

## What's on today....

**Seminar:** Engineers Institution, Bangladesh (IEB) Dhaka Centre organises a seminar on "Traffic Management in Dhaka Metropolis - Today's burning issue". Chief guest: Alhaj Makbul Hossain, MP. Venue: Seminar room, Ramna. Time: 3:30 pm.

**Birthday reception:** National Museum will accord a reception to internationally acclaimed artist Shahabuddin to mark his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Venue: Main auditorium of National Museum. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Film show:** The High Commission of India in association with Chalachitram Film Society will screen Lawrence of Arabia starring Sir Alec Guinness. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission, House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:30 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**CJFD roundtable:** Chittagong Journalists Forum-Dhaka (CJFD) will hold a roundtable on "Construction of a Tunnel under the river Karnaphuli and its national perspective". Chief guest: Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju. Venue: VIP lounge of National Press Club. Time: 3:00 pm.

**Lecture:** The 11<sup>th</sup> Nazma Jesmin Memorial Lecture will be held. Venue: Auditorium of Institute of Modern Language, DU campus. Time: 4:00 pm.

**Film show:** Chalachitram Film Society will hold a screening of European films under the title "Focus on European Films". On the 1<sup>st</sup> day *The Ecstasy* and *World of the Film Maker* Werner Herzog by Peter Buchka and Aguirre. *Wrath of God* by Werner Herzog will be screened. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd no 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5:00 pm & 6:30 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 at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal and Rajshahi divisions may also occur during the period, the Met Office said.

The day temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country.

Yesterday highest temperature of 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Sathkira and the lowest 24.5 degree Celsius at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.06 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.44 pm.

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
Dhaka	32.8	26.2
Chittagong	32.7	24.5
Rajshahi	32.2	26.0
Khulna	33.2	25.4
Barisal	32.0	26.0
Sylhet	32.2	26.3
Cox's Bazar	31.8	24.6

## Airbus case

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After hearing both the sides, the court granted them bail. Earlier, eight others accused including Khaleda Zia, former prime minister, were granted bail from the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka.

The Bureau of Anti-corruption submitted a charge-sheet to the court on September 5 accusing Khaleda Zia and nine others of embezzlement of Tk 175 crore in purchase of two airbuses during BNP's rule. The case was filed on August 30, 1998 and a total of 37 people were shown as witnesses.

## Halima Khatun wins Shishu Academy Award



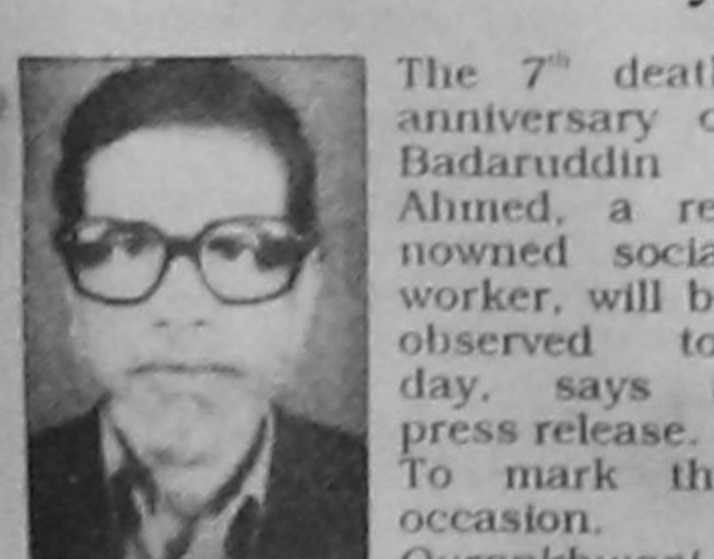
Writer Halima Khatun has been awarded the Bangladesh Shishu Academy Literary Award 1405 for her contribution to writing for the children and juveniles, says a press release.

The yearly award includes a Taka 25,000 remuneration.

Prior to this Halima has also won the Nurunnissa Khatun Bidyabodini Shahittya Purashakar in 1979, Sundaram Shahittya Conference Gold Medal in 1980, Bangla Academy Award 1981 and Bangladesh Lekhika Sangha Shahittya Padak in 1986.

Halima, who writes mainly for children is also acclaimed widely for her poetry in English. She was a professor at the Dhaka University Study Research Centre until her retirement.

