

What's on today....

BUP seminar: Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) will hold a seminar on "Challenges of Food Assistance: Food Access Gap." Venue: BUP conference room, House No 33, Rd No 4, Dhammondi R/A. Time: 4:00 pm.

Founding anniversary: Chandpur Zila Awami Forum will hold a function to mark its first founding anniversary. Venue: Rajuk, Dilkusha. Time: 5:00 pm.

Theatre: A 3-day long theatre event titled "Importance of being earnest" begins. Organisers: British Council, Lever Brothers Bangladesh Ltd and British Airways. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 7:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Discussion: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts will hold a discussion on its current exhibition titled "Ship to Darshan." Venue: Bengal Shipyard, 275/F, Road No 27 (Old) 16 (New), Dhammondi R/A. Time: 5:30 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

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

Moderately heavy falls is likely at one or two places over Chittagong division during the period. Met Office said. No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country.

The country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and the lowest 25.0 degree Celsius at Tangail, Teknaf and Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:04 pm and rises on Thursday at 5:45 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	34.2	27.2	71	73
Chittagong	34.4	26.0	86	86
Rajshahi	34.0	26.3	76	79
Khulna	35.0	26.5	76	69
Barisal	33.6	27.0	83	77
Sylhet	32.7	25.0	87	80
Cox's Bazar	34.6	26.0	78	95

Third bridge over River Karnaphuli likely

By Staff Correspondent

The government has been seriously considering construction of a third crossing over River Karnaphuli, especially to facilitate more foreign investment at the northern part of the Chittagong town. Communications Minister Anwar Hossain said yesterday.

"A consultant will be appointed soon for feasibility study of the project," the minister said while addressing a roundtable discussion at the Jatiya Press Club.

The government has also plans to repair the existing two bridges over the River Karnaphuli, he said.

The roundtable discussion titled "Construction of a tunnel under the bed of the River Karnaphuli: Its national importance and necessity" was organised by Chittagong Journalists Forum Dhaka (CJFD) with Enamul Haq Chowdhury, president of CJFD in the chair.

The discussion was attended among others by National Professor Dr. Nurul Islam, Maj. Gen (Retd) Ibrahim,

Chairman of Parjaton Corporation Abu Saleh, Awami League Central leader S M Yusuf, Azizul Huq Chowdhury, JSD Joint Secretary, Moinuddin Khan Badal, President of Chittagong Samity while consultant of Mott MacDonald Hedayetul Islam presented a paper on the project.

The communications minister said allocation in communication sector rose to Tk 25 crore from only 10 crore in 1991, but still there is shortage of funds in the sector. "But we have to work with this limits," he said.

Speakers at the discussion highlighted the importance of Chittagong as the country's main port, river port and tourist spots are located in this region. Chittagong has long been neglected despite its strategic location and importance, speakers alleged.

Development in the country's other parts can not be done without the development of the port city, speakers observed.

Nazma Jesmin Memorial Lecture held at DU

Noted philosopher Sardar Fazlul Karim said yesterday that people should not be frustrated in crucial hours of their life, rather they should be more confident against evil spirits.

"Positive feelings of the oppressed people are the source of our strength," he said while delivering his paper at the '11' Nazma Jesmin Chowdhury Memorial Lecture' at Dhaka University, reports BSS.

The Institute of Modern Language of Dhaka University organises the lecture each year in commemoration of its former faculty member.

Vice-chancellor of the university Prof AK Azad Chowdhury chaired the lecture while Director of the Institute Dr Arifa Rahman gave the address of welcome.

Sardar Karim said that 'neocolonial forces' were targeting Bangladesh, as they understand that revolutionary spirit still exist among its people.

Expressing his thoughts on education, Karim, an acclaimed teacher of philosophy and political science, said that in Bangladesh there is no crisis of education, but crisis of character.

Madhu Purnima today

CHITTAGONG, Sept 12: Members of the Buddhist community will celebrate one of their major festivals 'Madhu Purnima' in the city as elsewhere in the district tomorrow with due religious fervour and solemn devotion, reports BSS.

