

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion on dengue

The Bishwa Sahitya Kendra will hold a discussion meeting to raise awareness among the students about dengue fever as part of its anti-dengue drive. Venue: Pallabi No. 2 Community Centre, Mirpur-12. Time: 10.00am.

ICC seminar

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is organising a seminar on 'e-Government and e-Commerce' with Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9.45am.

Lecture on commercial arbitration

The British Council is organising a public lecture on 'International Commercial Arbitration: Role of Advocates'. Stuart Isaacs QC will conduct the lecture. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 4.30pm.

4.30pm.

Report launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of the 'State of World Water Report 2001', organised by the World Water Journalists' Forum, will be held with Water Resources Minister LK Siddiqui as chief guest. Venue: FEJB office. Time: 10.00am

Protest programme

The Committee to Resist Slum Eviction will stage a sit-in to protest slum eviction without rehabilitation. Venue: Mirpur 10 intersection. Time: 8.00am.

Kachua Students' Assoc

Dhaka-based Kachua Upazila Students' Association will hold the installation ceremony of its new committee and a cultural function with State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon as chief guest. The meritorious students will also be accorded a reception at the programme. Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 3.00pm.

Sandwip polls

FROM PAGE 1 secretary for further briefing.

The EC had earlier asked Chittagong Deputy Commissioner Abdus Salam Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Amir Ali, Superintendent of Police (SP) Matiur Rahman, Additional SP Awrangzeb Mahub, Deputy Election Commissioner Sirajul Islam, District Election Officer Md. Shahidullah and Upazila Nirbahi Officer Bishwanath Banik to submit individual reports on the Sandwip polls.

The complication began with the announcement of the election schedule in October 1999.

Following a court order for suspension of the election for eight weeks, the EC on October 27 suspended polling. And the situation remained the same till April this year.

On April 11, the Local Government Division in a letter to the EC requested it to hold election in Sandwip municipality along with 14 other municipalities since the court order was no more in force.

The EC then asked the local authorities to report to it whether there was any legal complexities in holding election in Sandwip. On May 4, it was informed that there was no such complexity.

On June 12, the EC fixed July 20 as the voting day with 10 chairman candidates and 44 ward commissioner candidates including five for women's reserve seats.

New Ctg port order

FROM PAGE 1 port workers and employees who frequently go for agitation," he said.

The number of Chittagong port employees is nearly 7,000. Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain has told the BBC radio yesterday that by declaring services of the port essential its rules would be applicable for all personnel working there. "No one can hold any meetings at the port," he said. "We made this so that none can create anarchy by taking legal shelter; if disciplinary action is taken against someone for negligence of duty, he would not be able to create political unrest."

The Chittagong port is the country's first essential service facility that has direct private-sector involvement at its heart.

The immediate past president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Exporters (CCCI) Farid Ahmed Chowdhury, talking to The Daily Star said, "I am sceptical about this declaration. If it is applicable for port employees apart from the private workers and users, then it is useless; but it will be a commendable step if the new ordinance of essential services covers port employees,

private workers and users as well," Farid added.

"Besides, if any ill motive is behind this declaration to establish the proposed port of the Stevedores Services of America (SSA) at the estuary of the Chittagong port, it will be too dangerous, and we will resist it," Farid cautioned.

"Rather, I would suggest the government to declare the port a public limited company instead of declaring the ordinance of essential services," he added.

The Chairman of the Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA) Monjurul Alam, however, hailed the government's declaration of essential services.

The BMSA chairman said, "It will really help restore discipline at this premier port and stop the illegal strikes that disrupts our cargo handling activities."

"If discipline is restored at the Chittagong port the cargo handling cost will be reduced," he observed.

Other sources, related with the port, said the declaration would hardly be effective, as there are chains of activities at the Chittagong port that involves private truck work-

ers, merchant labourers and dockers.

The Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) and the Non-CBA leaders also in a statement protested the declaration.

The Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday hailed the government's decision saying that it was the demand of the exporters for a long time.

3 get life term for rape of 2 women in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Narayanganj, yesterday sentenced three people to life-term imprisonment for raping two women.