## Death anniversary



The 7<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Badaruddin Ahmed, a renowned social worker, will be observed today, says a press release.

To mark the occasion, Quaranhuani and Dua Mahil will be held at his residence. Besides, food will be distributed among destitutes and special *monafat* will be offered at his graveyard.

Badaruddin Ahmed, father of Rafuddin Ahmed, Assistant Director, Public Relations, BWDB, Dhaka died of cardiac arrest in 1993.

## DU Applied Physics

## students begin fast-unto-death programme today

By DU Correspondent

The students of the Department of Applied Physics and Electronics of Dhaka University begin a fast-unto-death programme at the Curzon Hall premises today demanding change of the department's name into Electronic and Communication Engineering.

The students have been abstaining from attending classes for the last one month to press home their demand.

Meanwhile, a section of students of the Department of Applied Chemistry of the university yesterday brought out a procession and paraded at the Curzon Hall area. They are demanding change of their department's name into Chemical Engineering and Technology.

## Scouts course for commissioners concludes

The 25<sup>th</sup> commissioner course organised by Bangladesh Scouts, Training Division concluded on Friday at 5.30 pm at Shams Hall at National Scout Bhaban, says a press release.

The concluding ceremony was addressed by Kazi Raquib Uddin Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vice President, Bangladesh Scouts, ZA Shamsul Haque, Treasurer, Bangladesh Scouts, Md Shah Alam, National Commissioner (Training) and Course Director, Habibul Alam, Bir Pratik, National Commissioner (Programme), Md Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, National Commissioner (Cub Scouting), Md Ayub, AHM Nurul Islam, Mahfuzur Rahman etc while Manzoor Ul Karim, President, Bangladesh Scouts, presided over. Thirty scouts participated in the course, the press release added. The five-day long course started on August 11.

## BKL leader

## SM Faruk dead

CHITTAGONG, Sept 10: S M Faruk, a veteran freedom fighter and vice-president of central committee of Bangladesh Krishak League died of cardiac arrest at his residence at Roshangiri union under Fatikchhari thana here today. He was 58, reports BSS.

Faruk was suffering from high blood pressure and diabetes for last few years, family sources said.

His *namaz-e-janaza* will be held here tomorrow after Zohr prayers at Roshangiri and he will be buried at his family graveyard.

He was survived by his wife, three sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Faruk had been in jail for about three and a half years for protesting assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



**From bad to worse:** The city's traffic congestion is one of the most alarming aspects of urban life. As the population of the city as well as the number of vehicles on the road keep on increasing everyday, the situation seems to be going from bad to worse. Picture shows city's Tophkana Road at noon yesterday, a scene not uncommon anymore. — Star photo

## 75,300 being detained in jails with accommodation for 23,942

Overcrowding, poor conditions in prisons key topics discussed at training

By Staff Correspondent

Prisoners from lower income group number the highest among jail inmates and are neglected by traditional judiciary system, speakers said at the inaugural session of a training programme of prison officials in the city yesterday.

The programme titled "Good Prison Management for prison personnel of Bangladesh" was jointly organised by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) and Penal Reform International (PRI) at the BRAC Center Inn at Mohakhali in the city.

"At present 75,300 prisoners in the country are being kept in prisons with a capacity to 23,942 persons only," Dr Kamal Hossain said adding that the condition of Dhaka is far worse, where 9,507 prisoners are crammed in a place with a capacity for 2,632 prisoners.

The figures given out by Dr Kamal Hossain was contra-

dicted by Liaquat Ali Khan, Additional Inspector General of Prisons, who said that the total number of prisoners in the country stood at 62,000 only.

Quoting newspaper reports Dr Kamal pointed out that "Even under trial prisoners are being kept inside the jail for more than twelve years at times."

Twenty superintendents of different jails, are participating in the three-day training programme that concludes tomorrow.

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Abdul Matin Khasru, who attended the programme as chief guest said that rich people can easily come out of jails and even get better life while in custody.

"The prisoners should be engaged in work suitable to their physique and health. They should also be able to receive wages for their labour. Arrangements

should be made to help rehabilitate them in the society once they were released," he added.

Overcrowding in prisons is a problem common not only the developing countries but also the developed ones. Lack of adequate facilities leads to unhygienic conditions for prisoners. Poor supply of food, water, vocational training etc at times lead to violence in prison, the minister pointed out.

The government took up a programme in 1999 to reduce overcrowding in the nine central, 55 district and 16 thana jails, the minister said.

