

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: 5:00 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.

.....and tomorrow

Workshop: A two-day long "National Workshop on General Practice/Family Medicine in Bangladesh" will be inaugurated. Organiser: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Chief guest: State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof M Amanullah. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9 am.

Training: Bentley Nevada Sales and Service, Singapore in association with landmark Bangladesh Ltd Dhaka will hold "Training on Machinery Diagnostic System". Venue: Jalshaghor of Hotel Purbani International, Dilkusha C/A. Time: 9:30 am.

Weather

Light rain likely

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

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

The country's highest temperature 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and the lowest 23.4 degree at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.38 pm and rises on Tuesday at 5:53 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.5	24.0	73	75
Chittagong	32.5	24.4	77	76
Rajshahi	33.8	26.6	80	82
Khulna	35.3	24.5	82	86
Barisal	33.5	24.4	80	83
Sylhet	31.6	24.8	82	82
Cox's Bazar	33.5	24.8	75	82

HERE and THERE

Mahanagar Puja Committee

A blood donation programme was organized by the Mahanagar Puja Committee yesterday at Dhakeswari Mandir in the city, reports BSS.

Abdul Awal Mintoo, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) inaugurated the programme while Swapan Saha, general secretary of the National Press Club was the first donor.

Mukul Bose, social welfare secretary of Bangladesh Awami League and Kafil Debnath, general secretary, Bangladesh Puja Udayan Parishad were among 40 other people who donated blood on the occasion.

Lions Club International

The October Service Week 2000 of the Lions Club International concluded yesterday with a renewed pledge to serve the distressed humanity, says a press release.

On the occasion, Lions Club International District 315A1 organised a discussion meeting

and prize giving ceremony at Shilpakala Academy in the evening. State Minister for Jute A K Faezul Huq was the chief guest and distributed awards among the club members for their outstanding contribution in the field of social service, relief operation, education and art competition.

Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Sheikh Kabir Hossain, Council Chairman of Lions Club International Multiple District 315 Sultana Shaheda Islam, Vice-Chairman GM Mostafizur Rahman, International Liaison Officer Ali Khan and Lt Engr A R Salahin also addressed the function.

Meanwhile, Lions Club International District-315B3 had a blood donation programme and a seminar on 'Blood Donation' at a city hotel in the evening. Dr Giuseppe of Italy Red Crescent Society presented the keynote paper. State Minister for Jute A K Faezul Huq in his address called upon members of the Lion Clubs to come forward more actively to serve the distressed humanity.

Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Sheikh Kabir Hossain, International Liaison Officer Ali Khan and Governor of District 315B3 Md. Abdullah also participated in the discussion.

More relief materials for flood victims

The Ministry of Relief and Disaster Management yesterday distributed a total of 450 Metric Tons (MT) of rice and Taka 3.25 lakh in cash among the flood affected people in five South-Western districts of the country, reports BSS.

Of the total, 150 MT rice and Taka one lakh each was distributed among the flood hit people in Jessore and Satkhira districts, 75 MT rice and Taka 50,000 in Chuadanga district, 50 MT rice and Taka 50,000 in Jhenidah while 25 MT rice and Taka 25,000 in Meherpur district.

BDRCS

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) yesterday dispatched 13 truck-load of food-stuff to the flood-affected South-Western districts of Bangladesh. These trucks contained 114 metric tons of rice, chira, dal and gur.

This makes a total of 720 metric tons of foodstuff sent to the flood-affected areas by the BDRCS so far.

Rescue, relief and medical teams of the BDRCS are continuing their operation in all flood-affected districts, says a press release.

Road accident on Dhaka-Ctg highway: One killed

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 8: One person was killed and two others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong road at Magpur area under Sitakunda thana this afternoon.

