

DHAKA TODAY

DDTA meeting

An emergency general meeting of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DDTA) will be held to protest police attack on several teachers and students of DU. Venue: DDTA Bhaban. Time: 5.00pm.

DUJ rally

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists will jointly organise a rally to protest police attack on journalists on duty at Dhaka University and the female students of Shamsunnahar Hall. Venue: National Press Club premises. Time: 11.00am.

Seminar

Legislative Support Service Project (LSSP) organises a seminar on 'National Budget: Economic Rationals and Reality'. Venue: House-67, Road-4, Block-C, Banani. Time: 9.30am.

Workshop

Khan Foundation organises a workshop on 'The Role of NGO in the Development of Democracy'. Venue: Khan Foundation Office, Momenbagh. Time: 10.30am.

Human chain

Nagarik Samaj will form a human chain to protest barbaric police attack on the students of Dhaka University. Venue: Mukhtang, Ramna. Time: 4.00pm.

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of Kotwali

Branch of Human Rights Implementation Society will be held with its Chairman Major General (ret'd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: 87, KP Ghosh Street, Armanitola. Time: 4.00pm.

Professional seminar

The School of Business Studies, Southeast University, will hold a professional seminar. Shafi A Khaled, a faculty of the Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis, USA, will present a paper entitled 'Economic and Social Efficiency in Traditions'. Venue: BIAM conference hall, 63 New Eskaton. Time: 4.00pm.

DRU meeting

The Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) will hold a meeting of its executive committee. Venue: DRU office. Time: 11.00am.

CJF

In observance of its third founding anniversary, Chittagong Journalists Forum-Dhaka, organises a seminar on 'The Role of Chittagong Port for National Development'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10.30am.

Talk

A talk on 'The Balanced Scorecard-Turning Theory into Reality' will be delivered by Peter Demediuk, Victoria University, Melbourne. Venue: BETS Centre, House- 55, Road- 4A, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.30pm.

Dengue claims one in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person died from dengue haemorrhagic fever yesterday while a total of 37 people were admitted with dengue and dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) in different hospitals and private clinics.

The dead was identified as Parvin Mohiuddin, 42, wife of retired career diplomat and former principal of Foreign Service Academy Mohiuddin Ahmed.

She was first admitted to the New Al-Raji Hospital in Green Road with high fever and later shifted to the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital where she died at 12:45 pm yesterday.

Meanwhile a total of 37 people were admitted to various hospitals and private clinics in the city with dengue fever and DHF. The tally includes positive cases tested in various city diagnostic centres.

Three of the total dengue patients were admitted to Comfort Nursing Home in Green Road. Of them two were DHF patients, identified as Nazrul Islam, 35, and Kazi Momenul Haq, 43. Meanwhile, Comfort Diagnostic Centre yesterday tested 15 blood samples and found six positive with dengue primary infection. The Lab Aid Diagnostic centre in Green Road tested nine samples of blood for dengue and found four positive.

Three children were admitted to Dhaka Shishu Hospital while two were admitted to Nidibedita children's hospital yesterday with dengue fever. At the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, a total of five people were admitted with dengue fever. Two of them were in critical condition with extensive fluid loss, doctors said.

Four people were admitted to Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital, including one with DHF. At the Popular Diagnostic Centre out of four samples, three were tested positive.



Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and Pakistan State Minister for Foreign Affairs Inam Ul Haque sign bilateral agreements yesterday, while Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf look on.

Musharraf 'feels sorry'

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President, for your candid expression on the events of 1971. This will, no doubt, help mitigate the old wounds."

The prime minister further said, "We like to look forward and work together as brothers for a bright prospect tomorrow."

Earlier on Monday, the Pakistan president, while paying tributes to the martyrs of the War of Independence at the National Mausoleum on his arrival in Dhaka Monday, regretted the "excesses" committed during the 1971 war.

"Your brothers and sisters in Pakistan share the pain of the event of 1971," he wrote in the visitor's book at the Savar National Memorial after laying wreaths to pay homage to the martyrs.

At the dinner last night, Khaleda expressed firm belief that Musharraf's visit would infuse fresh dynamism in the relations between the two countries, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia suggested maintaining close Dhaka-Islamabad contacts to face common challenges.

"The world today is undergoing rapid changes and we need to keep close contacts with one another in order to face common challenges," the PM said.

