

## News

## What's on today ....

**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.

**Public meeting:** Bastuhara Samaj Kalyan Samity will hold a public meeting. Venue: Paltan Maidan. Time: 3.00 pm.

**BCCEMCC discussion:** Bangladesh-China Cultural, Economic and Mass Communication Centre (BCCEMCC) will hold a discussion meeting on "China's Open Policy in the New Millennium". Venue: Panda Garden, 2 Abbas Garden, Mohakhali. Time: 5.00 pm.

**Sculpture exhibition:** The second sculpture exhibition titled "Nature of Ceramics" of Halimul Islam Khakan will be inaugurated. Venue: Zainul Gallery of Institute of Fine Arts, DU campus. Time: 5.00 pm.



Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram, offering *munajat* after laying the foundation stone of the 'Hotel Water Garden,' a joint venture of the Army Welfare Trust and Sena Kalyan Sangstha near Airport Road adjacent to Dhaka Cantonment Railway Station on Thursday. - ISPR photo

## Obstruction to relief activities

## Liaison committee of 4-party alliance expresses resentment

The central liaison committee of the 4-party opposition alliance has expressed deep resentment for obstructing to relief activities of Opposition Leader Begum Khaleda Zia in Satkhira by the government, ruling party and the administration, reports UNB.

A meeting of the liaison committee yesterday also expressed its indignation for preventing relief work of Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Prof Golam Azam in a similar manner at Mujibnagar in Meherpur.

The meeting protested harassment, arrest of BNP leaders and workers under the Public Safety Act in Satkhira and attack on the Jamaat activists by 'Awami terrorists' in Meherpur.

The liaison committee demanded immediate release of the arrested BNP activists.

Criticising Home Minister Mohammad Nasim for his comment that security of the head of government in every country gets the top priority, the liaison

committee said any people welfare-oriented government does not merely remain busy for the head of government.

Rather, it is the responsibility of a public welfare-oriented government to protect the life and property of the people, the committee said.

But the present head of the government has totally failed to perform that responsibility," it said in a statement. The meeting called for making the October 14 combined grand rally of the 4-party alliance at Dinajpur a success where four chiefs of the alliance are scheduled to address.

Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Mirza Abbas of BNP, Kazi Firoz Rashid and A B M Golam Mostafa of JP, Abdul Kader Molla, A T M Azharul Islam and Advocate Sheikh Ansar Ali of Jamaat, and Mufti Fazil Huq Aminiee and Pirjada Muhammad Abu Bakr Moslehdin of IOJ attended the meeting.

The affected people have been

facing scarcity of pure drinking water and medicine. Medical teams formed to treat the people only supplying saline, they allege.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq today visited Satkhira and Kolaroa upazillas.

He directed the officials of Water Development Board to start reconstruction of the damaged bridges and culverts in the flood-hit areas soon after recession of floodwaters.

During the visit, the minister

talked to the flood-hit people, enquired about their conditions and distributed relief materials among them.

## Armed clash

From Page 1

that connects the district with rest of the country.

Hundreds of people are struggling to save one and a half kilometre of Binerpota Taltala part of the road while the officials of the Roads and Highways Department rushed to the scene with sandbags.

Seven people have so far died from snakebite in flood-hit upazillas of the district.

Thousands of people in the affected upazillas including Sadar, Kolaroa, Debhata, Assasuni and Tala remained marooned.

Army personnel and local administration are supplying relief to the marooned people by speedboats and trawlers.

Gushing water today engulfed ten more villages in Tala upazila, five more villages in Assasuni upazila and three more villages in Sadar upazila.

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## Grameen Adalat

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five-member panel of judges' to be led by a UP chairman. The district judge will nominate two members in the panel while the complainant and the accused will 'choose' one each.

But the Cabinet in March 1999 disapproved some of the suggestions of the inter-ministerial meeting. The Cabinet is yet to finalise the structure of the Grameen Adalat.

## Kalam murder

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afternoon, sources said. He threatened the villagers not to open mouth against police, it is learnt.

The Assistant Commissioner (AC) (Mathi Zone) Mofijuddin visited Char Khidirpur yesterday along with the OC.

The AC told some local journalists that nobody brought any allegation against police.

No police officers of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) could be reached for their comment about Kalam murder.

Meanwhile, police filed a general diary in connection with the pistol that the terrorists tried to put in Kalam's hand. The pistol was found near critically injured Kalam's body, police said.

A source said, the pistol belonged to one Shafiqul, the complainant of the case of September 28 filed against Kalam and his father and brothers.

## IJO

From Page 1

1984 through an agreement in Geneva at the initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Out of the 25 members, 15 are from European countries and they used to determine its policy.

IJO's annual expenditure was about one million US dollars. Fifty per cent of it was met by Bangladesh, India and Nepal, 30 per cent by EU countries and the rest by other members, the sources said.

Sri Lanka however started the match cautiously.

Their batting was left in tatters when former Pakistan skipper Wasim dismissed both openers Sanath Jayasuriya and Aviksha Gunawardena on the fourth over.

Jayasuriya was the first to go when he was caught by Moin Khan off the bowling of the lethal left-arter.

Gunawardena was soon to follow after being clean bowled for

## Barak's deadline

From Page 1

ultimatum to Arafat, to discuss the situation in the West Bank and Gaza and also the abduction of three Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

Israel ferried hundreds of troops, including special forces, to the frontier, and a Cabinet minister said Lebanon would pay "a heavy price" if the captives were not returned quickly.

Gunmen fired on an Israeli bus in Gaza, injuring seven passengers, two seriously.

The bus, carrying Israeli border inspectors, came under attack from the area near the Palestinian airport. In response, Barak ordered the airport closed, except for flights carrying Arafat himself, the military said.

