

## What's on today....

**ESDO cleanliness drive:** Environment and Social Development Organisation (ESDO) will hold a cleanliness programme "Keep our city clean and healthy" as part of the Sydney "Clean Up the World" (CUW) activities. Venue: Dhammondi Lake area (Rd No 5A & 8A). Time: 8:30 am.

**Film show:** Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will screen two French movies *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), Dhammondi 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.

**IBA graduation:** Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University will hold the graduation ceremony of its 32nd MBA and 4th BBA batch. Chief guest: DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury. Venue: TSC auditorium, DU campus. Time: 4:00 pm.

**Instrumental music:** National Press Club (NPC) will host a flute and tabla presentation by Capt (ret'd) Azizul Islam and Ustad Sabir Khan respectively. Venue: NPC VIP lounge. Time: 6:30 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**UAP orientation:** The University of Asia Pacific (UAP) will hold its orientation programme for freshers of the fall 2000 semester. Venue: UAP administrative building premises, House No 73, Rd No 5A, Dhammondi R/A. Time: 10:00 am.

**IUBAT orientation:** The 24th orientation programme of the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will be held. Venue: Academy for Planning and Development, Nkheta. Time: 3:00 pm.

## Weather

### Light rain likely

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and it may rise by 1.2 degree Celsius elsewhere over the country, Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Comilla and the lowest of 22.4 degree Celsius at Bogra.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:55 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:45 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	30.7	24.0	83	83
Chittagong	33.7	24.6	79	73
Rajshahi	25.6	23.6	83	100
Khulna	29.6	23.4	92	100
Barisal	32.0	25.0	83	96
Sylhet	32.3	23.5	90	-
Cox's Bazar	34.0	24.0	83	80



The five-day workshop on 'photojournalism' ended at the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) yesterday. Photo shows State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed giving away certificate to a participant at the concluding ceremony of the workshop.

### 'Sumon not a leader of Committee for Elimination of Killers of 1975'

By Staff Correspondent

The Committee for Elimination of Killers of 1975 has claimed that no leader or active member of the organisation is involved in the recent killing of two teenage boys at Gandaria in the city.

In a statement yesterday, the committee's founder president Kazi Moazzem Hossain said that the organisation is not involved in the double murder case, is not the convener of its city unit, neither is he a member of the organisation.

Moazzem said newspaper reports that Rahim is the city unit convener are "false and baseless," which have tarnished the image of the organisation.

He said that a number of renowned personalities are directly involved with the organisation. Water Resources Minister Abdul Razzak is the chief advisor of the organisation.

Shipping Minister Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury, Maya, Dr Mohammad Selim MP, Bahauddin Chowdhury Nasim and Dr Arefin Siddique of Dhaka University are advisors, Moazzem said.

**Brigadiers**

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des (ICB). However, the central bank earlier rejected a Finance Ministry proposal to appoint personnel in the bank board on the ground that it didn't conform to the policy of having persons with knowledge and background in the relevant fields.

### 3 stabbed

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curated at Gulshan Circle-1 when a gang of muggers stabbed two employees of Bangladesh Telecom Ltd in the afternoon.

The muggers attacked Abdul Baten, 35, and Humayun Kabir, 28, of Awlad Hossain market when they reached there in a rickshaw at about 2 pm.

The gang stopped their rickshaw and asked them to hand over their valuables. When they refused to do so, the gang stabbed them and took away Tk 15,000 from them.

The injured were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

**Sylhet airport**

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of 4 or 5 asked him for money for getting out of the lounge. They swooped on him and snatched his passport (4740699), Green card, 6,000 dollars in cash and some other documents from his possession.

He refused to comply with their demand.

Rahim sought help from a Sub-Inspector of police and other airport security men on duty near the gate. But none came to rescue him.

Later, he filed a case with Kotwali police.

A gang of organised criminals had been engaged in such incidents for long. Expatriates very often are harassed by them.

Law-enforcing people of the airport area mysteriously take no action against the goons.

The Airport Manager submitted a list of criminals to police three months back. But no action was taken against them.

## Of colours, creativity and children

Young students put up fascinating display of art work in the city

By Cultural Correspondent



Young visitors looking at drawings and paintings put on display by the students of Sunbeams at city's Drik Picture Library yesterday.

In a moment of epiphany Paul Klee, one of the towering figures of Western art, said, "Colour and I are one." A visit to the art exhibition showcasing works by the young students perhaps will convince one of how colour is personified and speaks the language of simplicity and innocence. One is absorbed totally in the rhythm of shimmering colour so fresh and spontaneous that the show provides an escape route from the doldrums of city life.