Qulkhwan

Qulkhwan of Begum Atiqur Rahman Khan (Helen), wife of M Anwar Hossain Khan, chief trainer Bangladesh Scouts will be held on Friday after Asr prayers, says a press release.

She died on Monday at her Uttarakhand residence. She had been suffering from cancer for a long time. She left behind her husband, two daughters and a host of relatives.

Erratum

A news report headlined "Another desperate move to replace Bhuiyan falls flat" printed in The Daily Star yesterday had inadvertently mentioned the name of Jatiya Party leader Firoz Rashid instead of BNP leader Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as the party's new Secretary General. We regret the mistake.

INDC team calls on President

The members of the visiting Indian National Defence College (INDC), led by Rear Admiral RM Kshetrpal, called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Welcoming the members of the delegation President Shahabuddin recalled the Bangladesh-Indian bilateral relations and the contribution of Indian defence personnel in the Liberation War of Bangladesh. He said the visit of the INDC team of India will strengthen the existing bond of friendship between the two countries, especially the two armed forces.

600 fake tickets of Singapore airlines seized

Police seized 600 fake tickets of Singapore Airlines along with some ticket-printing materials from Dhaka University Market at Katabon Monday night, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip off, police raided an advertising firm in the market, arrested one Sarwar Hossain and seized the fake air tickets and other materials from the shop.

Besides, police yesterday arrested Sarwar's accomplice Tipu Sultan from Elephant Road area.

A case was filed with Ramnathana.

Four 'fake cops' arrested from city market

Sutrapur police yesterday arrested four people for impersonating as policemen from Rajdhami Super Market in the city last night, reports BSS.

A team of police, acting on a tip-off, arrested them from a shop of the market while they were blackmailing the shop owner in the guise of police.

The arrested persons are: Shahjahan, 50, Saiful Islam, 35, Nasir, 35, and Mohammad Firoz, 35.

Nasim

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Akhtar alleged that because of the home minister's 'failure', journalists, lawyers and even Awami League leaders are losing their lives.

Without mentioning names, the lawmaker said people know it very well 'blessings of whose wives' are required for postings and transfers in police department.

The home minister blamed Akhtaruzzaman's party for 'patronising' the recent killings in the country. He mentioned that a BNP leader who is a lawyer in profession moved the bail prayers for the accused in Bahadurhat killings in Chittagong recently.

Nasim further said that the wife of slain lawyer Habibur Rahman Mondal could not even file a case as a BNP worker had filed the case to 'save' the real killers.

Accommodation for NAM Summit guests being built at cost of Tk 204cr

By Staff Correspondent

The government is constructing a total of 928 suites and apartments at city's different areas at a cost of Tk 204 crore for guests and delegates of the NAM Summit scheduled to be held in Dhaka in September next year.

This was disclosed in Jatiya Sangsad yesterday by Minister for Housing and Public Works, and Civil Aviation and Tourism Engineer Mosharraf Hossain.

Replying to a question from Awami League MP Faruq Khan, Mosharraf said of the total suites, 164 suites are being constructed at Nakhla MP Hostel premises at a cost of Tk 57.68 crore plus, 288 apartments at the BSL land in Mirpur at a cost of 39.45 crore, 216 suites and apartments at Manik Mia Avenue square at a cost of Tk 44.55 crore and 260 apartments at Gulshan and Banani areas on RAJUK's own land at a cost of Tk 62.32 crore.

On another question of Kazi Sirajul Islam of AL, the Housing and Public Works Minister said the government has taken steps to allot some 6,000 plots under Uttara 3rd phase housing area. He also said the government has further decided to construct 50,000 apartments for allotment among members of the public. Besides this, the government will also construct 3,000 apartments in city's Gulshan area.

The minister said that a total of 23,063 applications had been received for the allotment of plots at Mohammadpur 'F' Block.

Hostage drama

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personnel, an end to smoking in the country and punishment of loan defaulters.

During the negotiation, he demanded assurance from the Prime Minister that he would not be harmed after surrender. He also demanded a written undertaking from the negotiators about implementation of his demands, some sources said.

