

Lux-Anandadhara Naumi crowned Miss Photogenic Sylhet 2002

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Subarna Talukder Naumi, a second year student of Sylhet MC College was crowned the Lux-Anandadhara Miss Photogenic Sylhet 2002 at a colourful function at Sylhet Wednesday.

Miss Nafisa Naushad Lopa and Runa Laila Ripa were adjudged first and second runners-up respectively at the Blessings Banqueting Centre in Shahjalal Upashahar area in the city.

Miss Kushum Sikder, the Lux-Anandadhara Miss Photogenic Bangladesh-2002 crowned the winners in front of a packed audience at the division level contest, first of its kind in Sylhet.

Renowned singer Shakila Jafar announced the names of three top winners while renowned actor Assaduzzaman Noor was present on SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

Subarna Talukder Naumi, a student of the Sylhet MC College, who was crowned the Lux-Anandadhara Miss Photogenic Sylhet 2002 Wednesday, is photographed with the runners-up.

ASM NURRUNNABI

Among the many squalid spots in city areas, Karwanbazaar and Jatrabari stand out very prominently.

Karwanbazaar it is located in one of Dhaka's very important business districts. Living in and around this area presents a veritable ordeal as an effort to effectively clean up the huge rubbish generated by the kitchen market as well as improve the road condition and other facilities within the market area is absent on the part of the city authorities. One wonders how a prime commercial area could be left in such a chaotic state.

The galling aspects of this area are the huge congestion of makeshift kutchas structures sprawling over a major part of the bazaar. From these numerous structures are conducted a variety of retail businesses involving sale of different kinds of spices and vegetables. The retail sales are made in bulk, in which each unit is known as 'palla' weighing 5 kilogrammes. Other consumer items such as children's wear, lungis, shoes, garment cut

DOWN TO EARTH

Karwan Bazaar and Jatrabari: The two eyesores of the city

pieces, etc are also on sale here in substantial quantities. Besides these, there are scores of roadside tea stalls catering to the needs of rickshawpullers, rickshaw van drivers and day-labourers who purchase various low-priced snacks like small loaves of bread, bananas and biscuits along with tea.

The bazaar is more like a wholesale market where truckloads of sellable commodities of many varieties come streaming into the bazaar from early evening every day from outlying areas well beyond the city's peripheries. These commodities are then distributed by wholesalers to small retailers who cater largely to the

numerous city hawkers. These hawkers then fan out into the nearby localities after purchasing various goods from the bazaar very early in the morning. It is understood that the bulk sales by 'palla' are comparatively very cheap which allow hawkers to maintain a good profit margin.

The combination of wholesale-retail sales on a large scale necessitating the arrivals of a steady stream of trucks loaded with all kinds of merchandise from early evening each day makes the bazaar area filthy and utterly revolting with damaged roads with large potholes filled with dirty water. The overall environmental situation turns out to be highly depressing.

The irony of the situation lies in the fact that on the fringes of the bazaar stands an array of impressive high-rise buildings housing famous business houses and offices which present a striking contrast to the adjacent dingy surroundings due to the bazaar. Compounding the distressing situation within the bazaar is the location of a wholesale fish market. Within a few hundred yards of the fish market, there is a 5-star hotel. It is not hard to imagine how the putrid odour from the fish market wafting into the hotel premises might make its guests feel.

In the midst of an important SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Spl tribunals ordinance likely today

UNB, Dhaka

In a major move, the government plans to promulgate a Presidential Ordinance for speedy trial of certain categories of cases by setting up special tribunals.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is likely to sign the summary of the proposed law, titled the Speedy Trial Ordinance, today.

Immediately after the Prime Minister's seal of approval, the President may promulgate the Ordinance under Article 93 of the Constitution—also likely today—as parliament is not in session.

Initially, the tribunals will be set up in six divisional headquarters and later at greater 19 district headquarters. District and Sessions SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Abducted madrassah student slaughtered in Barisal

A CORRESPONDENT, BARISAL

A madrassah student, who was abducted by a gang of miscreant, from Uzirpur village of the district on Tuesday night, was slaughtered by the gang on Thursday.

According to police and local people, Kamrul Islam, 12, a student of Jugirkanda Senior Madrassah, was abducted at about 7.30 pm on Tuesday while he was going to a mosque at the village to say Esha prayers.