Mostly done in pastel, the art works by the students of Sunbeams is a testimony to their fertile imaginative mind. The exhibition, being held at

Drik Gallery in the city, has on display works in decorative designs, prints, hand woven fans and batik works as well. Each piece of art depicts creativity of its own. Motifs of the hand woven fans are for example inspired by traditional jamdani patterns.

Perhaps the most animated corner of the show is the kids' section. Tasfia of KG-1 has drawn a village out of his imagination capturing the serenity of an idyllic village brilliantly on canvas. With birds in blissful flight, the picture is a utopia we all long to reside in.

The pictures put on display in the print section will give one

the taste of abstract modern art. The students have been inspired to use colour not only as a decorative element. They have also discovered the essence of colour having its own form and language. The students of Class-VI have experimented with abstract forms using colours without any inhibition.

Renowned artist Rafiqun Nabi, who inaugurated the show, wrote in the visitors' book almost in wonderment: "Fascinating pictures. And an equally fascinating arrangement."

Open to all from 3pm to 8pm, the three-day show runs until September 23.

### Shahabuddin, Hasina greet King Fahd

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday welcomed Saudi King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to be observed today, reports UNB.

The President in his message said, "I am confident that the bonds of friendship and cooperation that characterise the relations between our two brotherly countries will be further developed and consolidated in the years ahead."

In a similar message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, "I sincerely hope that the fraternal ties that so happily exist between our two brotherly countries will continue to grow in strength in the years ahead."

**WFUCA seminar from tomorrow**

Secretary-General of the National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh Mahbubuddin Chowdhury leaves Dhaka today along with Mir Ranjan Ali, Sr. Vice President, for Hannover, Germany, to attend the international seminar on "Human-kind-Nature-Technology: A New World Arising" at the invitation of the World Federation of UNESCO clubs, centres and associations (WFUCA), says a press release.

The WFUCA in cooperation with the German National Commission for UNESCO has organised the 6-day seminar beginning tomorrow.

**Body recovered in city**

By Staff Correspondent

Mystery shrouds the death of an elderly man whose body was recovered from a disposal system at Park Road of Baridhara in the city on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Mahidul Islam Khan, 55, a resident of Kalachandpur.

His wife and son claimed that two unidentified people called Mahidul out of his residence at about 8 pm on Wednesday. Later, his body was found in the disposal system at Park Road.

**Death anniversary**

The third death anniversary of Rudra Aadoni, a juvenile radio artist and member of Gandaria Ki-sholaya Kanchi-Kanchi

Meila will be observed today.

A student of Willes Little Flower School, Aadoni is the daughter of Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan, an advocate of the Supreme Court.

A milad mahfil will be held at her family residence after Asr prayers.

Her school friends and relatives have been requested to attend the milad.

**Chehlum**

The chehlum of Shahrier Khan Tamim will be held at Khan Villa at Delpara, Pagla at Fatullah after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

Shahrier died in a road accident on August 10 in the city.

He was the only son of Mohammad Arshad Khan Tara, Chairperson of Centre for Socio-Development and Democracy (CSDD) and an official of Abahani Ltd.

## Govt planning to create 55 posts of District, Sessions judges

By Staff Correspondent

The government is planning to create 55 posts of district and sessions judges to expedite the disposal of pending cases. The idea was floated during the PM's meeting with judicial officers recently, sources said.

Among these posts, 35 posts will be earmarked for judges of special court for repression on women and children, 14 posts for divisional special judges for trial of anti corruption cases and six for special tribunals for trial of cases filed under Public Safety Act.

Instead of creating posts of district judges, the government should have created posts of additional district and session judges which also has the same jurisdiction to try the case but does not have administrative duties, the sources intimately linked with the government plan, observed.

The government had earlier created several posts of district judges and for each such post, four additional posts were also created, sources said. They

added that creating additional posts of district judges would cost the government exchequer.

About six months ago, the government had created six posts of district judges to head the six special tribunals at the divisional level. Recently it also created three new posts of the rank of district judge to head three more special tribunals in Dhaka division.

The other camp taking over in June 1996, the Awami League created 10 posts in the rank of district and session judges with the responsibility of special courts for repression against women and children. Later another six posts of district judge were created for six divisional election tribunals.

The number of district judges in some districts particularly in divisional headquarters like Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna is not less than six. In some of these places the number is even 12, said a source requesting anonymity.