"Access to justice is the key," Stephen Turner, Deputy High Commissioner of British High Commission, Dhaka said.

A large number of young men and women are being detained in jails in this country for longer duration for minor faults, Turner said.

## New fertiliser may bring good harvest of betel leaf

By Staff Correspondent

An environment-friendly nutrient enriched organic fertiliser is expected to hit the shelves soon. The producer of the fertiliser -- chook chook -- has applied for government permission to produce it commercially following tremendous success in field trials.

"We hope that we will be able to go for commercial production of the fertiliser within two or three months," Engineer Omar Faruq, managing director of Faruq Fertiliser said while talking to a group of journalists on Saturday.

Explaining different aspects of the locally-developed organic fertiliser, Faruq said that it will be effective in increasing the production of crops and in protecting the plant from attack of various diseases.

"We said that the country needed large-scale production of organic fertilisers because the developed worlds are likely to impose a ban on import of vegetable items produced by

chemical fertilisers.

Faruq said different brands of chook-chook have been developed on the basis of requirements of the plants. For example chook-chook-102 gives good results for betel leaf while chook-chook-111 for rice, chook-chook-150 for potato and chook-chook-170 for flowers and fruits.

This is for the first time a fertiliser has been developed specially for betel leaf which is a commercial crop.

Betel leaf farmers have achieved good results after use of chook chook fertilizer in trials. It gave a good harvest and also helped the plants against diseases.

Trial production of the betel leaf was conducted as many as 78 upazilas in 18 districts using chook-chook-102 and farmers obtained positive results in each case. On the other hand trial production in potato field was carried out in Munshiganj and Bogra.



A betel leaf field at Mohanpur in Rajshahi, raised with the new chook chook organic fertiliser.

## Move for secret deal on gas

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ernment had formulated a National Energy Policy, but the present government is not saying anything about whether it would follow that policy or formulate a new one.

Khaleda said the government has made the parliament ineffective, ruined economy and failed miserably to improve the deteriorating law and order situation.

When the British home minister wanted to know why BNP is opposing the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty with India, she said, "This treaty is unequal because Bangladesh is not getting its just share due to the absence of guarantee and arbitration clauses in it. Bangladesh's interest is not being protected by this treaty."

She added that the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty in 1977

had protected the interest of the country because there were guarantee and arbitration clauses.

About upcoming national election, Khaleda said BNP is a liberal democratic party and that it wants to give democracy and rule of law a firm footing and for this a free and fair election is vital.

The BNP chief requested the British minister to send an increased number of election observers few weeks ahead of the forthcoming parliamentary polls.

She also urged the British government to take an initiative to send observers from Commonwealth and European Union countries to monitor the next polls.

Straw wished early recovery of the ailing BNP leader General Abdul Mannan Bhui-

yan who has been hospitalised following a heart attack.

The minister informed the former prime minister that his first visit to Bangladesh is aimed at taking an account of the progress the country has achieved over the years. He said although Bangladesh made progress in different sectors, violence, confrontation among political parties and politicians, corruption and abuse of human rights are rampant.

British High Commissioner in Dhaka David Carter, Principal Private Secretary to the Home Secretary Hillary Jackson and Director-General of Immigration and Nationality of the Ministry of Home Affairs Stephen Boys-Smith assisted the home secretary, and BNP leaders M Moshed Khan MP and MM Rezaul Karim were present at the meeting.

## Opposition rally

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"This is nothing but a conspiracy to hand over the country to India and introduce Indian currency in the country."

Jatiya Party chairman EM Ershad said Sheikh Hasina is more interested in receiving honorary doctorate degrees than fulfilling demands of the teachers.

He urged the teachers to join hands with the four-party opposition alliance to dislodge the "autocratic" government from power.

Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Golam Azam said the demand of the teachers is very "logical" and urged the government to accept it without further delay. "We can't develop our education sector if the primary school teachers are neglected."

Azizul Huq of Islamic Oikya Jote condemned the government for resorting to repression on the primary school teachers who are agitating in a peaceful manner.

Abdul Mannan and Anwarul Hossain of BNP, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar of JP, Ali Ahsan Mujahid of Jamaat, Fazlul Huq Amin of IOJ and Shafiqul Alam Prodhan of JAGPA also spoke.

The BNPTA president vowed to continue strike until their demand is met. He urged the teachers to remain in the streets and compel the government to accept the demand.

