

The Nation

What's on today....

Meeting: National Awami Party (NAP) will hold an extended meeting of its national committee. Venue: NAP office premises at 20/21, Dhanmondi Hawkers Market (1st floor). Time: 10:00 am.

UNFPA poster contest: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will hold a poster contest. Venue: Charukula Institute, DU Campus. Time: 3:30 pm.

Reunion: International Society for Krishna consciousness (ISKCON) will hold a reunion. Venue: ISKCON, 79, Swamibagh. Time: 5:00 pm.

Meeting: Abdus Shaheed Saengsad will hold an organisational meeting. Venue: 129/Kha, Elephant Road. Time: 6:00 pm.

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

Film show: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will screen two French films "Nelly et Monsieur Arnould" and "Max et Ferrailleurs". 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 Aziz Samad's drama "Blye Shankranta Jallata". Venue: Mahila Samity Stage, Bailey Road. Time: 11:00 am.

Charity show: The amateur school band Elixir of St Francis Xavier's Green Herald International School will present a show to raise funds for Amit, an 11-year old wild polio 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 Shaha 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 Tamsa will be presented. Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shahbagh. Time: 7:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Meeting: A meeting of former students, teachers and well-wishers of Kalmi Laxmikanta High School of Lajtagh Thana of Munshiganj district will be held in order to form a committee to celebrate the centenary of the school. Venue: Priyanka Community Centre, House No 50, Road No 6/A, Dhammondi (adjacent to Eidgah Mosque). Time: 10:00 am.

Installation ceremony: Faridganj Thana Samity, Dhaka will hold the installation ceremony of its newly elected executive committee 2000. Venue: Natyamancha, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 3:00 pm.

PHAS rally: Poverty and Hunger Alleviation Society (PHAS) will hold a mass rally to mark the conclusion of its month long free treatment for dengue programme. Venue: Mahob Bandhan General Hospital, K-66, Kuril, Badda. Time: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

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

Moderately heavy falls is expected at places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions during the period, Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.2 degree Celsius at Sayedpur and the lowest 22.8 degree Celsius at Barisal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.09 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.43 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.5	79	76			
Chittagong	31.0	74.3	77	80		
Rajshahi	33.4	26.7	81	83		
Khulna	31.3	25.5	97	83		
Barisal	30.4	22.8	98	95		
Sylhet	31.5	24.4	94	80		
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0	92	92		

Sheikh Selim tells JS

5 lakh suffering from cancer in country

Some five lakh people are suffering from cancer across the country, Health Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim told Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Admitting inadequate facilities for treatment of cancer in the country, he said the existing 50-bed Cancer Hospital at the city's Muliakhalil would be upgraded to 100 beds shortly with modern treatment facilities.

On the private members' day yesterday, Mohammad Wajiduddin Khan (Awami League-Pabna) moving a resolution sought a full-fledged cancer hospital in Pabna.

The health minister said around 100 people are getting indoor or outdoor treatment at Mahakhalil Cancer Hospital. Besides, each of the district

hospitals has a separate cancer unit.

The minister expressed the hope that with the expansion of treatment facilities the patients would not go abroad for treatment.

Supporting the resolution, ruling party members Abdul Latif Mirza, Shahjahan Khan, Begum Shahin Monowara Haq, Hajee Mohammad Selim, Shamsur Rahman, Sharif and Meher Afroz expressed concern that thousands of people were suffering from the deadly disease of cancer.

They demanded modern treatment facilities in all the district hospitals to combat cancer.

The resolution was, however, withdrawn on assurance from the Health Minister.

BNP rally

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rallies and bring out processions from all city, district and thana headquarters.

In the capital city, the main opposition will hold a public rally at Paltan Maidan at 4pm.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary-general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, in a statement from his hospital bed, said that the Awami League government had begun hatching fresh conspiracy.

The government repressed, suppressed, harassed, filed false case and killed several hundred activists in a fascist style to foil the opposition during its four-year rule, he said.

However, he added, it failed to thwart the opposition movement.

Now at the fag end of its tenure, it started hatching new conspiracy and case against Khaleda is part of it, the BNP leader said.

Bhuiyan warned the government would have to face the consequence, if it didn't stop conspiring against the leader of the opposition in the parliament.

Meanwhile, the president of the city unit of BNP, Sadek Hossain Khoka MP and the general secretary, Abdus Salam have urged the party leaders, activists, supporters and people to make the public rally at Paltan Maidan a grand success.

Qulhwani

The *qulhwani* of M Jalaluddin Sarker, an eminent social worker and chief of Jalal Nagar Development Programme (JN- DP) at Muktagachha will be held today at his village home in Rourchar at Muktagachha in Mymensingh, says a press release.

Sarker died of old age complications on Wednesday. He was 85.

He is survived by his wife, four sons and five daughters.

The *qulhwani* of Aljai Bazlur Rahman Chowdhury will be held today after Asr prayers at his residence at Habiganj House at 323 East Nakhalpara, Tegona, in the city, reports BSS.

Chowdhury, a retired government official, died of old age complications at the age of 96. He is survived by his wife, three sons and four daughters.

