

News

What's on today

Congratulations



Wheelchair March: A reception will be accorded to 5 disabled participants of the 270km long 'Wheelchair/Tri-cycle March, 2000' from Kushtia to Dhaka. National Forum of Organisation for Disabled (NFOWD) will accord the reception after placing wreath at the National Mausoleum, Savar at 10 am. Another reception will be accorded to them at Action on Disability and Development office at House No: 3, Road No: 13, Sector: 3, Uttara at 4 pm.

Seminar: Effective Schools Through Enhanced Education Management (ESTEEM) has organised a seminar on primary education management. Venue: BIAM auditorium, 75, New Eskaton. Time: 3 pm.

Meeting: Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad will hold a meeting on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day demanding repeal of the Vested Property Act. Venue: Ramna Restaurant. Time: 4 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Wheelchair March: The participants of the 'Wheelchair/Tri-cycle March, 2000' from Kushtia to Dhaka will present a memorandum at the Prime Minister's Office at 9 am. They will then meet the British High Commissioner at the Embassy at 10:30 am and the Speaker at the Jatiya Sangsad at 2 pm. Five disabled persons took part in the 270 km long march.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the northern part and river basins of the country during late night and early morning. Met Office said forecasting little change in night temperature over the country.

The country's highest temperature 30.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Kushtia and the lowest 12.6 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:10 pm and rises on Sunday at 6:26 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.2	17.9	79	76
Chittagong	29.5	18.0	67	67
Rajshahi	26.1	15.5	75	84
Khulna	28.8	16.5	81	75
Barisal	28.2	15.4	91	89
Sylhet	26.1	16.3	86	78
Cox's Bazar	29.5	22.4	68	60

Trader shot dead

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Police said they could not identify the rivals of Masum and Enamul who attended the meeting.

Four bullets hit Masum in his chest and head. He died while being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Enamul was admitted to the hospital with bullet injury in his legs.

Masum, also a cable line provider, was the son of one Abdul Aziz of Khilligao on Choudhurypara.

Police said Masum was taken into custody few days back but released. Masum had given Tk one lakh to Enamul for business, police said quoting local people.

Acting on an information, Khilgaon police recovered the decomposed bodies of two young men from the third floor flat of a building at East Rampura.

Politician dead

By Staff Correspondent

Aminul Islam Mojumder, a veteran left leader and noted educationist died at Uttara in the city yesterday. He was 68.

He was suffering from various diseases for long.

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

A central member of Sramik-Krisshak Samajbadi Dal (SKSD), Aminul Islam joined the Biplobi Samajbadi Dal-RSP when he was a student of Victoria College in Comilla during British regime. He was also the general secretary of the party.

He started his career as a teacher of Comilla Bagmara High School and served Bijaypur Hosa Mia School and Chandpur Janata School as the headmaster.

He took part in various movements, including Language Movement in 1952 and anti-autocratic movement in 1990.

Meanwhile, SKSD in a statement yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of its leader.

"Aminul Islam was the leader of desitude and served the masses till last day of his life," the statement said.

Private Security

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time, they continue to work under these agencies, as they had given them money to secure the job.

It is difficult to prove such allegations, but since the culture of underhand dealings to get anything done anywhere, however legal it may be, seems to be ubiquitous, this has to be taken in one's stride.

Some quarters give specific reasons for the steady growth of business of the private security agencies. The main causative factor is stated to be the current proclivity of anti-social elements to resort to 'chandabazi' (forcible toll collection) from any shop or commercial enterprise to which they take a fancy as prospective victims. In such situations, appeal to police for help rarely produce results. To discourage such tendency towards 'chandabazi', the owners of some commercial establishments sometimes find it a deterring effect when some private security guards, in full uniforms stand guard in front of their establishments. Needless to say, such undesirable trend of 'chandabazi' needs to be tackled with a firm hand by the government's law and order agencies.

Death anniversary of Dr Farooque today

By Staff Correspondent Dr. Mohiuddin Farooque, the founder of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA), will be observed today.

A promising lawyer of the Supreme Court Dr. Farooque was born on June 25, 1954 at Gopalganj.

He completed his Masters in Law from the University of Dhaka and was the University Prize Man for the year 1979. Dr. Farooque obtained Ph.D. from the University of Manchester on International River Law in 1988.

He established BELA in 1992 and devoted his career to the cause of environment. He unveiled a new field for activism and chose environmental law as subject for his advocacy. He fought for establishing the right of the downtrodden people through the intervention of judiciary and within a very short period he could set an exceptional trend of performing public duty to protect the interest of the common people. A bright academic and researcher Dr. Farooque had a long list of publication on environment and environmental law including 69 articles and 7 books.