The convicts are Abul Kashem, Ismail Kamal and Nur Nabi.

According to prosecution, the convicts forcibly took the victims -- Anowara Begum and Delwara Begum -- to Siddhirgonj power station on November 15, 1998 and raped them.

Trisha's killers

FROM PAGE 12 There was no information about the involvement of any other persons, except the three, in the murder, he mentioned.

When contacted, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar thana Ashrafur Rahman said that their investigation clearly established the charges brought against the killers in the charge sheet.

Abdul Wahed, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Sadar circle, said, "Adequate information and necessary documents supporting the charges were received.

There are as many as 25 witnesses, including several eye-witnesses, to prove the allegations against the killers of Trisha."

Trisha's uncle Abdus Sattar, (known as her father as he was bringing her up from infancy) filed the case in this regard.

Meantime, tension has gripped the town again as unidentified miscreants damaged and set fire the house of Mehdi Hasan Modern, the main accused in Trisha murder case, yesterday morning.

The miscreants equipped with lethal weapons attacked the house in Khanpara area of the town at around 8 am.

Fire fighting units rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze.

Meherun Nahar Mala, mother of

Mehedi, alleged that the miscreants of V-aid road area were responsible for the incident.

She also claimed that her son Mehedi was not involved in the killing of Trisha.

On the other hand, black flags were hoisted atop all the houses and other establishments in the town protesting the killing of Trisha.

On Monday, Gaibandha Nagorik Committee declared a seven-day programme to protest and mourn the tragic death of Trisha.

Sadia Sultana Trisha, a student of class four of Madhapara government primary school in the town, drowned on July 17 as she jumped into a pond at Khanpara to save herself from three vagabond youths chasing her.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad Gaibandha district unit will hold a press conference at Gaibandha press club this afternoon demanding punishment to the killer of Trisha.

Parishad's central general secretary Aysha Khanam, central leaders Rekha Chowdhury, Advocate Masuda Royhana, and Advocate Sultana Kamal will address at the conference.

PM's directive Keep price of rice under control

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleida Zia has directed the Food Ministry to keep the prices of rice and other foodgrains under control.

During a meeting with Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman, she asked the ministry to immediately hold meetings with the wholesalers.

The minister apprised the Prime Minister of latest stock and price situation of food in the country.

Talking to BSS, the food minister said he would hold meetings over stock and price situation with the food traders. Besides, he said, he would visit the wholesale markets of rice at Badamtali, Karwan Bazar and Mohammadpur Krishi Market.

He, however, said dishonest businessmen sometimes create artificial crisis through hoarding food and the government has already alerted officials concerned against such possibilities.

Road accidents

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yesterday.

The dead were identified as Firoz Ahmed, son of Sekandar Ali of Dhakosha village under Faridpur district and Shaheen, 16, son of Abdul Based of Changuir village under Bogra Sadar upazila.

A total of 13 people were killed in four separate road accidents here in the last three days.

Janakantha

FROM PAGE 12 being publishing reports against communal and fundamentalist forces," the Nirmla Committee said.

It banned some newspapers, stopped giving government advertisements to many others, dismissed some journalists from the state-controlled media and arrested and tortured a good number of journalists in conspiratorial cases, it added.

Twenty-two teachers of Rajshahi University in a joint statement said the "threat" to the Janakantha is "a clear attempt to gag the press."

Bangladesh Charushilpee Sangsad also issued a similar statement condemning the government actions against the Janakantha.

BUET backlog

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reduced," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star, several teachers and students of the BUET expressed frustration over the lengthy closure and felt political reasons were involved. "Such closures are for political reasons, this not only hampers the academic activities but also vitiates the peaceful campus atmosphere," a student said.

"We are fed up with the closure," another student said, adding that thousands of innocent students will be the victims of the country's dirty politics.

Crisis stemmed in the BUET with the first ever shoot-out that left one female student killed. The BUET authorities closed the university and ordered residential halls to be vacated on June 9.