The BNPTA will begin laying siege to the Prime Minister's Office from September 27 to press home their demand.

Thousands of non-government primary school teachers from across the country attended the grand rally. Some 92,000 teachers of 23,000 non-government primary schools of the country are on a strike from September 2.

## Work permit

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said he had discussed the issue of forced marriages of British women of Bangladeshi origin during the talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Mohammad Nasim yesterday.

He also took up the issue of throwing of acid on women and expressed concern over the dastardly act.

Straw noted that Bangladesh has recently re-established democracy. Democracy and development go together, not dictatorship and development. The country has been through a traumatic process. "Everybody I met believes in democracy," he said.

"I have noticed concern at all quarters on political violence and extreme political rhetoric. Without violence, a free debate before polls are more important than casting of ballots."

He said that he discussed with the Bangladesh home minister the issue of police training and dispensation of criminal justice and offered help in these areas as well as in prison reforms.

Answering a question on the killers of Bangabandhu visiting Britain, Straw said, "We have not received any extradition request. If we receive, we will do it as quickly as possible."

## Adel

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"Since police have surrounded the court building my client has decided not to go out," the lawyer said. It will be sub-judice if police arrests him from the court building without prior permission of the Chief Justice, Hossain said.

The CMM's court Dhaka on August 21 issued a warrant after sedition charge was brought against Adel for hoisting Pakistani national flag at his residence in Old Dhaka on the independence day of that country on August 14.

Earlier, Adel had gone into hiding after the sedition charge was brought against him. Hoisting of the Pakistani flag sparked off violence in the area and protest from local people. Adel, a former deputy mayor of Dhaka City Corporation and a Jatiya Party leader appeared before a Vacation Bench of the HC, comprising Justice Nurul Islam and Justice Latifur Rahman, at about 1:00 pm yesterday.

Police on Friday attached Adel's moveable property following a court order as he did not appear before the trial court.

## Two Koreas

From page 1

Korean peninsula. "It is a symbol of unification," said Kim, adding: "We are having a dialogue for future unification."

He said it had been struck during a three-way meeting with North Korean IOC member Chang Ung and Samaranch after an "aggressive intervention" by the IOC President.

It needed "tough negotiations" because the North Korean side was cautious," he told Yonhap.

North Korea's Chang welcomed the accord saying: "We are the same blood." Sunday's announcement ends months of uncertainty over whether or not the North's unpredictable communist leadership would respond positively to the IOC's proposal for joint participation in the opening ceremony.

The IOC extended the offer in the wake of a historic June summit between the leaders of the two Koreas, who have remained technically at war since the 1950-1953 conflict on the peninsula ended with a signing of armistice but no formal peace treaty.

The South's President Kim Dae-Jung and the communist North's supreme leader Kim Jong-il agreed at the summit to move towards reconciliation and eventual reunification.

## President: Accountability

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of DFID, an aid window of British government.

Representatives from 18 countries and experts from host Bangladesh will share their experiences at the conference.

Kibria said the conference is very significant as it is taking place at a time when Bangladesh is going through a critical phase of institutionalising democracy.

The finance minister blamed the military rule since 1975 for late growing of institutions that ensures accountability and transparency. "We are still going through transition to the new system and much more has to be done to improve the oversight system."

Opposition lawmakers are taking part in activities of different parliamentary committees, which indicates the importance of oversight system in Bangladesh, Kibria said.

Temple said developing a powerful oversight system will be a challenging job because there are powerful vested groups to resist it because they benefit from the status quo.

But without improved oversight, Bangladesh will not achieve either its democratic or its economic potential, Temple said.

"Although Bangladesh has institutional arrangements for performing oversight functions, they are not yet working effectively or are not yet enforced adequately," he observed.

Parliamentary committees are not adequately equipped and their findings are often ignored.

About the prevailing situa-

tion in the banking sector, Temple said since nationalized commercial banks control more than half of the total bank deposits and loans, Bangladesh Bank's effectiveness as a supervisor is seriously compromised by the fact that NCBs are outside its oversight authority.

He emphasised training up more qualified accountants and auditors to develop effective oversight.

Syed Yusuf Hossain said it is not shortage of resources but their misuse and wastage and corruption are the main bottlenecks in development.

The purpose of the conference is to promote international cooperation in understanding the process of oversight functions over public expenditures, he said.

