

News

What's on today....

Dance and Music festival: A Kathak recital by Dhwan Kathak group led by Vaswati Misra will be held. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

Meet The Reporters: Atabul Islam, President, DCCI, Latifur Rahman, President, MCCI and Anisur Rahman Sinha, President, BGMEA, will deliver a talk on "State of Business in Bangladesh". Venue: DRU auditorium. Time: 10:55 am.

Weather

Light rain likely

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

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country during the period, Met office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Syedpur and the lowest of 22.0 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:51 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:49 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	26.0	80	76
Chittagong	31.9	23.1	85	88
Rajshahi	32.2	25.5	86	90
Khulna	33.7	24.9	78	82
Barisal	33.0	24.5	87	92
Sylhet	31.5	22.0	100	83
Cox's Bazar	33.5	24.0	85	85

Flood situation

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Flood gripped four unions under Daulurhuda in Chuadanga when embankments of Kali river in Indian West Bengal state collapsed on September 23.

Onrush of water from upstream points and incessant monsoon rain has deteriorated the flood situation in Rajshahi area. Official sources confirmed two deaths and said that over 300,000 people were affected.

Diarrhoea broke out in many areas.

The overall flood situation in Jhenidah district also worsened.

Srinthpur, Mathpara, Laramgata, Narayanganj, Tangupara villages of Shyampur union, Mailbaria, Khosaldanga and Sejal villages of Napa union, Jinnanagar and Jibnagar, and Baghada village of Kazirber union and Pipulbaria, Benipur, Kusumpur and Swaruppur villages of Swaruppur unions went under water during last 24 hours.

Thousands of people have taken shelter on Dattanagar bazar.

Road communication between Jinnanagar and Jibnagar has been snapped.

In Jhenidah, some 1.25 lakh people of Napa, Kazirber, Shyamkur, Bansbaria,

Swarupdaha and Pantapara unions were rendered homeless while standing crops on 28,000 hectares of land damaged by the floodwaters.

Officials of Chaitainawabganj said with continued rise in water levels in Padma and Manohan affected 1,60,665 people in 62 unions under the districts.

At least 2.5 kilometres embankment and 15 kilometres road were completely damaged and standing crops on 8,890 acres washed away, they said.

Flood situation in Netrokona deteriorated further. Thousands of people in 12 unions under two upazilas have been marooned.

A Sirajganj report adds: Jumuna continued to swell worsening flood situation in 10 upazilas of Pabna and Sirajganj districts further.

The worst affected upazilas are: Kazipur, Beluchi, Chouiali, Shahjadpur, Tarash and Ullapara of Sirajganj, and Chatmohar, Bhangura, Faridpur and Bera of Pabna districts.

Some 5 lakh people of the two districts have been marooned.

An embankment at Shahjadpur collapsed inundating more low-lying areas in five upazilas of the two districts.

Koreas agree to work to ease military tensions

CHEJU, South Korea, Sept 25 : Defence ministers from the rival Koreas agreed to work to ease military tensions today in their first talks since the peninsula was divided in 1945, the South's government said, reports AFP.

The two sides agreed in principle that they should give military support for efforts to carry through the June 15 North-South Declaration," said a government statement.

No specific measures were announced to ease military hostilities that have endured since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

But the statement said the South's Defence Minister Cho Sung-Tae and the North's Armed Forces Minister Vice Marshall Kim Il-Chol held "sincere talks" in their first official meeting on the resort island of Cheju.

The talks are most important since the South's President Kim Dae-Jung and the North's supreme leader Kim Jong-Il agreed to move toward peace and eventual reunification at a historic summit in June.

The two sides also started economic talks on Monday in Seoul.

Iraq in strong position to erode sanctions'

NICOSIA, Sept 25 : Iraqi Oil Minister Amer Rashid said Baghdad was in a strong position to help erode the crippling sanctions imposed on the country after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, in an interview published today, reports AFP.

"Sanctions will be eroded, disintegrated, due to the will and steadfastness of the Iraqi people, the wisdom of our leadership in managing this crisis situation, the unjust cause that our enemy, the US administration, is following and the support of friendly countries that are fully aware of the situation," Rashid said.

"We are moving ahead with our own plans to increase, diversify and widen our trade relationships with neighbouring countries, as well as with others," Rashid told the Cypriot-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES).

"We have solidified our political unity. We are improving our economic system. This puts us in a strong position. The whole policy of America towards Iraq has failed," Rashid said.

"Do we expect the United States to lift sanctions? This is

absolutely not our policy," the minister said. "What has happened during the last two years is that the moves to destroy Iraq are finished."

Iraq has been under embargo ever since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait but is authorised to export crude under UN supervision to finance imports of food, medicine and essential goods.

Jakarta extends disarmament in West Timor

JAKARTA, Sept 25 : Indonesia has extended until Wednesday the first phase of an operation to disarm East Timorese militias, blamed for the killings of three UN workers, the country's top security minister said today, reports AFP.

It is hoped that they will turn over more weapons voluntarily," said Coordinating Minister for Security and Socio-political Affairs Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

"Do we expect the United States to lift sanctions? This is

Polls in 12 other municipalities today

By Staff Correspondent

After Chandpur polls yesterday, elections in 12 other municipalities will be held today.