The university was to reconvene on July 3, but as the situation remained unchanged, the closure was later extended to July 26. However, the authorities again changed the date of reopening the university and its academic activities last week. The date of reopening has now been fixed on August 3.

Sources said the closure was extended thrice to make sure a congenial atmosphere prevails on the campus after the university reopens.

Rly land

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making optimum use of its land through lease.

The minister concerned had already made announcement in this regard and held discussion on the different aspects of making use of railway land through joint initiative or leasing them out on BOT basis or in other possible ways, Ibrahim told The Daily Star.

"The authority might go for long-term plans and the matter is being discussed and examined at the ministry level at present," he said.

"We await a set of rules required for leasing out the lands for better profit and a decision in this regard is likely within a month," he said.

The income of railway through leasing out its land exceeded over Tk. 6 crore every year for the last three years and proper leasing and realisation of revenue might benefit the authority a lot, he said.

The CEO said the revenue from lease of land in the immediate past fiscal was Tk. 6.75 crore less than that of the previous fiscal (Tk. 7 crore). Railway stopped providing lease since November last year for examining the previous system and procedures of lease and realisation of revenue and introduction of new ones.

At present a handful of local "mastans" are making money occupying the railway land illegally and helping different criminal and anti-social activities, he said adding, the poor who live in the slums are not benevolently helped as they have to pay rent.

Quazi Sadeq

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his rooks from the board and with that famous broad smile of his invite his opponent to play. But one of my friends, now a joint secretary of the government, would not like this uneven deal and pressed that the game be started with all the 32 pieces on the board. Quazi appreciated his ego and would comply, and my friend would give his moves at a snail's speed. Then a bemused but impatient Quazi would bring out the chess clock from his bag and silently set it up right there beside the chessboard.

We would always enjoy this through comic from Quazi. I very much rue the fact today that I've lost the notations of Quazi's famous game with Faruqi in which he sacrificed his Queen and still won the game. His playing style was like Michael Tal's, and like him Quazi would stun his opponents with those prodigious moves and aggression that would verge on audacity.

At the end I urge upon the Bangladesh Chess Federation to start a yearly international chess tournament in Quazi's name.

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place in all the 10 zones under the city corporation simultaneously. However, he said the roads that are undergoing digging by the Dhaka WASA will be repaired later as those are not yet ready for such works. The WASA has been digging about 35 kilometres of roads for the last few months, he added.

"We will work throughout the night from July 25 to 30 and put in all our efforts to complete the repair. Besides, from now on the DCC staffs will be available in all the zones so that they can instantly repair a road in case of damage after the fixing," Khoka said.

The mayor said most of the roads have been damaged within a short time after they were built mainly due to use of low quality materials and lack of quality works.

For instance, he said, the road at Gabtali has been damaged in less than six months because of a very low quality construction. Mysteriously, the security deposit of the contractor was returned to the construction firm immediately after the work in violation of the rules, he said.

The mayor said the DCC will

soon initiate an inquiry into the construction of roads, which have been damaged within a few months. The DCC would not pay the bills for the works done recently until the probe is complete.

He assured that permanent construction of the damaged roads will start as soon as the monsoon is over. Meantime, all process will be complete to avoid any delay.

Khoka said the DCC is determined to recover all lands and parks encroached upon and will soon launch a drive.

He said dishonest people with the help of a section of DCC staffs have occupied huge lands of the corporation and steps would be taken soon to recover the lands and punish the culprits. Besides, he said, unauthorised allotment of shops and lands will be cancelled.

About the much-talked about 'Metropolitan Government', Khoka said the DCC truly needs strong coordination among the different service-oriented organisations like WASA, DESA and the BTB.

He said the prime minister at a recent meeting agreed to hold a combined meeting of the service

organisations for coordination soon.

Khoka said after assuming in office he inquired whether the former mayor has done paper works on or set a modality for the metropolitan government. "But I didn't find any papers and found that everything were limited to speech and statement, which has frustrated me very much," the mayor said.

The mayor said he would have views and suggestions from experts and people related to law and local government to prepare papers and fix a modality and then place it to the government.

