

DHAKA TODAY

Rally

On the occasion of the National Girlchild Day, a colourful rally will be brought out. It will be followed by a discussion meeting. Minister for Women and Children Affairs Khurshid Jahan Haq will lead the rally and attend the discussion as chief guest. Venue: Shishu Academy and National Press Club respectively. Time: 9.30am.

Workshop

Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh organises a workshop on World Sustainable Development Conference for members of the Jatiya Sangsad with LGED and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium. Time: 10.00am.

Environmental meeting

Bangladesh Environmental Movement will hold a discussion meeting with the lawyers. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association. Time: 1.00pm.

Cultural festival

A three-day long cultural festival, organised by the Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha, will begin. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4.00pm.

Memorial meeting

A meeting will be held in memory of national professor Syed Ali Ahsan. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

Awareness meeting

An opinion sharing meeting with journalists on cancer awareness will be held. Venue: Ahsania Mission Cancer Detection Centre and Hospital, Mirpur.

Rotary meeting

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held. Venue: Emmanuel's Restaurant, Gulshan-2. Time: 7.30pm.

Certificate award ceremony

Democracywatch organises a certificate and prize distribution ceremony with State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milton as chief guest. Venue: 7, Circuit House Road. Time: 4.00pm.

Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony of the week-long campaign for combating Aedes mosquito, organised by the Society for Asian Democracy, will be held. Venue: House-512 A, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am.

Samity meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Chattagram Samity, Dhaka, will be held. Venue: 32, Tophkana Road. Time: 6.00pm.

AL meeting

An extended meeting of Dhaka City Awami League will be held. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 6.30pm.

Drawing competition

On the occasion of the International Day for Elderly, the Ageing Resource Centre, Bangladesh, organises a drawing competition. Venue: Shishu Academy premises. Time: 3.30pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Discussion

The University Campus organises a discussion meeting for the development of private universities in the country with Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk as chief guest. Venue: Meherba Plaza, 33 Tophkana Road. Time: 3.00pm.

CSID discussion

The Centre for Services and Information on Disability organises a discussion between the disabled street children and representatives of different mass media. Venue: House-715, Road-10, Baitul Aman Housing Society, Shyamoli. Time: 3.00pm.

UNFPA seminar

The United Nations Population Fund organises a daylong 'EC/UNFPA RHI National Dissemination Seminar' with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 10.00am.

Seminar on Rumi

A seminar on mystic poet Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi, organised by Iranian Cultural Centre, will be held with Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury, vice chancellor of Chittagong University as chief guest. Venue: House-54, Road-8/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 1.00pm.

Film show

Zahir Raihan Film Society in collaboration with the Russian Cultural Centre will screen a film titled 'Crime and Punishment', based on the famous novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky and directed by Lev Kulidzhanov. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

Open discussion

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organises a discussion on the business of the Jatiya Sangshad. Venue: TIB Office, 121/C Gulshan Avenue. Time: 3.00pm.

Memorial meeting

Bangla Academy organises a discussion meeting in memory of Abdul Karim Sahityabharat with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Seminar room of the academy. Time: 11.00am.



As a group of students began a sit-in on the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) campus yesterday, some teachers called upon them to withdraw their programme.

Saifur seeks assistance from donors for reforms

BSS, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman expressed firm commitment of the government to carrying forward reforms to 'deeper spheres of economic activity'.

'Bangladesh is capable of moving ahead with its structural reform process but assistance from donors is needed to overcome the painful process of adjustments,' he said during a meeting with Claire Short, Secretary of State for International Development of UK, in Washington on Saturday.

The finance minister outlined the reform initiatives undertaken by the present government. He said reform process has been brought into the areas of fiscal, financial,

banking, SOEs, energy and power sectors.

In response, the British secretary said her government expects reform programmes in other relevant areas also, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

She lauded the government's efforts for implementation of package of reform and conveyed her government's willingness to extend all necessary supports.

She also assured the finance minister that the UK would be working in close cooperation with multilateral and bilateral donors to help Bangladesh in its development efforts.