In his key-note address, Anthony Fitzsimon disclosed that there are about 40,000 companies in Bangladesh. This needs accountants for far more than the 1,200 now in the country, he said.

The conference is focusing on three important oversight functions necessary for improving financial accountability in public administration. These are parliamentary control of public expenditure, public sector auditing and accountability profession in Bangladesh.

Yesterday's session was devoted to presentations on the conference theme and findings and recommendations of the three sectoral reports.

The sessions today and tomorrow will be devoted to presentations and discussions on detailed sectoral reports.

## Akhtaruzzaman

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took oath to play their due role in parliament and that those who boycotted its sessions in the past and those doing so now betrayed the people who voted for them.

Talking to newsmen at the lobby of the Sangsad Bhaban, the BNP legislator criticised some recent activities of the party. He was critical of BNP's electoral alliance with Jatiya Party of deposed president HM Ershad.

Referring to the party action against him, Akhtaruzzaman said, "I'm a free man now. Party had expelled me four times earlier."

He, however, said that he would contest polls again even if he failed to get BNP nomination.

In reply to a question, he said he had discussed with the Awami League chief over a year ago but did not join the party as Sheikh Hasina did not offer him any post.

Without naming any one, he said some BNP lawmakers were misleading the party's parliamentary party wing (BNPPP). He mentioned that only 47 lawmakers attended the BNPPP meeting on Saturday.

He said that many of his colleagues in the party avoided speaking the bitter truth just fearing that if they do so, they would not get party nomination in the next elections.

Earlier, Akhtaruzzaman entered the House and sat in the

## LC identifies

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worked due to lack of sincerity, the report said.

The Commission also made some recommendations to put an end to the longstanding crisis.

These include setting up of separate courts for classified cases, fixing the time-frame for disposal of cases and limiting the number of cases for a court, evolving a mechanism for effective monitoring of court activities, strengthening the prosecution side and enhancing manpower and logistics in the courts.

## Jail killing case

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tion 302, 34 of the Penal Code. Eight of the accused -- Taheruddin Thakur, Shah Moez Hossain, K M Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Monzoor, Lt Col (Dismissed) Syed Farooq Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Sharif Rashid Khan, Major (Retd) Bazul Huda and Major (Retd) Khairuzzaman -- are now detained at the Dhaka central jail. They were produced in the court during the hearing.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam appeared for the state while Advocate A F M Mahib-ur Rahman, Abdul Majid Munshi and Anwar Jahid Bhuiyan for the accused.

## 50th birthday

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at 5:30 p.m. at the Shilpangan Art Gallery at Dhanmondi in the city. Poet Shamsur Rahman will inaugurate the exhibition.

Painter Anisul Islam will preside over the inaugural function while Prof. Anisuzzaman and Prof. Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir will be present as special guest.

The exhibition will remain open from 10 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily until September 26.

Artist Shahabuddin was born in Dhaka on September 11 in 1950. He joined in the country's liberation movement in 1971 and served as Platoon Commander of Lalbagh thana.

He did his bachelor's degree from the then Dhaka Art College in 1973. Shahabuddin went to France to study art at Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris under a French Government scholarship.

The artist participated in different exhibitions held in different countries during the last 25 years.

He was awarded the "Independent Day Award 2000", the highest government award for his contribution in art.

last row of the empty Opposition Bench. Treasury Bench members stared at him with surprise and the Chair gave him floor without being asked for that.

Akhtaruzzaman then said he did seek the floor but the Speaker said he could still make a supplementary query as the one-hour question-answer session was still in progress.

But instead of asking any question, he started giving statements on various issues which were out of context in the question-answer session. AS the Chair interrupted him, he became agitated and said, "This is why the Opposition members do not come to the House."

Akhtaruzzaman later told newsmen that he would continue to attend sessions till the last day of the present parliament.

## US open

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minute duel. They each needed to be fast to keep up with the other, and no one in the game is faster than the sinewy, long-legged Williams.

"I really have some wheels," Williams said. "I'm really speedy these days. It helped me a lot."

Williams gazed at the silver trophy, taking pleasure in seeing where her name will be inscribed next to that sister Serena.

"It feels real nice," Venus said. Williams celebrated this victory less tamely than she did her Wimbledon triumph, skipping lightly to the net, twirling a bit, shaking hands briefly with Davenport. Williams then trotted over to the corner to kiss her mother and hug her father and coach, Richard, who came down to the court and danced jubilantly beside