As the hostage drama began, security was tightened with deployment of army, police and commandos around the DC's office.

The gunman took one bottle of cold drink during the hostage drama while the 14 victims went without food, officials said.

He went to the DC's office in a hired car from Dighinala.

The SP of Feni took Azad's wife and daughter to Khagrachari at about 2 pm yesterday to put pressure on him to surrender.

Our Staff Correspondent in Dhaka adds: The home ministry has formed a joint investigation cell to interrogate the gunman, sources said without giving details.

The Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights in a press conference yesterday said the hostage drama is a glaring example of people's frustration in the country. It shows the deteriorating law and order in the country, said Alina Khan, Director Investigation of BSEHR.

However, the government has decided to construct apartments and distribute those among the applicants instead of plots.

Answering a supplementary question from Hajj Selim of AL, Engineer Mosharraf Hossain said the government has planned to build a satellite town at Kamrangirchar and Islambagh areas.

Replying to another question from Bharati Nandi Sarkar, the minister said that the government has plans to complete the construction of a National Secretariat at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar by June 2000.

He said the proposed 14-storey National Secretariat will have 28 blocks which will be constructed at an estimated cost of Tk 772.53 crore.

BB director under fire for backing candidacy of loan defaulter

Star Report

Members of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) Board, at a board meeting yesterday, criticised Kazi Md Shafiqul Islam, a member of the BB Board of Directors, for supporting the candidacy of a top loan defaulter in the upcoming Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) election.

Kazi Shafiq, a signatory to a BB Board decision last July which suggested to the government to enact laws barring loan defaulters from contesting in trade body elections, submitted the nomination paper of a top loan defaulter Mohammad Ali on his behalf, who is vying for the post of vice-president.

On the face of criticism, Shafiq tried to justify his move by saying that as there wasn't any law in this regard he didn't find anything wrong with his move.

Shafiq's argument failed to satisfy the board members and one of them said this is a question of morality. As a member of the BB Board Shafiq should refrain himself from such activities, the board members said.

Country experiences 200mw loadshedding

By Staff Correspondent

Load shedding in the country was about 200 MW yesterday while the capital and its adjacent areas experienced a power shortage of around 100 MW.

Two major power generation units -- 210 MW Ghorasal-3 and 210 MW Ghorasal-6 -- which went out of production in the last week of August, are yet to resume operation. The Ghorasal-3 unit may resume power generation on Thursday and the Ghorasal-6 on the 18th of this month, PDB sources said.

Eight other power generation units also remained shut.



Students of different colleges who appeared at their masters preliminary (first part) final exams under National University held a demonstration in front of the National Press Club yesterday. They are protesting the delay in publication of their exam results. - Star photo

Rubel murder

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He further told the court that he and other police officials took Rubel to DMCH where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Sub-Inspector Shahnur, the 20th prosecution witness in the case, told the court that he was in the truck carrying Rubel to DMCH for treatment.

Shamim Reza Rubel, 24, a BBA student of the Independent University, was picked up by a team of DB police and was tortured to death in the custody the same day.

All the accused including AC Akram and a local Awami League leader Mukul Begum were produced before the court yesterday.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam appeared for the state while Advocate Mahbub Ahmed, Sharfuddin Khan Mukul, Shamim Ahsan and Humayun Kabir for the accused.

CPD dialogue

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preliminary forces in all the member states, the audience suggested it's time to get going without waiting for a certain country to respond in favour of a summit. For integration of relevant markets such as commodities, labour and capital has to be made with or without the help of the respective governments. The private sector can go a long way in making regional co-operation stronger.

Shazneen case

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by the lawyer of two co-accused - Minu and Parveen - as his cousin was kidnapped and he was mentally upset.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom Group, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

Domestic help Shahidul Islam is the principal accused in the case while contractor Hasan the alleged mastermind.

All the accused - Shahid, Hasan, Badal, Shaniram, Minu and Parveen were produced in the court.

Mojibur Rahman, ASP of CID, the first prosecution witness as well as complainant in the case appeared in the court yesterday to face cross-examination.