Pakistan First Lady Begum Seha Musharraf, members of Pakistan delegation and Bangladesh ministers and diplomats, among others, attended the dinner.

Addressing the function, Khaleda said their discussions in the course of last two days were "very constructive and fruitful".

Pointing out that the two countries share common history, religion and cultural heritage, the PM said, "We have been working closely both

bilaterally and in the international arena. There are many issues of common concern that confront our developing countries and call for collective approach."

Khaleda observed that the two countries had institutionalised the bilateral relations through a number of agreements in various fields. "These are important tools through which our ties can be further consolidated and strengthened."

The PM said, "We are deeply committed to promoting and further strengthening the existing bonds of friendship between our two countries. Our relations have reached a high level of maturity. Therefore, we can together look confidently into the future."

As ever, she noted, both sides remained committed to building on this process, both bilaterally as well as within the framework of SAARC and other international fora.

Turning to regional and international issues, the PM said Bangladesh is a country committed to peace and security and strongly believes that dialogue, and not armed conflict, is the way to resolve problems that threaten peace, stability and security all over the world, including South Asia.

"We have noted with great satisfaction that there has been an easing of tensions between Pakistan and India. We welcome this development. We hope that three will be further de-escalations, and the two countries will engage in effective negotiations to resolve these bilateral issues."

She made it clear that Bangladesh is totally opposed to terrorism and determined to combat terrorism in all its forms. "We also

condemn killing of innocent lives anywhere in the world."

The prime minister, who earlier on the day held talks with the visiting Pakistan president, appreciated the strong determination of Pervez Musharraf to rid society of extremism, sectarian violence, intolerance and terrorism.

"It is, therefore, our common responsibility to dispel the notion that Muslims are intolerant and extremist," she said, in an apparent reference to the September 11 incident and its aftermath.

Khaleda said Bangladesh is following with keen interest the developments in Pakistan and welcomed the efforts of Musharraf for restoration of democracy in the trouble-ridden country.

"We also commend your government for achieving significant improvement in the economy," she told Pervez in her speech.

Khaleda said Bangladesh made significant progress in consolidating democracy and mentioned that the BNP-led four-party government adopted various policies aimed at socio-economic development.

The PM said, "We highly value Pakistan's support to SAARC as a development forum for the people of the South Asia, as envisioned by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman."

Recalling successful holding of the eleventh SAARC summit in Kathmandu earlier this year, she said they were now looking forward to the twelfth summit of the seven-nation forum to be held in Islamabad in April next year.

Hasina

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Sheikh Hasina asked the government to shun path of repression and expressed her solidarity with the agitating students of Dhaka University.

The opposition leader also expressed solidarity with the students now on the "fast unto death" at the Central Shaheed Minar and conveyed her sympathy to the injured teachers and students.

In a statement from USA, Hasina said: "We think removal of the Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University and police officers concerned is the only way to overcome the crisis on the campus."

She noted during Monday's peaceful demonstrations at DU, the Chairman of Biochemistry Department, 10 journalists and over 100 students of the university were injured in police action. Acting Chhatra League President Marufa Akhtar Poppy was among the injured.

"Use of batons on Biochemistry Chairman Dr Anwar Hossain is a shame for the nation, it reflects how law and order has gone from bad to worse," the former prime minister observed.

On the police action against female students of Shamsunnahar Hall at midnight on July 23, the Awami League leader deplored that after assaulting the female students the government closed the university for an indefinite period, forcing all students to leave their dormitories. Of this country can never accept such "brutal actions by police and the university authorities."

DDTA meet

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all members of the association to attend the meeting.

Sources said, the alleged partisan role of the DU authority is likely to spark off a heated discussion in the meeting.

Zia's grave

FROM PAGE 12
Minister Nisar A Memon, Environment Minister Shahida Jamil, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Inam Ul Haq, Defence Secretary of Pakistan Lieutenant General (Ret'd) Hamid Nawaz and Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Iqbal Ahmed Khan were also present there.

VC 'sentenced'

FROM PAGE 1
female students. "While his duty was to ensure safety of the students, he resorted to lies and deception. He has totally failed to run the DU administration," it said.

The Shaheed Minar yesterday turned into a site of agitation as the students vowed to continue their fast unto death till the resignation of Anwarullah Chowdhury. "We shall overcome... We are not afraid... the VC has to resign," the agitators sang in chorus all the day.

About 30 students began the programme on Monday following the police action on students in front of Rokeya Hall of the DU Sunday evening.