The miscreants later demand Tk 70 thousand from Kamrul's family for his release. But the victim's family could not meet their (abductors') demand.

On Thursday, local people found Kamrul's slaughtered body into a ditch beside Uzirpur-Dhamuria road.

A murder case was filed with Uzirpur police station. None was arrested in connection with the killing till yesterday evening.

Peace in CHT still remains elusive

PCJSS-UPDF rivalry leaves 231 killed, 400 injured since '97 accord

NURUL ALAM, Chittagong

Peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) still remains elusive due to rivalry between the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and the United People Democratic Front (UPDF).

At least 231 people were killed and 400 injured in incidents of violence between PCJSS and UPDF till September this year since signing of the peace agreement in December 1997, police said. Three hundred and eighty others were abducted during the period.

PCJSS signed the agreement with the then Awami League gov-

ernment, ending two decades of insurgency.

UPDF opposes it and demands more autonomy for the region.

Activists of the rival organisations are locked in gunfight, killing and abduction. Often, they fight over illegal toll collection and supremacy in areas.

Shefali Chakma, a resident of Khagrachhari, talking to this correspondent said, "We have again become panicked due to the clashes among our tribal brothers. We don't know what will happen ultimately."

"We had hoped for peace after signing of the agreement. But this

has been shattered by the new spate of violence" Shefali said.

Some other residents of the hills also echoed the same sentiment.

CHT Regional Council Chairman Jotindriya Bodipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma who had signed the peace agreement as president of PCJSS said over telephone that a sort of stagnancy was prevailing in operational activities of his council.

"I am undone. What can I do in such a situation of stagnancy while we are not getting proper response and cooperation from the govern

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British couple plans a walk to raise funds for charity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British couple Maryann Huxter and Phil Newton has taken the challenge to walk along the world's longest natural sea beach at Cox's Bazar to raise funds for charity in Bangladesh and the United Kingdom.

If they succeed, they will enter their names in the record books as none has been reported so far to walk the entire length of the beach.

The two adventurers, who work with the UK-based 'Helping Hands Challenge 2002' project conceived in 2001, arrived in Dhaka yesterday. They are scheduled to set out for Teknaf in Chittagong next Monday to embark on the adventure of walking the 128-kilometre unbroken coastline -- the longest in the world, and reach Cox's Bazar on October 24.

Maryann and Phil have been previously involved in raising funds for charity by completing physically demanding challenges.

At a press conference in the city yesterday, the adventurers explained that the major portion of the fund generated from the project will go to 'Intermediate Technology Development Group' (ITDG), a non-government organisation whose activities in Bangladesh include primary education, food processing and poultry farming. Rest of the fund will go to 'Naomi House: The Children's Hospice' -- a UK-based centre that cares for terminally ill children.

A vast majority of the fund-raising is being achieved by organising events to enable participants to have an enjoyable experience as well as contribute to the project, Phil said.

"Our target is to raise 10000 British pounds by the end of November which will end with a ball in the Guildhall Salisbury on November 30 as the main fundraiser," he said, adding that they had already raised around Tk 8 lakh.

Huxter and Newton, who have embarked on similar adventures in the past, have gone through gruelling training for the last eighteen months to accustom themselves to the demanding task they have set themselves to. Over the last three years, Maryann has cycled through Vietnam and walked a section of the Great Wall of China while Phil has completed a high altitude trek in the Andes in Peru in an effort to raise funds for charity.

Talking to newsmen, Maryann explained that part of their effort SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Hasina discusses crackdown with partymen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina held a brief meeting with her senior party colleagues late Thursday night on the army crackdown on criminals across the country.

The meeting took place at her Dhanmandi residence on her return to the capital after a three-day regional tour of northern districts, party sources said.

A central leader of the party told The Daily Star yesterday that after the meeting most of the AL leaders started gathering information regarding arrests in their respective localities. Some of them left Dhaka for their home constituencies on hearing arrests of partymen during army raids.

A close aide to the AL president informed that the party leaders were concerned at the serious ambiguity whether the current criminal-haul was a joint operation by all the law enforcing and security agencies or a single-handed drive being carried out by Bangladesh Army.



PHOTO: STAR

The storeroom of the Memon Maternity Hospital at Sadarghat, owned by the Chittagong City Corporation, is in a shambles after an overnight army raid yesterday.

