

What's on today....

Founding anniversary: The Youth Group will celebrate its 15th founding anniversary. A cultural programme will be held followed by dinner. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 7:30 pm.

Bharatnatyam performance: Bangladeshi artist Belal Hossain Khan will present Bharatnatyam. This is the first time that a Bangladeshi artist will be presenting Bharatnatyam to live music in the country. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, Satnasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 7:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Central conference: Biplobi Chhatra Sangha will hold its first central conference. Venue: Seminar room (2nd floor) of Teachers Students Centre (TSC) on DU campus. Time: 10:00 am.

Annual general meeting: The Gopalpur Thana Samity will hold its annual general meeting. Venue: Auditorium of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Shahbag. Time: 3:00 pm.

Inauguration: The Boutique Rong will be reopened with a new range of Sarees and Salwar Kameez. Venue: Rainak Complex, BDR Gate-4, Dhanmondi Rd No 2. Time: 5:00 pm.

Weather

No change in temperature

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

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

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.6 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Bogra.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:49 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	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.4	25.6	64	72
Chittagong	32.0	23.9	83	85
Rajshahi	34.2	26.0	82	82
Khulna	34.0	24.5	69	—
Barisal	33.5	25.4	83	78
Sylhet	31.3	23.7	91	80
Cox's Bazar	32.6	24.5	88	82

Underworld don

From page 1
In connection with a gold smuggling case filed with Cantonment police on July 27, 1999, Police dropped his name from the list of accused in the case during investigation, submitted the 'final report' on June 8 and the hearing on it took place yesterday.

The gang intercepted Milon when he was boarding his car after the hearing, said Shahin, a motor parts trader, who witnessed the incident. Shahin had blood stains in his shirt as he accompanied the victim to the DMCH.

Ironically, lawyers staged a demonstration on the court premises only 15 before the incident. They demanded justice for the murder of two advocates - Habibur Rahman Mondal, who was joint secretary of city BNP and Kalidas Baral, vice president of Bagerhat district unit of the ruling Awami League.

The assailants numbering about 15, all brandishing sophisticated arms, entered the court premises from the Court House Street at about 1:00 pm, killed Milon and left the area without being challenged either by police or by his body guards, Shahin said.

The gang pumped at least 20 rounds of bullets on Milon and then fled through the Court House street at about 1:10 pm.

The assailants were wearing jeans trousers and full sleeve shirts, said Tapan Sarker, a bodyguard of the victim. Sarker said he cried for help but none came forward.

Sarker said he could not identify the killers. At this stage, some people took him away saying that he was not in a position to speak further.

Police later seized the victim's car along with one set of mobile phone, one licensed revolver with six rounds of bullet and some documents related to the case for which he came to the court.

Some witnesses said that the assailants split into two groups carried out the killing. About 10 of them took position in the middle between the two court buildings and the rest killed him, firing 20 rounds.

They exploded two home made bombs creating panic in the area, said a witness.

Police fired tear gas shells after the gang had fled, witnesses said.

The Dhaka Bar Association in a press statement condemned the incident.

The DMP said in a press release that policemen on duty at the court yesterday were suspended.

Meanwhile the body of Milon was taken to his Purana Paltan residence. Witnesses said a number of people including leaders of his Five Star Group as well as some from Seven Star Group earlier went to the DMCH to see his body. Some of the visitors were seen crying and saying 'this killing will not go unavenged'.

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FEMA report
Voters' turnout
in poura polls
satisfactory

Election to 13 pourashavas in 13 districts was held quite peacefully on September 25 and 26 amid tight security, excepting at a few centers in Comilla where gross irregularities were reported, reports UNB.

This was revealed in an interim report of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) which monitored the elections by its observers.

The report published yesterday said the turnout of the voters was satisfactory.

According to the report, the presiding officers caught a number of fake voters from several centers in Tungi, Chandpur, Comilla, Gopalganj and Rangpur pourashavas while casting fake votes.

Besides, polling in two centers of Comilla pourashava was postponed due to turmoil created by some miscreants who snatched away ballot boxes, the report added.

Two bodies
found in city

By Staff Correspondent
Unidentified bodies of a young man and a young girl were recovered from different places in the city yesterday.

The mutilated body of a twelve-year-old girl was recovered near an embankment about 100 yards away from Privanka Housing at Mirpur at 12:05 PM, police said. The arms and legs of the beheaded body were mutilated, police said.

Hospital sources said that the girl was killed by miscreants and dumped near the embankment.

An unnatural death case was filed with Mirpur police in this regard and the body has been sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

In another incident, the body of a 23-year-old unidentified man was recovered from Chatterbari of Balughat in the city.

Hospital sources said that the man was probably strangled to death.

His body was also sent to DMCH for autopsy.

Shajahan murder
Ershad Shikdar,
5 others get
life term

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 27: Ershad Shikdar and five others were sentenced to life term here today in Shajahan Murder Case.

Eight accused including Noor-e-Alam were acquitted of the charge as the prosecution side failed to prove their guilt beyond doubt. Five other convicts are Liaquat Lashkar, Jama Faruque, Iddris Jama, Ayul Ali and Berek Commander.

All the six were also fined Tk 50,000 each. Twenty per cent of the fines, if realised, will be deposited with the national exchequer, while 80 per cent to be given to wife, sons and daughters of victim of Shajahan Shaikh.

The judgement was delivered by Hasan Imam, Judge of the Special Court who has so far tried six murder cases against Ershad Shikdar and his accomplices. Shikdar has already been sentenced to death in five murder cases.

The prosecution story in brief is that drug trafficker Shajahan Shaikh was kidnapped from KDA New Market area at about 10 pm on May 29 in 1998 and hacked to death on the roof of old water tank of railway department near Skid Ghat.

Beheaded body of Shajahan was dumped in the river Bhairab the same night as learnt from judicial statement of Shikdar's chief body guard and govt approver Noor-e-Alam.

Shajahan's wife Lalmai filed a case in this connection on September 3 last year with Khulna Thana.

Thirty-five prosecution witnesses were cross examined during the trial. Four accused were tried in absentia. Of the four, two were acquitted.

Police later seized the victim's car along with one set of mobile phone, one licensed revolver with six rounds of bullet and some documents related to the case for which he came to the court.

Some witnesses said that the assailants split into two groups carried out the killing. About 10 of them took position in the middle between the two court buildings and the rest killed him, firing 20 rounds.

They exploded two home made bombs creating panic in the area, said a witness.

Police fired tear gas shells after the gang had fled, witnesses said.

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Attendees displaying different kinds of pitha (local cakes) at a food festival in the city yesterday. The pitha utsab was held at the Tourism Centre to mark World Tourism Day.

— Star photo

Study on ship-breaking industry
Fire, gas explosions killed
400 in 21 years

By Staff Correspondent

Nearly four hundred people were killed and six thousand others were injured at the ship-breaking industries at Sitakundi in Chittagong in the last 21 years due to fire and gas explosions, revealed a recent study.

The study on 'Ship-breaking Industry of Bangladesh: Status of the occupational health and safety and workers' right at Sitakundi' was conducted by a two-member team of the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) at 12 out of 30 such industries at Sitakunda last month.

Lack of safety measures, poor healthcare facilities, lax in monitoring system and lack of coordination among the government agencies are identified as the main issues responsible for the highly hazardous working condition at the ship-breaking industries.

According to the study, about 30 thousand people are employed in the ship-breaking yards at Sitakundi. Of them, 2000 are children aged between 10 and 14 years.

BILS officials presented a summary of the study report at a press conference in the city on Tuesday.

They said 95 per cent of the victims of fire and gas explosion do not get any compensation for occupational accidents. And most of the workers have been suffering from physical disorder.

The study found that there is no specific service rules nor fixed minimum wage for the workers of ship-breaking yards. The study recommended introducing a code of conduct on employment, wages, occupational health, safety and welfare for the workers.

BNP: Nurul Islam

From page 1
two years ago and was staying at his maternal cousin's residence at Laxmipur. So, the information provided by the police and the government regarding Islam is 'completely motivated and false,' said Ashraf.

Quoting press reports, the BNP joint secretary-general said an uneasy situation had been prevailing in Laxmipur since local AL leader Abu Taher was elected chairman of municipality.

He said 38 people were killed due to political rivalry in Laxmipur sadar thana since the Awami League came to power. Of the victims, 20 were either BNP leaders or activists, four belonged to Jamaat-e-Islami while 14 others belonged to the ruling party. The municipality chairman had a hand in all these murders.

The affected families could not file any case in the face of threat, repression and eviction by the terrorists. Even the injured did not dare to go to hospital for fear of further attack. Over 150 leaders belonging to opposition parties became crippled following attacks by the terrorists, said Ashraf.

Most of the opposition leaders and activists have left the district due to repression and attack by terrorists under the patronage of the chairman. Abu Taher reportedly has in his command over 300 terrorists and his elder son Biplob looks after the operation. Taher's close relative and Bakhang UP Chairman Abdul Halim Hasu is believed to be the commander-in-chief of the terrorist force.

He said 38 people were killed due to political rivalry in Laxmipur sadar thana since the Awami League came to power. Of the victims, 20 were either BNP leaders or activists, four belonged to Jamaat-e-Islami while 14 others belonged to the ruling party. The municipality chairman had a hand in all these murders.

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Changes in BTV
schedule

The Bangladesh Television has brought some changes in its schedule for Sydney Olympic Games 2000, says an official handout.

From today, BTV will start its session in the morning to telecast various events of the Olympic games live.

The revised schedule is as follows: The session starts today at 7:30 am, tomorrow at 9 am, on Saturday at 6:30 am and on Sunday at 7:15 am.

Judge

From page 1
lice was on duty but they failed to take any action against the assailants.

He added, 'It is not a question of strength but a question of whether the force is devoted and dedicated to its duty.'

Deputy Commissioner of DMP (South) Abul Kashem yesterday defended the on-duty police at the Court.

'You have to take into account the legal system of the country as well as the situation on the spot before blaming the police. According to our law, court is an open place where police is not supposed to check people', he said defending police failure to prevent the gang from entering the court premises.

He was asked why police did not open fire on the killers as the DMP Commissioner had earlier issued a circular asking policemen to shoot on sight muggers and killers trying to flee to evade arrest.

He replied, 'Such a decision is taken on the basis of objective condition on the spot.'

There was a practical problem as regards opening fire with the rifle as so many people were there on the court premises and they (gang) were fleeing, they got mixed with the people there. But police fired tear gas shells, he added.

The DC avoided a direct reply when asked if he would conduct an inquiry into police failure in this incident.

Mahbub

From page 1
rushed to the track with a wheelchair for Mahbub.

Later, the Bangladeshi sprinter was sent to the Games Village hospital. He was given hot water therapy and a massage for about three hours under American expert Dr Kennedy before being shifted to his Games Village flat.

The physio has advised him to report to the hospital regularly for the next 15 days.

Bangladesh team manager Imtiaz Khan Babul said that during the treatment Mahbub told Dr Kennedy that he had been feeling the effects of a recurring injury he suffered in a motor cycle accident in Dhaka. But the athlete never informed that to team officials either at home or in Sydney.

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) secretary general Zafar Imam, who was due to leave Sydney today along with chief delegation of Bangladesh contingent Bir Bahadur, MP, expressed his dissatisfaction that Mahbub had hidden the information.

Babul and sprinter Mahbub will be staying back to represent the country in the closing ceremony on October 1 at the Olympic Stadium, known as Stadium Australia.

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