Jewish settlers blocked major roads in the West Bank, burning debris and stoning Arab motorists. Near the West Bank settlement of Ariel, settlers and Palestinians exchanged fire. In the Israeli town of Tiberias, home to one of the kidnapped Israeli soldiers, hundreds of residents chanted "Death to the Arabs."

Shots were fired at Palestinian homes in an Arab area of Jerusa-

lem. A Palestinian was shot and killed by an Israeli settler near the Palestinian town of Bidya, not far from Ariel, the military said.

The Palestinians brushed aside Barak's ultimatum. The Israeli prime minister is employing "blackmail that can only lead the region to wars we don't want," said Arafat adviser Nabil Aburdeneh. Arafat, speaking before Barak's announcement, said Israel was responsible for a "dangerous escalation."

Referring to the simultaneous violence along the Lebanese border and in the Palestinian areas, Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh said Israel was ready to fight on two fronts. "We have enough strength for that. We shall have to be less restrained than we were in the past," Sneh said.

Barak said he no longer believed Arafat was ready for a peace agreement. Arafat "has apparently chosen violence and he will bear the responsibility for the consequences of that choice," Barak told a news conference.

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## Woes of flood

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three days in the areas in West Bengal below the Farakka Barrage and it was unusual, the expert said.

Similarly in Bangladesh, Meherpur district which never had more than 50 mm of average showers a year recorded 70-80 inches of rainfall in those three days.

He said water is slow in flowing overland because of roads built without taking into account flooding to such an extent.

Now the authorities have to decide where to cut the roads to release the water once it starts falling below the road level.

Sources concerned said officials of Water Development Board and Roads and Highways Department are now discussing the issue to pinpoint the locations.

Dr Nishat said it must be done with utmost care so that water drains out properly. Suitable spots would be where there were canals earlier.

The rainfall totalled 650 mm in

## Durga Puja ends

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was sacrificed by the devotees as part of traditional rituals.

A large number of women and children joined their rally. Muslims also took part in the procession.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia greeted the members of the community on the occasion.

The President also hosted a reception to them at Bangabhaban earlier in the day.

This year's Durga Puja in the country attained a special dimension following recent government decision on principle to scrap the Vested Property Act.

Besides, the community of the first time after independence was allowed to perform puja at the Ramna Kali Mandir, which was

demolished by Pakistan occupation army during the War of Liberation.

In Chittagong, the Bijoya Dashami was celebrated in a traditional festive mood and hundreds of devotees joined the march carrying the idols of Durga and other gods and goddesses for immersion in nearby rivers and other water bodies.

In Barisal, a total of 384 puja mandaps were erected in 10 upazillas where the devotees celebrating their greatest festival in utmost joy and religious fervour.

The day marking the Bijoya Dashami yesterday was a public holiday. Newspapers carried special articles on the occasion while Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television put up special programmes.

## Pakistan pummel Lanka

From Page 1

(42 no) to reach the three figure mark.

Anwar and Youhana had their work made easy after some fine bowling by Wasim Akram and Azhar Mahmood, who collected three wickets each.

Sri Lanka however started the match cautiously.

Their batting was left in tatters when former Pakistan skipper Wasim dismissed both openers Sanath Jayasuriya and Aviksha Gunawardena on the fourth over.

Jayasuriya was the first to go when he was caught by Moin Khan off the bowling of the lethal left-arter.

Gunawardena was soon to follow after being clean bowled for

5. The hard-hitting left-hander clobbered his first one-day century (136) against the West Indies.

Wasim returned at the end to claim Muttiah Muralihaan for a duck as the Sri Lanka inning's pestered out.

Pakistan will now meet the winner of Monday's quarterfinal clash between New Zealand and Zimbabwe in Wednesday's semi-final.

India were the first to book their semifinal place on Saturday. They will take on the winner of the match between England and South Africa.

(Scorecards and other stories on Page 13)

## India urged to open dialogue on Kashmir

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SRINAGAR, India, Oct 8 : A senior Muslim separatist leader today urged India to resume talks to end the secessionist violence in Kashmir which has left more than 34,000 people dead in the disputed territory since 1989, reports AFP.

The appeal to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's BJP party-led government came as the army in Sunday killed five rebels in a military crackdown, renewed following the collapse of a truce here in August.

Abdul Gani Lone, a prominent leader of the All Party Freedom Conference -- an umbrella forum of anti-Indian guerrilla and regional political groups -- urged Vajpayee to open talks to end the falling bone marrow of his sister.

Adam Nash's tissue was found to be 100 percent compatible with that of his sister Molly, meaning he was the perfect donor.

Some 200 scientists and specialists from different research institutes, universities, government and non-government organisations, and foreign agencies including BRRI will participate in the meeting.

In total 27 reports on research activities for 1999-2000 of 18 divisions and nine regional stations will be presented for discussion.

Conference regional party.

The meeting is the first such political gathering allowed by Indian forces in the last 11 years in Srinagar, the urban hub of the Muslim secessionist campaign in troubled Kashmir.

Kashmiri people want an honourable and an ever-lasting solution to the continuing Kashmir issue," 70-year-old Lone said, and urged India to invite all regional groups to a "meaningful dialogue."

"We say finish this fight once and for all. Pakistan has one-third of Kashmir and no ever-lasting solution can be achieved without their participation," Lone said.

India refuses to invite Pakistan to any peace talks on Kashmir, insisting that Islamabad must first put a halt to its alleged support of Islamic guerrillas in Kashmir.

The two South Asian rivals have fought two of their three wars since 1947 over Kashmir.

An Indian army spokesman in the southern Kashmiri city of Jammu, meanwhile, reported the killing of four guerrilla fighters in a fierce encounter in the frontier district of Doda on Sunday.