Special public prosecutors Mahbub Ahmed and Sharfuddin Khan Mukul appeared for the complainant while Advocate MA Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam for the accused.

Khaleda: Case

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mer finance minister M Saifur Rahman and former state minister for civil aviation and tourism MA Mannan.

The Metropolitan Court of Sessions, Dhaka earlier granted bail to Khaleda Zia and the rest on August 7.

Haronur Rashid, Inspector of the Bureau of Anti Corruption, who lodged the case with Motiheel thana on August 30, 1998, recently submitted a charge sheet in the case.

3 bills on CHT passed

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While moving the amendments, Akhtaruzzaman called for referendum on the CHT Peace Agreement signed on December 2, 1997 between the government and tribal 'insurgents', terming it a 'black agreement'.

Before passage of the bills, the House witnessed a brief but stormy debate over the CHT Peace Accord when Kalpa Ranjan Chakma termed Akhtaruzzaman a 'pro-Pakistan and anti-liberation element'.

Akhtaruzzaman said the bills were against the interest of the country and its people. The District Council Acts of 1989 were passed within the framework of the Constitution and upholding independence of Bangladesh, but the CHT accord was signed sacrificing the interest of the country.

He opposed the provision allowing the district councils to use government funds 'as per their wish'.

Speaking on the Bill, the CHT Affairs Minister criticised Akhtaruzzaman. At one stage he said, "The people who are yet to accept the independent of Bangladesh and want a confederation with Pakistan are opposing the peace accord."

This remark made Akhtaruzzaman angry and he reacted instantly. "I consider this (Kalpa Ranjan's statement) as a statement of the Prime Minister and her party because Kalpa Ranjan Chakma is a member of the Cabinet. Through this attack on a freedom fighter by a Cabinet member, Awami League has once again showed disregard for the Liberation War and freedom fighters."

"I never expected that terrorists in CHT who killed thousands of troops, BDR, Police, Ansars and innocent people over the years will raise question about my patriotism."

He said the tribal and Bangalee people are living together in peace and they are working for development of the region. He said no Bangalee has been displaced from the CHT and will never be displaced in future.

Olympians lock doors

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use of the word "drugs" when questioned about their decision to leave behind 27 athletes because of "suspicious blood test results."

The chief of the Chinese delegation, Yu Zaiping, denied speculation that the clean-up was directly linked to Beijing's 2008 Olympic bid.

"It is the city that bids for Olympics. We are a national Olympic committee," Yu said. "Even if there is an image problem that matters in the area, we are doing nothing about it as a country."

Yu's words came as Australian swimmer Don Talbot - one of the most outspoken critics of drugs in sport - opted to stay silent on the doping issue.

Talbot has told his swimmers not to answer questions on doping and declined to comment on Susie O'Neill's controversial assertion earlier this year that Dutch swim sensation Inge de Bruijn's recent world records were "pretty suss."

Akhtaruzzaman, a freedom fighter, also asked Kalpa Ranjan Chakma to look at his right and left and asked where were they in 1971 who are now the State Minister for Religious Affairs and the State Minister for Jute. "Kalpa, please speak about your two rakarak colleagues, not against freedom fighters...it's not a jungle of CHT."

In reply, the BNP MP reminded Kalpa Ranjan that while in opposition, AL had launch movement with Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party and its relationship with rakarak and autocrats was sweeter than with others.

Akhtaruzzaman demanded inclusion of representatives of Bengali speaking people in CHT in the three district councils. He said "terrorists" of Shanti Bahini can not be given full authority in the name of district or regional councils.

He alleged that the AL betrayed with the people by signing the "unequal" CHT agreement and allowing the terrorists to "abuse" people's money in "whatever way they wish".

The CHT Affairs Minister said except the opposition parties, the entire world acclaimed signing of the peace agreement and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was also awarded for establishing peace in the hill tracts.

He said the tribal and Bangalee people are living together in peace and they are working for development of the region. He said no Bangalee has been displaced from the CHT and will never be displaced in future.



