

## What's on today.....

**BRTA consultative meeting:** BRTA will hold a National Consultative Group meeting on Community Road Safety Pilot Initiatives. Organisers: Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) & World Bank. Venue: LGED Bhawan (level-4). Time: 10.00 am.

**Art and craft exhibition:** Gallery 21 presents a week long exhibition of "High Art and Fine Crafts - Paintings by famous artists and Elegant Studio Pottery." Venue: Gallery 21, 765 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 10.00 am - 8.00 pm.

**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.

**India 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.

**Sunbeams exhibition:** The students of Sunbeams will hold an art exhibition. Noted artist Rafiqun-Nabi will inaugurate the exhibition. Venue: Drk Picture Library, House No 58, Rd No 15A (New), 26 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4.00 pm.

**Kay Kraft exhibition:** Kay Kraft begins a three-day long exhibition of exclusive shirts. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road. Time: 4.00 pm - 8.00 pm till September 23.

**Seminar:** Lions and Leo Club of Dhaka Midtown will hold a seminar on 'Save the Children, Build the Nation'. Chief guest: State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 4.30 pm.

**Seminar:** A seminar on 'Undergraduate Research and Associate Education Programme' will be held. Organiser: Sayem Bosh Science Club of BUET. Venue: Seminar Room of Civil Engineering Building. Time: 5.20 pm.

**Consultation:** Gono Bishwabidyalay will hold its weekly consultation meeting with students seeking admission into its courses. Venue: Gonoshasthya Nagar Hospital, House No 14/E, Rd No 6, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Film show:** Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will screen two French movie 'La Chinoise' and 'Les Roseaux Sauvages'. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Rd. Time: 10.30 am & 6.00 pm.

**Meeting:** The first general meeting of the Negative Blood Group Association (NBA) will be held. Venue: Auditorium of Community Development Library (CDL), House No 39, Rd No 14A (new), Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 4.00 pm.

**Painting exhibition:** Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will inaugurate the 5th solo painting exhibition of Jahangir Hossain. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road. Time: 5.00 pm.

**Art exhibition:** Alliance Francaise de Dhaka inaugurates an art exhibition. Venue: La Galerie of Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Rd. Time: 5.30 pm.

**Cultural evening:** Alliance Francaise de Dhaka presents a cultural programme at which Nirupama Chaudhury will present modern songs while Barkat Hossain will present Nazrul Geeti. Venue: Conference Room of Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road. Time: 7.00 pm.

## Weather

## Downpour likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions and at many places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Moderately heavy to heavy falls is expected at places over Khulna, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions during the period. Met office said adding day temperature may rise by 1 to 2 degree Celsius.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 33.5 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 22.0 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:56 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	25.8	24.0	96	91
Chittagong	33.0	24.5	79	82
Rajshahi	24.5	23.3	100	98
Khulna	27.6	22.3	98	96
Barisal	27.4	25.2	93	97
Sylhet	30.8	22.6	91	87
Cox's Bazar	33.5	24.8	75	-

## HERE and THERE

### JU English Association

The annual general election of the English Association, a seven-member students' representative body of the Jahangirnagar University (JU), was held yesterday, reports BSS.

Syed Abdullah Inan was elected vice-president while Shahmud Rahman Lumin was elected general secretary.

Five members who were earlier elected unopposed are: Asstt General Secretary - Nafisa Ahsan Nitu, Cultural Secretary - KM Jalilul Hasan, Asstt Cultural Secretary - Sheikh

Tulin, Sports and Games Secretary - Subrata Kumar Paul and Asstt Sports and Games Secretary - Md Ahasan Habib.

### CPE seminar

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) organised a Mandatory CPE Seminar at ICAB Auditorium Monday, says a press release.

The topic of the seminar was "Salient features and implications of changes made in Income Tax Ordinance 1981 by Finance Act 2000 and amendments in Income Tax Rules & SROs issued after budget of 1999."