Bangladesh Ambassador Syed Hasan Ahmed, Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, ERD Secretary Anisul Huq

Chowdhury, Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan and senior officials of Bangladesh Embassy in London were also present at the meeting.

The finance minister, who is now in Washington to attend the annual meeting of World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), also took part at a seminar organised by the Association for Economic and Development Studies for Bangladesh (AEDSB) at the Bangladesh Embassy.

Addressing the seminar, he said there is no alternative to carry forward the reform programmes for efficient management of the scarce resources of the country.

He also stressed that reforms in government is vital for reforms in other sectors.

President hosts tea party for diplomats

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed hosted a tea party for diplomats at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

The high commissioners of Australia, Canada, and the UK, ambassadors of France, Vatican, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation and the USA, charge d'affaires of Denmark, Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland and head of the delegation of the European Commission and UN resident coordinator attended the party.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, high officials of the President's office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present on the occasion.

President Iajuddin welcomed the guests and exchanged pleasantries with them, said a Bangabhaban press release.

SKOP protests move to privatise Rly, jute mills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) yesterday staged demonstrations across the country protesting the attempt to privatise the Bangladesh Railway and state-owned jute mills and demanding the reopening of Adamjee Jute Mills.

As part of the demonstration programme, the SKOP leaders also held a big rally at Muktangon in the city which was attended by Ahsan Ullah Master, MP, Abul Bashar, Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Abdul Kader Hawlader and Abul Kalam Azad.

SKOP Coordinator and Trade Union Centre (TUC) General Secretary Dr Wajedul Islam Khan read out a declaration at the rally.

The declaration said the economic development of the country is not possible by closing down the mills and factories or privatising them.

Rather, all the sick industries should be re-opened to solve unemployment problem and new industries should be set up for

over all economic development, it demanded.

The SKOP leaders also expressed their solidarity with the movement launched by the railway employees and workers to stop privatisation of the railway.

3 abducted tribals freed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ktiagrachhari

Three tribals, abducted about a month ago along with four others, were released on payment of ransom at the Giriphol area of the district on Saturday evening.

They are Suresh Joti Chakma, Jogodish Chakma and Surendra Chakma who were abducted at gun point on August 29 from Harinath Para.

The fate of other four abducted persons was not known till yesterday.

The rescue operation of police and army is continuing and so far nine persons have been arrested in this connection.

BARD to brief MPs on poverty alleviation

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) plans to organise a workshop to brief the members of parliament on poverty alleviation.

A meeting was held yesterday with LGED Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair in this connection at BARD office in Comilla.

The meeting discussed various aspects of the workshops to be organised for 50 MPs each in a batch after the winter session of parliament.

New organisation launched

A new organisation styled as 'Media Network for Sustainable Development' has been formed with Shamsuddin Ahmed and Syed Shah Habib Ullah as its convenor and member secretary respectively, says a press release.

The organisation was floated at a meeting in the city yesterday.

Other members of the organisations are Mahfuzul Haq Khan, Sohrab Hasan, Titu Gupta, Kawsar Rahman, Nilufar Banu, Suniti kumar Biswas and Oli Ullah.



The Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad took to the street in the city yesterday protesting the closure of different mills and factories.

Over one million are blind due to cataract

BSS, Dhaka

Over one million people are blind in the country due to cataract which can be removed through a simple surgical intervention, restoring their eyesight.

Country representative of UK based Sight Savers International M Emamul Huq said prevalence rate of cataract among thirty plus population is 1.5 per cent and the growth rate of the disease is 20 per cent. Eighty per cent of blindness is caused by cataract, he said.

The Sight Savers Bangladesh that had been working in the field of removing blindness and helping rehabilitation of the blinds since 1973 could alone bring back eyesight of ten million people by removing cataract through the minor ophthalmologic surgeries across the country, Huq said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently launched global 'VISION 2020 programme: The Right to Sight' aiming to form international partnership for blindness prevention. This new initiative is to raise awareness, mobilise resources and develop national blindness prevention programmes with the government.