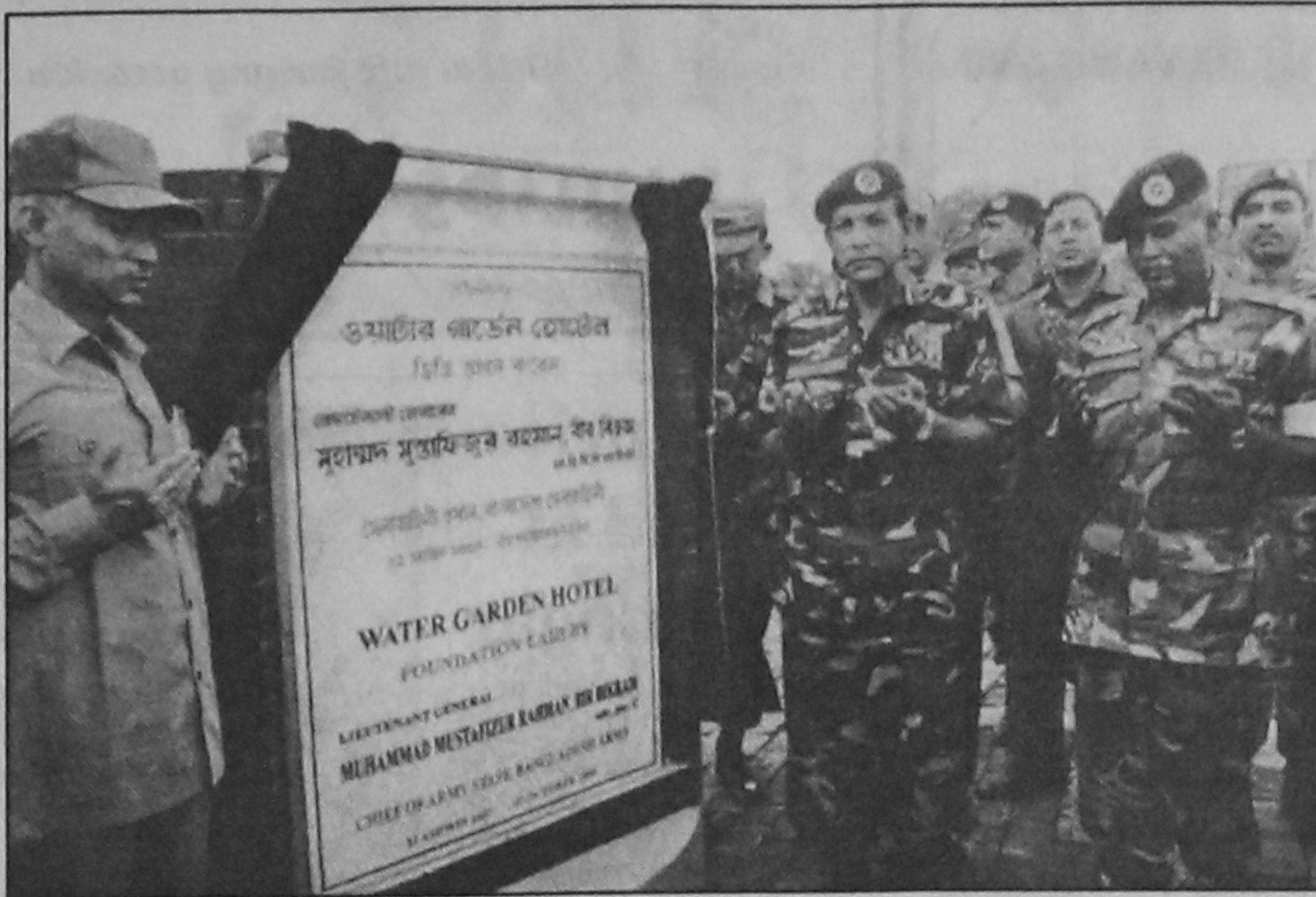
The accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound truck from Noakhali plunged into a road-side ditch after losing control at around 1:30 pm.

One Delwar, 19, was killed on the spot while the driver of the truck Md. Nurul Islam, 35, and helper Mizan, 15, were seriously injured.

Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of Abdul Aziz, Bir Pratik, former general secretary of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, will be observed tomorrow, reports BSS.

Milad Muflih and special prayers seeking divine blessings for the departed soul will be held in observance of the day, family sources said.



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.

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 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.

Dr 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 Fazul Huq Amine and Pirjada Muhammad Abu Bakr Moshleuddin of IOJ attended the meeting.