### Two BNP leaders expelled

The Chandpur district and Matlab thana (North) units have expelled two leaders for their anti-party and anti-disciplinary activities, said a press release yesterday.

Atiqullah Atik and Haji AB Moineddin Hossain were expelled from both the thana and district committees as per the recommendation of local executive committee for the greater interest of the party.

The press release was signed by Chandpur district BNP President SA Sultan and general secretary Alangir Haider Khan MP.



A bus-truck collision occurred on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Gozaria thana yesterday killing 10 people. Picture shows the wreckage of the bus. — Star photo

### Death of Mahbub Police accused of violating HR

By Staff Correspondent

Bureau of Human Rights Bangladesh (BHRB) and Bangladesh Centre for Trauma Victims (BCTV) yesterday expressed deep concern at the death of Mahbub Hassan Khan Oli on Monday, who died during a chase by police.

"Instead of saving the drowning man's life, the police rather drove him to his death. They have committed gross violation of human rights. A little consciousness and sympathy from them could have prevented this repetition of the atrocious Jewell murder incident," President and Executive Director of BHRB said in a joint statement.

Mahbub Hassan Khan was a rent-a-car tradesman. He was a resident of Rampura and was gossiping with several friends in front of the East Hajipara Bohumukhi Samabay Samity when police began to chase him. Mahbub fled and later drowned in a lake while trying to cross it.

BHRB has formed a four-member fact-finding team to probe into this incident. The members of the team are Secretary General and Executive Director of BHRB advocate Md Shahjahan, Major (Retd.) Habibur Skerin, Public Relations officer Nurul Islam Farooqui and Programme Coordinator Kabir Ahmad.

### 6 policemen

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Magistrate Atahar Ali for assaulting Naik Saidul Islam working under his command in the unit now posted at Chittagong Port to maintain security there.

Naik Saidul was picked up by police and beaten up on suspicion when he went to Shubhapur Bus Station area at Kadamtali under Double Mooring thana.

Later Saidul was handed over to the army officials who rushed to the thana hearing the incident. The accused were suspended from their services.

The accused were: SI Achintya Haveladar, ASI Rahim Ullah, constable Rezaul Karim, Alaf, Shaheb Ali and Jahangir, battalion Ansars Hafiz, Nurul Amin and Quamruzzaman.

### Khulna dacoity

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police during dacoity. No case was filed till filing of this report. Earlier on Tuesday midnight, another armed dacoity was committed in the South Central Road residence of Prof SA Chalapada Das of Azam Khan Commerce College.

A gang of 10 masked young men entered his house breaking collapsible gate.

They confined all inmates to a room at gun point and then looted all gold ornaments weighing 65 tolas, Tk 7,500 in cash and all other valuables.

An FIR was lodged with Khulna thana. Police arrested six people including mad Asma, 40.

Asma confessed her involvement as an informer. Other arrested are Palash, 24, Obaidul 22, Kabir, 18, Jamal, 20 and Selim, 20.

Police could not recover the looted goods till filing of this report.

Rise in dacoities has created panic among city dwellers.

### Obituary

Dr Rezia Laila Akbar, former Chief Physician and Training Coordinator of ICDDR,B died at BIRDEM hospital on September 17. She was 61, says a press release.

She is survived by her husband, Dr Ali Akbar, former Joint Chief of Planning Commission, one son and one daughter.

Her quikhuwani will be held at her residence at House-2, Road-10, Block-C, Section-6, Mirpur, after Asr prayers on Friday.

### Chehlum

The chehlum of Anwara Khatun, wife of Sheikh Abul Kalam and mother of Major Sheikh Dalil Uddin Ahmed (ret'd) will be held at her residence 'Jumma' at Anupara, Kushtia tomorrow, says a press release.

Anwara died in Dhaka on August 11 at the age of 70.

### State of World Population report launched UNFPA calls for an end to gender discrimination

By Staff Correspondent

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) called for putting a stop to gender discrimination on urgent basis as it is a violation of human rights.

