

What's on today....

Biennial conference: Dhaka City Rickshaw Samik League (DCRSL) will hold its biennial conference. Chief guest: Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif. Venue: WAPDA auditorium. Time: 3:00 pm.

Seminar: Bangladesh Arthaniti Samity will hold a seminar on "Disparity, Corruption and Unrest in Education in Bangladesh: In the light of the 21st century." Venue: Planning and Development Academy auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 3:00 pm.

Memorial meeting: Altaf Mahmud Sangeet Bidyaniketan will hold a memorial meeting on Shaheed Altaf Mahmud. Venue: Pallina Sangsad premises, Khilgong. Time: 4:00 pm.

Launching ceremony: Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) will hold launching ceremony of its new publications "Bangladesh Journal of Environment", "Jiboner Dame Kena Jibika and The Chittagong Hill Tracts: Life and Nature at Risk". Venue: VIP Lounge of National Press Club, 18 Tophkhana Road. Time: 4:00 pm.

Film show: High Commission of India will screen Kishore Kumar's "Ha" starring Hritik Roshan and Anisha Patel. Venue: High Commission auditorium, House No 25, Road No 2, Dhammondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Seminar: A seminar will be held on "Save Our Sky: Protect Yourself. Protect the Ozone Layer." Chief guest: Minister for Environment and Forest Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury. Venue: Ballroom, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9:30 am.

Meeting: The general meeting of Dhaka-Rajshahi Customs, Excise and VAT Executive Officers Association will be held. Venue: Engineers Institution, Dhaka. Time: 10:00 am.

Reception: Movement to Uphold Standard of Education and Prevent Copying will accord a reception to Workers Party General Secretary Rashid Khan Menon. Chief guest: President of Gono Forum Dr Kamal Hossain. Venue: National Sports Complex auditorium, 62/3 Pirana Paltan. Time: 3:00 pm.

Concluding ceremony: The concluding ceremony of the folklore festival at Indian Cultural Centre will be held. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, Dhammondi. Time: 4:00 pm.

BPS prize distribution: Bangladesh Photographic Society will hold the prize distribution ceremony of its recently held annual BPS competition 1999. Venue: BPS premises, 63/2 Laboratory Road. Time: 4:30 pm.

Meeting: Movement for Quota Free and Duty Free Export of Garments to USA will hold a meeting to press for their various demands. Venue: RAOVA Club, DOHS. Time: 5:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Seminar: Shobar Jonny Shasthya (Health for All) will hold a seminar on "Tetanus". Kenote speaker: Dr Shahin Ara Begum, Infectious Diseases Hospital (Mohakhali). Venue: Gano Shasthya Nagar Hospital, 14/E, Rd No 6, Dhammondi R/A. Time: 5:30 pm.

Film show: High Commission of India will screen "Udhari Kie Zindagi". Venue: High Commission auditorium, House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhammondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Spanish film session: Zahur Raihan Film Society will hold a five-day Spanish film session. Venue: German Cultural Institute. Time: 5 pm & 7 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy falls is expected at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions. Met office said predicting slight fall in day temperature during the period.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.0 degree Celsius at Sayedpur and the lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Hatia.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:01 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46 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	32.2	27.1	79	98
Chittagong	32.1	25.0	72	92
Rajshahi	32.2	25.7	87	92
Khulna	33.0	25.0	84	79
Barisal	31.5	25.5	78	92
Sylhet	29.9	24.6	92	95
Cox's Bazar	--	25.5	--	--



B K Kumar, President of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce of Industry, Calcutta (1st from left), C M Koyes Sami, President & Managing Director of AB Bank (2nd from left), Allama Siddiqui (3rd from left), Syed Manzoor Islam, First Secretary of Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Calcutta (4th from left) and Zahid Hossain Chowdhury, Country Manager of AB Bank, India (5th from left) seen in the picture in the open discussion on Indo-Bangla Trade held recently at Calcutta which was organised by Arab Bangladesh Bank Limited.



The third roundtable on "Human Resource Management and Development: Appraisal System" was held at the Rapport seminar hall in the city recently. The roundtable was organised by Rapport Bangladesh Limited in association with GrameenPhone.



Visitors admiring a painting by artist Shahabuddin Ahmad at his solo exhibition that opened at the Shilpangan Gallery yesterday. The exhibition is being held as part of the celebrations to mark the renowned artist's 50th birthday.

— Star photo

Law on abandoned property affects all citizens alike

Chief Justice says at book launching ceremony

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman yesterday said the law on abandoned property is an important piece of legislation that not only affects the citizens but also the citizens alike, reports UNB.

The law is the offspring of the 1971 Independence War," the Chief Justice said at the launching ceremony of a book titled "Law of Abandoned Property (revised edition)" yesterday.

Law Commission member Justice Nayimuddin Ahmed, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, Barrister Mainul Hossain and author of the book M Faruqi also spoke at the function chaired by M Mohsen Rashid at CIRDAP auditorium.

Observing that there are few

books on legal issues in our country written by lawyers or judges, the Chief Justice stressed the need for more such books by the lawyers on legal issues as well as human right problems.

Both as lawyers and judges, we seldom write books on legal subjects. This culture and habit is to be developed because it is the eminent lawyers and judges who are most capable persons to write on legal subjects," he said.

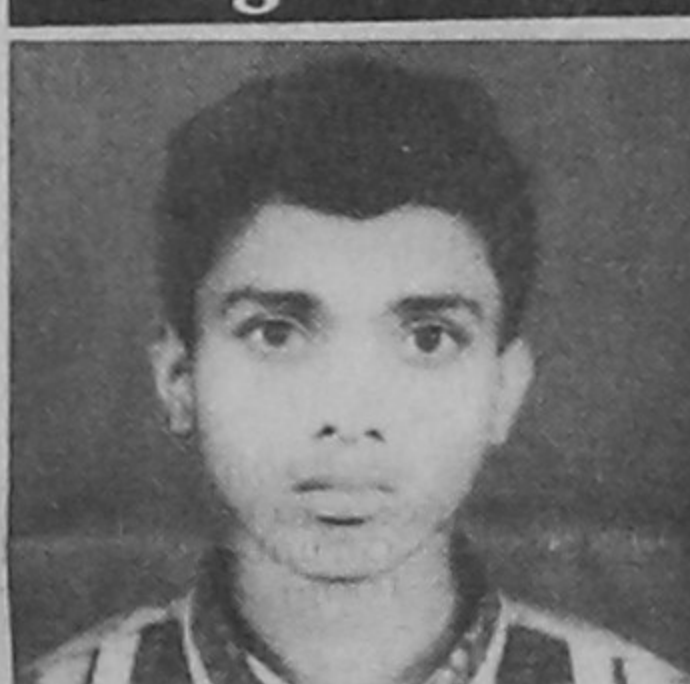
The Chief Justice, however, hoped that the lawyers of eminence would also write books on contemporary legal problems and issues such as human rights problems, reform of prisons and improvement of police administration.

Law Commission member Justice Nayimuddin Ahmed said verdict of the court is static but anybody has the right to differ with it.

Browsing on the obscurity and loopholes of the abandoned property law, he said it is difficult to define "abandoned property," as existing law does not clearly clarify its definition.

Termining the abandoned property law "offensive and aggressive," Barrister Mainul Hossain said, "When laws are abused and misinterpreted, then corruption is encouraged and people are harassed." M Faruqi said that law of abandoned property is basically an administrative law. And administrative law by turn is part of the constitutional law.

Congratulations



Rabiul wants to be a Chartered Accountant

From Our Correspondent SATHIRA, Sept 15: Rabiul Islam of Tala Shahid Muktijoddha College has stood 12th in the combined merit list of Commerce Group under Jessor Board.

He obtained 831 marks with distinctions in two subjects.

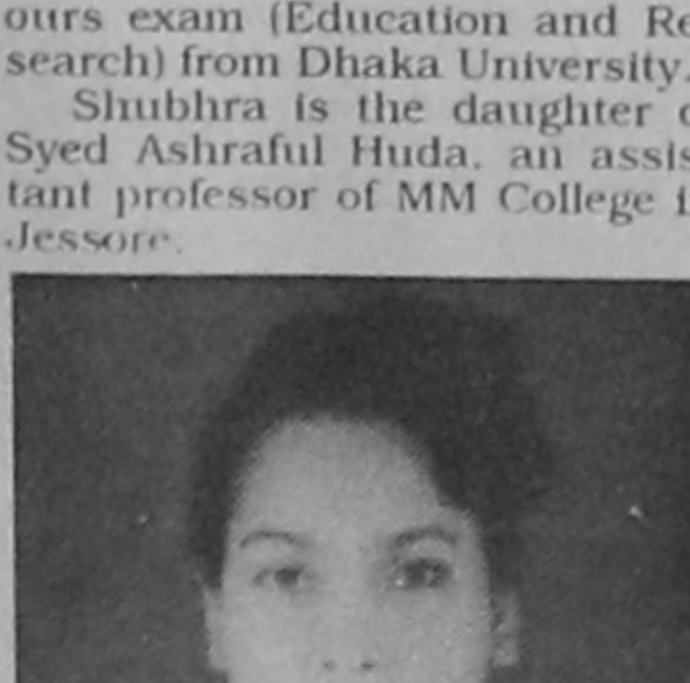
Rabiul is the son of Surat Ali Gazi and Hanida Begum from Pania village in Kaliganj upazila.

Rabiul had no private tutors to help him in his studies. He likes to read books in leisure and wants to be a Chartered Accountant in future.



From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Sept 15: Syeda Atiqunahar Shubhra obtained first class second in her Honours exam (Education and Research) from Dhaka University.

Shubhra is the daughter of Syed Ashraf Huda, an assistant professor of MM College in Jessore.



From RU Correspondent RAJSHAH, Sept 15: Rajshahi University has conferred a PhD degree on Mobarra Siddiqua for her thesis "Contribution of Women in Modern Bengali Literature: From Yana Catherine Malos to Rokeya Sakawat Hossain."

She was awarded the degree from the Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS) of the same university.

Mobarra is the daughter of late Sayedul Haq Siddiqui and Begum Panni Siddiqui of Chittagong.

New water testing laboratory set up

By Staff Correspondent

NGO Forum has launched a water quality testing laboratory at its Lalnaita office premises in the city recently.

The laboratory, set up mainly to test arsenic in tubewell water, has been built at a cost of about Tk 30 lakh provided by DANIDA. It can carry out up to 30 tests a day.

NGO Forum is an apex body of small non-government organisations and community based organisations (CBOs) working in water and sanitation field.

The School of Environmental Studies (SOES) of Jadavpur, India will provide technical assistance and its Director Dr Dipankar Chakraborty will work with the project, one of the biggest in the country, in the domain of arsenic mitigation.

We have the best technologies with all modern equipment as well as laboratory technicians but time would tell how good the laboratory is. Nevertheless, we are trying to get international recognition," Dr Abul Hasanat Milton, Chief of Arsenic Cell of the Forum said.

He said, "We will test water samples for arsenic with spectrophotometer at Tk 300 per test and also use the laboratory for

verifying water quality in our project areas."

"In fact," Dr Milton said, "the idea of the laboratory is to provide safe water to our clients through regular monitoring."

The laboratory facilities include tests for all sources of bacteria and pathogens. It also has facilities to test for fluoride, nitrate, nitrite, bi-carbonate, sodium, potassium, calcium, pH balance, turbidity in water.

NGO Forum has also taken up action research programme on Rain Water Harvesting in Rajshahi and currently working on two-bucket system to evaluate the bucket treatment unit in Ghior of Manikganj district.

The Forum has so far tested 20,056 tubewells and found about 23 per cent of them contaminated by groundwater arsenic.

The Forum has a network of more than 530 grassroots NGOs and CBOs through which it works for a 'safe water operation' in the country, one of the biggest in South Asia.

"We have taken up the laboratory project in view of the number one environmental (groundwater arsenic contamination) problem in the country," S M A Rashid, Director of the Forum, said.

Millennium Games

From page 1

The Games also offer a golden opportunity for the Olympic movement to spruce up an image tarnished by corruption and sleaze.

But another cloud hangs over the movement - doping. In an Olympic first, the athletes' oath read out at the ceremony by Australian women's hockey team captain Rachelle Hawkes committed them to work for a "sport without doping and without drugs."

The parade of athletes from 199 nations through Stadium Australia showed a world very different from the last time Australia hosted the Games in Melbourne in 1956.

In a gesture rich in symbolism, North and South Korea marched together behind two athletes holding a single flag showing their peninsula.

The crowd rose for a standing ovation as the Koreans paraded hand-in-hand to put aside half a century of hatred and division.

And there was a huge cheer for the four athletes from the ravaged territory of East Timor marching behind the Olympic flag.

Leading them was boxer Victor Ramos, who fled for his life into the mountains during last year's killing spree by pro-Indonesian militia.

They danced for joy and punched the air, blowing kisses to the appreciative crowd.

The roar was deafening when the entire Australian team poured into the stadium and, in a gentle note of self-mockery, threw stuffed toy kangaroos into the crowd to cries of "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie!"

A giant flag emblazoned with a dove of peace and then with the five Olympic rings was swept down across the stadium

International Ozone Day today

International Ozone Day will be observed today with a firm commitment to protect environment, reports BSS.

In a message on occasion, President Shahabuddin Ahmed said the impact of depletion of ozone layer is more or less spread over all the countries of the world depending on their location.

He pointed out that Bangladesh falls within the impact zone of the ozone layer depletion and protection of it is of utmost necessity in ensuring the existence of plants and animals in the world.

Bangladesh, the President said, is a signatory to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer and has been working towards its effective implementation.

In a similar message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government is firm to protect environment and it had signed a number of protocols and conventions including the Montreal Protocol to achieve this goal.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest with support from UNDP has already chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the day. A day-long seminar has been organised today at 9:30 am where Environment Minister Sajeda Chowdhury will be the chief guest. State Minister for Environment H N Ashique Rahman, UNDP Resident Representative Jorgan Lissner and Environment Secretary Mamun Ur Rashid will address it.

Chairman of Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) Qamrul Islam Chowdhury called upon the government to phase out ozone depleting substances side by side with raising the issue globally so that Bangladesh could secure international support as an affected country.

Underpinning improving relations between India and the United States are blossoming links in trade, especially those born out of the information technology revolution. As partners on "every digital map" the United States and India should work to find new ways of fighting "poverty, illiteracy, hunger, disease and pollution," he said.

Striking a familiar theme often taken up by leaders of developing nations in Asia, he suggested the world's financial system was biased in favour of the rich.

"A situation that provides comfortable living standards to one-third of the world's population, but condemns the remaining two-thirds to poverty and want, is unsustainable," he said.

The prime minister spent

Reception accorded to meritorious SSC students

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mohammad Hanif yesterday asked the students to acquire morals side by side with their institutional education, reports BSS.

Speaking at a reception accorded to the meritorious students who secured positions in the merit list in this year's Secondary School Certificate Examination at Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Hanif described the students as the future driving force of the nation.

He expressed the hope that the students would make contributions to the nation by dedicating themselves to the services of the country with their talent, wisdom and sagacity.

Organised by the Dhaka Jubo Foundation, the function was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Prof. Zinatunnesa Talukder, Ward Commissioner Sabera Begum and Director of Shishu Academy Golam Kibria.

Later, the Mayor distributed crests and certificates among 37 meritorious students as recognition of their brilliant academic performance.

From page 1

liament ending the long boycott. Party sources mentioned that Akhter was suspended and served with show cause notices four times in the past on charges of activities that embarrassed the party.

When contacted last night, Akhteruzaman said he received a letter regarding his expulsion from the party. "Yes, I have received a letter containing the decision taken by the party and accepted it."

He went on, "At this stage, the party did not have any alternative since I was insisting on my party to join parliament session. As the party did not do that, there was no alternative but to expel me. I feel it was the right decision."

About his future plan, Akhter said that he was now a 'free man' and could serve the people without any obligations or restrictions.

Asked if he had any restrictions in this regard while in BNP, he said, "There were many rules and restrictions which had to abide by and I could not serve the people properly."

In reply to another question, he said he would not join any other political party but he would act as an independent member of parliament.

Meanwhile, sources in BNP said the party is going to write a letter to the Speaker requesting him to declare Akhter's parliament seat vacant. The Speaker is supposed to refer the issue to the Election Commission.

Opposition Chief Whip Khondakar Delwar Hossain, when contacted, confirmed that they would send a letter to the Speaker shortly. "It is not possible to give a specific date right now as the party chief is abroad," he said.

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Vajpayee urges US to

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fighting for a nuclear free world. "We both share a commitment to ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons. We both have declared voluntary moratoriums on testing."

Vajpayee's five-day visit, which includes talks with President Bill Clinton, comes at a time of increasing convergence of Indo-US relations, after years of Cold War suspicion when India leaned towards the Soviet Union, and the disruption of the 1998 weapons tests.

"We are at a historic moment in our ties. As we embark on our common endeavour to build a new relationship, we must give practical shape to our shared belief that democracies can be friends, partners and allies," Vajpayee said.

Clinton appeared to echo that desire in remarks to reporters on Thursday.

"They're the world's largest democracy. We need to have a better and closer and more constructive relationship with them," he said at the White House.

Vajpayee did not mention Pakistan by name in the speech, but referred to the agency sown by "foreign sponsored terrorists" in Punjab and divided Kashmir, separatist conflict India accuses its bitter rival of fomenting.

"There are forces outside our country that believe that they can use terror to unravel the territorial integrity of India. They wish to show that a multi-religious society cannot exist," he said.

"Indeed in our neighbourhood -- in this 21st century -- religious war has not just been fashioned into, it has been proclaimed to be, an instrument of state policy."

Underpinning improving relations between India and the United States are blossoming links in trade, especially those born out of the information technology revolution.

As partners on "every digital map" the United States and India should work to find new ways of fighting "poverty, illiteracy, hunger, disease and pollution," he said.

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