

## News

## What's on today ....

**Durga Puja:** The *dashami puja* of Ramna Kali Mandir and Anandamayi Ashram will be held. Venue: Mandir premises. Time: 9.00 am.

**Discussion meeting:** Anushandhitshu Chakra Bigyan Club will hold a discussion meeting on different needs for practice of science in the country. Venue: Nat Mandal, Dhaka university premises. Time 10.00 am.

**Lions Service Day 2000:** Lions Club International District 315A will hold a function in observance of Lions service Day 2000. Chief guest: state Minister for Jute Ln AK Faezul Huq. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 4.30 pm.

**Film show:** Goethe Institut will screen *Run Lola Run*. Venue: Goethe Institute, House no 10, Road no 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.30 pm.

## .....and tomorrow

**Video screening:** Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will screen a video documentary it has produced on River Erosion. Venue: BRAC Centre, Mohakhali. Time: 2.00 pm.

**Tree plantation:** The visiting delegation of British members of parliament will plant trees. Venue: Dhaka University Arts Building lawn. Time: 2.30 pm

**Seminar:** British Council will hold an International Seminar on "Women in National Politics". Venue: Auditorium of British Council, Fuller road. Time: 3.30 pm.

**Discussion meeting:** Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will hold a discussion meeting to mark the second death anniversary of noted film actor Jasim. Venue: Kabi Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4.30 pm.

## Weather

## Light rain forecast

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

Moderately heavy falls may occur at places over Barisal and Khulna divisions during the period, said the Met Office adding day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and the lowest 23.0 degree at Chittagong.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5:39 pm and rises on Monday at 5:53 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	26.2	79	87
Chittagong	31.5	23.0	92	83
Rajshahi	34.4	26.0	81	80
Khulna	33.0	25.6	75	93
Barisal	29.6	25.4	93	92
Sylhet	33.0	26.5	80	93
Cox's Bazar	31.6	25.2	84	85



M Mizanur Rahman, Secretary BCSIR, handed over a deed of agreement on lease out of process for production of Neem tooth Powder to MA Hakim, proprietor of Neem Kimya Laboratories at a meeting held at the conference room of BCSIR recently. Dr M Moshuazzaman and chairman BCSIR was also present.



Bangladesh International School held its annual Science Fair at its premises at DOHS recently. Picture shows Col Mohsin Chowdhury, PSC, Chairman of the governing body of the school and Station Commander of Dhaka Cantonment visiting the fair.



GTCL Officers Welfare Association held a blood donation programme at its Uttara office in collaboration with Sandhani. Managing Director Mainul Ahsan was present as the chief guest at the programme.

## Saifur

From Page 1

Saifur said, "There is no strong issue-based movement. I would say, we, as a major opposition party, also failed to utilise issues at the right time. Take, for example, the increase in fuel prices. Neither any political party nor the civil society has made any serious protest although it affects everybody."

If a road barricade can be put up to stop the convoy of the Leader of the Opposition in Sathkira, a similar road blockade can also be put up by fuel users as a token protest, he said.

## Cricket

From Page 1

Vinod Kambl threatened to take control, but edged a Steve Waugh delivery to Gilchrist for 29 to leave the total on 130 for four.

Yuvraj, whose first three scoring strokes all went to the boundary, was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

## Young man stabbed to death

NARSINGDI, Oct 7: Terrorists stabbed to death a youngman in the town Friday night over past enmity, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Sumon, 17, son of Hiran Mia of Kauriapara area in the town.

Police said the hoodlums led by one Ripon abducted Sumon, a bus helper, from his residence at about 9 am and killed him on a road nearby his house.

Later, police recovered the body from the spot and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

The mother of the victim filed a case with the police accusing eight people.

## JP election committee meets Thursday

By Staff Correspondent

An emergency meeting of Election Conducting Committee of Jatiya Party will be held on Thursday at 7:30 pm at party's central office at Kalabagan, says a release.

JP secretary general and chief coordinator of the committee Nazim Rahman Manjur will preside over the meeting. Member-secretary of the committee has requested all concerned to attend the meeting on time.

Party chairman H M Ershad has appointed former acting president of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj Gazi Kamrul Islam Sajal as joint organising secretary of the central committee of JP.



## Motia visits Puja Mondops in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Oct 7: Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury today visited the Puja Mondops at Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur district, reports BSS.

She exchanged pleasantries with the members of the Hindu community.

The minister yesterday visited the Puja Mondops in Sherpur town and Nakhla upazila, an official press release said.

## Prof Towhidul Anwar in coma

Dr Towhidul Anwar, Professor of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University (DU) is in coma at the intensive care unit of BIRDEM following an operation on Thursday last, reports BSS.

He is under the treatment of Prof AK Azad Khan.