BSF hands over 2 Bangladeshis to police

Border Security Forces (BSF) of India yesterday handed over the two Bangladeshis youths to Bangladesh police after company commanders' level flag meeting, reports BSS.

According to Bhurungamari police, the BSF personnel arrested Zahidul Haque and Abdul Rahim, the two Bangladeshis youths, when they "illegally" intruded into Indian territory of Friday.

Official sources said the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere where company commanders of BDR and BSF led their respective sides.

After the fruitful meeting between the two sides, the BSF men handed over the two youths to the Officer-in-Charge of Bhurungamari thana Arun Kumar Bala.

Company Commander of BDR, Subedar Anjad Ali thanked his counterpart for the positive gesture in handing over the Bangladeshis youths.

Reception accorded to Baroness Uddin

Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on Commerce Ministry Raziuddin Ahmed MP last night hosted a reception in honour of Baroness Uddin, member of the House of Lords, reports UNB.

Politicians, MPs, academics and senior journalists attended the reception.

Baroness Uddin, the first-ever British-Bangladesh Member of the upper house of British Parliament, and Oona King MP, Member of the House of Commons representing Bethnal Green and Bow in London, are now here on a seven and four-day visit respectively.

Cultural troupe leaves for Dubai today

A 13-member Bangladesh cultural troupe leaves the city today for Dubai, the capital city of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the invitation of Dolarex, an organisation of expatriate Bangladeshis, reports BSS.

The members of the troupe include vocalists Akhi Alamgir, Rukhsai Ahmed, S D Rubel and Kaniz Subarna, film actresses Anjumana Shilpi and Fatema Akhtar Shahnaz, announcer Rukhsana Kabir Kakoli and associate musicians Mirja Manu, Polash, Bishwajit, Ujjal and Selim Haidar.

Police official dead

By Staff Correspondent

Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Mejbah-ul-Islam Chowdhury died at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital last morning. He was 37.

He left behind his wife, one son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Mejbah was suffering from Hepatitis C.

Ershad visits flood-hit Satkhira

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad has urged the government to provide house-building loan to the flood victims, reports UNB.

"The government has failed to come up in aid of the flood-affected people although the country has partially been affected by flood," Ershad told gatherings of flood victims in Jessore and Satkhira districts yesterday.

Ershad said the government was only making commitments to the flood-hit people but could not come up with follow-up actions.

JP leaders Syed Anwar Hossain, Syeda Razia Faez and Nazrul Islam accompanied the former President during his visit to the flood-affected areas, according to a press release.

One held with firearms in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 8: One person was held with 3 fire-arms & cartridges, while reportedly preparing for robbery in Banskhal thana area in the district here today.

Police raided the house of one Minar at Purbha Chambol under the thana where the gang of robbers were preparing themselves for a robbery at around 5 pm.

Sensing the arrival of police, the robbers tried to flee. Police caught one of them and recovered 3 locally made guns and 14 rounds of cartridges from his possession.

The arrested man was identified as Md Islam. A case has been filed in this connection.

3 Shibir leaders held in Bogra

BOGRA, Oct 8: Three Shibir leaders, accused in a case filed under Public Safety Act, were arrested from Armed Police Battalion square of Nishindana area of the town Saturday night, reports UNB.

The arrested are Islami Chhatra Shibir's town unit secretary Majedul Rahman Jewel, office secretary Abdus Salam Tuhin and Azizul Haq College unit secretary Mamunur Rashid.

Jubo League leader killed in Shariatpur

SHARIATPUR, Oct 8: A Jubo League leader was killed and two others were injured when a bus knocked down a motorbike at Kazihat on Jaljira-Keorakandi road in the district today, reports UNB.

After the accident, agitated Jubo League activists set the bus on fire and damaged 10 other vehicles on the road. They also put a barricade on the Dhaka-Shariatpur road and blocked traffic movement for an indefinite period.

Mujibur Rahman, 30, president of Jubo League's Jaljira upazila unit, was killed on the spot while two Chhatra League activists were injured in the accident, took place at about 11 am.

The bus knocked the bike being driven by Rahman who was leading a motorcycle procession to welcome local MP Master Mujibur Rahman who came here to visit Durga Puja Mondops.