Ten of them fell sick and were given intravenous fluid. They include Iva, Sohel, Porimol, Munna, Saiful, Atunur and Raihan. The condition of five others were stated to be critical. One doctor on duty told reporters, "some of the hunger strikers might need to be shifted to hospital if their condition deteriorated further."

A five-member medical team headed by Dr Fazlur Rahman was formed for the hunger strikers.

Farms

FROM PAGE 12
adaptability to various environmental conditions allow it to thrive on roadsides and open ditches.

Amid the piles of trash and pollution around Banani Lake, the carefully tended plots of spinach are a sight for sore eyes. The two plots of land in these slums have been tended by the same handful of people for the past 12 years.

Spinach can be planted and grown to maturity in about a month, allowing at least ten harvest periods every year. These 'urban farmers' are able to produce enough spinach each month to provide for their families. The spinach is also brought to local markets to be sold.

Continuous erosion, excessive littering and pollution are no doubt partially to blame for not growing other varieties of vegetables. The farmers contend that despite their attempts to grow other crops, spinach has proved to be the sole adapter to this urban environment.

Judicial body

FROM PAGE 12
on August 2 and their statements will be recorded until August 3. The commission will note the statements of the Dhaka University authorities during the time.

The contact address of the commission is room no 307, National Academy for Education Management (NAEM), Dhanmondi.

Fighter crash

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not be confirmed immediately.

Ten of the injured with severe burn injuries - Nurunnahar Begum (25), Nurul Amin (12), Md. Ismail (3), Hamida Begum (10), Ruma Akhter (5), Habib Ullah (2), Rasheda Begum (45), Ruby Akhter (10), Dil Ahmed (5) and Asia Begum (6) - were flown to the CMH. The other, Saira Khatun (20), was treated at the local health complex.

Civil aviation sources said the fighter had lost communication with the airbase at 8:45am but they came to know about the crash at 9:20am through Banskhal police.

Immediately after being informed of the crash, airforce personnel from the BAF Base Zahurul Huq flew to the spot on helicopters while army and police contingents rushed to the spot for rescue operation.

It could not be confirmed whether the black box of the A-5 was found or not.

A senior civil aviation official ruled out the possibility of sabotage behind the crash. "It is too early to comment on the reason behind the crash."

The BAF has formed a committee to probe into the incident, an ISPR release said.

Mukid was commissioned in December 6, 1998 as a flight lieutenant. He hails from Chittagong and was unmarried, the release added.

Hunger strikers

FROM PAGE 1
express his sympathy to the strikers.

After six days of violent protests, the campus was calm and quite yesterday. However, members of the Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) have continued threatening the strikers. Some JCD activists threatened them with dire consequences during a demonstration at Shahbagh in the morning.

Students started gathering in front of the National Museum from morning. At around 9:15am, a group of JCD men arrived there and asked them to quit the area in five minutes. They also wanted to see the IDs of the students. All this happened in front of the police.

Later, as the agitators moved towards the Shaheed Minar, police intercepted them.

The demonstrating students announced that they would gather at the same venue at 9:00am every day until police allow them to enter the campus 'peacefully'. They urged all students of Dhaka University to wear black badges to protest the police atrocities on the female students.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) brought out a silent procession on the campus in the morning to protest the police attack on on-duty reporters. A number of senior journalists from different national dailies also participated in the procession, covering their faces with black clothes.

Huge contingents of police and

BTTB blocks

FROM PAGE 12
It was revealed that the BTTB favoured Alcatel to install a new exchange in Uttara as a proprietary work.

The findings prompted the government to preclude the payment of 205,345 euro from the deal with Alcatel and scrap installation of the exchange in Uttara.

A powerful quarter in the telecommunications ministry connived with some BTTB union leaders to counter the move, but to no avail.

Finally, the BTTB and Alcatel revised the entire project on July 7. Now, Alcatel will install 9,216 lines in Gulshan, 768 lines in cantonment, 4,000 lines in Moghbazar, 2,096 lines in Mirpur and 3,840 lines in Nilkhet telephone exchanges in Dhaka.

And 1,200 lines will be installed in Sagorika, 1,000 lines in Bayazid Bustami, 2,000 lines in Muradpur and 5,000 lines in Nandankanon exchanges in Chittagong.

The lines will be activated by end-September, said sources in the BTTB.

No deal on repatriation

FROM PAGE 1
talks.