The world population today faces the stark reality that though this is a world in which men and women share lives together, they are, in fact, still world apart.

The deputy representative of UNFPA in Bangladesh Janet E Jackson said this while formally presenting the 'State of World Population Report 2000' at the National Press Club yesterday.

Reading out from the report titled, 'Lives Together, Worlds Apart: Men and Women in a Time of Change', Jackson said, 'Despite over 20 years of development underlining the importance of women's participation in the development process, women's world largely remain invisible to men.'

"If women and men are to be partners in change then they must be treated with equality and equity."

Jackson said that UNFPA Bangladesh has given high priority to addressing gender disparity as a way to increasing not only women's participation

in the public sphere but also their freedom to exercise autonomy in decisions concerning their reproductive health in the private sphere.

Citing some examples, she said that UNFPA is currently working with the Ministry of Establishment to help civil servants become aware of gender differences and understand how these differences lead to inequalities.

Reproductive health and gender education through adult literacy is another way in which UNFPA reaches the disadvantaged and the poor.

She said, there has been little progress in lowering the rate of maternal mortality and morbidity worldwide. This problem is especially acute in Bangladesh. In respect to this UNFPA calls for elimination of all forms of violence against women.

Jackson praised Bangladesh's success in population and family planning programmes. According to the report, contraceptive usage in Bangladesh has increased from 49.2 per cent to 54 per cent of currently married woman of reproductive age.

BSEHR blames poor construction for accident at Diamond Cement

From Our Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: A 4-member investigation team was formed at the directive of the director of investigation, Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR), held weak shuttering and negligence of both the construction companies and owner authority for the collapse of silo roof of Diamond cement company.

The team in its report today said that the materials used for the shuttering were not suitable for supporting the weight of 145-ton roof at 86 ft height of the silo of the 2nd unit of the cement factory located at Ichhanagar on the south bank of the river Karnaphuli. The report said that instead of rods simple bamboo and a wooden structure was used for shuttering.

The report also said that fact that the officials of AK Construction - the firm engaged for the construction, fled soon after the incident proves the corruption and incompetency of the firm.

The team, comprising of Zia Habib Ahsan, Md Sharif Uddin, Shamsuddin and Mamunul Islam Mukul, recommended legal action and stern punishment to the persons involved in the incident. It further recommended sufficient compensation to the members of the victims' families for the compensation already given by the authority as too meagre.

The silo roof collapse of the factory claimed 14 lives including that of two engineers on August 27.

Teachers

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This clause would definitely cut jobs in schools... Who will guarantee that a teacher will get back the job if the number of students increased further in the next year? Bhuiyan asked.

He demanded of the government to take the 'inhuman clause out of the agreement. He also called for modification of clause eight, which he said would create complicity in different educational institutions.

According to clause eight, there will be no special committee in an MPO-listed educational institution. It shall have to be managed by a managing committee or a governing body.

Teachers and employees of the non-government educational institutions called off their strike after 40 days of agitation following an agreement between the government and the striking teachers demanding, among other things, 100 per cent salary from the national exchequer.

The government had agreed to give 90 per cent salaries from national exchequer with some pre-conditions.

Man beats wife to death in Mohakhali

By Staff Correspondent

A pregnant housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband at their shanty at Korail slum in Mohakhali in the city Monday, the victim's family said.

The victim was identified as Hasina Khatun, 20, wife of Manik Miah. Hasina, in her seventh month of pregnancy, was severely beaten by her husband following an altercation on family matters on Sunday. When Hasina became unconscious, her husband took her to a local hospital where she died Monday night.

Her husband took her body back fled after leaving her body at their residence the same night.

Local people informed the incident to Gulshan police. Police sent the body to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Monowara Begum, mother of the victim yesterday claimed that Hasina was beaten to death by her husband.

Duty officer of Gulshan thana said that they were informed that she had died after a fall in the toilet. An unnatural death case was lodged with Gulshan thana in this regard.