A teenage freedom fighter Dr. Farooque died on December 2, 1997 at the National University Hospital in Singapore.

A mild mafib has been arranged at BELA Office premises at House 9, Road 8, Dhanmondi after Asr prayers.

Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, former Commercial Manager of BIWTC, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

He died of cardiac arrest on December 3, 1999. Ashraf is known for his patronisation of the poet Nazrul's family that led to the settlement of the poet's family in Bangladesh. He was also a region Chairman of the Lions International and a longtime General Secretary of Khulna Bank.

He was also an active member of Sudhikan Pathagar and Rifle Club of Narayanganj.

A qurankhwan and destitute feeding programme have been arranged at J-23 Pallabi extension and 41/A Purana Paltan residence of the deceased.



Rizwana Islam, a Bangladeshi student secured 4 A's in 'A' level examination held in 2000 conducted by University of London through the British Council covering Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Human Biology, Maths-A, Maths-B, Pure Maths, English, Bengali and Economics. She had obtained the highest mark in Human Biology.

She is the only daughter of Md. Sirajul Islam Bhuiyan, Executive Vice President, EXIM Bank, Motijheel Branch and Kancee Fatima Akhter, Teacher of the Banani Bidyaniketan.

She is the grand daughter of A.S.M. Fakhrul Ahsan, retired deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank.

Chehulm

Chehulm of Gazi Rafiqul Islam, the joint editor of Dainik Prothom and chief feature writer of the Press Information Department (PID) will be held today at Zohr prayers at the Shymali residence of the deceased, says a press release.

Gazi Rafiq died on October 27.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is seen among the winners, who won prizes for their various youth development activities at a function organised at the Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday marking the inaugural ceremony of the Jatiya Jubo Utshab.

Star photo

Thorns remain

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From the outset, mistrust plagued Larma's relations with the government on the issue of RC leadership, in fact its composition. The issue was whether his nominees or those of the government would fill the posts of RC members.

The RC was seen as the key body for implementation of the peace accord. Larma took nearly two years to accept its Chairmanship.

Officials say that the main success of the accord was the return of some 65,000 refugees who had fled their homes in CHT and taken shelter in Tripura in 1986 after the collapse of peace talks.

Their rehabilitation as per the accord is almost complete, officials say. They are being helped with cash and kind for resettlement, a highly placed source in the CHT Affairs Ministry said.

The ministry itself is the outcome of the treaty, he pointed out.

Besides, 780 former Shantibahini cadres have been given jobs in police department, others who had government jobs were reinstated and guerrillas who surrendered were given Tk 50,000 each to restart life and are still getting rations. All these show success of the accord, he noted.

Officials said that providing rations to them and the settlers in cluster villages is costing the government huge amounts for procuring 28,000 tonnes of grains annually.

An official document on successes of the accord was released by the CHT Affairs Ministry at a press conference by Kalparanjan Chakma on November 18.

But Shantu Larma alleged that the government was not implementing the accord properly and was violating commitments made during peace talks. Recently, he threatened to go back to the bush if the accord is not fully implemented.

Larma saw his political front split. The youthful supporters in the students and women's fronts from the bush war deserted him demanding full autonomy of the CHT and organised themselves under the banner of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF).

They branded Larma as a traitor. A spate of violence between the two sides so far claimed 66 lives. Both sides blamed each other for the violence. Larma says 21 of those killed were his supporters and UPDF claims most of the victims were its supporters.

It suddenly changed the dimension of the CHT conflict. Initially it was presumed that there would be trouble between tribals and non-tribals. But an uneasy situation today dominates the forest clad hills and beautiful valleys.

Faced with internal rivalry, Larma accused the government of not implementing the peace accord fully and violating the 'pledges' made during the final phase of peace negotiations in 1997.

He is coming to Dhaka again on December 7 to attend a convention of Garo tribals of Netrokona on December 8. His aides have sought a meeting with the Prime Minister.

But as electioneering is nearing, there is little chance that Shantu Larma would change his stance. He would like to have all the three CHT seats in parliament for his men to improve his bargaining power, keeping his eyes on future politics in CHT.

He is the only daughter of Md. Sirajul Islam Bhuiyan, Executive Vice President, EXIM Bank, Motijheel Branch and Kancee Fatima Akhter, Teacher of the Banani Bidyaniketan.

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