"All issues will be taken up. You cannot have contentious issues unresolved with a friend," he said.

Pakistan has, meanwhile, agreed to grant duty-free access to 10,000 tonnes of tea every year plus duty- and quota-free access to jute from Bangladesh.

Dhaka and Islamabad have also signed two memoranda of understanding on enhanced cultural cooperation to ensure more people-to-people contact and on cooperation in information technology.

The meeting also decided that the moribund joint economic commission would be rejuvenated and would meet regularly to broaden areas of cooperation and reduce trade deficit between the two countries that has shot up to nearly \$60 million in Pakistan's favour.

Protocol on annual consultative meeting at the foreign secretary level was also agreed on.

"We have made a lot of progress and continue to break new grounds in bilateral cooperation," Morshed Khan told the press.

The foreign minister also said Pakistan had made no request to Dhaka to play the mediator on the Kashmir issue. "No, we have not been requested (by Pakistan) to mediate the Kashmir issue. Bangladesh has never tried to mediate the Kashmir issue," he said.

"We do not want to get involved in violation of the SAARC charter and the Pakistan president knows about the charter."

"Bilateral issues should be resolved bilaterally. We feel that both sides should enter into effective negotiations."

"Peace in the region has become a precondition to the success of the SAARC. If there is a fire in the neighbourhood, we would be concerned but cannot get involved in a bilateral conflict."

On the question of Pakistan's apology, the foreign minister referred to what President Musharraf had written in the condolence book at the Savar National Memorial and said later in his speech at Monday's Bangabhaban banquet.

Morshed Khan also read out relevant articles from a tripartite agreement signed by Bangladesh, India and Pakistan on April 9, 1974.

"In the agreement then Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman forgave Pakistan for the wartime crimes. Also, through that agreement he invited then Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Later, he granted clemency to 195 war criminals at the request of late Mr Bhutto.

"We do want to embarrass a guest by discussing issues like apology for the 1971 war. It is the spirit of the people of the two countries that will decide the issue."

When asked for a comment on the Awami League decision to call

off a meeting with Musharraf, the foreign minister said, "We are all in politics. The former prime minister Sheikh Hasina had a 45-minute meeting with Musharraf in Cairo. Many Awami leaders and governments have met Pakistani leaders, and there is nothing new about meeting him now."

The Awami League government also sent a letter of invitation to Musharraf through Shaif samii to visit Bangladesh, he added.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman, Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, High Commissioner to Pakistan Alimul Haq, DG of External Publicity Zahur Haq and DG of South Asia Desk Mahmud Hasan were also at the briefing.

Earlier, in her post-meeting reaction at the ICC, Khaleda termed the official talks with the Pakistan President "very successful".

Musharraf told the press he was fully convinced that the "future of Pakistan and Bangladesh relations is extremely bright."

"I had an exchange of views with Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia covering all international, regional and bilateral issues," he said.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and other officials were present at the official talks from

Bangladesh side. The four visiting ministers and other delegation members were present at the talks from Pakistan side.

Earlier, at 10:58 am, Musharraf was received at the front gate of the ICC by Prime Minister's Political Secretary (I) Haris Chowdhury, PM's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui and PM's Political Secretary (II) Mosaddek Ali.

Prime Minister Khaleda received President Musharraf at the corridors of ICC.

Welcome back!

FROM PAGE 1
contingent Anisur Rahman Dipu said that Karar Samedul went outside the village for sight seeing but lost his way.

"He returned on Monday afternoon," Dipu added.

Replying to a query Samedul said he had no idea about the whereabouts of the four missing athletes - Maruf Reza, Shafiqul Islam, Humayun Kabir and Shah Delwar.

Samedul will take part in his favourite 100-metre breaststroke on Wednesday.

Chef de Mission of Bangladesh Abdus Salam and Bangladesh Olympic Association secretary general Zafar Imam said local police were trying to trace the missing athletes.

73 JU teachers show solidarity with DU demonstrators

JU CORRESPONDENT

The attack on the students, teachers and journalists at the Dhaka University has flared up a round of protest among their colleagues in the Jahangirnagar University.

Seventy-three JU teachers in a statement yesterday expressed their solidarity with the agitating DU students and teachers. They strongly protested and condemned the 'unprecedented barbaric attacks' made on DU teachers, students and journalists by police, BDR and pro-BNP Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists.