### Cancer Hospital

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complaints. But the ENT department is now without doctors.

Trouble started when two doctors—an associate professor and an assistant professor—were transferred recently. One of them became professor and another was made officer-on-special duty.

One source pointed out that they were assigned to run the ENT department although there were no sanctioned posts for them.

As regards hospital equipment, sources concerned said, lack of isotopes for the last three months has created problems in operating two Brachytherapy machines, one of which also needs repair.

A powerful X-ray machine has been lying idle for more than a year. It is yet to be installed.

When contacted, Director of NICRH Prof Badrul Islam admitted that the institute is facing problems due to shortage of required personnel, specially doctors and technicians.

He however mentioned that the government had taken up a plan to expand the hospital, raising the number of beds to 300. It has been included in the current year's programme of the health ministry, he added.

About the ENT department, he said the authorities have decided to provide doctors and other required personnel for the department.

### DU VC panel

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Chancellor of the university President Shahaibuddin Ahmed will appoint one of the three VC Panelists as the new Vice-Chancellor of the university for the next term.

The incumbent VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury expires on September 29.

"White Panel" backed by Opposition BNP and Jamaat and "Blue Panel" supported by the ruling party finalised their VC panels yesterday.

The White Panel nominees are Prof. Mahmood-ul-Amin of Zoology Department, Prof. Wakil Ahmed of Bangla Department and Prof. Asaduzzaman of Public Administration Department and Dean of the Social Science Faculty while the Blue Panel nominees are the incumbent VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof. Shamsul Huda Harun of Political Science Department and Prof. RIM Aminur Rashid, Provost of Salimullah Hall and President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA).

### AL feuds

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In Shariatpur, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak and senior party lawmaker Col. Shawkat Ali are at odds, which is taking its toll on the local chapter.

Conflict between veteran partymen and new comers features high in the party's politics in Jessore while in Chudanga it is the rivalry between AL central committee leader Mirza Sultan Raja and district AL secretary Solaiman Joardar that the leaders and workers are worried about.

Awami League lost all the four seats in Kushtia in 1996 in election and with the merger in district and grassroots committees and former district AL secretary Ansar Ali acting the present district committee things are not really going well. Ali is blamed for the attack on the car of minister Talukder Abdul Khaleq in the district recently.

The BCL is also divided in many groups most of which are loyal to Ali.

There is a crisis of good leadership in Manikganj where AL has no seats while in Munshiganj there is difference of opinion between leaders and workers.

Internal feuds exist in Nooruddin Khan's seat in Narsingdi and in Rangpur the party is suffering from quality leadership.

The situation is even worse in Lalmonirhat as the leaders and workers are not active in pursuing organisational activities.

### Food rationing

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population, about 30 million ultra-poor, still do not have enough access to food. The immediate challenge for the years to come is to close the food access gap and move those 30 million people to the upper level.

Kiene pointed out that as per WFP calculation, a person living below the poverty line has an intake of less than 2100 kilo-calorie daily but an ultra-poor less than 1800 kilo-calorie.

Bangladesh's food requirement is 21.68 million tonnes in the current fiscal, he said quoting official statistics.

"There is still room for meeting the food access gap as the WFP and its donors are prepared to be good partners in this process of realignment. I believe it can be done as Bangladesh has one of the best public food distribution networks in the world."

He stressed that the ultra-poor should be brought under more development-oriented programmes to eliminate the food access gap.

Kiene said the WFP in cooperation with other development partners would now like to focus the extended food and programmes on ultra-poor families by giving them for a limited period of time a combination of food, training and credit to enable them to benefit from many pro-poor development programmes.

The WFP would provide food aid of 200 million US dollars to Bangladesh for the period 2001-2005.

## Popov's crown

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there were more upsets, world records, and in what seems to have become a daily occurrence - drug scandals.

Men's tennis top seed and US Open champion Marat Safin of Russia crashed out in the first round, beaten by France's Fabrice Santoro in three sets.