Visitors admiring cushion covers at the 5-day exhibition of home textiles that began at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in the city yesterday. - Star photo

4 informers

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Sources claimed that police recovered the heroin acting on the information given by Ramzan. The victim's family also claimed that he was an informer of Kotwali police, but police denied this.

Abdul Wadud, 38, who ran a tea stall at Nabinabagh in Shyampur was shot dead on July 28. Local people claimed that some drug smugglers killed him when they came to know his involvement with police. But Shyampur police denied having any link with him.

The victim's relatives lodged a case with Shyampur police but they could not arrest any of the killers, saying that no accused was named in the FIR.

In another incident on August 16, police informer Jasu was shot dead near by Tongi Diversion Road. But police denied that Jasu was their informer.

Abul Kalam, 40, a rickshaw-puller and a 'police informer', was shot dead by some unidentified men at Bat Tola at Tejgaon on August 16. Two young men came in an auto-rickshaw, shot him and escaped.

Police denied that Kalam was their informer. They filed a case but could not arrest any of the killers.

PM: Pakistan should apologise

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quarters in New York was a diplomatic failure of Islamabad. Her statement at the UN Millennium Summit on September 7 urging the United Nations Security Council to act against military regimes that capture power through unconstitutional means reportedly led to the cancellation.

"I don't know why Parvez Musharraf took my words personally? I have spoken of my principle and belief, and did not name anybody."

"I am sure the democracy-loving peoples across the world including those in Pakistan will appreciate my statement."

The prime minister, however, said her comment will not deter her peace initiative in the region and Bangladesh's relations with Pakistan. "Bangladesh will maintain state-to-state relations with Pakistan whoever is in power in that country."

Hasina also brushed aside the claim made by Pakistan's foreign minister that her UN speech was influenced by India. "Bangladesh is an independent and a sovereign state. Whatever we do we do independently...we never do anything at other's dictate."

The prime minister, who returned from New York Monday night, said she had also requested world leaders not to recognise and legitimise those military regimes. "I've been opposed to military rule since my school days...what I have said at the UN summit is in the interest of democracy and the people," she said.

Hasina referred to her long struggle against the military regimes of Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan, Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad and pledged to continue her struggle for democracy.

"The Pakistan government should take back their people stranded in Bangladesh since 1971, she told another questioner."

About the trial of the war criminals and on the issue of banning communal politics, Hasina said for this the constitution needs to be amended, which her party cannot do now.

About the interview with CNN where she was asked about Bangladesh's reunification with India and having a common currency, the prime minister said the questions were absurd.

"This is not Europe; the

question of having a common currency in this subcontinent is absolutely irrelevant," she said.

When her attention was drawn to an accused (Jatiya Party leader Jahangir Mohammad Adil) who took shelter at the High Court building to escape arrest, Hasina said conviction and accused in corruption cases are getting anticipatory bail and they together are fighting against her government. She wondered how martial could be enforced for a convict in corruption case.

It is difficult to deal with corruption that has deep roots in the society due to years of military and autocratic rule in the country.

Hasina reiterated her government's stand that gas can be exported only after keeping a reserve for 50 years and meeting the domestic need.

Explaining her earlier statement about the NAM summit, she said the summit will be held under the next elected government. "It does not only mean that the election will be held before schedule, the summit may also be rescheduled."

The caretaker government may also complete election process before the summit, she also

said.

The PM told newsmen that the government will do the needful to check realisation of transport fares more than the rates fixed by the government. She termed it unethical that a section of transport owners increased fares before the announcement of government rate.

Hasina also lauded BNP lawmaker Akhtaruzzaman for attending the parliament session going against his party's decision. Earlier, she spoke about her eight-day visit to USA.

Container port

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Mohammad Latifur Rahman issued the rule nisi upon a petition filed by former chairman of CPA Mahmud Ul Islam, labour union president at Chittagong port A S M Nazrul Islam, Sunil Kumar and Mohammad Shah Alam.

Dr Kamal Hossain appeared for the petitioners while Deputy Attorney General A K M Saifuddin defended the government, said a press release.

Case under PSA

6 Jubo League, BCL activists

jailed in Magura