Sight Savers executive director Richard B Porter who is now in Dhaka said the Bangladesh chapter of the organisation along with three other partners -- ORBIS, Helen Keller and Christoffel-Blindenmission -- would work to implement VISION 2020 programme in the country with the support of the government.

Emamul Huq said at present, with the existing infrastructure facilities and manpower, the country could operate five million cataract patients annually.

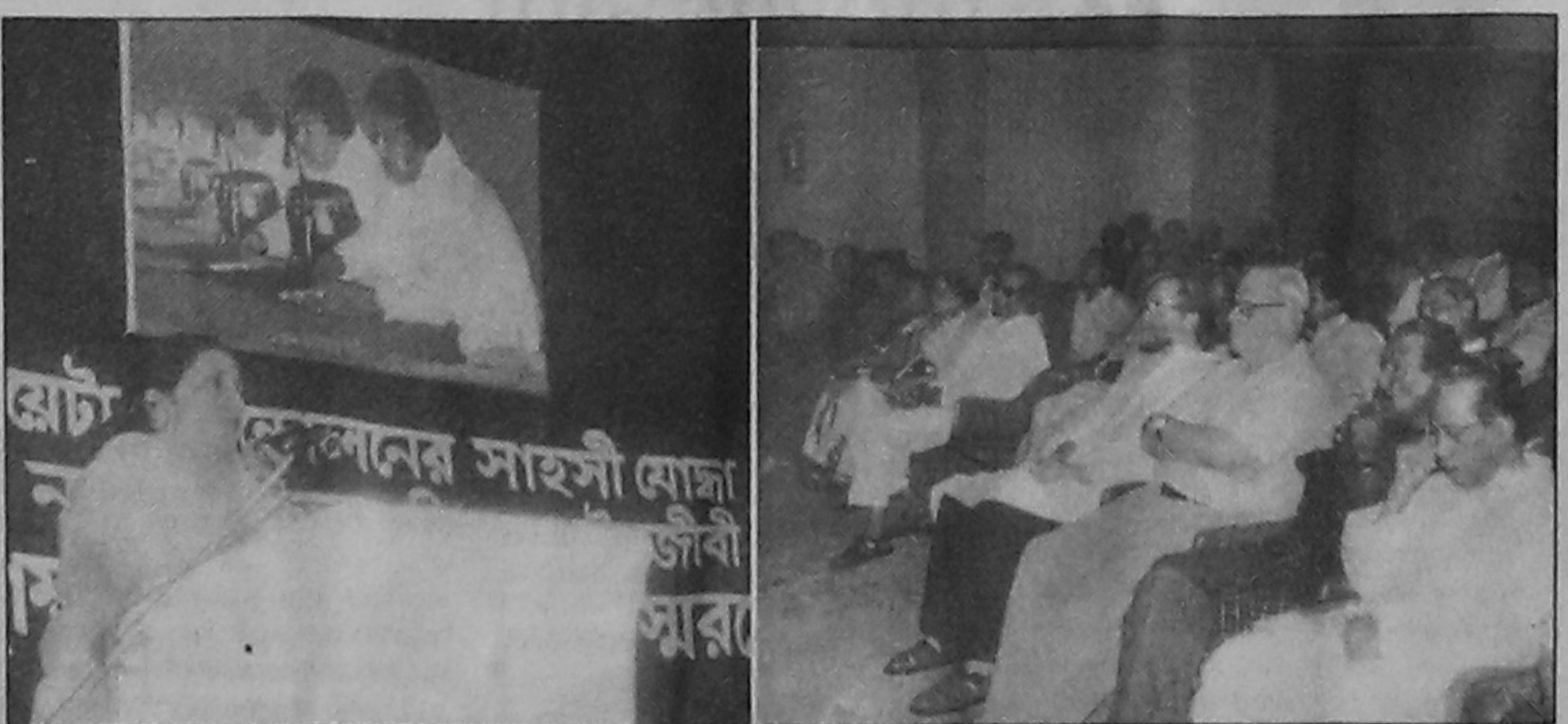
Under the VISION 2020 programme, the government, Sight Savers and its three other partners would work together to double the surgical interventions in the next five years, he said, adding that the VISION 2020 programme would include training of the healthcare personnel and raising awareness among the stakeholders.

