

## News

## What's on today....

**Dance and Music festival:** As part of the 'Dance and Music Festival' organised by the High Commission of India, Deepak Choudhury will present a Sitar recital. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

## Weather

## Rain likely

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

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

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Khulna and Jessore and the lowest of 22.5 degree at Sylhet.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5.50 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 in Celsius	Humidity in percentage	Morning	Evening
	Max	Min		
Dhaka	33.2	26.5	78	71
Chittagong	31.3	24.0	92	85
Rajshahi	33.6	25.6	85	83
Khulna	34.2	24.8	81	80
Barisal	32.6	24.6	80	89
Sylhet	29.0	22.5	96	92
Cox's Bazar	30.4	24.6	97	85



Students of BAF Shaheen College and School handed over a cheque for Tk 1 lakh and 18 thousand to the father of Saikat Rahman Amit, a victim of rare wild polio disease, for his treatment yesterday.

-ISPR photo

## Khoka calls for strong resistance against criminal activities

By Staff Correspondent  
City BNP president Sadek Hossain Khoka MP yesterday asked the city dwellers to build up a resistance in every ward and give a befitting reply to those involved in terrorism, murder, rape, kidnapping, toll extortions and forcible occupation of people's properties.

He alleged that leaders and activists of the ruling Awami League are directly involved with criminal activities and unleashed a reign of terror on innocent people and opposition activists.

Khoka was addressing a way side rally in front of Tiktakuti Jame Mosque organised to press home the demand of arrest and death sentence of the killers of Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal, BNP's ward no 75 unit organised the rally and brought out a procession.

## City BNP to meet Friday

By Staff Correspondent  
A joint meeting of the city BNP and its front organisations will be held at 6.30pm on Friday at the party central office at Naya Paltan.

City BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka MP will preside over the meeting, said a press release.

All leaders of the city committee, BNP-supported ward commissioners at the Dhaka City Corporation, presidents and general secretaries or convenors of all thana committees, presidents and general secretaries of all front organisations of the city unit have been asked to attend the meeting on time.

## Poura polls

From page 1  
Bogra in the first election to the new municipality.

He got 3,471 votes while his nearest rival Abdul Wahed 1,782 in the election held peacefully.

Some 85 per cent voters out of total 7,059 cast their ballots in nine centers.

Manjurul Islam Bimol of BNP was unofficially elected chairman of the newly formed Gopalpur municipality in Natore.

Islam, who got 4,005 votes, beat his rival Awami League candidate Alhaj Shamsuddin Shadhin with a margin of 1,162 votes.

Polling took place peacefully in all the nine centers with voters' turnout of over 85 per cent. The total voters were 10,204.

Uttam Kumar Saha was officially elected chairman of Baduganj pourashava in Rangpur.

He polled 3,490 votes while his nearest rival Mohammad Mosharrat Hossain 2,645 votes.

Isaiah Hossain was unofficially elected chairman in Nazirpur pourashava in Naogaon.

He got 1,748 votes while his nearest rival Mohammad Anwar Hossain 1,224 votes in the election.

## Ctg customs

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So far around 100 officers of Chittagong Customs House were transferred that angered them. Such a mass transfer triggered a scare among the rank and file of Chittagong Customs House, sources added.

The government started inter-departmental transfer in Customs House and Custom's Excise and VAT Division with the amalgamation of sea customs and land customs in August this year.

**Mondal murder**  
From page 12

Clerk Asad has been missing mysteriously after the killing. He earlier claimed to have recognised two of the killers but did not disclose their names to anyone even of the victim's family, sources said.

Earlier, Bachchu, an associate of ward commissioner Saidur Rahman Shahid, was arrested in connection with the murder and was sent to Dhaka Central jail.

**Rigging**  
From page 12

centre and took away some ballot papers right before the polling agents and the law enforcement, said Kajal Kanti Dey, Presiding Officer of the centre.

Many voters at the centre complained to the CEC that their votes were already cast beforehand. Later, the CEC postponed polling in this centre.

The CEC also postponed voting in the Govindapur Government Primary School centre following complaint by a candidate that his polling agents were barred from entering the centre by a group of local muslims, loyal to local AL leader Afzal Khan. Local people also supported his claim, alleging massive rigging by AL activists.

Earlier, the CEC visited two centres at Modern Primary School premises at 10 a.m. where some voters could not cast votes as a lot of 100 voters was not sent to the centre from the Election Commission, said AKM Hares, the Presiding Officer.

The ring leaders might have forced Russel not to encash the cheque, the investigators said.

The four accused in their judicial statements confessed that ten persons were involved in the killing. Of them, six have been arrested.

**PM**  
From page 1

Starting from school to university level.

Responding to the office and accommodation problems of the PSC members, the Prime Minister said 2.9 acres of land has been allocated for construction of PSC Bhaban near Agargaon, where a housing complex can be built with modern architecture to meet the accommodation problem.

In the memorandum, the PSC members apprised the Prime Minister of their problems including status, salary, allowances, accommodation transport.

They also apprised the Prime Minister of the latest activities of the Public Service Comis-

## Speakers call for formulating 'alternative' health policy

By Staff Correspondent

National Health Policy (NHP)."

Social forums, academic institutions, local government, and communities must initiate a dialogue on their own health needs and demands. And these must find space in the NHP."

They said the marginal section of our society are directly affected by the dominant medical notion of 'health' of the elite and the donor-driven policies.

