

News

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 artiste Belayet Hossain Khan will present Bharatnatyam. This is the first time that a Bangladeshi artiste will be presenting Bharatnatyam to live music in the country. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, Satnasjid Road, Dhammoldi. 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 Bangabandhu 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, Dhammoldi 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 Jessor 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 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 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 bodyguards, 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.

Launching seminar of IBA (UK)

A launching seminar of the Institute of Business Administration, UK, was held at IDB auditorium in the city recently.

Centre for International Studies, the approved centre in Bangladesh, organised the seminar.

Richard Lunt, Director, The British Council Teaching Centre, was present as special guest. Dr Jamaluddin Ahmed FCA presented a keynote paper on "Business Education in Bangladesh."

The IBA diplomas can be completed in Bangladesh in 12 to 15 months with transfer facilities in the final year of BA (Hons) Business Studies, University of Huddersfield or MBA, Sheffield Hallam University.

Floods

From page 1 and Jhendi districts worsened further while it improved in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Kushtia and Netrokona, according to reports from our correspondents and news agencies.

In Meherpur, 15 more villages in Mymensingh upazila have been inundated due to a rush of waters from across the border.

Most of the villages have gone under waist deep water. Police and BDR personnel have started evacuating the affected people to safer places.

The situation in other affected districts improved with fall of water level in major rivers.

The sufferings of the affected people have been mounted due to inadequate supply of relief materials.

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, Chaudpur, 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 Pritiakna 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 Chatbari 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 as the charge as the prosecution side failed to prove their guilt beyond doubt. Five other convicts are Liqauat Lashkar, Jamal Faruque, Idris Jama, Ayub Ali and Barek 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 Shikdar.

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 opposition parties became crippled following attacks by the terrorists, said Ashraf.

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 Shikdar 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.

A case in this connection on September 3 last year with Shajahan's wife Lalmati filed a case against the naik with the court yesterday with the support of some army officers also rushed to spot and asked the police to file a case against the naik. But Ranna police refused, witnesses said.

However, after a long negotiation at 2 a.m. police filed a case against the naik under the Children and Women Repression Prevention Act, sources said.

Ranna police later filed a case against the major for obstructing the policemen in performing official duties.

The naik was produced before the CMM's Court yesterday and later sent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

Ershad

From page 1

He asked the government to resign and announce an early parliamentary election.

JP senior presidium member Nazirul Rahman Manjur said AL would definitely be defeated in the next election, as they did nothing for the welfare of the masses.

JP presidium members Sunil Gupta, ATM Fazle Rabbi, ABD Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Kazi Firoz Rashid, GM Haider, Col (retd) Gaffar (BU), Mostafa Jamal Haider, and vice-presidents MA Hannan and Sved Abu Hossain addressed the function.

A former vice president of the Mymensingh district unit of Awami League, Akhteruzzaman was an advocate at Mymensingh and Jamalur Islam Chowdhury is leading in the court.

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

His quikhwani will be held at Regency Apartment, 32 Dillu Road, after Asr prayers on September 30. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the quikhwani.

Later, JP leaders and workers brought out a colourful procession that ended at Paltan Maidan after parading some city roads.

Obituary

Advocate AKM Akhteruzzaman died of old-age complications at a city clinic on September 26. He was 82, says a press release.

A former vice president of the Mymensingh district unit of Awami League, Akhteruzzaman was an advocate at Mymensingh and Jamalur Islam Chowdhury is leading in the court.

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

The EC announced the schedule of the long-pending elections to 19 municipalities on August 21. But again, polling in six municipalities was postponed as fresh disputes emerged.



Attendants 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.

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

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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 Intiaz 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 the 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 the 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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In another incident, three persons - Kamal Hossain, Tofa Mian, and Faruk, were shot dead by an armed gang at Dayaganj on May 11. Nihari, brother-in-law of Kamal, filed an FIR with Sutrapur police accusing nine persons.

Firoze Alami Pintu, the main accused, who is the brother of a Juba League leader, could not be arrested yet.

The DB is also investigating another triple murder at Khilgaon. Partially decomposed bodies of three young men - Touhid Mahmud Apu alias Asif, Habibur Rahman Ripon, and Glasuddin - were recovered from a house near the Khilgaon thana on August 30. None could be arrested in connection with the murders.

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