He was operated as he was vomiting blood. Doctors suspect that he is suffering from liver cirrhosis.

## New guest at Ctg Zoo

CHITTAGONG, Oct 7: Chittagong Zoo is now humming with cries of a stranger, a female Ulook (Bonmanush-Hylobates Hoolook), that reached the zoo last night.

Curator of the zoo Shital Kumer Nath told BSS that the tribal people of Rowangchhari of Bandarban hill district brought the rare species for all times, Ulook, and handed over to the zoo authorities.

The zookeepers are now busy providing special hospitality to the new guest. The curator said that the due to space constraint we are searching a suitable room for the Ulook.

The tribal people who caught the rare animal from inaccessible and remote corner of the country informed the curator that another male baby Ulook was missing and they are searching for the male one.

Ulooks were frequently seen in the forests of Madhupur, Sylhet and wildlife sanctuaries at Chunar in Satkania area under Chittagong district. But now they have become almost extinct.

The international market price of the Ulook is several lakhs of taka, the curator said. The wildlife enthusiasts in the port city would get chance to see the new guest from tomorrow, the curator added.

## Mannan visits Puja Mondops in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 7: Minister for Labour and Employment MA Mannan has visited puja mondops and exchanged greetings with the members of the Hindu community here, reports BSS.

The minister was accompanied by local ward commissioners M Anwar Hossain, MA Naser and Jalal Uddin Iqbal, Engineer Manosh Kumar, Debashis Guha and AL leaders Enamul Huq Danu and MA Rashid.

Mannan visited puja mondops yesterday at Goachil Bagan, West Bakolia, Ganga Bari, Terribazar, Gashlapara Makki Colony, Abhyo Mitra Ghat and Pathenghata.

While exchanging greetings with the Hindu devotees at puja mondops Mannan advised them to follow religious teachings to build up a society free from all evils.

## Navy chief back home

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral A Taher returned in the city Friday night after a five-day visit to Malaysia, reports BSS.

A three-member team accompanied him.

During the visit, Admiral Taher paid courtesy calls on Minister of Defence Dato Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tan Abdul Razzak, Chief of Defence Forces General Tan Sri Dato Seri Mohd Zahidi Bin Haji Zaimuddin and the chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy Admiral Dato Sri Abu Bakar Bin Abdul Jamal.

## Discussion on 'Democracy : Hasina in UN' held

Speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday highly lauded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's historic speech at the recent UN Millennium Summit in which she flayed the military dictators for overthrowing democratic governments, reports BSS.

They said the farsighted plea of the Prime Minister might change the future course of the global body in withdrawing recognition to the countries taken hostage by the power-hungry military rulers.

They were speaking at a discussion on 'Democracy: Sheikh Hasina in the United Nations', organised by Bangladesh Foundation for Development and Research (BFDR) at CIRDAP.

Referring to the subsequent remarks of Pakistan's chief executive General Pervez Musharraf, the speaker said the Bengalees have rejected the military ruler's audacious counseling to "forget the past."

There is no alternative to seeking an apology by Pakistan for the genocide, rape and arson committed by its occupation army and their local associates during the country's War of Liberation in 1971, they said.

Veteran journalist, commentator and writer M R Akhtar Mukul presented the keynote paper on the topic.

## Pabna docs

From Page 12  
Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Pabna unit in an emergency meeting on Thursday announced indefinite strike protesting attack on Dr Amin Ahamed Khan of Pabna General Hospital by a group of assailants.

The doctors called off their strike when the administration assured them today to arrest the criminals.

## Flood

From Page 1  
District is likely to remain unchanged for two or three days while the situation in Kustia, Jessore, Jhenidah, Meherpur and Chuadanga will continue to improve.

In Debbhatta upazila, officials were trying to negotiate between two feuding groups today. One group wanted to cut an embankment for quick release of flood water while the other group opposed it. The officials fear clash between the two groups over the issue.

Our correspondent from Chuadanga reports: Flood victims in 100 shelters are facing severe food crisis.

They allege that an organised gang is involved in looting relief goods in some relief camps.

## Missionaries of Charity marks Golden Jubilee

CALCUTTA, India, Oct 7: The Missionaries of Charity order set up by the late Nobel peace laureate Mother Teresa celebrated the 50th anniversary today of its foundation in Calcutta, reports AFP.

Special masses and day-long prayers were held in the order's homes, which now number 670 in 125 countries around the world.

## Civil services

From Page 1  
three-year extension of age limit in both cases should be made on an experimental basis for the same period.

The committee's latest suggestion would not benefit the senior most bureaucrats. Its earlier proposal had caused resentment among the mid-level and lower-level bureaucrats.

The committee has revised its earlier recommendations following objection from BNP member in the body Jamiruddin Sircar.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, who heads the Petition Committee, chaired its meeting on Thursday.