None sued for death of rickshawpuller in Bogra yet

ROVING CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Although police arrested 11 people in Sherpur Upazila after recording a case against 20 in connection with the attack on the army and road barricades, no case was filed on the killing of Shaiful Islam, a rickshawpuller, in army firing Thursday.

The arrested are Rana, Shahidul, Shipon, Abdul Hannan, Plabon, Shahin, Kalyan, Abul Kalam, Mintu, Farid, and Tajul. Lutfar Rahman, officer-in-charge of the Sherpur Police Station filed the case (NO. 16/17-10.02) in connection with the road barricade and attack on the army.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Pak opposition alliance rejects deal with PML-Q

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's multi-party opposition alliance rejected on Friday any deal to form government with parties supporting President Pervez Musharraf.

"We cannot have cooperation or coalition with any party or alliance which supports President Musharraf," Nawabzada Nasrullah, chairman of the 15-party Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD) told reporters.

"We reject (Musharraf's) constitutional amendments, we reject them one and all."

The ARD's position appeared to rule out a bid by elements of the opposition Pakistan People's Party

(PPP) of self-exiled former premier Benazir Bhutto to form a governing coalition of five parties, including the pro-Musharraf Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q).

PPP is a member of the ARD, as is the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

PPP, which emerged as the second-largest party with 63 seats after October 10 general elections, has been negotiating with the 77-seat PML-Q and an alliance of Islamic parties to form the first government after three years of military rule.

The support of the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) alliance of six Islamic fundamentalist parties,

which claims 53 seats including eight independents, has become key to any future coalition government.

But as a PML-Q coalition with MMA emerged as the most likely scenario, PPP leaders were talking more openly about remaining in opposition.

"I don't know what the PML-Q and MMA have decided in their meetings, but it appears they have reached a consensus to form government," PPP spokesman Farhatullah Babar told AFP.

"In that case we will sit in the opposition."

Asked about PPP parliamentary SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Rain due to depression

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rain came down on many parts of the country yesterday in seasonal transition to northeastern monsoon.

Meteorologists said light to moderate rain, which may continue for a day or two, will have a beneficial effect on crops.

However, the drought-hit northern region, particularly Dinajpur and Thakurgaon, did not experience much rain. Parched dryness forced aman growers to go for supplementary irrigation, official sources said.

From 6.00am to 6.00pm yesterday, 15mm rainfall was recorded in the capital, 23mm in Ishwardi, 19mm in Rajshahi, 20mm in Jessore, and nine mm in Mongla and Khepupara each, eight mm in Patuakhali, five mm in Sylhet, Chandpur, Tangail and Faridpur each, four mm in Barisal and three mm in Mymensingh.

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PHOTO: STAR

Its headlights blazing, a passenger bus plies a drizzle-drenched road, as the city experienced rain yesterday.

Bangladesh battered: Kirsten's historic ton

AFP, East London

Gary Kirsten became the first batsman to hit centuries against nine different opponents and Graeme Smith hit a double century as South Africa mauled the Bangladesh bowlers on the first day of the first Test here Friday.

South Africa made 369 for two by close of play after being sent in, with Smith scoring 200 and Kirsten not out on 113.

Although they had first use of a well-grassed pitch at Buffalo Park, the Bangladesh bowlers seldom posed any threat as left-handers Smith and Kirsten reached personal landmarks in the first Test between the two countries and the first Test staged at Buffalo Park.

Smith, 21, hit his maiden Test century in his third match and went on to become South Africa's youngest double centurion.

Kirsten completed a full house of centuries against all possible Test opponents, beating Steve Waugh of Australia and Sachin Tendulkar of India, who have both hit hundreds against eight countries.

Waugh has made centuries

against every country he has faced. Australia have yet to meet the newest Test nation.

Tendulkar played for India in Bangladesh's first Test match, in Dhaka in 2000-01, but was out for 18 in his only innings against them.

Kirsten, 34, reached his 15th Test century in 226 minutes off 160 balls. Normally an opening batsman, he went in at number three Friday after an opening stand of 87 between Smith and Herschelle Gibbs.

It was an innings of contrasts by SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 19		5-29 pm
Oct 20	5-58 am	

Prayer Timings		
Oct 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-37	5-42
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation