

## What's on today....

**Seminar :** The Cultural Centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran has arranged a seminar on 'Personality of Hazrat Fatima Zahra (AS) and Status of Women' on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Hazrat Fatima Zahra (AS) and Women Day. Venue: Cultural Centre auditorium, House-54, Road-8/A, Dhanmondi. Time : 4 pm.

**Film show:** High Commission of India will screen *Dil To Pagal Hai* starring Shahrukh Khan and Madhuri Dixit. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium. Time : 6.15 pm.

**Spanish film session :** Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Mujeres Al Borde de un Ataque de Nervios* (Women on the verge of a nervous breakdown) and *Atamel* (Tie me up, tie me down). Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time : 5.30 pm & 7.15 pm respectively.

**Inaugural ceremony:** The inaugural ceremony of Wintel E-commerce Centre will be held. Venue: 71 Kemal Ataturk Avenue (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Banani. Time : 4 pm.

**Cultural function:** Joydhanvi, a Dhaka University-based cultural organisation, in association with the High Commission of India will organise a cultural programme. Special attraction of the function is Bharatnatyam which will be performed by the students of Prof. CV Chandrasekhar. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time : 6.30 pm.

**Seminar :** On "Satellite Communications - A Dominant Means for Global Multi-media Communications". Prof Saiful Islam of BUET will present the key-note paper. Venue: Seminar room, Civil Engineering Building of BUET. Time : 4.30 pm.

**Inaugural ceremony:** The inaugural ceremony of Rupa Knitwear (Pvt) Ltd will be held. Finance Minister SAMS Kibria will present as chief guest. Venue: Factory premises, Kurnia, Board Bazar, Gazipur. Time 4 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Pedro Almodovar retrospective :** *Tocones Lejanos* (High Heels) by Pedro Almodovar will be screened on the last day of Spanish Film Session organised by Zahir Raihan Film Society. Venue: German Cultural Centre, House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time : 5.30 pm.

**Indian film show:** The High Commission of India will screen 'Joshi', a feature film. Venue: Auditorium of the high commission, House-25, Road-2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.15 pm.

**Book launching ceremony:** The launching ceremony of a book on 'An Inquiry into Causes and Consequences of Deprivation of Hindu Minorities in Bangladesh through the Vested Property Act: Framework for a Realistic Solution' will be held. Prip Trust and Association for Land Reform and Development have organised the event. Venue: Planning and Development Academy, Nilkhet. Time : 3 pm.

## Weather

### Thundershower likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind are likely at most places over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 21.5 degree Celsius at Khulna.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:57 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:47 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	27.8	23.5	98	88
Chittagong	31.6	24.5	81	82
Rajshahi	24.6	23.3	100	100
Khulna	27.0	21.5	100	100
Barisal	29.0	24.5	92	96
Sylhet	27.2	22.4	96	91
Cox's Bazar	32.4	25.0	88	85

## HERE and THERE

### Old Dhaka Welfare Assoc

The Old Dhaka Welfare Association has threatened to gherao the City Corporation Bhawan demanding early repair of dilapidated roads, remove traffic jam, clean sewerage, street light and bypass road in Sutrapur Lohar Pool, reports UNB.

Association at a meeting Monday expressed concern that there was no improvement, rather the situation worsened, despite assurance held out by Mayor Mohammad Hanif.

It said residents of Narinda, Dayaganj, Sutrapur, Ganderia, Islampur, Laxmibazar, Farashganj, Faridabad, Millbarack, Postagola and Zurain are the worst sufferers.

The meeting also appealed to the President and the Prime Minister to pay proper attention for resolving the problems of Old Dhaka city.

### Federation of youth organisations

National Federation of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh organised a discussion in the city yesterday in observance of the Millennium Peace Day, reports UNB.

The federation in collaboration with its associated and member organisations held the discussion entitled 'The Role of Young People in Construction of Sustainable Peace in the Society'.

Dulal Biswas, ASM Mannan, Sukur Salek, Aminul Islam, Dr Golam Faruk, Hasan Zaman, Tasmin Rana, Tipu Sultan Khan and A Sarker Babu took part in the discussion, said a press release.

### BCL farewell

By DU Correspondent  
Ruling party backed student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday hosted a farewell reception to its Dhaka University unit president Sajjad Hossain, who is leaving for England to study Bar-at-law.

The programme, held at the Bat-tala on the campus, was addressed by the leaders of central executive committee and different hall units.

### Discussion on Biswakarma Puja

Bangladesh Kathshilpi Samik Sangathan, an organisation of the country's wood workers, Tuesday, arranged a discussion to celebrate the Sri Sri Biswakarma Puja at Santibazar in the city, reports BSS.

International Affairs Secretary of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, Advocate Najibullah Hira was the chief guest at the function chaired by president of the organisation Babu Tarapad Sarkar.

President of Joy Bangla Sangskritik Jote Salahuddin Badal, former student leaders Jahangir Ahmed, Nirmal Goswami and Babu Sudhansu Roy also spoke on the occasion.

### Mujib Adarsha Mullayan Parishad

Mujib Adarsha Mullayan Parishad in a meeting on Sunday hailed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her speech at the United Nations, says a press release.

Held at the Parishad central office, the meeting was presided over by G.A. Momin.

Abul Kashem Fazlul Hoq, Noor Mohammad Noor, Quazi Md. Firozaman, Zainal Abedin, Rafiqul Islam Mukta, Shaheeduddin Siddique, Dr. Entaz Ali, Sayed Batter, Siddiqueur Rahman, Harun-or-Rashid Hawlader, Dr. Jogesh Karmoker, and Ashrafuddin spoke on the occasion.

Referring to the PM's speech at the UN Millennium Summit, they said this is perhaps for the first time that any leader spoke in a very clear and candid voice against capture of power by force after removing any elected government in any country.

### Anando

Dhaka based NGO, Anando, together with the German Embassy awarded prizes to twelve children aged between 3 and 10 as the winners of a painting competition, a press release said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

A lot of 93 children took part in the competition, which was held on September 8 at the Anando premises in Banani and subjects of painting covered life in Bangladesh and Germany.

## Vested Property Act Cabinet committee meeting postponed

By Staff Correspondent

The second meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Vested Property Act which was scheduled for yesterday, has been deferred till September 24, official sources said.

The meeting was postponed as a member of the committee did not turn up yesterday. The cabinet committee comprises six ministers and state ministers.

On September 3, the Cabinet decided, in principle, to return the vested property to their original owners and formed the cabinet committee with Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru as its convenor to formulate a draft law in this regard.

The first meeting of the committee held on September 12, discussed probable 'political implications of the decision'.

## Reception to meritorious students

Daffodil Institute of IT (DIIT) and The Daily Ittefaq jointly accorded a reception yesterday to the meritorious students of H.S.C and the certificate holders of International Diploma in Computer Studies from NCC (UK) this year, says a press release.

Tasminna Hossain, MP, Editor of the Weekly Ananyan was present at the function as chief guest while Dr Chowdhury Md. Mofizur Rahman, Departmental Head, Computer Science & Engineering, BUET; Professor Jahangir Begum, Principal of Dhaka College and Hamida Ali, Principal of Viharunnessa Noon School and College, were present as special guests.

Managing Director of Daffodil Computers Ltd and Chairman of DIIT Sabur Khan presided.

The programme was divided into four parts. Students were given awards at the function.

The programme was rounded off with a quiz contest arranged by DIIT. Winners were given gift packets.

## Govt urged to name N'ganj stadium after MAG Osmany

By Staff Correspondent

Some 24 freedom fighters in a joint statement yesterday demanded of the government to name the newly built third national stadium at Narayanganj after General MAG Osmani, Commander-in-Chief of the Liberation War.

They expressed utter surprise at renaming of the stadium after late Khan Saheb Osman Ali on September 16 when the Prime Minister inaugurated the stadium at Fatulla, Narayanganj.

They recalled that during the inception of the stadium project in 1994, it was decided that the stadium would be named after MAG Osmani.

The signatories to the statement include, Col. (ret'd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, BU, former minister Abul Kashem, former whip Abu Sayed Khan, Rezaul Ahmed, Ismail Hossain Bengal, and Noim Jahangir.

## BNP secy gen leaves for S'pore today

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan leaves Dhaka for Singapore today for treatment, reports UNB.

He will have medical check up at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital under heart specialist Dr Charles Toh, said a party press release.

## Obituary

Sanjit Tewary, son of Shamviri Prosad Tewary, died on September 11 at Thakurpukur Cancer Hospital, Calcutta. He had been suffering from lung cancer. He was 33, reports BSS.

The deceased was cremated in Calcutta. His *Shradha* will be held at his residence at 12 Kalibari By-Lane, Mymensingh, on September 21.

Sanjit was a prominent businessman of Chhotobazar, Mymensingh. He left behind his wife, one daughter, relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

## Lack of safety

From page 12

The incident of fire took place on the night of August 27 after 150 workers went to sleep on the third floor after their night shift work.

An official of the factory, when contacted last night, said they would arrange safety measures as directed by the Fire Service authorities.

Regarding compensation for those killed, the official said the company has initiated the process but payments would take a few more days.

Gulshan police registered a general diary (GD) in connection with the incident. But they did not lodge any FIR, saying there was no total commendation from the Fire Service.

Fire Service authorities said that they did not lodge any FIR since another inquiry into the incident was going on.

## 'Definition of genocide should be incorporated in penal code'

State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday said that definition of genocide should be incorporated in the existing Penal Code of Bangladesh to try the hated war criminals of 1971, reports BSS.

"War criminals could be tried under the law of the land, but I think definition of genocide should be incorporated in the penal code for trial of the planners and executors of the world's most hated genocide," he said.

The minister was speaking at a discussion on trial of the war criminals" as the chief guest held at the NSC auditorium organised by Sonar Bangla Sangskritik Parishad.

Among others, Justice K M Sobhan, Barrister Amirul Islam, Syed Hasan Imam, General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League Advocate Kazi Iqbal Hussain, Director of National Security Intelligence An-

## Euro Parliament team

From page 12

opposition she demanded international polls observers because the post-75 rulers won the elections through 'massive rigging'.

About relations with opposition parties, the prime minister said that their differences were ideological. "Our's is a pro-people party. It is 50 years old and has its roots among the masses."

She said the two main opposition parties were born in the cantonment. The military rulers captured the power and then formed the parties to give legitimacy to their illegal capture of power.

The Prime Minister said her party had long struggled for restoration of democracy in the country, because it believes that without democracy peace cannot be established and without peace development is not possible.

She mentioned various development projects taken for the welfare of the people and said under these projects millions of deprived people were benefited, rehabilitated and replaced in the society.

The delegation members told the Prime Minister that they have already visited some projects of the government and particularly mentioned the Ashrayan project, land reclamation project through river dredging, projects on information technology and removing the arsenic problems. They said the European Union is ready to give all-out support for these projects.

Describing the projects, the Prime Minister said that under the Ashrayan, 20,000 poor families have been rehabilitated and provided with micro-credit and employment generation opportunities.

She said for removing the problems of arsenic contamination the government has taken steps to ensure safe drinking water to the people, suggested use of surface water and is identifying tubewells contaminated by arsenic.

About river dredging, she said huge landmass could be reclaimed through dredging.

Hasina also mentioned the government programmes for removing illiteracy from the country. The European Parliament delegation praised the government's success in this regard.

The Prime Minister mentioned the contribution of NGOs in this context, saying they were providing informal education that substantially helped the government in its drive to remove illiteracy from the country.

She mentioned the government success in housing projects for the people and a special project to rehabilitate the slum-dwellers in the villages through 'Ghore Fera' (return home) programme.

Referring to the restoration of peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Prime Minister hoped that the international donors would come forward to assist in development projects taken in the CHT.

In Manikganj, the low-lying areas of the district have been inundated. At least 40 per cent Aman crops have been damaged and two hundred shrimp enclosures inundated. Water Development Board recorded 127mm rainfall in the district during the last 24 hours ending at 8 pm today.

In Manikganj, the low-lying areas of the district have been submerged due to incessant rain and onrush of water from upper catchment.

Road communication between the district headquarters and four upazilas was snapped, causing immense sufferings to thousands of people.

Prices of essentials have sharply gone up in various markets of the district due to inclement weather and disruption of road communication.

According to Water Development Board, the Jamuna marked rise by 8cm in last 24 hours and the river was flowing 34cm above danger level while the Kaliganga recorded rise by 7cm at Tesra point.

Meanwhile, 24mm rainfall was recorded in the district in last 24 hours till 6 pm yesterday.

## ADB: Aid squeeze

From page 1

ance and efficiency in implementing on-going projects. Replying to a question that ADB so far did not make any aid commitments for this year, Suphaphiphat said Bangladesh may get an aid commitment of US\$ 160 million for three projects this year and the agreement would be signed by the year-end.

A US\$ 170 million aid commitment this year for four projects has already been cancelled, he said.

However, Suphaphiphat indicated that ADB would try to maintain an average annual lending level in the range of US\$ 400-500 million including an ADF component of US\$ 350-400 million as per a Partnership Agreement on Poverty Reduction (PARP), signed between the bank and the government. He also said that the ADF lending would depend on availability of resource and the rest would come from Ordinary Capital Resource (OCR), the bank's commercial lending wing.

Muhit said although aid flow is coming down globally, Bangladesh should get more aid for its 'prudent management' of foreign aid over the years. He opined that the country should get aid worth 10 per cent of its GDP while it received only 3.3

per cent. The former finance minister said aid in its current form would not be there in near future although technical cooperation would increase and trade would become more important.

Muhit said Bangladesh should get more aid because of its increasing investments in social sectors, which is 30 per cent against not more than 22 per cent in other countries of the same level.

## 'Kishor Bishwa Sthapatya' launched

By Staff Correspondent

The publication ceremony of a book, 'Kishor Bishwa Sthapatya' (World Architecture for the Juveniles), an introductory book on global and local architectural achievements and trends, written by Prof Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed, was held in the city yesterday.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader launched the book at the function as chief guest.

"Bangladesh has a rich architectural heritage. Various architectural sites including Alisan Manjil, Paharpur and Mainamati should be preserved through concerted efforts of all," he said.

Mansur Ul Karim, President of Bangladesh Scouts, Dr. Syed Anwar Hossain, Director General of Bangla Academy, and Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, attended the ceremony as special guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor of BUET Prof Dr Nuruddin Ahmed said architecture is a new profession in Bangladesh. Research books and articles on the subject are not easily available in the country. Prof Nizamuddin Ahmed has taken the initiative keeping this fact in mind, he added.

"If any juvenile aspires to be an architect after reading my book, that will be my greatest pleasure," Prof Nizamuddin Ahmed said.

## Grocer missing

From page 1

According to record at the district cooperative office, there were only 31 registered members of the society. Razzak took Tk 1.4 lakh as loan last year against the deposit of his cooperative society, but he did not return it.

Thousands of investors are now desperately trying to trace Razzak, Police, however, could not trace him.

Police have been deployed in Shahindagar area to avoid any untoward incident. District cooperative office has formed a one member probe body in this regard.

## Five drown

From page 1

shops at that time and are feared to have drowned.

Locals along with SDS, a non-government organisation working here, were conducting rescue operation. But they could not trace any of the missing five till filing of this report at about 8.30 pm.

Erosion by the Padma has devoured 1,500 homes so far in this rainy season.

## Sutrapur

From page 1

tee for Elimination of Killers and Collaborators of 1975 about a year ago, said a resident. Sumon's nomination for the post was sponsored by top leader of ruling Awami League who is also a Cabinet minister.

According to a large number of residents, Sumon soon enjoyed immunity from police. He acted the 'judge', conducted 'trials' at the club and handed down punishments. He was often seen closely discussing matters with police officers at Sutrapur thana, they alleged.

"Sutrapur area has a large population of destitute families, especially along the Dhakshin box culvert. Notorious criminals from those areas soon backed Sumon and enjoyed protection from police," said another resident of Sutrapur.

Until yesterday, Sumon could not be arrested by the Detective Branch of police who took over the double murder case from Sutrapur thana.

"In Sutrapur area, you can not stop the killers because they can be readily recruited. All you have to do is to catch the godfathers. Here in Sutrapur, both enjoyed protection," said a police officer.

Ward Commissioner Saidur Rahman Shahid, who started his carrier as a vegetable vendor and later became a millionaire, is also from Sutrapur. Shahid, who fled to London recently, faces a series of murder charges.

Local people said, in the absence of Shahid and killing Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondol last month, Sumon moved in to fill up the vacuum of a godfather.

"We are sure Sumon is now hiding under the shelter of some big shots of the government where neither police nor its Detective Branch can reach," said a resident who is also an AL activist in Sutrapur area.

## Marubeni

From page 12

recommendations by the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The IFC endorsed the original subsidised gas tariff and recommended that the government sell per thousand cubic feet (one unit) gas to KAPCO at 0.75 US dollar till 2005. From May 2005, the gas price would be 1.05 dollar per unit for one year. Afterwards, a price increase by 3.5 per cent every year would be implemented making it 1.2 dollar in 2010. In 2013, the price would be increased by 4 per cent to 1.35 dollar per unit.

The domestic bulk rate of gas sold by Petrobangla to the state-owned power plants and fertiliser plants, is now 1.1 US dollar per unit.

## Mamata's move

From page 12

by saying "the graph of political violence and related clashes has been steadily rising in parts of West Bengal and specially in those districts where the political alliance opposed to the ruling alliance has been gaining ground. It is significant that there has been a sharp spurt in political violence after the Panskura parliamentary bypoll on June 5 (in which Trinamool defeated Left Front). This kind of violence and that too on this scale is unprecedented... It spells a great danger for democracy."

There is no doubt that the tone and tenor of Advani's letter to Basu is strong and gave the impression of confronting the Left Front government.

Before sending the letter, Advani had stated that all options, including dismissal of Left Front government, were available to the NDA dispensation at the Centre in the wake of political violence in West Bengal, triggering storm of protests from Left parties.

But BJP sources here said the utterances by Advani, Fernandes and other NDA constituents about the political situation in West Bengal is aimed at keeping up the pressure on the Left Front government in the state and to placate Mamata Banerjee.

Knowing the severe constraints of Vajpayee government to dismiss Basu government, why is Mamata making the demand? It is generally agreed that she has fresh assembly elections in West Bengal in mind. The performance of Trinamool Congress in the coming elections are crucial to her political career which revolves around the ability to project the party as the only viable alternative to Left Front.

Trinamool victory in Panskura bye-elections gave the

feeling to Mamata that the Marxists' bastion held in tact for 23 years at a stretch may not be that invincible. Panskura was a test case for Trinamool's strategy to fight the next assembly elections, a strategy that rests on two main points: (i) resist attempts to use force to manipulate polling and (ii) beat the opposition in its own game of alleged rigging.

However, realising that Trinamool does not have the organisational might to match the Marxists throughout West Bengal in pushing through its strategy, Mamata has been pressing for some kind of intervention from the central government before the fresh assembly polls so that her party gets some kind of "level-playing field."

One development that must be bothering Mamata is that Trinamool victory in Panskura, the Left Front did much better in panchayat and municipal polls held between May and July this year. Even in Calcutta, where Trinamool managed to wrest control of the civic body from the Left, the overall vote share of the Left Front had actually gone up while the share of Trinamool fell.

In the process of involving the entire NDA into her political battle against Left Front in West Bengal, Mamata may also have further delayed the retirement of Jyoti Basu.

The CPI(M), Basu's party, is itself not in the best of times now. It faces the prospect of losing the status of a national party after its vote percentage dropped sharply in the 1999 general elections and there are dissensions in the party's ranks in West Bengal. Basu, who was to have called it a day from administration responsibilities on September 15, now looks set to continue at least for some more months now.

## Thorpe back

From page 1

school student Yun Mi-Jin took the accolades on land as she headed a South Korean team which swept to a 1-2-3 finish in the archery.

"I didn't expect to win any medal, let alone the gold," said Yun who has taken time off school to compete in Sydney.

"I just trusted fate - I must say thank you Mum."

China remained dominant in women's weightlifting. Chen Xiaomin set new snatch and total world marks with an emphatic win in the 63kg class.

Lin Weining, the 21-year-old Chinese in the 69kg division took the gold medal because she was lighter than Erzebet Markus of Hungary after both lifted a total of 242.5kg in which Markus hoisted a snatch world record of 112.5kg.

The bronze went to Karnam Malleswari, who became the first Indian female to win an Olympic medal despite being angered by press jibes that she was "overweight, drinking beer and eating too much chicken and cheese."

The 4,000m team pursuit world record was broken twice, first by the Ukrainian cyclists in the semi-final and then by Germany in the final when the

## Transit routes to Bhutan

From page 1

May, 1998 to conduct joint feasibility study to identify the routes.

Lhatu Wangchuk said Bhutan is keen to expand trade with Bangladesh and