Past president Shahjahan Bin Alam of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West handing over a draft for Taka 17000- on behalf of the clubs members to the father of the polio patient Amit at BSMU Hospital on Tuesday.

Reception to DU Prof Nuruddin at TSC today

By DU Correspondent
Former students of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University will accord a grand farewell reception to Professor QAIM Nuruddin, one of the senior most teachers of DU and a leading communications expert in the country.

The day-long programme will feature a seminar, meeting and cultural function and be held at the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) of the university.

Pioneer of the country's journalism education, Prof Nuruddin joined the department as a teacher in 1963. Earlier, he completed his diploma degree from the department in 1962.

In his long and illustrious career, he worked for a number of institutions and agencies including Film Sensor Board and Asian Development Bank.

Latifur Rahman

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business community to solve some of their existing problems, he said in the statement issued yesterday, the last date of submission of the nomination papers.

However, after a thorough analysis of the present situation and following an extensive exchange of views, I have come to the conclusion that though respectful of my independent instance, members of the business community are not in a position to express their views in a free and unfettered manner. Therefore I have decided not to submit my nomination paper for the Federation election," he stated.

"It is my ardent hope that in the future election the business community will be able to express their opinions free of all political viewpoints and encumbrances, and work unitedly for the economic development of the country," Latifur Rahman added.

The polymer notes are very hard to tear and these feel like paper notes when touched. It is because the basic note printing technology remains the same where the design works are extruded just like paper notes," said Bryan Musgrave, a graphic designer of NPA.

"If the Bangladesh Bank introduces this note, it will remove the hassles of repeatedly replacing torn notes," Hugh Brown said, "these notes last minimum five years."

The polymer notes are also hard to counterfeit. So far, according to Hugh Brown, there had been no known report of forging of the polymer notes.

NPA has so far produced circulating polymer bank notes for Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Romania and other countries.

Dengue : 19 more hospitalised in city

By Staff Correspondent

Nineteen more people with dengue fever were admitted to different hospitals and private clinics in the city yesterday.

The Central Control Room at the health directorate yesterday said Dhaka Medical College Hospital reported admitting seven, Mitford Hospital two, Bangladesh Medical College three, Dhaka Shishu Hospital two, BIRDEM and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital one each, Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital two and Ibhne Sina Clinic reported admitting one patient.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary-general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, in a statement from his hospital bed, said that the Awami League government had begun hatching fresh conspiracy.

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However, he added, it failed to thwart the opposition movement.

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Hasina: Treaties

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treaties are on economic, social and cultural rights, torture, genocide, racism and intolerance.

In October 1999, Bangladesh had joined six international human rights treaties that relate to these and other areas.

Bangladesh's adherence to international human rights norms is a reflection of Hasina's longstanding commitment to promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Bangladesh is among a number of other countries that are joining the largest number of treaties on the occasion of the Millennium Summit being held to lay out the course of world community's journey in the new century.

The demonstrators alleged that owner of the garments factory had earlier stopped supply of water and gas to their workplace and also intercepted supply of their food items.

Clashes broke out at about 7:15 pm when police attempted to disperse the demonstrators, using batons and firing tear gas shells and rubber bullets. The workers retaliated hurling bricks and exploding crack-shells, witnesses said.

The latter would ban some weapons that are considered inhuman, like incendiary weapons, booby traps and blinding laser weapons.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina signing six major international human rights and disarmament treaties at the UN headquarters in New York on Wednesday.

- PID photo

SPA mostly misused

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be more careful in application of the law.

State Minister for Textiles AKM Jahangir Hossain headed the parliamentary body while Prof Panna Kaiser of Awami League and Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury of Jamaat-e-Islami were the two other members.

The report contains records of application of the SPA by all the political, military and caretaker governments, writs against detention under the law, reasons for detention and High Court orders against such action, historical background of SPA and similar laws in other countries.

The sub-committee report is based on records with the home ministry, Supreme Court, prisons and the Advisory Board.

Detention by governments:

The report shows that the highest number of 3,926 people were detained under the SPA from August 15, 1995 to May 30, 1981 when President Ziaur Rahman and President Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed were in power. Khandaker Mushtaq was in power only for three months.

This was followed by detention of 2,201 people during the tenure of Ershad government and 2,046 during the caretaker government headed by Justice Habibur Rahman.

A total of 1,849 people were detained by the government of Khaleda Zia, 1,739 by the government of Sheikh Mujib Rahman. 1,632 by the caretaker government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, 1,449 by the government of President Abdus Sattar and 811 by the present government of Sheikh Hasina till December 1998.

This was followed by detention of 2,201 people during the tenure of Ershad government and 2,046 during the caretaker government headed by Justice Habibur Rahman.

The reasons include (a) vague, indefinite and uncertain grounds for detention; (b) government's unlawful authority in ordering detention; (c) non-placement of the detainee or the grounds for detention before the Advisory Board within 120 days; (d) lack of basis for detention order; (e) different reasons mentioned for detention and in the affidavit-in opposition; (f) detention for criticism of an ideology, which can not be a prejudicial act in a society that permits political activity; (g) mixing of good grounds with bad ones; (h) failure in showing reasons for detention within 15 days; (i) government's failure to produce necessary papers in court and (j) delayed government order for extension of detention.

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