Humphrey

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UNB adds: United States will provide technical assistance to Bangladesh for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to be used in vehicles to prevent air pollution.

Humphrey said this when he called on Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria at his residence yesterday, said an official handout.

They also discussed the US investment in Bangladesh.

Kibria apprised the US official of investment opportunities prevailing in the country.

He said Bangladesh is following a prudent macro-economic policy with low inflation rate. A suitable package has been offered to foreign investors and rate of return is high in the country, he added.

The minister briefed the US delegation on flood situation in the country. The delegation said the US government is considering providing assistance for the flood victims.

Akhter to reply

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Akhter said every constituency is unitary and one is not subordinate to another. Nobody other than the people of Kotadi has the right to ask for vacating the seat, he argued.

Citing Article 65 (1) and (2) of the Constitution, Akhter said parliament had been formed and MP elected for making laws for the country and no MP could remain absent from making laws for which they have been elected.

"For such long-term abstention and not participating in lawmaking process one should not be allowed to enjoy the right and privilege of an MP as elected under provision of Article 65(1) and (2) of the Constitution."

Article 65(1) of the Constitution states nothing in this clause shall prevent Parliament from delegating to any person or authority, by Act of Parliament, power to make orders, rules, regulations, bye-laws or other instruments having legislative effect.

And, Article 65(2) says: Parliament shall consist of 300 members to be elected in accordance with law from single territorial constituencies by direct election... BNP expelled its rebellious MP Akhteruzzaman from the party on September 12 for attending the parliament session breaking party decision.

The opposition lawmakers have been boycotting parliament for about 14 months demanding that the government step down calling fresh elections.

BRRi meeting begins today

A four-day long annual internal research meeting on the research activities for 1999-2000 of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRi) will begin today at the BRRi auditorium, Gazipur, says a press release.

Dr Nurul Hoque Choudhury, Director General (Incharge) of BRRi, will inaugurate the meeting.

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.

Armed clash

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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 upazilas of the district.

Thousands of people in the affected upazilas including Sadar, Kolaroa, Debhata, Assassuni 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 Assassuni upazila and three more villages in Sadar upazila.

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 Razzak today visited Sadar and Kolaroa upazilas.

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.

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) (Matthar 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 Shaful, the complainant of the case of September 28 filed against Kalam and his father and brothers.

IJO

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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.

Girl rescued

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evening and rescued the girl. Rozina said, the kidnappers insisted her to go with them to India. They also offered her a good job in India, she added.

A case was filed in this connection with Bagmara thana accusing Mahbubur Rahman, Mohabbat Ali, Shahar Ali, Shahidul Islam, Habibur Rahman, and Bikash Chandra. But none was arrested till filing of this report.

British families want life-saving babies too

LONDON, Oct 8: At least 19 British families are seeking to create test-tube babies who will be genetically selected in order to save the lives of their older children, Britain's Sunday Telegraph reported, says AFP.

It said the surge of interest had followed the case in the United States, announced last week, of a boy born specifically so that his stem cells could replace the failing bone marrow of his sister.

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

Six British couples have since contacted the genetics institute in Chicago which carried out the treatment, and one has signed up, the Sunday Telegraph said.

Another seven families have contacted fertility clinics in England which are licensed to genetically test IVF embryos, while six more have approached fertility counsellors regarding genetic selection.

Barak's deadline

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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 Jerusalem.

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 Aburdenneh. 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 except for flights carrying Arafat himself, the military 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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ies and shrimp farms have been completely damaged."

With water logging for long and damaged embankments unable to prevent 'tidal effects', the areas face 'salinity intrusion' with high tide in the Bay. Unless the authorities help the farmers recoup their losses, the impact would be felt next year, he pointed.

The hatcheries producing carp and shrimp fries have been hit hard and vegetable growers also suffered a severe loss, Dr Nishat said.

Correspondents returning from the region said every one is fishing to catch the carp and other fish which escaped from the hatcheries and ponds.

A late monsoon downpour caused flash flood in the areas and that was reinforced by unusual rainfall in the neighbouring West Bengal state of India.

The rainfall totalled 650 mm in

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.

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