About the proposed ban on pollutant-spewing autorickshaws in the city, he said the communication and environment ministries are working on it and the DCC has got nothing to do with it.

As for the planned stoppage of movement of rickshaws on the road from Azimpur to Mirpur, he said that the communications ministry has decided to introduced 50 big buses in this route and 33 are ready to hit the road.

Khoka said there is a shortage of transport and manpower to keep the city clean. He informed that DCC has there is a total of 241 trucks to collect garbage, but 160 of them are out of order. Even there are no spare parts at the DCC store to repair the trucks. But steps have been taken to run the vehicles on an emergency basis.

The mayor also said the authorities are examining the waste management project proposal and would go for a modern, sustainable waste management system.

Innings ignominy

FROM PAGE 1 30 minutes before tea after the home side declared on their overnight score of 541-9.

With his second innings 5/59, Murali equalled Sir Richard Hadlee's world record of 36 five-wicket hauls. The off-spinner achieved the feat in his 76th Test, less than the legendary New Zealand paceman.

It was also Sri Lanka's biggest victory in 126 Tests, surpassing the innings and 166 run victory against Zimbabwe here in December, 2001.

The tourists improved their first innings score by 22 runs and survived 13 more overs but they never looked like a Test side. It was Bangladesh's ninth innings defeat in their 12 Test matches.

Bangladesh were off to a poor start losing two wickets for 12 in just five overs in the morning.

Opener Al-Shahriar and middle-order Habibul Bashar however put up some resistance with a 79-run third wicket stand. But once Bashar got out for 34, Bangladesh lost Akram Khan and Aminul Islam in the last ten minutes of the first session and went to lunch on 124 for five.

And when Al-Shahriar, who played a superb 67, got out immediately after lunch, it was eminent that the match was going to finish even before the tea break.

Al-Shahriar hit a dozen of boundaries off 123 balls in 155 minutes.

Although Akram Khan (20) and captain Khaled Mashud (24) chipped in with a few runs but they failed to build a good partnership. Veteran middle-order batsman Aminul got a

pair in the match. The right-hander was caught by Kumar Sangakkara at silly point off Muralitharan.

Khaled Mashud blamed his middle order for the debacle after the match. "We need to review the performance of our middle-order because they are failing consistently," he said. "We have to do a lot of homework before we go into the next match."

His Sri Lankan counterpart Sanath Jayasuriya gave full credit to his batsmen and Muralitharan for the victory adding that Bangladesh need to play more cricket. "Their bowling and fielding have improved but the batsmen failed."

Bangladesh get four-day's break before the second Test starts at the SSC ground on July 28.

Meanwhile, medium pacer Taposh Kumar Baishya and all-rounder Alok Kapali are scheduled to join Bangladesh team here tomorrow.

Both are likely to be fielded in the second Test along with off-spinner Fahim Mustasir and Mohammad Ashraf.

(Scorecards and more stories on page 13)

Hasina

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In the case, it has been alleged that Sheikh Hasina, in connivance with former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, former principal secretary Dr S A Samad and BEPZA (Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority) Executive Chairman Brigadier General MAB Siddiq Talukder, employed a lobbyist in the United States for garment industries that caused financial loss to the tune of Tk 2.1 crore.

Abdullah Al-Zahid, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, on June 18 against Hasina and two others, dropping the name of Siddiq Talukder.

Earlier, Hasina and two others were granted bail by the same court.

DU hall provost

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chancellor and lodged a complaint. They demanded removal of the house tutors from the hall and sought action against the JCD activists responsible for the incident. The VC assured them of proper investigation into the matter, adding that proper measures would be taken against those responsible.

The teachers and students of the DU reacted sharply to this incident.

"They want to see someone from BNP's White Panel to hold the provost's post," said an MA student of Shamsunnahar Hall.

The tenure of Prof. Shafi, a front-ranking leader of Awami League-backed Blue Panel, will expire in September. But resident students alleged that some house tutors and JCD leaders were hatching conspiracy to oust her from the post of provost since BNP came to power in October.