Terming the brutality of the coalition government fascist, the statement deplored the police action in Shamsunnahar Hall on July 23 night and the consequent acts of BDR and JCD cadres. "The attacks are reminiscent of the barbaric and abhorrent despotism of the Pak Army in 1971", the statement added.

The DU authority, which is supposed to guarantee security to its teachers and students, cannot shy away from responsibilities. By the same token, the government must shoulder its responsibility, the statement said.

Demanding immediate reopening of the university, the teachers asked the government to take immediate steps to restore normalcy on DU campus.

The signatories to the statement are former pro-vice chancellor Prof. Tajul Islam, former treasurer Prof. Shariff Enamul Kabir, former dean of the Arts Faculty Prof. Taibul Hasan Khan, dean of the Social Science Faculty Prof. Shubhash Chandra Das, dean of the Arts Faculty Prof. Afsar Ahmad, Mohammad Rafiq, Prof. Shafi Ahmed, Prof. Afzal Hossain, Prof. Selim Al Deen, Prof. Shahin M Kabir, Prof. Hayat Mamud, Prof. Ajit Kumar Mujumdar, Ahmed Reza and others.

JCD men still threaten

FROM PAGE 12
to intimidate and threaten general students agitating on and outside the campus against police atrocity at the Shamsunnahar Hall and in demand for resignation of the VC.

While visiting the DU campus yesterday, this correspondent found that the JCD leaders and activists in groups were roaming different strategic points to keep the campus situation under their control.

But education minister Osman Faruq told the BBC last night that he had no information of any intimidation and threat by the JCD activists to general students.

"I have no information about JCD threatening the agitating general students, but I will look into the allegation if there is any authenticity," he said.

Many of the agitating students alleged that the JCD cadres threatened them to give up their agitation and leave the campus immediately to escape action.

Groups of JCD activists were found intimidating agitating students in the Central Shaheed Minar area and at different entry points of the campus. In the presence of

police, one group repeatedly threatened general students trying to stage a sit-in in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh crossing at about 9:00 am. Finally, the general students left the place to avoid any untoward incident.

The JCD cadres and security personnel seem to have 'jointly taken the responsibility' of security on the campus, agitating students told newsmen present on the campus yesterday.

Police have set up barbed-wire fences at different entry points of the campus to prevent the entry of general students, but there was no restriction on entry of the JCD activists and cadres even if they are non-students and outsiders.

Tall order

FROM PAGE 1
edged an attempted pull to Jayawardene in slips.

Tushar Imran and Ashrafur raised hopes of a recovery as they put on 59 runs for the fourth wicket. But leg-spinner Upl Chandra deceived Tushar Imran five overs before the close of play.

(Scorecards on page 13)

Behind bars

FROM PAGE 12
Kuwait-298, Dubai-262, Qatar-111, Oman-76, Maldives- 35, Thailand-31, Greece-23, Iran-21, Brunei-15, Italy 14, Lebanon-10, Bahrain-9, the Netherlands-5, Cyprus-3 and Egypt-2.

According to sources, the ministry asked a total of 32 Bangladesh missions to notify the government on whether there were any Bangladeshis in the jails of the country concerned.

Of these, 26 missions responded quickly. The rest are yet to inform the government.

Only four missions did not find any Bangladeshi prisoners in the cells of their respective countries. These are North Korea, China, Vietnam, and Mongolia.

The Bangladesh missions in India, Pakistan and Myanmar are yet to give the figures of prisoners there, according to sources, several hundred Bangladeshis are in jail.

The IOM representative for South Asia Shahidul Haque told The Daily Star that they received a verbal request from the ministry to assist the release of Bangladeshi prisoners.

"We sought a formal proposal from the government including a specific list of expatriate Bangladeshi prisoners."

After getting the proposal, the IOM's Dhaka office will take up the matter to its head quarters in Geneva, after which an initiative may be taken to repatriate those who want to return home.

"We can repatriate only those people who want to return home. Should any one decline, the IOM cannot force them," Shahidul said.

The IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return programme deals in repatriation. The IOM at times request's the countries concerned to reduce the jail terms of foreign prisoners, the IOM representative said.

According to him, since 1998, the IOM obtained the release of 300 Bangladeshis from jails and deportation centres in the Central Asian region. It also organised their return home.

Some non-governmental organisations (NGO's) also took the initiative to release Bangladeshi prisoners, particularly women and children, from foreign jails.