Hometown favourite Lleyton Hewitt, Chilean star Marcelo Rios, America's Michael Chang and Britain's two leading players, Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, joined him on the sideline.

One of the biggest surprises came on the softball field, where the United States crashed for the second successive day, losing 2-0 to China in a marathon battle.

Elsewhere, Richard Foulds provided Britain with a hero winning the double-trap gold medal while Fehaid Al Deelani became the star of Kuwait when he won his country's first ever Olympic medal by finishing third in the double trap.

Bulgaria's Galabin Boevski gave his country some welcome news after the drug disqualification of a teammate as he broke his own world record in the clean and jerk to win the 69kg competition with a world record equalling total.

But the stain of drugs lingered over the Bulgarian team when after Ivan Ivanov was stripped of his 56kg class silver medal and expelled from the Games after failing a doping test.

Belarus hammer-thrower Vadim Devyatovskiy was also expelled from the Games and sent home before his competition.

### Tornado

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In Sathkira tornado hit Shyamnagar upazila of the district, damaging 200 houses and standing crops on vast tract of land.

The deputy commissioner visited the tornado-hit areas and distributed cash and clothes among the affected people.

In Rajbari standing crops, including Aman paddy and sugarcane, were badly damaged as tornado hit Pangsha upazila at noon on Tuesday.

### PM: Radio, TV

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report recently and the process was on.

Regarding appointment of army officials in various public institutions, specially in banks as reported by The Daily Star, Hasina said, "Army officials are also sons of this soil. The army itself also runs business and maintains accounts. I think, if we keep some army officials in banks, it will be good."

However, she noted that she did not support such appointment of army officials during martial law rule. But now, putting army officials in civil posts would help bridge the gap between the people and the army, she felt.

On law and order and rise in terrorist activities in the country, the PM said her government was quite aware of the problems and was doing its best to redress those.

She said that many accused in criminal offences got bail from courts and committed crimes again. In many cases, police could not nab them again and in many other cases, there were weaknesses in framing of charges. Besides, witnesses also did not turn up in courts, she added.

Replying to a question on transport fare hike, Hasina said, "It is an injustice to raise transport fare from Tk 140 to Tk 170 because we have not increased fuel price so much." The communication minister already had talks with transport owners on this issue, she mentioned.

About breaking of discipline by many activists of AL, Hasina said there are some people who always change political camps and are involved in display of power. "But in my party, every one has to obey party discipline. Those who earn bad name for the party would have no place in my party."

On the issue of fraudulent practices by some so called non-banking financial institutions, the PM said people should try to know beforehand with whom they are transacting money and about credibility of the institutions. There are frauds everywhere in the world, she added.

### SAARC summit

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Under the SAARC charter adopted 15 years ago, the summit cannot be held without the presence of all seven members - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives.

Acharya said Nepal not being a member of any other regional forum, was more concerned about the fate of SAARC, launched in 1985 to promote economic development of the region.

We are more interested in convening the meeting because we are the poorest of the poor in the continent, he added.

We urge India and Pakistan to resolve their differences for a better South Asia, a region clamouring for enhanced trade among nations, a region where countries should mutually benefit from each other, the Nepalese Minister said.

It is not only the trade, which need immediate attention among SAARC countries, there are several issues to be discussed within the forum, he said without elaborating.

Acharya said he was looking forward to a meeting with Indian counterpart, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, on the sidelines of a World Bank meeting in Prague next week.

Another eight competitors have been suspended from the Games or sent home altogether for returning positive tests in outside pre-Games testing.

One of the most popular winners today was Russian gymnast Alexei Nemov, who produced a golden display in the all around individual event after going taking silver in 1996.

"I'm extremely happy," Nemov said. "I don't believe this has happened. I was expecting it, but I didn't believe it."

There was some gold for host country Australia to smile about.

Simon Fairweather won Australia's first-ever Olympic archery medal by taking an unexpected gold in