While talking to a group of journalists at her office, Prof. Shafi strongly condemned the incident. She alleged that the JCD activists did it under direct patronage of the university authorities and some house tutors of Shamsunnahar Hall.

"They would not dare such a thing without green signals from their patrons," regretted the provost. About some charges brought by the JCD activists labelled against her, Prof. Shafi said that allegations surfaced only because they wanted to have her removed and plant a pro-BNP teacher in her place.

Replying to a question, she said that some former residents of the hall belonging to JCD were trying to fetter the peaceful atmosphere of the hall.

Sandwip muck-up

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Meanwhile, the EC has transferred two of its officials in Chittagong for negligence of duty, a highly placed source at the commission said.

A move has also been initiated to identify government officials who failed in their responsibilities before and on the poll date.

The EC sends a letter today to the Ministry of Establishment, demanding action against those whose failure has blemished the constitutional body's image.

The EC has questioned the role of the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Chittagong before and during the polls.

Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed chaired a review meeting with senior officials of the Chittagong administration summoned to explain what had led to zero turnout in the Sandwip polls.

The seven local administration officials called to the meeting attributed the unprecedented episode to a sense of insecurity among the

electorate.

In his report, Aauarangzeb Mahub, additional superintendent of Chittagong police, said that he had been to the remote island along with 100 police personnel three days before the polls.

There was no enthusiasm among the local people, he said. "There was hardly any sign that people would participate in the polls," concluded the report.

The report also mentioned that almost all the candidates were outside Sandwip.

Inclement weather and inclusion of some 6,900 new voters, many of whom could have filed nomination for the election, were cited as reasons behind for the "zero turnout".

Among the 26,753 voters only two female voters turned up, but their votes were found invalid.

According to the EC, on the same day, it conducted election in seven other municipalities where voter turnout was 80 per cent on average.

Student politics

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some short-and long-term measures.

BUET was the first to announce a moratorium for an indefinite period on campus politics.

The academic council of the university in a meeting on Sunday unanimously decided to slap the ban citing it as a means to restore congenial academic atmosphere. BUET took the decision following killing of its student Sadequ Nahar Sonny in a campus shootout last month.

The announcement of ban on student politics at BUET has sparked widespread criticism. The Engineering University Central Students Union (EUCSU) protested the academic council's decision and termed it irrational and illegal.

EUCSU leaders on Tuesday said the academic council does not have any authority to take such a decision. "The decision was taken to divert attention from the reality and to prolong the unstable situation on the campus," an EUCSU statement said.

Meantime, leaders of different student organisations have rejected the expert committee's recommendation for banning politics by students and teachers at educational institutions.

The expert committee has failed to identify the reasons behind campus violence, they said.

Selimuzzaman Selim, vice-president of the JCD, the ruling BNP's student wing, said campus violence cannot be removed by banning student politics.

"All political parties should take initiatives to remove the dark sides of present students politics. Banning student politics will not benefit any party," he said.

Free-float rate

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introduce the floating foreign exchange rate."

The country's money market needs to be expanded immediately. It is essential to have a vibrant money market that can adjust to the international situation, he observed.

Currently, nine banks are actively using the Reuters real time transaction systems for foreign exchange dealing and 28 banks out of the 53 have installed the Reuters money line to get information, he mentioned.

Saifur said he has already asked the central bank to introduce dollar denominated bonds and interest-free (zero coupon) bonds.

"Many new products are on the way to make the market vibrant," he said.

Rabiul Hossain, managing director of the Sonali Bank and also chairman of the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers Association (BAFEDA), and Christopher W Webster, deputy chief of the US mission in Bangladesh were special guests at the inaugural ceremony. Mamun Rashid, chief executive officer of the Citibank, NA Bangladesh, also spoke on the occasion.

Transport strike

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charges; steps to check highway robbery; ban on 'illegally' built transports; allowing transports older than 20 years on roads, lifting ban on movement of buses, trucks and tank lorries on selected areas in the city and implementation of all agreements signed between the Samity and the government earlier.