The municipalities where polling will take place today are at Dohar in Dhaka, Tongi in Gazipur, Comilla Sadar, Kularchar in Kishoreganj, Maksudpur in Gopalganj, Jagannathpur in Sunamganj, Bagha in Rajshahi, Naijpur in Naogaon, Bhangura in Pabna, Badarganj in Rangpur, Sartakandi in Bogra and Gopalpur in Natore.

Authorities are considering most of the 176 polling centres in the 12 municipalities as venerable and have stepped up security in those places.

Chairman of the Kularchar municipality in Kishoreganj has already been elected unopposed while election to the posts of commissioners of the municipality will be held today.

Elections to 136 municipalities were held during February 23-25 last year. Besides, elections in 18 other municipalities were also held later that year. But polling in 19 municipalities could not be held due to cases over various disputed issues.

Gunman Azad taken to Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Sept 25: Abul Kalam Azad, the hostage drama hero was today brought back here from Dhaka where he was grilled by the joint interrogation cell during the 9-day police remand, reports UNB.

Informed sources said no new information was available about outside force behind Azad in his taking 14 people hostage including Army Majors in DC's office here on September 11 with gun and bomb in his hand. He had surrendered after 24 hours.

Police said he would be produced before the court tomorrow.

Dejected and frustrated by the prevailing situation in the country, Azad earlier told the police that his action was intended to realise demands including eradication of high level corruption, realisation of huge defaulting loans, check harassment and corruption of police and ban tobacco.

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Dacoity in Khulna town: 3 injured

From Staff Correspondent

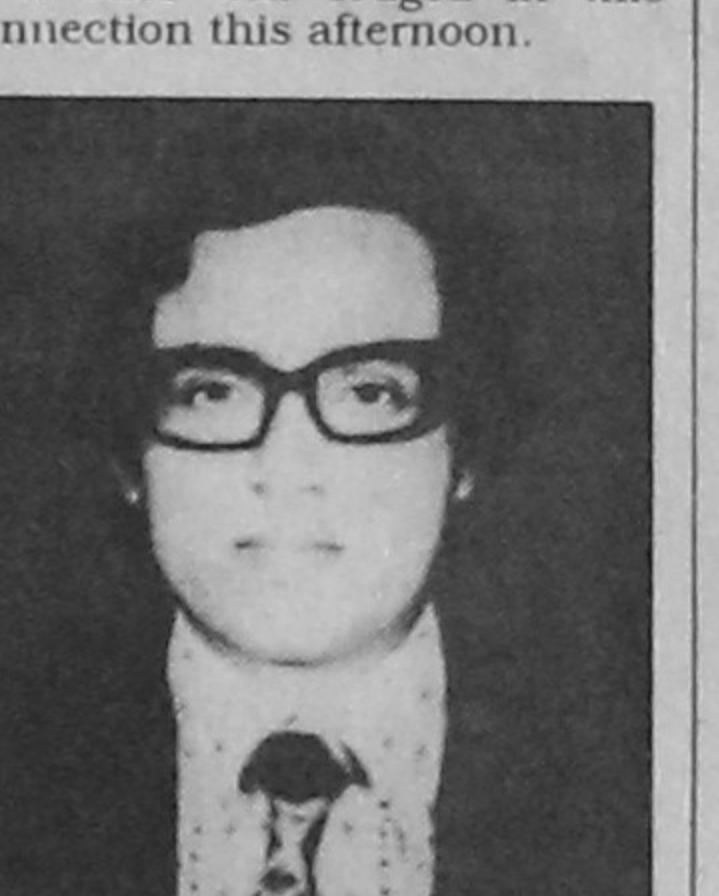
KHULNA, Sept 25: Three people were severely injured and a foreign-made SBL gun was looted during a dacoity at the Nazirghat residence of a physician on Sunday night.

According to FIR lodged with Sonadanga thana, a group of six masked young men entered the house scaling boundary wall from outside.

The dacoits kept all inmates confined in a room at gun point and looted Tk 19,000, gold ornaments worth Tk 50,000 and a single barrel gun made in England.

Dr Abdul Kashem and his sons Ejaj, 24, and Riaz, 22, were severely injured when they tried to resist dacoits. The dacoits exploded two bombs while fleeing with booties.

A case was lodged in this connection this afternoon.



Obituary

Sachindra Kumar Sarker, Asstt Vice President of National Bank Ltd., Brahmanbaria branch, died from kidney ailment on September 24 at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital. He was 48, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Rafiqul Islam Khan, Managing Director, and executives, officers and staff of National Bank Ltd expressed deep shock at his death.

The severed railway links Seoul and the North Korean city of Shinjuji, near the border with China. The two are also to build a road through the heavily fortified border.

But a defence ministry spokesman said the two ministers also agreed that they should discuss other "issues of mutual concern related to tension reduction."

The South repeated proposals to build military confidence, the spokesman said.

South Korea has proposed a military hotline, the mutual notification of drills, sending observers to each other's training exercises and routine defence minister talks.

The two ministers agreed in principle that they should give military support to efforts to carry through the June 15 North-South Declaration," said a government statement.

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But the statement said the South's Defence Minister Cho Sung-Tae and the North's Armed Forces Minister Vice Marshall Kim Il-Chol held "sincere talks" in their first official meeting on the resort island of Cheju.

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