The recommendations are likely to be placed in the parliament in its next session, one source said.

## 11-party urges govt to declare flood-hit dists as 'distressed area'

Eleven-party alliance convenor and general secretary of the Gono Forum Saifuddin Ahmed Manik yesterday called upon the government to declare the flood-affected areas of the country as "distressed" area, reports BSS.

He made this appeal in a statement after returning in the city from different flood-affected areas distributing relief materials under the auspices of the 11-party alliance.

Manik said it is difficult to assess the damages of the affected areas as the people there are not used to experience floods, and sudden onrush of waters left them so helpless that they could not remove their different commodities. Besides, he said, the crops that would have been harvested soon have now gone under water.

The 11-party leader expressed deep resentment at the "failure" of the government in providing relief and protect the worst-hit victims. The camps in Sathkira received no help from the government till yesterday, he said and added that local people including the businessmen are doing the entire work.

Manik called for providing the affected people with cooked food instead of rice because of their pitiable conditions.

## Only press

From Page 1  
But reporters, with their efforts, sincerity and courage, revealed major incidents and depicted the law and order situation," he added.

Only the print media is trying to uphold democracy while politicians, parties and institutions have failed to practice democracy, he said.

He was speaking at a Meet the Reporters programme at the office of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) in the city yesterday.

"Newspapers have now emerged as the last resort to ensure justice. The distressed and deprived people now rush to newspapers to get justice," Saifur observed.

He referred to the kidnapping of Laxmipur district BNP leader Nurul Islam, some incidents in the armed forces, lawlessness in Feni and Barisal and said the print media played a vital role in informing the nation the facts.

Saifur said some newspapers like The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo, in their reporting, editorials and post-editorials, are highlighting major issues with neutral criticism.

He hoped that the print media would continue to play its due role to establish rule of law, institutionalise democracy, free the society from terrorism and corruption and develop a healthy culture.

## UK to send more troops to Sierra Leone

LONDON, Oct 7: Britain will send hundreds of additional soldiers to Sierra Leone, officials here said, reports AFP.

"We expect to be in a position to make an announcement next week on the subject but at this stage we haven't got details of what we may be announcing," a British Defence ministry spokesperson to AFP.

"We have been discussing with the United Nations contributions to the (international) force in the theatre," the spokesperson said, confirming a report on the BBC.

## Kalaroa incident

From Page 1  
The BNP leader demanded immediate release of six activists and withdrawal of the case.

BNP activists have been engaged in distributing relief and rescue operations in the southwestern districts, he added.

Among others BNP central leader Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Z A Khan, Mirza Abbas, Saadeq Hossain Khoka, Nazrul Islam Khan and Aman Ullah Aman were present at the briefing.

## Old warmth in a new

From Page 12  
appreciation of India's security concerns as a desire to see a multipolar international order enunciated in the Strategic Partnership declaration.

Russia is the only country which has come forward to help India's peaceful nuclear energy programme at a time when other Western countries have been expressing reservations in providing weapons especially after New Delhi's nuclear tests in 1998 and given the fact that India is yet to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

International nuclear energy cooperation with India has been made difficult by the 1992 regulations worked out by the Nuclear Suppliers' Group, a grouping of advanced countries, which demand that any nuclear sale to India must be followed by so-called "full-scope safeguards" or complete international control over India's nuclear programme.

Notwithstanding the pressures exerted by United States a few years back, Russia has gone ahead with plans to build two nuclear power reactors in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Of course, the Indo-Russian nuclear power project in Tamil Nadu is under an accord signed before 1992.

Putin, while considering greater cooperation with India, has only expressed hopes of New Delhi signing the CTBT but never insisted on it, in sharp contrast to the reaction by US and the West. Russia has already signed and ratified the CTBT.

The threat of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan-Pakistan was clearly a major issue that figured in Putin's talks with the top Indian leadership. Russia is understandably concerned about the terrorism in proximity in Chechnya and the neighbouring Central Asian states of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and efforts to undermine democracy and secularism in those states. India is a victim of cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and the source of the scourge happens to be the same.

Despite sharing with India the concern over terrorism, Russia may not for now at least take the same approach as India on how to deal with sponsors of the menace. Moscow has been adopting a mixed approach: a combination of threats to the sponsors of terrorism as well as a willingness to engage them as was manifest in a recent visit to Islamabad by a special envoy of Putin.

## Nation builders

From Page 1

Pointing at the brilliant students, he said, "These students should aim not only to get a better education abroad but also to come back to the country, to the people who need their services and talent most."

Bayes called upon the students to free the country from the clutches of illiteracy and poverty to make the people happy and prosperous.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam in his speech pointed out that the intention of the daily in honouring these students is to inculcate a sense of patriotism in the young hearts and minds.

He said, "You go to the most advanced countries of the world to acquire knowledge and professional skills but you must come back to build this nation and that is why we call you the nation builders of tomorrow."

He noted that achieving individual excellence is most desirable but the real achievement is that 'your country and the poor people benefit from your talent.'

The joyous function was attended by thousands of students, parents and teachers. The prizes for the winners were sponsored by Aptech Computer Education, Ovaltine and Hallmark.

The Aptech announced special scholarships including four global scholarships worth Tk 10 lakh.

Fahim Munaim, Tarun Mitra and Rezwan bin Farook of Aptech and four students also spoke on the occasion.

The full list of the students will be published in a special edition of the Rising Star next Thursday.

## Gas reserve

From Page 1

United States Geological Survey (USGS) as saying that Bangladesh has a reserve of between 33 tcf and 48 tcf of gas," he observed.

But none of these figures were officially placed before the authorities. All these figures were projected in the press in a manner that we take commercial decisions regarding our gas on the basis of those figures," he said.

The official said Petrobangla and USGS are now working on the methodology to determine the actual gas reserve in terms of 'proven, probable and possible quantum.' "All these figures will be different having varying degrees of certainty", he added.

The higher figures reported in the press refer to 'possible' gas reserve. But these are most uncertain figures and we can not take a commercial decision like gas export on the basis of 'possible' gas reserve," said a high official of Petrobangla.

"What we have learnt from the recent visit to the USGS headquarters in USA is that you can not declare a gas reserve as 'proven' unless you have exploration and drilling data and a mar-

ket for it. The USA and Canada maintain this policy strictly. In this light, we have 9 tcf of 'proven' reserve and another 4 tcf of 'probable' reserve, not 30 tcf or 50 tcf."

"We may sound negative. But the fact remains that gas is our only energy resource and that too is very limited in terms of proven reserve. Moreover, we have already explored the major prospective areas," said a planning-level official.

In contrast, countries like USA or Canada have vast unexplored areas. They have multiple sources of energy like coal, oil and nuclear energy. They have the technology to develop newer resources and if all these fail, they have the money to buy energy from other countries. Do we have so much option? No. That is why we must be extra cautious or we may regret later," he observed.

Sources concerned said that USGS-Petrobangla collaboration in determining the country's gas reserve and resources may not produce a report this year. "But this has helped us a lot in understanding the gas sector in global and local perspective," he added.

## Section 54 of Cr PC

From Page 1

than two years. They were arrested only on suspicion.

It further said, "This law, though innocent in appearance, has given unlimited power to police to detain any one they wish."

"A police officer at Munshiganj thana admitted that Section 54 provided a scope for police to extort money."

Section 54 of the CrPC provides that individuals may be arrested on suspicion of criminal activity without any order from a magistrate or a warrant.

The probe was conducted by Dr Saima Rahman Khan, SM Nasiruddin and Rokunuzzaman.

Participants at the discussion included Editor of the weekly Holiday Enayetullah Khan, former IGP Enamul Haq, singer Maksudul Haq, Advocate Salma Sobhan, Dr Taslim Siddique, Shirin Akther, Advocate Karuna

Chakma, Advocate Abdus Salam, Jaimal Chowdhury, Nurul Kabir and Advocate Nasim. Chairman of Odhikar Barrister Hasan Arif was the moderator.

Enayetullah Khan said rule of law in the country is in a sorry state. Police are using 'quota' system for extortion from vulnerable groups. Police arrest as many people as their thana chief wishes, he added.

Shirin Akther said many people were arrested unlawfully by abusing Section 54 in the last two years.

Karuna Chakma said, "I was arrested under Section 54, put under detention for one year and was not released even after issuance of release order."

Abdus Salam said Section 54 is not only being abused for extortion but also for political and other purposes.

The former IGP said, "It is a good law in book but it is very hard to implement it."

## President visits

From Page 12

ment daily from the hospital. The hospital has its own resources to meet the expenses.

President Shahabuddin, while talking to the under-treatment patients, observed that such a noble initiative should receive support and cooperation from all quarters. He said that such philanthropic institutions should be built in remote areas to serve the uncared people.

The President also visited the Keshabpur Girls' High School built in the same area by Dr Humayun Kabir in 1996.

He talked to the students and teachers and advised them to ensure congenial academic atmosphere for uninterrupted devel-

opment of the institution. He mentioned that female education is essential for changing the age-old outlook of social habits and bondage.

Founder of the two institutions Dr Muhammad Humayun Kabir, Chairman of the Public Administration Reforms Commission A T M Shamsul Huq, Whip Mujibul Huq, Dr Mosharraf Hossain, MP, M K Anwar, MP and local elite, belonging to various political parties were present on the occasion.

They thanked the President for visiting the institutions and said that his visit would inspire them for initiating more social welfare institutions in the area.