZM Enayetullah Khan, Chief Editor of BSS Haroon Habib, Chief

Editor of UNB Enayetullah Khan, Chief Editor of Financial Express Rezauddin Ahmed and Editor Moazzem Hossain, Editor of New Nation AM Mufazzal, Advisory Editor of The Independent Khalilur Rahman, Editor of the Daily Ittefaq Rahat Khan, Editor of Daily Jugantar Golam Sarwar, Editor of Akker Kagoj Kazi Shahed Ahmed, Editor of Manabjamine Matiar Rahman Chowdhury, Managing Editor of The Daily Star Syed Fahim Munim, Editor of Inqilab AMM Balaiddin, Editor of Bangladesh Patrika Zakaria Khan, Editor of weekly Evidence Manjur Oader, Editor of Khabar Mizanur Rahman Mizan were among those who were present.

Biman

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next month after vetting from the authorities concerned.

A highly placed source said Biman has also been told to "revalue its assets" about which there was confusion. The process of off-loading is likely to be completed by December.

The consultants have been working on the restructuring programme under a two million dollar World Bank aided project since last year.

They have identified 85 airlines in the world, of which 22 have been short listed as potential strategic partner in the restructuring of Biman.

The prospective strategic partner is likely to be selected from reputed airlines which earned a profit of over 400 million dollars in 1998. Among the prospective airlines, seven are from Europe, four from Asia, one from Australia and the rest are from the Americas, the source said.

The restructuring has become necessary as the global trend in the new century is partnership between airlines for survival in a highly competitive market, he explained.

An informative memo is being circulated among the airlines which have the potential to become strategic partner. All airlines barring those from the SAARC region and countries with which Bangladesh does not have diplomatic relations could participate in the bids.

Biman having a workforce of 5550 and 13 aircraft operates flights to 25 destinations.

Khaleda goes to S Arabia Sept 11 to perform Umrah

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of armed muggers took away in cash Tk 2 lakh from a businessman in the city yesterday, DB sources said.

The gang took away the amount from Dewan Mushfiq Raja, owner of Raja Trade International when he was returning to his office after withdrawing the money from a bank at Dhanmondi yesterday afternoon.

According to the DB sources, the gang riding in two motor bikes followed the victim from the bank, fired gunshots and snatched the money from him before speeding away from the spot.

She is likely to stay there for a week.



Visitors admiring Jamdani Sarees at the Sonargaon Jamdani saree exhibition going on in the city's Banani yesterday. The exhibition open till September 10, has been organised by Bangladeshi Sanjukta Tanti Samity. — Star photo