## Rohingyas want to go back

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"I had my home, 14 bighas of cultivatable land, cow and everything. I am ready to return home if the authorities ensure return of my lands and peace and security," Hossain said. He has two wives, six children and is yet to get clearance from the Myanmar authorities for return home.

He said that he first married in Myanmar and then in this camp to have more children only to get additional relief and to sell those in local market as he has no other income.

A 28-year old housewife, Lalmati, said that she got married in this camp about eight years ago and gave birth to only one child. She wanted to have more children but could not because of some physical problems.

Lalmati said that like many others, she would get additional relief if she could give birth to more children. "My husband is kind enough to me as he has not married again considering my health condition. Possibly he is the only man in this camp who has one wife."

Salahuddin Chowdhury, In-Charge of Kutupalong Camp, said the refugees are getting relief materials regularly, they have no work and thus they only eat and sleep and marry one after another.

Each man has two to five wives and each wife gave birth to at least five children. Each child starts getting full relief within one week of birth, he mentioned.

Replying to a question, he said the government and various organisations working in the camp have continued motivational activities against going for too many marriages, early marriage, having so many children etc.

Salahuddin said both the government and the UNHCR are making all efforts to complete repatriation of the remaining refugees. He, however, added that he was not sure when the process would end.

Besides the government's administrative staff at Kutupalong camp, there is a six-member medical team, 14-member BDRCS food distribution team, 51-member health and sanitation staff of Concern

Bangladesh and two-member DPHE for water supply. The number of police personnel in the camp is 12 and that of Ansar is 58 and of Armed Police Battalion 31.

The other camp at Nayapara in Teknaf thana still have 12,992 refugees of 2,219 families. There are a total of 2,460 accommodation units at the camp, 626 latrines, 398 bathing cubicles, two water treatment plants supplying 325,000 liters of water daily and eight schools having 2,058 students including 793 girls.

**Manman**

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present at the airport.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia, who is now on a visit to Saudi Arabia, talked to Bhuiyan over phone from Riyadh on Wednesday, and inquired about his condition. She also wished him early recovery.

Besides, a large number of leaders and activists, including Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Tareq Rahman, met with the BNP Secretary General at his residence.

JCD central leader and Private Secretary to the BNP Secretary General, Shahab Shah Shahaen and a local heart physician are accompanying the ailing BNP leader in Singapore.

Manman Bhuiyan was hospitalised following heart attack on August 30 and was given treatment at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) where he stayed for more than two weeks.

**Jubo League activist**

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extensive damage to the property in drunken condition. Businessman Ziaur Rahman filed a case on June 8 with Khulna thana in this connection.

Chargesheet of this case was submitted on July 5 and the case was transferred to the Tribunal on July 18, and charge was framed on August 7.

Fourteen witnesses including OC of Khulna thana deposited in the court against the accused.

The argument was held on September 19.

### LDC products

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the proposal and said there has been plenty of talks about how important it is to give poor countries access to our markets to tackle their marginalisation in the globalising economy.

Now it is time to act, he said and hoped that the council and parliament would adopt this proposal swiftly and other developed countries would follow it.

An EU official at the Dhaka office said EU has been providing GSP facilities to 116 least developed and developing countries for a limited number of items.

**Oil Price**

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the United Nations said the crisis showed that energy resources are not being used efficiently.

The World Energy Council and the UN Development Programme released a study that showed current world fossil fuel reserves could last for centuries - even while 2 billion poor people around the world now have no access to electricity.

Fuel scarcity will not be a major driver of change in energy systems, the study said. Instead, the report called for "wise decisions" in energy policies in the next few decades.

Among them: shifting to newer, cleaner and safer forms of energy and developing policies for sustainable development.

**BB showcase on ITCL chairman, MD**

Star Report

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday issued a showcase notice on the Chairman and Managing Director of Islamic Trading Company Limited (ITCL) for involvement in banking activities without prior permission.

The BB asked ITCL Chairman Ismail Hossain Siraji to reply within seven days why action should not be taken against him for taking deposits from people and also for sanctioning loans violating banking rules.

Earlier on Monday, the central bank personnel raided the ITCL head office in Dhaka and two other branch offices in Sherpur district and Homna in Comilla district and seized all the documents.

**Gunman Azad denies link with anyone in hostage drama**

Abul Kalam Azad, the gunman who held 14 officials hostage at the DC's office in Khagrachhari, yesterday again denied his link with anyone in the hostage drama, official sources said, reports BSS.

A Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) comprising different intelligence agencies continued their interrogation to Azad for the third consecutive day yesterday at the head office of the Special Branch (SB) in the city.

The officials said a three-member team comprising Special Branch of police (SB), National Security Intelligence (NSI) and Directorate of Forces Intelligence (DGF) interrogated him but he repeatedly denied his link with any political party, terrorist group or any fundamentalist group.

Azad told the JIC members that he staged the hostage drama with his own plan and claimed that he did it for the interest of the people and the country.

He was charged under the Public Safety Act, Arms Act and

**Olympics**

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nose, but still hopes to begin the defense of his title at the Sydney Games.

Both athletes have come back from career-threatening injuries or illness but have had mediocre seasons leading up to the games.

"I've been in bed for two days," Bailey said.

Physical ailments also plagued other top stars.

Ian Thorpe, whose three swimming golds have electrified the host nation, has an upper respiratory infection which could affect his further participation in the games.

And in tennis, 1996 gold medalist Lindsay Davenport withdrew with a foot injury.

Local hero Patrick Rafter instead put his foot in his mouth, losing 7-5, 7-6 against Canada's Daniel Nestor.

One man who returned from personal misfortune to rejoin the Olympics was IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch. After a funeral ceremony for his wife in Barcelona, he attended his first IOC meeting again on Thursday.

"These were not easy days for me," Samaranch said.

France preferred to look away from Perec and centre on cyclist Florian Rousseau, who won his second gold of the Games by taking the men's Keirin.

Rousseau, who already had one gold from the Atlanta Games in 1996, also has a silver here.

The Russians also have not had an easy time so far, but at least they earned gold with Sergei Litvinenko in the 25-meter rapid fire pistol event early Thursday. They also added a silver and two bronzes.

Russia moved up the medal table into third place together with France. Both had 20 medals but France had seven gold compared to four for Russia.

The United States led with 31 medals, including 11 gold. Host Australia was second with 25 overall, and 8 gold.

## Conscious community

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or bicycle passengers, participants disclosed.

Atikul Hossain Khan, director of BTF said "Although Bangladesh has one of the lowest motorisation rates of 3 per cent, about 70 deaths occur per 1000 registered vehicles".

Termining the traffic situation in Dhaka as "chaotic", Nancy Ziari said that Community Road Safety Initiatives (CRSI) is important but it is only a part of the required measures.

Pointing out that donors are committed to help the government to improve the existing situation in this sector, she emphasized the need for improving traffic management for smooth running of vehicles.

AN Hussain, team leader of CRSI, said that Bangladesh has the fourth highest fatality rate from road accidents in the world. CRSI identified ten 'accident black spots' across the country and initiated community participation in three selected spots. The spots are: Ashkepur in Tangail, Palbari in Jessore and Shonir Akhira in

suburban area of the capital.

Talking about community traffic policing, AA Bhuiyan, former director of BRTA, said that community traffic policing has been existing in the old parts of the city except that it lacks institutional and structural approach.

Quoting findings of studies DC traffic (north) Benazir Ahmed said that traffic jam is costing Tk 160 crore per year.

He also said that if we do not have participation and awareness of the community, it is simply impossible to improve the situation.

The participants also emphasised the training of drivers as well as BRTA examiners.

Habibur Rahman Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Road Transport Samikha Federation, said that the quality of instruction at private driving schools is not good and government should start driving schools at least in every divisional headquarters.

The BRTA chairman said that the eradication of road accident is difficult without the involvement of all sections of society.

## Vested Property Act

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eminent move to scrap the VPA. "No government will be able to show documents related to VPA enactment as these were not done properly," Haldar said.

Dr Barkat's book shows that people, affiliated with the party-in-power, have mostly occupied the lands under the VPA and changed their loyalty with the change of regimes. Besides, the book revealed that in most cases the land officials have been party to such illegal occupation of Hindu properties.

According to the book, over 44 per cent of the occupants are affiliated with the ruling Awami League while 31 per cent with BNP.

The scenario was other way round in 1995 when 72 per cent of the illegal occupants belonged to the then ruling party BNP and 11 per cent to AL.

President of the Bangladesh Economic Association, Dr Moinul Islam said, Hindu population in the country had been reduced to 10.5 per cent of total populace as per 1991 census. The percentage was as high as 28 per cent in the erstwhile East Bengal in 1941, 18 per cent in the then East Pakistan, and 12 per cent in 1981.

He blasted at political elites.

**Unocal completes 9 community projects**

Unocal Bangladesh Limited has completed construction work of nine community projects at Kamolganj in Moulvi Bazar district, reports BSS.

Unocal executive Greg Gritters attended the dedication ceremonies at