Shasthya Shonglaj organises the seminar on 'Critique of the National Health Policy: In Search of a People's Policy on Health'.

"We reject the existing national health policy. It does not represent the views of the common people," said one of the speakers.

"Any health policy must address the health problems of every citizen. Assessment of each and every aspect of life and health should have been mandatory before launching the

They also proposed to include other issues such as legal aspects related to health and environment, disabled and indigenous people's health needs, and health of people working in factories and industries.

The seminar also recommended covering areas like production of food, reproductive health, neonatal and child health, private healthcare services, referral system, role of the doctors, nurses and health workers, disaster management, role of the international organisations and inter-ministerial relationship.

The concluding session of the seminar was chaired by Farhad Mazhar of UBINIG while Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, Enayetur Khan, Editor of the Weekly Holiday, and Dr Quasem Choudhury attended the seminar as distinguished guests.

When the government took these factors into consideration and asked for the deferral, Azad replied, "These factors were always there. But since the time of the summit has now come nearer, we have made a request for the deferral."

He declined to comment on whether lack of preparations had anything to do with the request for the deferral.

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He said local enterprises are in a serious disadvantageous position in the face of increasing imports from India and denial of market access there due to by tariff and non-tariff barriers.

He said the government should address this issue as its top priority, providing meaningful support to business enterprises to increase their competitiveness.

Relief Commissioner Ingy said four helicopters had been deployed to drop food, milk powder and medicines in the worst-hit areas of West Bengal.

"Four major districts are more or less cut off and we need money, more boats and helicopters to make inroads and step up rescue work," a top official said.

Reports of looting had earlier come in from all of West Bengal's affected districts, as desperate villagers ransacked relief trucks for foodstuffs.

Military officials said they had managed to rescue 250,000 people at the weekend who had been marooned on rooftops and rafts without food for four days in West Bengal's Murshidabad.

The defence lawyers pleaded that the MP had been wrongly implicated in the case because he was not present on the place of occurrence when the incident occurred. Some influential quarters were to be blamed for the incident, they alleged.

The ministry held two special meetings on the issue and would hold another one soon with the Home Minister, said the state minister.

**Deposition**

From page 12

against the accused under section 3, 4 and 6 of the Explosives Act of 1908. The prosecution said that the explosion took place while bombs were being made on the first floor of the two-storey residence of the MP on March 15 last year.

The defence lawyers pleaded that the MP had been wrongly implicated in the case because he was not present on the place of occurrence when the incident occurred. Some influential quarters were to be blamed for the incident, they alleged.

The meeting also discussed the overall law and order situation of Adamjee Jute Mills and advised the authorities concerned to take effective steps to improve the trouble-prone scene.

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**Diamond cutting**

From page 1

Lanka, which owns and manages the largest cutting and polishing factory in the world in Colombo, will be the overseas partner.

The project partners are optimistic that the factory will go into commercial production in January next year. However, they plan to start test production in November this year.

The diamonds will be imported in coarse forms referred to as cuttable rough. Sri Lankan experts will transfer diamond cutting technology to Bangladesh, train local workers and supervise the polishing operation.

The finished diamonds, which fetch around US\$ 490 a carat, will be packed and air-freighted to Europe for sales to the international diamond market.

**Bus fare rates**

From page 1

should be under government control.

About transport strike in different routes, Enayet Ullah alleged that it was due to the local administration's non-cooperation with transport owners in implementing the new government rate.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, another member of the Expert Committee said that one of its recommendations was to deregulate the transport fare altogether, allowing market forces to play.

The government deregulated the fare rate for goods-carrying trucks in 1975, he mentioned.

In absence of adequate relief materials, the sufferings of the flood-affected people have increased.

A large number of people are pour into upazila headquarters and Kushtia town in search of food and jobs.

All the educational institutions have been turned into flood shelters.

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Police said Anwara Begum, 50, wife of Abdur Rahman of Charmaighara village, was injured seriously as the Aricha-bound truck hit her at about 11am. She succumbed on her way to the hospital.

Police seized the truck but its driver managed to flee.

One person was killed and five others were injured in a collision between a truck and a tempo at Belita on Jamalpur-Tangail road Monday night.

Witnesses said Harun-Al-Rashid, 35, of Baluata village in Sadar upazila died on the spot at about 10 pm.

Injured Hazrat Ali, Abdul Khaled, Nur Islam, Dulla, and Abdul Haque were admitted to Sylhet Medical College Hospital.

A sepo of the Army was killed in a road accident near Chakoria College in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Shafiqul Islam of 41 Bengal Regiment met the accident when an Army truck bound for Chittagong at 11:30 am.

He was rushed to Chakoria Jam Jam Hospital where the doctor declared him dead.

Army sources said Shafiqul joined 41 Bengal Regiment stationed in Bandarban on Sunday from Jessore Cantonment.

The body was sent to Chittagong Combined Military Hospital for autopsy.

During the meeting they decided to finalise cultural exchange activities between the two countries by November.

## NAM Summit

From page 1

deferral of the 13th NAM Summit.

First, there will be "weather instability" in the months of September and October and November.

Second, a caretaker government would be in place in September next year. So it would not be possible to hold the summit, as there will be no elected government at that time.

Third, it would take some time for the newly elected government to be ready to hold such a summit of the 114-member organisation.

Fourth, the month of Ramadan will fall at the end of next year.