Huq expressed his confidence that the programme would be successful as the government has for the first time included eye-care issues in its National Primary Healthcare policy that would be a booster in the VISION 2020 programme.

Regional Director of Sight Savers international Ronnie Graham told BSS that removing cataract blindness through surgical operations was highly cost-effective in respect of Disability-Adjusted Life Year (DALY).



Family members of some Awami League Keraniganj thana leaders and activists who are now in jail in connection with different cases called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and party president Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi office in the city recently.



Padatik Natya Sangsad organised a discussion in memory of Abu Muhammad Murtaish Kochi, a theatre personality and lawyer, at the Mohila Samity Auditorium in the city on Friday. Murtash died on September 13.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in day temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Barisal and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy falls at one or two places today.

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

Country's highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and lowest 24.2 degree Celsius at Sayedpur yesterday.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:47 pm today and rises at 5:50 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns for City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), and Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, and Cox's Bazar.

Temple leaders submit memo to mayor, DC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the organising committees of four temples along with the devotees yesterday protested the attacks on Sri Sri Luxmi Narayan Jee Mondir, Sri Sri Narsingha Jee Bigroho Mondir, Sri Sri Goutam Mondir and Sri Sri Shankor Sadhu's Ashram and conspiracies to grab the temple property in the city.

They also submitted memoranda to the Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation and the Deputy Commissioner demanding immediate measures to stop communal attack and grabbing of temple property.

Earlier, members of the committees and the devotees held a

rally at Bahadur Shah park in the old part of the city.

Presided over by Haripada Datta, the rally was addressed by Parimal Dey, Shyam Chad Mandal, Babul Das, Vashkar Chowdhury, Nirmal Chatterjee, Utpal Roy, Shyamal Kumar Roy, Monoranjan Majumder, Jagannath Ghosh, Tapan Ghosh and Priyanath Das.

The memorandum was received on behalf of the mayor and DC of the district which included stern punishment against those who grabbed the temple property and attacked on the temples. Their demands also included that steps to protect religious institutions and temples.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer District: Laxmipur

Memo No: LGED/XEN/LAX/RDP-23/2002/3052 Dated: 22-9-2002

Tender No 15/2002-2003 (RDP-23)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No 2911 from all classes of LGED/RHD/BWDB 2002-2003 enlisted contractors for the works mentioned below in Sadar/Raipur/Ramgonj Upazila under the Danida-Assisted Rural Development Project-23 and will be received by (i) the Executive Engineer, LGED, Feni/Noakhali, (ii) the Project Director, Rural Development Project-23, Level-8, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka, (iii) the Upazila Engineer, Sadar/Raipur/Ramgonj/Ramgoti, (iv) the Deputy Commissioner, Laxmipur up to 14.00 hours on 24.10.2002 and will be opened in the office of the undersigned on 4th day of the receiving date & after collection from those dropping places at 14.30 hours in presence of tenderers or their representatives who desire to be present at the time of opening. The tender should accompany the up-to-date certificates like (i) enlistment, (ii) VAT registration, (iii) TIN & (iv) trade licence etc.

Earnest money in the amount of 2.5% of the quoted amount shall be furnished along with tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Laxmipur.

Tender documents may be obtained from the Manager of NCC Bank Ltd, Laxmipur Branch, Laxmipur, office of the Upazila Engineer, Sadar/Raipur/Ramgonj/Ramgoti, the Executive Engineer, LGED, Feni/Noakhali, the Deputy Commissioner, Laxmipur & the Project Director, RDP-23, LGED Bhaban, Level-8, Agargaon, Dhaka on payment of requisite amount (non-refundable) for each work during the office hours on all working days up to 23-10-2002.

No tender document will be sold on the date of opening of tenders. The authority reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

Table with columns: Sl No, Contract No, Name of work, Earnest money, Price of schedule, Time allowed for completion, Category of contractors.

DFP-23604-25/9/02 G-2161 Executive Engineer LGED, Laxmipur.